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Top Iranian, Saudi military brass discuss defense diplomacy

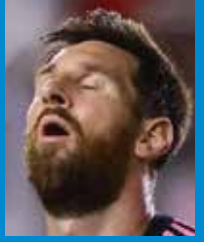
Detailed News On Page-08

Naqvi offers full coop to Balochistan

Detailed News On Page-08

Messi's Inter Miami suffer shock exit

Detailed News On Page-06



Stresses for immediate ceasefire

DPM Dar calls for accountability of Israel's war crimes

Deputy PM Ishaq Dar urges international community to bring end to Gaza genocide

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday expressed the hope that the new US administration following last week's elections would lend its weight to reinvigorate efforts for peace in the Middle East in accordance with the UN resolutions and international law, as a priority. Addressing the Council of Foreign Ministers' Preparatory Meeting for the Second Arab-Islamic Summit on the Situation in Middle East, the deputy prime minister highlighted that mere condemnation of Israeli actions will not be enough. He also stressed to act now to fulfil the moral and legal duty to stand with the people of Palestine for their rights and demand justice for them.

"The whole Muslim Ummah is looking at us today. We need to demonstrate unwavering political will and complete unity and take concrete steps to effectively address the situation at hand." He stressed for securing an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and the region, ensuring unfettered humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, forcing Israel to stop demonization of UNRWA and urging the UNGA to ensure UNRWA continues its vital operations.

Ishaq Dar also called for pursuing full implementation of the UNGA resolution ES-10/24, supporting Palestine's admission as a full member of the UN, exploring legal avenues to hold Israel accountable for war crimes, imposing an immediate arms embargo on Israel, undertaking a comprehensive review of Israel's membership of the UN, and nominating a Joint Arab-Islamic Special Envoy on Middle East as a focal point to coordinate progress on the implementation of the Resolutions adopted by the Joint-Arab-Islamic Summits. He said the first Joint Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh in November last year had adopted far-reaching decisions to end war in Gaza. However he said unfortunately,

Continued on Page 06

Over 53 killed in Israeli massacres in Gaza and Lebanon

At least 30 Palestinians have been killed, including 13 children, after Israel bombed a building housing displaced people in the Jabalia refugee camp

AGENCIES

BEIRUT: More than 20 people were killed and six others injured, most of them children, as a result of an Israeli airstrike on the town of Almat in the Jbeil district, north of Beirut, the Lebanese Ministry of Health announced on Sunday. At least 30 Palestinians have been killed, including 13 children, after Israel bombed a building housing displaced people in the Jabalia refugee camp. Rescue teams are still searching for missing victims under the rubble of a house destroyed by the Israeli occupation forces in the town. In the Bekaa Valley, our correspondent noted that an Israeli airstrike targeted the Sarin Plain and another hit the city of Baalbek. According to the Health Ministry, the death toll from an Israeli airstrike that targeted the town of Mashghara in Western Bekaa on Saturday night rose to three, with two others wounded. The Ministry also indicated that the final toll from

Continued on Page 06



PERTH: Pakistani team celebrating the memorable ODI series win against Australia. - DNA

Pak HC issues visas to Sikh pilgrims

During the visit, the pilgrims would, inter alia, visit Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, Gurdwara Panja Sahib and Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued over 3,000 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to participate in the birthday celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji to be held in Pakistan from 14-23 November. During the visit, the pilgrims would, inter alia, visit Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, Gurdwara Panja Sahib and Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi said in a press release on Sunday. Expressing his views on the occasion, Charge d'Affaires Saad Ahmad Warraich extended his heartfelt felicitations and

Continued on Page 06

UAE condemns Quetta terrorist attack

Expresses condolences to the government and people of Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has strongly condemned the terrorist attack at a railway station in Quetta, which resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries to innocent civilians. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that the UAE has expressed its strong condemnation of these criminal acts and its permanent rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining security and

Continued on Page 06

After 22 years Pak write history with ODI series win against Australia

Securing their first ODI series victory in Australia in over a decade, an unchanged Pakistan restricted the hosts to 140 in 31.5 overs before mowing down the total by scoring 143-2

SPORTS DESK

PERTH: Pakistan on Sunday thumped Australia in the third and final ODI to win the three-match series - the first won by the Green Shirts on Australian soil in 22 years with the last 50-over series win coming back in 2002. Chasing Australia's modest 141-run target, the Men in Green eased past the victory line in 26.5 overs to bag an eight-wicket win in the series decider. Securing their first ODI series victory in Australia in over a decade, an unchanged Pakistan restricted the hosts to 140 in 31.5 overs before mowing down the total by scoring 143-2. Underscoring the diminished standing of the 50-over format, Australia chose to rest their red-ball players for a

Continued on Page 06

President, PM congratulate Pak cricket team

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Pakistan Cricket Team on winning the one-day international (ODI) series against Aussies eleven at their home ground in Australia. The president lauded the national team for achieving the remarkable triumph in Australia after a gap of 22 years span,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Taliban govt to attend COP29 in Baku

The UN has not allowed the Taliban to take up Afghanistan's seat at the General Assembly, and Afghanistan's government is not formally recognised by UN member states

AFGHAN Taliban officials will attend a major United Nations climate conference that starts next week, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said on Sunday, the first time they have attended since the former insurgents took power in 2021. The COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan's capital Baku will be among the highest-profile multilateral events attended by Taliban administration officials since they took control in Kabul after 20 years of fighting Nato-backed forces. - Agencies

Ashrafi calls for strict action against BLA
Ashrafi condemned the recent terrorism in Quetta

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Ulema Council chairman Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi called for strict action against elements affiliated with the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) that destabilise the nation. In a press conference held at the Lahore Press Club on Sunday, Ashrafi condemned the recent terrorism in Quetta, in which innocent Pakistanis lost their lives. "Terrorists have no allegiance to any province or community," he asserted, underlining that the BLA operates with foreign support aimed at seeding instability in Pakistan.

Fight against terrorism

Ten terrorists killed in N. Waziristan operation

In July, the government, through an official notification, had designated the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as Fitna al Khawarij

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Security forces killed 10 terrorists and injured eight others during three different engagements in North Waziristan district, the military's media wing said on Sunday. According to a statement by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), an intelligence based operation was conducted by the security forces in the Spinwala area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan District. "During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged khawarij's location and after intense fire exchange, two Khawarij were sent to hell. In the second incident, the ISPR said that a group of khawarij were attempting to cross the Pakistan-Afghanistan border when they were intercepted by security forces in the same area of North Waziristan. "Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate," the statement said. "Two khawarij were 'sent to hell', while two others were injured."

Continued on Page 06

Iran hails Pak army's Ops. against terrorist hideouts

The statement comes after some media outlets claimed that Iranian and Pakistani forces had carried out a coordinated joint operation against members of the so-called Jaish al-Adl

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: The General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has hailed the recent strikes by Pakistani military forces against major strongholds of anti-Iran terrorists holed up in remote areas of the country's southwestern province of Balochistan close to the border with Iran. In a statement released on Sunday,

Continued on Page 06

Smog crisis intensifies in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa districts

Connecting arteries and thoroughfares including Lahore-Sialkot Motorway, Motorways M1, M2 and M5 were blocked at various points causing traffic disruptions in Punjab

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The ongoing smog crisis in Pakistan has intensified as the air carrying toxins from India engulfed various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after Punjab, where Lahore retains its position on top of the global pollution charts. The air quality index (AQI) in the provincial capital was 613 around 10am on the real-time list of most polluted cities in the world by Swiss group IQ Air. Meanwhile, (PM2.5) pollutants - the fine particulate matter in the air that causes the most damage to health - was recorded at 382.2, which is 76.4 times higher than the World Health Organisation's (WHO) annual air quality guideline value. After affecting various cities in Punjab, smog spread beyond the province, blanketing some of the districts in KP, where citizens complained of eye and throat infections and breathing issues. After Punjab's Multan - where the AQI was recorded at 587 last night - KP capital Peshawar ranked the third most polluted city in the country, with an AQI of 587, a level deemed hazardous by the Swiss air quality monitor. The cities worst hit by air pollution after Lahore and Multan were Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Sargodha where air quality was poor.

Continued on Page 06

Polio outbreak continues in Pak

The latest case raises the total number of cases in the country to 48 this year

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan encountered another setback in its battle against polio as a new case of paralysis was confirmed in a child from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's District Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan). This latest case raises the total number of Wild Poliovirus Type-1 (WPV1) cases in the country to 48 this year, and 10 in the north-western province. The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad confirmed the infection on Saturday, noting the boy from DI Khan, an area still battling persistent polio transmission.

Continued on Page 06

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PTI fails to deliver on all fronts in KP: Muqam

Engr Amir Muqam advised CM KP to address teachers problems on priority basis and focus on improvement in security situation in the province rather than provoking workers against the state institutions

DNA

LOWER DIR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit-Balistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Pakistan Tahrir e Insaaf (PTI) despite its third consecutive government has failed to deliver for welfare of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where the problems of masses have increased manifold. Pakistan's cuisine Engr Amir Muqam was addressing a big public gathering here on occasion of joining of PMLN by former Senator and ANP leader Zahid Khan and his brother Ayub Khan along with thousands of his supporters. Senator Zahid Khan and his brother have expressed full confidence in the leadership of PMLN President Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and PMLN KP President Engr Amir Muqam. Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that PMLN strongly believed in people's welfare service as well as uniformed development of Pakistan and that was why political leaders such as Zahid Khan, Ayub Khan and ex Minister Wajid Ali Khan have joined his party. He said that people of Pakistan knew that PMLN's leadership has all the ability and strength to take the country's out of all challenges and put it on road to prosperity. He

said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was tirelessly working to make the country forward on road to progress and development besides provide relief to masses. Engr Amir Muqam said that the successful holding of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at Islamabad have enhanced Pakistan's image at global level. He said bringing price hike to below seven percent digit and record increase in stock exchange besides revival of economy was made possible due to untiring efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his financial team. He said that unfortunately some elements, who are raising hallow slogans of 'true freedom' did not like political stability in the country. He said people are fully aware that who were using foreign lobby for the release of PTI founder. He said that raising of flag of a super power in Swabi public meeting of PTI addressed by CM KP and staging of cipher drama for political gains by the PTI founder was fully exposed before the masses. Engr Amir Muqam ruled out of granting of NRO for anyone under foreign pressure, reiterating that only courts would decide the cases of PTI founder. Instead to address issues of the protesting teachers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said that CM KP has failed to address their genuine problems, resultantly precious time of thousands students are being wasted. Engr Amir Muqam advised CM KP

to address teachers problems on priority basis and focus on improvement in security situation in the province rather than provoking workers against the state institutions. He said that KP Assembly should be used for empowerment of masses and legislation for resolution of provincial issues rather against political opponents. Engr Amir Muqam said that people of Malakand Division had suffered due to terrorism and floods and requires fast track development. He said that PTI Government has failed to construct Dir-Chitral Motorway despite tall hallow promises. Engr Amir Muqam said that only PMLN Govt benefiting thousands of patients every year. Engr Amir Muqam said that Malakand Division has been exempted of taxes for one year by the PMLN Govt to provide relief to its people. He said that all problems of road infrastructure, gas and electricity in the area would be addressed on priority basis. Engr Amir Muqam said party workers are real asset of the party and all their genuine demands would be addressed. He welcomed Senator Zahid Khan in the party fold and assured support in resolution of the area problems.



LOWER DIR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, GB and Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam hug Senator and ANP leader Zahid Khan on the occasion of joining PML(N).

Lok Mela 2024 draws record-breaking crowds

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan's vibrant cultural landscape stole the show at Lok Mela 2024 in Islamabad, drawing record-breaking crowds to a 10-day spectacle of colors, sounds and flavors that showcased the nation's rich diversity. The ongoing Lok Mela 2024 festival in Islamabad has transformed into a vibrant platform showcasing Pakistan's rich cultural diversity, mesmerizing visitors from across the country and brought together master artisans, folk artists, musicians and traditional dancers from all provinces, said a report aired by PTV news channel. Visitors are treated to electrifying folk musical performances, captivating traditional dance acts and mesmerizing puppet shows, report added. Food enthusiasts are also in for a treat as the festival offers a diverse range of traditional cuisine, including Sindh's biryani, Punjab's sarson ka saag, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's chapli kabab, and Balochistan's Sajji, said a visitor. "Lok Mela 2024 is a true reflection of Pakistan's rich cultural diversity. I am mesmerized by the colors, sounds and flavors" said a group of students with their school trip. "I have never seen such a vibrant display of Pakistani culture. Lok Virsa has outdone itself", said a businessman with his family visit who came from Punjab. "The folk music performances are incredible and we have discovered so many new artists", a music enthusiast young girl commented while enjoying musical night.—APP

Toxic smoky particles fill Lahore city atmosphere

LAHORE: Life in provincial metropolis on Sunday remained severely impacted and air pollution increased to an alarming level in various cities of Punjab. Despite government's intensified efforts, the provincial capital on Sunday again ranked first in the world in terms of air pollution. The average smog rate in the life in provincial metropolis city in terms of AQIs reached 753. The air quality index of DHA Phase-VIII in different areas of Lahore was recorded at 1391, the air quality index of the American Consulate was noted 860, while the air quality index of The Mall road area was recorded as 806, while the AQI of Askari-X area reached 725. Apart from this, Multan's AQI was recorded at 527, Islamabad at 226 and Rawalpindi's air quality index at 248. Due to the toxic particles in the atmosphere, the citizens are facing many diseases including breathing. It should be noted that due to the increas-

ing in smog, public entry to all parks, playgrounds, historical places, monuments, museums in Lahore has already been banned until November 17, while hotels and markets are allowed to open until 8 am. It may be mentioned here that in line with instructions from the Punjab government, the Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens have been closed for tourists due to increasing smog in the provincial capital. Moreover the Tomb of Jahangir, the Tomb of Nur Jahan, and the Shahi Hammam at Delhi Gate will also be closed until November 17. Meanwhile talking to media Environment Protection (EPA) Director General (DG) Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh said that the Punjab government is striving for adoption of a holistic approach to address the issue of air pollution and smog across the province and to avoid the situation this year, it has intensified working on an anti-smog plan strategically. On the instructions

of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the Punjab government took several measures to combat smog focusing on agriculture, transport, environment, industry, energy, education and health sectors. To a query he said to reduce the intensity of smog, the government has accelerated its actions, as the severity of smog has made life haram for the citizens from October to February for many years. The Punjab government has declared green lockdown to address the issue, he added. He said a stringent crackdown is underway against vehicles operating without fitness certificates and those emitting excessive smoke. On the other hand, according to the Department of Meteorology, the minimum temperature of Lahore city today is 19 degrees Celsius while the maximum temperature is 29 degrees Celsius. The humidity in the air has reached 93 percent. has been recorded.—APP

Vintage car rally show held

PESHAWAR: An impressive Vintage Car Rally Show was held at Defense Housing Authority (DHA) Peshawar on Sunday. The Pak wheel auto show was arranged jointly by Frontier 4 by 4 Club and DHA Peshawar which was attended by a large number of people and car lovers. To promote the show, banners and placards with writings in connection with the show were installed at the venue. Tug of war 4 by 4 jeep race and race among vehicles on 1.3 kilometers track was also organized. The tug of war 4 by 4 jeep race was won by Jamsheed Burki and first position of the race of vehicles on 1.3 kilometers track was clinched by Babar Yousofzai. About 60 vehicles participated in both the races that was warmly applauded by large number of spectators. The organizers and participants of the vintage car show have highly praised DHA Peshawar and Frontier 4 by 4 Club for organizing the event where stalls of Excide battery, vehicles and motorcycles were also installed. The Excide battery also arranged a funfair show that was warmly applauded.—APP

Speakers alarm over illicit trade, smuggling

PESHAWAR: A high-profile advocacy event organized by the ACT Alliance in Peshawar brought together key provincial and local leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the pressing challenges of illicit trade, tax evasion, smuggling, and counterfeiting in Pakistan. The event held here the other day, highlighted the urgent need for decisive government action to counter "the threats to Pakistan's economy." National Convener of ACT Alliance, Mubashir Akram briefed the attendees on the severe economic consequences of these illicit activities, which collectively cost Pakistan's economy an estimated \$100 billion each year. In attendance were prominent figures from the political spectrum and government bodies, including Muhammad Zubair, Mayor of Peshawar; Behar Ullah,

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami; Zulqarnain, President of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce; Farhad Khan, President of ANP; Sania Javed, Deputy Speaker; Sobia Khan, Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA); Dr. Ibad, Leader of the Opposition; Malik Liaquat, Population Minister; and Mehrunnisa, former MPA. The leaders expressed deep concern over the scope of these issues and pledged to support more stringent policies to counteract the harmful impacts on Pakistan's economy. In his opening remarks, Mayor of Peshawar, Muhammad Zubair voiced his gratitude to the ACT Alliance for shedding light on the critical economic damage caused by illicit trade. "The insights shared informed us about the staggering economic losses our province and country suffer from illicit

trade. It is a wake-up call for us to take immediate action," he said, calling provincial authorities to partner with federal agencies and industry leaders to tackle these issues effectively. Mubashir Akram provided an in-depth presentation on the scale of the challenge, citing that retail, POL (petroleum, oil, and lubricants), real estate, and tobacco sectors are among the most significant contributors to tax evasion in Pakistan. Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Behar Ullah spoke passionately about the socio-economic impact of illicit trade on ordinary citizens. "For too long, we have let this go unchecked, thinking it only affects the wealthy. Today, we see the reality—it impacts us all, eroding our economy, public services, and opportunities for future growth. This fight needs collective social and political action," he stated.—APP

Punjab reports 79 new dengue infections

LAHORE: A slight decline in dengue cases was observed, with the Punjab Health Department reporting 79 new cases of dengue fever across the province on Sunday. The majority of the new cases were recorded in Rawalpindi, with 65 cases, followed by four cases in Chakwal, and two in Sialkot. Single cases were also reported in Lahore, Attock, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Kasur, Chinot, Gujrat, and Okara. So far in 2024, a total of 6,838 dengue cases have been recorded across Punjab. The Health Department officials said hospitals were fully stocked with essential medicines and ready to manage the growing number of patients.—APP

Youth entrepreneurship to get Rs300b boost under PM's loan scheme

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan Sunday announced that Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme has achieved remarkable success, disbursing approximately Rs186 billion to young entrepreneurs across Pakistan and now sets its sights on an ambitious target of Rs300 billion. In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he explained that the Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme has made significant strides in empowering young entrepreneurs, with approximately 186 billion rupees distributed among 790,000 young entrepreneurs to boost economic development. The Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme has made significant strides in empowering female entrepreneurs, with 13% of female beneficiaries in previous years, adding, this year, the target has been set at 33% female participation, aiming to provide more loan opportunities to young women. Responding to a query, he said many students lack knowledge on how to apply for loans, to address this issue, facilitation centers are being established where financial experts will guide students through the loan application process. These centers will also utilize web portals to streamline the process, making it easier for students to apply, he mentioned. Chairman further unveiled a comprehensive vision for youth-driven socio-economic development in Pakistan, as outlined by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. This vision empowers young girls and boys equally through various initiatives, including Youth Loan Schemes to provide financial support to young entrepreneurs, Laptop distributions to enhance digital access and education, Skill Programs to equip youth with marketable skills, facilitation centers to offer resources and guidance for youth development, and Scholarship Programs to support education and personal growth, he added. By investing in Pakistan's youth, who make up about 70% of the country's population, Khan aims to harness their potential for a brighter future and sustainable development. The PML-N has taken groundbreaking initiatives for youth empowerment, he said, adding, these initiatives aim to equip young Pakistanis with essential skills, education and economic opportunities to thrive in the modern world. The Prime Minister's Youth Program is taking a huge step forward in empowering young Pakistanis with in-demand, skills, he said. Through collaborations with NEFCDC and TEVTAS, we are introducing 'Demand-Based Skilled' programs that cater to the needs of countries around the world. This means our youth will be trained in skills that are actually needed, both internationally and locally, he mentioned. PM Shahbaz Sharif also instructed to facilitate students through the Laptop Scheme to talented students on merit through an online transparent system, adding, this scheme is envisioned to promote outreach of youth to information and communication technologies, bridging the digital divide within the higher education sector and beyond, he highlighted. Last year, one million laptops were distributed in Punjab, and 600,000 in the Federal capital, he said, adding, this year, the distribution numbers are expected to increase with an additional 1 million smartphones being distributed interest-free. He added that the present government has re-announced a collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to offer scholarship programs and endowment funds for students. This initiative aims to promote higher education and research in Pakistan, providing opportunities for students to pursue their academic goals without financial constraints, he added. In his concluded remarks said that Pakistan is experiencing a significant turnaround, with the world's trust in the country being restored and its economy getting back on track. This is a remarkable achievement, and now it is time for the youth to play their part. To truly unlock their potential, young Pakistanis must learn to trust themselves, respect their parents and value the guidance of their teachers, he added.—DNA

DFO Sadheer Mughal has emerged as a trailblazer in environmental conservation

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Sadheer Ahmed Mughal, as Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) has emerged as a trailblazer in environmental conservation. Mughal is known for his dedication and exceptional contributions to forestry. Sadheer Ahmed Mughal's efforts to expand green cover have been especially noteworthy in the districts of Chakwal and Jhelum, where he has introduced sustainable forestry practices and launched

successful tree-planting campaigns. He is credited with inspiring a robust reforestation movement, particularly through initiatives that integrate local participation. Through a combination of awareness campaigns, collaborations with various stakeholders, and innovative planting drives, Mughal has become a symbol of progressive forestry management in Pakistan. One of the cornerstones of Mughal's approach has been raising public awareness about the importance of plantation and forest conservation. He has or-






ganized educational sessions and campaigns to inform people about how reforestation can mitigate climate change and improve their quality of life. By educating local communities on the benefits of maintaining a healthy green cover, he has fostered a long-lasting change in attitudes toward the environment. Mughal has received multiple certificates of appreciation, marking him as a prominent figure in the forest management sector. Mughal's recent appointment to Murree has been met

with enthusiasm and high expectations. The people of Murree anticipate that he will bring the same level of dedication and transformative impact to their region. Known for its natural beauty and lush landscapes, Murree has been affected by deforestation, urban development, and increasing tourism pressure. Residents hope that Mughal's experience and strategies will preserve the area's natural beauty, while also addressing the environmental challenges unique to Murree.

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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
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PIA Flight Info.....114
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KSA 's cultural riches shine at Lok Mela

Saudi Press Attaché Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi shared his pride in representing Saudi culture at this international festival. "Saudi Arabia is rich in tradition, history, and culture. Lok Mela is an exceptional platform to share our heritage with the people of Pakistan, highlighting the close ties between our nations," he added

ISLAMABAD: The annual Lok Mela at Lok Virsa is underway, showcasing diverse cultural heritages from across Pakistan and beyond. This year, the festival includes a vibrant stall from Saudi Arabia, offering visitors a rich experience of Saudi Arabian culture through traditional tastes, attire, and hospitality. Organized by the Saudi Embassy, the stall is attracting large crowds with its authentic representation of the Kingdom's traditions. The Saudi stall, adorned with intricate decor and cultural elements, has become a major highlight of the ten-day festival. Visitors are relishing the taste of premium Saudi dates, known for their unique texture and natural sweetness, and savoring the aroma of Arabian 'gahwa' (coffee). The traditional Saudi hospitality, warm and welcoming, is evident as the stall attendants serve these delicacies with care, drawing numerous guests intrigued by the offerings. In a conversation with media, Saudi Press Attaché Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi shared his pride in representing Saudi culture at this international festival. "Saudi Arabia is rich in tradition, history, and culture. Lok Mela is an exceptional platform to share our heritage with the people of Pakistan, highlighting the close ties between our nations," he added. Dr. Al-Otaibi emphasized the historical and cultural bonds between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, which have strengthened over decades of diplomatic, economic, and social exchanges. Saudi Labour Attaché, Majed Baker also in attendance, highlighted the significance of such events in enhancing cross-cultural understanding. "Our stall is not just a representation of our cul-



ture but an opportunity to deepen the cultural connection with our Pakistani brothers and sisters. The response we have received is overwhelming," he said, pointing to the constant flow of visitors eager to experience a taste of Saudi hospitality. Secretary of National Heritage and Culture Division, Hassan Nisar Jamy paid an official visit to the Saudi stall alongside members of the Saudi foreign mission to Pakistan. Impressed

by the meticulous representation, Secretary Jamy praised the Saudi team's dedication to showcasing their culture. "The Saudi stall adds a wonderful international flavor to the Lok Mela, reflecting the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," he noted, highlighting the importance of such international contributions to the cultural landscape of Pakistan. The Saudi stall has also incorporated traditional mu-

sic and decor, attracting families, youth, and cultural enthusiasts. Many visitors were seen taking photographs with the intricate artifacts, and admiring the clothing and handicrafts representative of Saudi Arabian culture. The Lok Mela, which will continue for the ten days, features stalls from various countries, each contributing unique flavors and styles to this cultural celebration. The Saudi stall, however, stands out with its

strong ties to Pakistani visitors and its sincere commitment to sharing Saudi Arabia's heritage. The Saudi Embassy has extended a warm invitation to all participants to explore and enjoy this enriching cultural experience. The Lok Mela, as always, remains a cornerstone of cultural appreciation and exchange, drawing thousands from all backgrounds to celebrate the beauty of diversity and tradition.

Renowned Alghoza player Misri Khan remembered

ISLAMABAD: Death anniversary of renowned Alghoza player Misri Khan Jamali was observed on Sunday. He started a business of music instruments at Nawab Shah but later became popular in playing locally made music instrument Alghoza. Ustad Misri Khan Jamali earned fame by playing Alghoza at national and international level. In recognition of his services, he was also awarded pride of performance by government of Pakistan in 1979. Misri Khan Jamali died on November 10, 1980 and was buried in Nawab Shah.--APP

FGEHA set to auction commercial plots in Islamabad's G-13, G-14

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has finalized arrangements to auction several commercial plots in sectors G-13 and G-14 on Wednesday and Thursday (November 13 and 14) at the Citizen Club, located in F-9 Park, Islamabad. An official told media that the auction includes multiple commercial plots in G-14, various Class-III commercial plots in G-13, G-14-2/3 and a petrol pump plot in the Mauve area (Sri Nagar Highway) G-13. Additionally, mixed-use plots and apartments in front of G-13 Markaz will also be auctioned. The winning bidder must complete the total payment through easy installments spread over two years. Investors who choose to pay the full amount upfront will receive a 10% rebate on the total payment, with an additional 5% discount available for those paying the full amount.--APP

SBC strategies as key to sustainable healthcare

ISLAMABAD: The 14th International Public Health Conference concluded with experts stressing the importance of integrating Social and Behavior Change (SBC) strategies into Pakistan's health systems and policies to ensure sustainable development. Health professionals, policymakers, and leading organizations gathered to discuss the adoption of SBC frameworks, particularly in family planning and healthcare services, as crucial for addressing Pakistan's ongoing healthcare challenges. Key recommendations emphasized the need for cross-sectoral partnerships, research-driven programs, and high-quality healthcare services to achieve long-term, sustainable outcomes. The conference highlighted the importance of incorporating SBC strategies within health systems, with a particular focus on family planning, to foster improvements in public health across the country. The opening plenary session, titled "Bridging the Gap: Integrating SBC in Health Systems and Family Planning," underscored the necessity of embedding SBC strategies to bring about meaningful and lasting advancements in public health. Regional experts, including Dr. Jahanzaib Sohail, Ms. Saman Rai, and Tariq Azam Lariq, presented region-specific insights, emphasizing the potential for locally tailored SBC approaches to drive effective interventions. Organizations such as Pathfinder International, Nutrition International, and ILO actively contributed to the discussions, stressing the need for cross-sectoral collaboration to develop sustainable health programs. They highlighted the importance of addressing issues such as maternal and child health, community health education, and quality assurance through collaborative efforts. In his address, Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of Health Services Academy (HSA), expressed gratitude to the conference participants and acknowledged the event's success in fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration. He emphasized the importance of the newly established Health and Wellness Center, which aims to enhance healthcare access and further strengthen public health efforts nationwide. Dr. Shahzad also reaffirmed HSA's commitment to bridging the gap between research and practical application, stating that the collaborative efforts initiated during the conference would lead to innovative, sustainable solutions for Pakistan's healthcare challenges. Dr. Shahzad recognized the contributions of Dr. Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Registrar of HSA; Nadeem Kayani, Head of Quality Assurance; Dr. Samina Naem Khalid, Head of RMNCH; Dr. Khalid Iqbal Malik from the Examination Department; HSA faculty members; and the conference organizers. He expressed confidence that HSA will continue to host successful initiatives through effective teamwork, thereby further enhancing the standards of public health in Pakistan. The closing recommendations called for integrating SBC frameworks into public health policies to foster sustainable behavior change, especially in family planning and preventive care. It also emphasized the need for strengthening cross-sector partnerships to leverage diverse expertise and resources. Additionally, capacity building for health professionals and the use of culturally tailored, research-driven interventions were identified as essential to improving program design and outreach.

Jazz unveils new HQs to drive digital innovation

This modern workspace is set to inspire creativity, collaboration, and productivity, setting a new benchmark for workplace innovation in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has officially inaugurated its new state-of-the-art headquarters, the Jazz World HQ, at a purpose-built location in Islamabad's vibrant new BluePakistan's cuisine Area, offering stunning views of the F-9 Park and the scenic Margalla Hills said a news release. The move marks a significant milestone in Jazz's ongoing evolution from a telecom operator to a digital ServiceCo, focusing on delivering innovative digital products and services to Pakistan's diverse population. The inauguration ceremony was attended by VEON Group CEO Kaan Terzioglu, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim, and senior officials from VEON and Jazz's leadership team. This new headquarters represents Jazz's commitment to fostering a high-performance, collaborative workspace centered on modernity, safety, and sustainability. Speaking at the event, VEON Group CEO Kaan Terzioglu remarked, "Pakistan is one

of the key markets in VEON's portfolio. Through our leadership position here combined with our global expertise, we are committed to fostering a thriving digital ecosystem. This new head office underscores our commitment to supporting Pakistan's journey toward digital transformation. I congratulate the Jazz team for their hard work and vision, which have enabled us to deliver critical digital services to millions across the country, driving remarkable growth and creating meaningful impact in the lives of Pakistanis." Echoing this sentiment, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim highlighted the significance of the new headquarters in advancing Jazz's mission of digital transformation. "As we celebrate 30 extraordinary years at Jazz, we're not only honoring our past but setting the stage for a bold future. This new headquarters symbolizes Jazz's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the empowerment of our people. This is more than just a workspace - it is a hub of innovation

where ideas and collaboration will shape Pakistan's digital future. As we are transitioning from a digital operator into a digital ServiceCo, this facility will help us accelerate Pakistan's vision of digitalization." The Jazz World HQ spans 17 floors of advanced workspaces with four basements dedicated to secure parking. Designed in line with LEED standards, the building aligns with Jazz's environmental objectives by using eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient systems, including a VRF Inverter HVAC system for optimized energy consumption and improved air quality. Safety is ensured through an earthquake-resistant design. The facility includes 32 fully equipped meeting rooms, two social dining areas, an expanded gym, and a sustainable water management system. This modern workspace is set to inspire creativity, collaboration, and productivity, setting a new benchmark for workplace innovation in Pakistan.

Crack down on Sunday Market prices, six arrested

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration officials have ramped up checks on prices and product quality, as the shoppers flocked to Sunday markets across the Federal Capital. As Sunday markets filled with holiday crowds in Islamabad, district officials intensified price inspections across various stalls, said the spokesman of ICT administration here. The administration, aiming to enforce strict controls on prices, deployed teams to ensure vendors followed official rate lists. This included raids to multiple Sunday markets by Assistant Commissioners and Price Control Magistrates. In this regard, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar's Aneeq Anwar conducted a thorough inspection, scrutinizing prices and the quality of fruits and vegetables. His visit, which was accompanied by a magistrate, resulted in six shopkeepers being arrested on charges of overpricing. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized that all Assistant Commissioners were present at Sunday markets throughout the city, tasked with monitoring prices. He urged citizens to pay only the rates approved by the administration. "If any shopkeeper is not displaying the official rate list, customers should immediately inform the magistrate on duty," he said. --DNA

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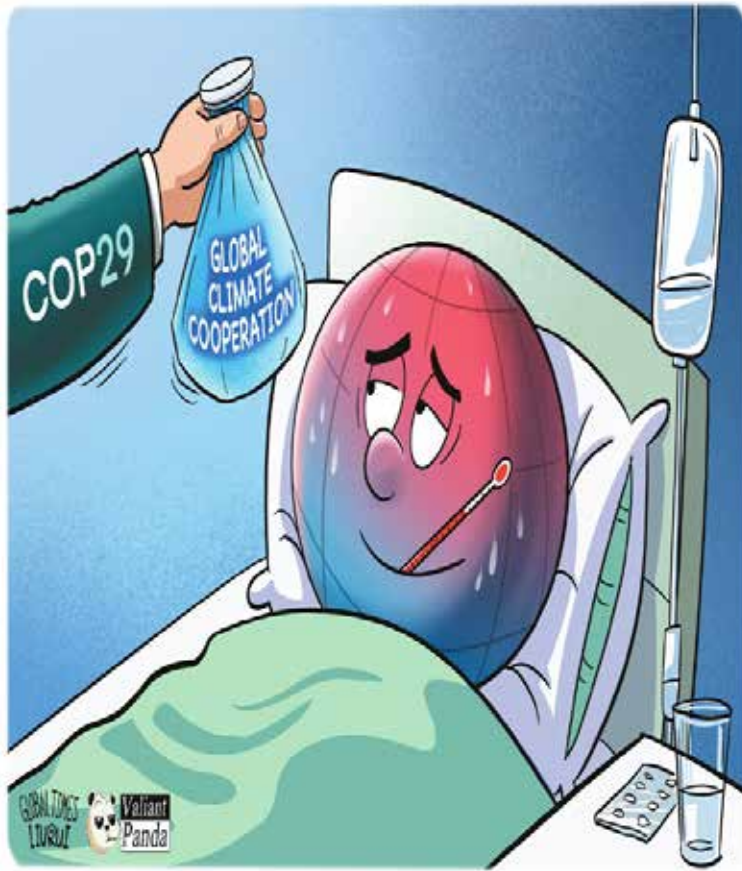
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Zero-sum game

WITH the race for the presidency of the US ended, China-US relations are at a new starting point. If we look back at the past few years, the US' China policy has focused on "strategic competition" and the US has exerted multi-dimensional pressure on China in areas such as economy, technology and security. However, this competition-focused policy failed to help the US achieve its goals. Instead, it worsened relations between the two countries and even triggered turbulence in the global supply chain. Now, it is hoped that the new US government can examine the shortcomings of the current China policy and rethink how to build a stable and win-win relationship with China, so as to help create a sustainable China-US relationship. Globalization has made the Chinese and American economies and industrial chains highly intertwined. Complete "decoupling" is not only unrealistic, but it will also have an adverse impact on American companies and consumers. In fact, high inflation in recent years has put pressure on the US economy, and the tariff war has failed to bring back the manufacturing industry. Instead, it has increased costs for US companies. China is not only an important manufacturing base in the world, but also an important market for US capital and technology. Blindly weakening the economic linkage between the two countries is tantamount to harming the US' own interests. In the field of science and technology, the US policy toward China is flawed. The Joe Biden administration has further strengthened its technological blockade against China, especially setting restrictions on key technologies such as semiconductors, in order to maintain the US advantages. However, this "small yard, high fence" strategy is not only detrimental to the development of global technology, but may also lead to the isolation of the US in the global innovation network. China has increased its efforts in independent innovation in recent years in an attempt to reduce its dependence on foreign countries. In short, the tension in China-US relations has some deep-seated structural reasons, but there are many misjudgments in the current China policy of the US. In order to achieve peace and stability, the new US government needs to re-examine its China policy and return to rationality. On the economic, technological, geopolitical and other levels, the US should engage with China in a more cooperative manner and jointly explore ways to achieve win-win cooperation. In economy, the US should abandon its "decoupling" thinking. It should abandon its overly extreme tariff war strategy, reduce the tariffs it imposes on China and negotiate with China to redefine trade rules on the premise of mutual benefit. Such adjustments will help reduce the US' inflationary pressure, stabilize market expectations, provide American consumers with more choices and avoid continued damage to the economy due to policy mistakes. In terms of science and technology, the US should shift from a confrontational model based on blockade to a win-win model that promotes active cooperation and healthy competition. The US technology blockade has not stopped China's technological progress, on the contrary, it has inspired China to increase independent innovation in key technology fields such as semiconductors. Rather than trying to contain China, it is better for the US to jointly improve technological levels through open competition.



Netanyahu's war crimes

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has never been one to let ideological or moral concerns diminish his insatiable lust for power. Control of the political narrative through manipulation of the media has been central to his staying power. The latest scandal to engulf the prime minister's office revolves around the leaking of top-secret documents to foreign media outlets. Netanyahu himself is not, at least for now, a suspect in this case but it is nevertheless an indictment of the permissive environment he has created, in which his closest circle of aides believes that ensuring his political survival should be placed ahead of the national interest. The origins of the current scandal – in which several people have been implicated, including a spokesperson from the prime minister's office – date back to September, when the tragic news of the murder of six Israeli hostages held by Hamas sent hundreds of thousands of Israelis onto the streets demanding an agreement for the release of the remaining hostages. This left Netanyahu feeling politically threatened. The following day he held a press conference during which he presented a document he said was found in Gaza. Later one of the journalists closest to him suggested it was written by none other than Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. The document reportedly revealed that Hamas forces had been instructed "to intensify the psychological pressure" on the families of hostages, and on Netanyahu's main rival in the Cabinet, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and "to continue the line blaming Netanyahu for what happened." Netanyahu said during his press conference that he could not confirm the document was "from Sinwar himself but I can confirm it's from high-ranking members of Hamas." As is typical of his strategy, he created the strong impression that something was true (in this case that Sinwar wrote the document) but left enough wiggle room to later distance himself from an allegation he knew to be false. In the meantime, he knew it would have his desired effect of giving many of his supporters the impression that Sinwar was manipulating the families of hostages, and that those families were either being naive in calling for a deal to return the hostages, or were prepared to sacrifice the good of their country for their own "selfish" desire to see their loved ones come home. Then, mysteriously, as the protests calling for a deal with Hamas were gathering momentum, a completely fabricated report was published in London's Jewish Chronicle newspaper. Claiming to be based on captured documents, it said Sinwar planned to smuggle himself and the Israeli hostages out of Gaza through the Philadelphi Corridor, a narrow strip of land between Gaza and Egypt. The very next day, the German tabloid newspaper Bild published a story with the headline: "Chilling! This is what Hamas leader plans to do with the hostages." It claimed, based on a "previously unknown document from Hamas' military intelligence" in Gaza, the group was unwilling to end the war, regardless of the dire consequences for itself and the people of Gaza, and was pursuing a strategy of creating divisions in Israeli society. This article gave the impression that Sinwar was behind this document as well, although it was later proven this was not the case. But to be honest, it is no great revelation that two enemies at war would be attempting to sow divisions among each other's peoples. Israel does this too.

The consequences of leaving wounds open

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



This concept resonates starkly within modern conflicts such as the one between Hamas and Israel. The October 7 attack by Hamas against Israel, for example, inflicted damage and loss but was not a blow that disabled Israel's capacity to respond. Israel, perceiving the strike as a critical threat, has since escalated its actions with a stated objective of dismantling Hamas's ability to launch further attacks. From Israel's perspective, leaving Hamas weakened but still capable could mean leaving an adversary who would likely retaliate. Thus, Israel's strategy appears driven by a belief that completely neutralizing the threat is the only way to achieve lasting security a strategic...

IF you must wound someone, it is better to kill him" The statement reflects a powerful notion regarding the nature of conflict, especially in its suggestion that merely wounding an enemy whether in or military contexts often fails to resolve tensions and may even escalate them. In this perspective, it implies that if one must strike, the strike should be decisive enough to prevent retaliation or a prolonged cycle of conflict. While the idea may sound ruthless, it offers insight into why conflicts, especially at national and global levels, often spiral when left unresolved, leading to deeper, more damaging confrontations. The principle discussed in the missive reveals a fundamental truth about cycles of revenge and violence, especially relevant to historical and modern warfare. In an historical example, Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor was a significant strike, but not one that incapacitated the United States. Rather, it galvanized the U.S. response, ultimately leading to devastating attacks on Japan. Here, the "decisive strike" concept emerged: the U.S. did not aim to merely retaliate but to neutralize Japan's ability to wage war. The use of atomic bombs, while morally contentious, exemplified this approach by compelling Japan's surrender, a controversial move but one that ended years of bloody conflict and paved the way for Japan's reconstruction as an ally. Though brutal, the tactic also reflects the argument that decisively ending conflict can spare prolonged suffering and loss on both sides, as compared to an ongoing cycle of lesser strikes. In this light, the statement seems to support the idea that decisive, if extreme, measures can bring an end to conflict in a way that prolonged, lesser actions cannot. This logic suggests that decisive actions may sometimes be employed to end a standoff and lay a foundation for future stability. A military or political conflict marked by an ongoing cycle of wounding but non-terminal blows can spiral out of control, causing even more suffering without resolution. The adversaries, rather than seeking peace, instead prepare for the next exchange, potentially becoming locked

in a perpetual cycle of vengeance and escalation, each side motivated by a desire to right perceived wrongs. This concept resonates starkly within modern conflicts such as the one between Hamas and Israel. The October 7 attack by Hamas against Israel, for example, inflicted damage and loss but was not a blow that disabled Israel's capacity to respond. Israel, perceiving the strike as a critical threat, has since escalated its actions with a stated objective of dismantling Hamas's ability to launch further attacks. From Israel's perspective, leaving Hamas weakened but still capable could mean leaving an adversary who would likely retaliate. Thus, Israel's strategy appears driven by a belief that completely neutralizing the threat is the only way to achieve lasting security a strategic, if morally ambiguous, pursuit of finality rather than a cycle of tit-for-tat aggression. However, while the principle can be seen as compelling in explaining these actions, it is morally fraught. The approach described in the missive risks endorsing an overly aggressive stance that might overlook the complex motivations of adversaries or the long-term impacts on civilians and regional stability. Many conflicts are not simply matters of neutralizing an enemy but involve complex political, historical, and cultural grievances. In a world interconnected by global relationships and bound by humanitarian norms, the idea of dealing a "final blow" can have broader repercussions, potentially breeding long-standing resentment, fostering more opposition, and causing immeasurable civilian suffering. Ending a conflict by attempting to eliminate a perceived threat might succeed in the short term, but it can also backfire, creating a new generation of adversaries motivated by the losses they endured. Furthermore, this approach does not consider scenarios where mutual respect and diplomacy might resolve underlying issues more effectively than violent measures. A purely militaristic view might dismiss the idea that former adversaries can become partners or that long-standing tensions can evolve into

peaceful relationships. Decades after World War II, Japan became a close ally of the United States, a transformation not brought about solely by force but by subsequent efforts toward reconciliation, mutual respect, and economic partnerships. This perspective suggests that while decisive actions may conclude one phase of a conflict, they do not ensure sustainable peace; true peace often requires addressing the grievances, histories, and needs of those involved. Reflecting on global dynamics today, it's evident that many international strategies continue to be shaped by similar ideas of preemption and deterrence. States might choose decisive action over incremental wounding, fearing that a perceived "half-measure" would invite further escalation. This approach, however, remains ethically complex. While some leaders and strategists may find it pragmatic to seek finality, they must also weigh the humanitarian costs and moral considerations, particularly in an age where public opinion, international scrutiny, and diplomatic relationships profoundly affect long-term outcomes. Indeed, the principle that "killing the enemy is kinder than wounding them" assumes that wars and conflicts are inherently zero-sum games, disregarding alternatives that might foster reconciliation and avoid recurring violence. This concept is also mirrored in the responses of modern command centers worldwide, where military leaders are forced to consider not only their immediate objectives but also the potential consequences of wounding versus delivering decisive, crippling blows. In recent years, nations have escalated their approaches to warfare with advanced technology, cyber capabilities, and other means that allow them to inflict significant damage without deploying traditional military force. Such tools offer ways to strike at critical infrastructures, potentially debilitating an enemy's ability to function without necessarily causing mass casualties. Yet, even these methods carry risks, as they might provoke further retaliation or lead to extended, disruptive conflicts without achieving conclusive peace

China can build bridges as Trump's America builds walls

Brian Y. S. Wong

The Chinese leadership is sensibly focusing on structural economic recovery as the top priority for the next few years. While shoring up counter-espionage measures and tightening security is important to defend against attempts to undermine its international standing and domestic stability, paranoia will do little to help China's economy. A robust economy could work miracles in converting sceptics into believers

I CAN still vividly recall when Donald Trump was first elected US president in 2016. It was a gloomy winter morning in Oxford, and the frigid temperatures mirrored how many among my peers felt about his unbelievable ascent. Eight years later, more than 73 million Americans voted for his return. A second Trump term is likely to mean substantial volatility. We should expect more protectionism in the form of tariffs, possible restrictions on outbound investment, sanctions and retaliatory measures aimed at countries seeking to shift away from using the US dollar. US allies will question the credibility of American military and security guarantees and perhaps recalibrate relations with China, which could emerge as a pillar of relative predictability. When it comes to Sino-US relations, Trump is likely to waver between two extremes. On the one hand, he may be advised by top business magnates with sizeable exposure to and understanding of China, such as Elon Musk. On the other hand, he could well appoint to his cabinet a slew of hawks with disparate rationales, united by their opposition to China – from ideological hardliners such as Tom Cotton and Marco Rubio to cynical ultra-realists like Bill Hagerty, Elbridge Colby and Ric Grenell. Ill-disciplined and bent on going after his domestic opponents, the president is likely to delegate the bulk of planning and execution to his team of trusted aides and advisers. Beijing should have no illusions about the incoming administration. There will be less openness and room for government-to-government dialogue. There will be more rhetorical intensification and lose-lose punitive measures. Yet when they go low, we must go high. China must resist being dragged into the quagmire of retaliatory tariffs and self-induced withdrawal from the world. Instead, it must continually open up and reform itself to

ensure that it can serve as a reliable pillar in a "multiplex" global order which, as scholar Amitav Acharya puts it, is more "decentred" and "pluralistically led". As "America first" pushes the US out of global leadership, the pace of pluralisation will only accelerate. China must be at the table where it happens. Indeed, China must double down on reassuring foreign firms and courting foreign investment from old and new markets. Investors are understandably concerned about geopolitical tensions and possible flare-ups around the Taiwan Strait, South China Sea and Korean peninsula. Beijing must affirm its commitment to peace while standing resolutely by its core territorial and strategic interests. The Chinese leadership is sensibly focusing on structural economic recovery as the top priority for the next few years. While shoring up counter-espionage measures and tightening security is important to defend against attempts to undermine its international standing and domestic stability, paranoia will do little to help China's economy. A robust economy could work miracles in converting sceptics into believers. If there is one lesson the first Trump presidency taught the world, it's that putting one's country above all others inflicts devastating consequences upon other nations. China must recognise that the best deals are those where everyone has something to gain. In recent years, China has made significant inroads with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. As such, China must swiftly provide for Asean economies that might face erratic economic coercion by the US, especially as American leaders attempt to make them choose sides between Beijing and Washington. Elsewhere, both the European Union and India are opting to hedge between China and the US. Chinese state-owned enterprises and private businesses should proactively reach out to partners in both places. Chinese firms should offer more egalitarian and balanced

co-investment and joint venture opportunities in renewable energy and other technologies, including in sensitive sectors such as quantum computing and chip manufacturing. Sharing of deep technology and supply chains could serve as a much-needed olive branch in repairing Sino-European relations. Regarding countries in the Global South, China must make investments and honour its infrastructural commitments with a greater awareness of domestic conditions, to avoid repeating the mistakes it made with the Rajapakas in Sri Lanka. China should selectively open up key cities to talented emigrants and students from various countries in the Global South. When it comes to attracting and cultivating talent, Hong Kong also has a pivotal role to play. As the US loses its shine as a beacon for global talent, we must step up as China's most globally-oriented city. Academics and scientists of Chinese descent are likely to face increasing pressure and undue scrutiny in the US. We must provide them with a second home. Leading professionals may no longer see the US as the place to cut their teeth, given the incipient surge in racism, xenophobia and parochialism buoyed by the 2024 US election results. We must embrace them with open arms. While the Trump White House is likely to target Hong Kong as one among many of China's buttons it wants to push, we shall overcome, but only if, as British prime minister Winston Churchill said in 1940, "all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made". Hong Kong must continue to serve as a place where Chinese strategists, academics and government advisers engage with the world, including the US. Indeed, from state and local governments to leading universities and think tanks, there are many thoughtful friends in the US with whom we must continue to communicate and work. The next four years could well be tough on the US, but risks carry the potential to reap great dividends. Let us keep calm and carry on.

Briefs

DPM Dar calls for accountability of...

FROM PAGE 01
after more than a year, the situation in the Middle East had become worse. "Israel has been contravening all international norms and laws with impunity. The Israeli occupying forces continue to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity against the innocent Palestinians," he added. He said during the last one year death toll of innocent Palestinians had crossed 44,000, while more than a hundred thousand had been injured and millions displaced. Furthermore, he said international humanitarian access to Palestinians had been further restricted. "The reckless pursuit of a so-called greater Israel by encroaching upon the sovereignty of states beyond Palestine, is fraught with serious implications for regional peace and stability." He said Pakistan strongly condemned Israel's military strikes against these brotherly countries which were a blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law; Pakistan's cuisine

Over 53 killed in Israeli...

FROM PAGE 01
The Israeli airstrike on Sohmar in Western Bekaa on Saturday reached one martyr and four wounded. In the south an Israeli airstrike targeted a northern neighborhood in Jdeidet Marjayoun and detonated several areas near the al-Wazzani River, south of the village of al-Ghajar. Additionally, an Israeli drone strike targeted an area between the towns of Kfar Tibnit and Arnoun, accompanied by artillery shelling on the towns of Beit Lif and the outskirts of Ain Ebel. In the Saïda district, Lebanese media reported that three paramedics from the Islamic Health Organization's Civil Defense were killed in an Israeli airstrike on the town of Adloun on Sunday.

Smog crisis intensifies in Punjab...

FROM PAGE 01
Connecting arteries and thoroughfares including Lahore-Sialkot Motorway, Motorways M1, M2 and M5 were blocked at various points causing traffic disruptions in Punjab. Moreover, roads connecting Punjab with Sindh and inter-provincial border areas were also hit by smog. Multiple casualties were reported in separate road accidents due to dense smog and consequent low visibility. In Ghotki, a woman was killed and a man was injured in an accident on National Highway near Ghotki, while another woman and her two children were killed in a separate accident in Gojra, when a tractor trolley ran over a motorcycle.

Polio outbreak continues...

FROM PAGE 01
Genetic sequencing of samples collected from the child is currently underway to trace transmission patterns and support targeted vaccination drives. This case follows another detection earlier this week, on Friday, in Sindh's Ghotki district. The Ghotki infection marked the district's first reported case this year, underscoring the virus's spread to new regions. Balochistan has recorded the highest number of cases with 23, followed by Sindh with 13, 10 from KP, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad.

Ten terrorists killed in...

FROM PAGE 01
A sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other Khawarij found in the area, it added. Security forces earlier killed six terrorists and injured six others during another intelligence-based operation (IBO) in North Waziristan's Spinwam area, the ISPR said in a separate statement released on Sunday morning.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, and others stands on starting point of Marathon, title "Run through the Sand of Times" at Diplomatic Enclave, in the Federal Capital. - Online

Serena Polo Cup concludes with a thrilling finale

The final match of the Serena Polo Cup featured an exciting showdown between Team BN and Team Rizvi's by U Bank



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Sports Diplomacy initiative and commitment to community engagement, organized the Serena Polo Cup 2024 on 10th November at Islamabad Club polo grounds. The event was attended by diplomats,

members of the corporate sector, and polo enthusiasts, creating a vibrant atmosphere celebrating the spirit of the sport.

The final match of the Serena Polo Cup featured an exciting showdown between Team BN and Team Rizvi's by U Bank. Both teams displayed exceptional skill and teamwork, captivating the audience with their skill of the game. Team Rizvi won the Serena Polo

Cup with a score of 7, after an exciting tie across four chukkers that led to a decisive fifth chukker. Serena Hotels congratulates both the teams for their outstanding performance at the Serena Polo Cup 2024. Hosting these events brings communities together and promotes diverse sports across Pakistan. Through initiatives like the Polo Cup, Serena Hotels provides a platform

to celebrate athleticism and raise positive community connections. The Sports Diplomacy efforts extend beyond polo, extensive support for various sports, including squash, tennis, and women's cricket. These initiatives promote youth engagement, gender equality, and national pride, encouraging positive relations within both local and international communities.

Champions Trophy's schedule announcement event cancelled

The event would have marked the 100-day countdown to Champions Trophy 2025

DNA

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has cancelled the schedule announcement event of the next year's Champions Trophy due to the ongoing complexity surrounding the scheduling, a renowned cricket news website reported on Sunday.

According to the details, an ICC delegation is set to visit Lahore from November 10 to 12 to inspect the arrange-

ments and preparations for the tournament. During the visit, the apex cricketing body was to formally announce the schedule in an event, which would have marked the 100-day countdown to Champions Trophy 2025.

"The schedule is not confirmed, we are still in discussions with the host and participating nations on the Champions Trophy schedule. Once confirmed we will announce through our normal channels," an ICC official

was quoted as saying by the cricket news website.

The report further suggested that the ICC did not explain the cancellation of the event but India's refusal to visit Pakistan for the tournament is one of the primary reasons. There are also assertions that the apex cricketing body might cite the severe smog in Lahore as the pressing reason to "postpone" the event.

"It was only a trophy tour flag off and tournament/branding launch," the cricket news

website quoted another ICC official, who downplayed the controversy surrounding the scheduling and the event. "That (the event) is still in the works - though may be rescheduled because of Lahore outdoor activities are difficult right now." Meanwhile, a source within the PCB shared no event has been scheduled on Monday (November 11). Earlier, on Friday, the Indian media reported that their national men's team will not visit Pakistan for the Champions Trophy 2025 and the BCCI has formally informed PCB and other stakeholders regarding the decision.

Messi's Inter Miami suffer shock MLS Cup exit

MIAMI: Lionel Messi scored but Inter Miami suffered a shock first-round exit in the MLS Cup play-offs. Atlanta United triumphed 3-2 in the best-of-three decider in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, after both sides had won one game each. Miami finished the regular season with a record 74 points from 34 games in the Eastern Conference to win the Supporters' Shield. Miami took the lead at Chase Stadium when Matias Rojas scored from a rebound after former Aston Villa keeper Brad Guzan had denied Argentina forward Messi. Two goals in two minutes from Jamal Thiare put Atlanta in front and, despite Messi equalising with a header, Bartosz Slisz scored the winner as Miami appealed for play to be stopped with defender Tomas Aviles lying on the pitch injured. Last month Miami, who are co-owned by David Beckham, were named as one of the 32 sides in next year's expanded Fifa Club World Cup. "They are now officially one of the 32 best clubs in the world, already after a few years since their existence," said Fifa president Gianni Infantino. "And now they can start writing their story also on the global stage." In December Miami signed Uruguay striker Luis Suarez, reuniting him with former Barcelona team-mates Messi, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba. Atlanta scraped into the play-offs by finishing ninth in the Eastern Conference, then beat Montreal on penalties in a wildcard game to set up a meeting with Miami. Atlanta will play Orlando City, and New York City face New York Red Bulls, in the semi-finals, external which are decided by one game rather than three.

The winners will meet in the Eastern Conference final, and the winners of that will play the Western Conference play-off champions in the MLS Cup final on 7 December. "This season has had good and bad things," said Miami manager Gerardo Martino. "If you think about the expectations we had for this play-offs, obviously we came up a little short. "The players are sad, as they should be when there are so many expectations and the team can't fulfil them. "In this final part of the year we got used to achieving the objectives but we couldn't achieve the most important one." Miami defender Alba said the MLS Cup format is "a bit unfair". "It's been done for many years but I think it should be the champion of one conference against the champion of the other to make it as fair as possible," he said. - Agencies

Iran hails Pak army's Ops. against terrorist...

FROM PAGE 01
The most senior military body in Iran also expressed hope for the complete restoration of security along the border between the two Muslim states and the elimination of terror groups through the full implementation of security agreements between Tehran and Islamabad. "Terrorist groups affiliated with arrogant powers, playing in the hands of the United States and the Zionist regime as mere pawns had set the common border between Iran and Pakistan the scene of their acts of sabotage, and were staging terrorist attacks at both sides of the frontier," read the statement. "They were, however, confronted last week as the army of the friendly and brotherly government of Pakistan undertook military operations in the area," it added. Accordingly, the Pakistani army undertook an operation on November 5 against a Takfiri terrorist group within its own territory and eliminated several members of the militant outfit in the process.

Pak write history with ODI series...

FROM PAGE 01
blockbuster five-test series against India beginning November 22. During today's match, Pakistani fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah led the way, picking up three wickets apiece during a showcase of swing and pace which accounted for Jake Fraser-McGurk (7) and Aaron Hardie (12) in the first powerplay. Josh Inglis, in his captaincy debut, departed for seven after skying Naseem to keeper Mohammad Rizwan in the 11th over and opener Matt Short (22) soon followed, caught at square-leg attempting to pull in-form quick Haris Rauf (2-24). It went from bad to worse for the hosts when a nasty blow from seamer Mohammad Hasnain to the left hand of Cooper Connolly forced the 21-year-old to retire hurt on seven and leave the venue for scans. A jubilant Rauf found the edge of Glenn Maxwell on zero, leaving Australia reeling at 79-5.

President, PM congratulate Pak...

FROM PAGE 01
President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. He further observed that Pakistan team performed well for which the entire team deserved accolades. The president expressed the optimism that the national cricket team would continue its winning streak in future. The prime minister termed it as the happiest occasion for the nation because the national team achieved victory in ODI series in Australia after a gap of 22 years, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The bowlers and batters displayed an excellent performance against Australia, he said, adding the members of the team and management worked hard for which they deserved such victory.

Pak HC issues visas to Sikh...

FROM PAGE 01
wished the pilgrims a fulfilling yatra. "The issuance of visas is in the line with the Government of Pakistan's commitment to fully implement the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974," it was added.

UAE condemns Quetta... terrorist attack

FROM PAGE 01
international law. The Ministry expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the government and people of Pakistan, and to the families of the victims of this terrorist attack, as well as its wishes for a speedy recovery for all the injured.

Sharma comments on India's participation in Champions Trophy

The Indian captain reiterated that the decision lies with the BCCI

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India's longer-format captain Rohit Sharma on Monday, addressed the ongoing uncertainty regarding India's participation in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, scheduled to be hosted in Pakistan during the February-March window.

Sharma, during an interaction with the media, was probed about whether

the men in blue would travel to Pakistan for the eight-team tournament. The Indian captain, in response, reiterated that the decision lies with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and not the players.

"The decision is not in our hands. It will be made by the cricket boards, and we are focused on the tournament ahead," said Sharma. "If we are sent to Pakistan, there will be no issue," he added. Sharma's remarks came amid

the reports suggesting that the BCCI has formally informed International Cricket Council (ICC) that it will not send its national men's team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, citing the directives of the federal government. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is firm on its stance of not receiving any formal update from either ICC or BCCI. In the last two months, the Indian media has been reporting that India isn't travelling.

FB Area edge North to extend unbeaten run

The victory extended FB Area's winning streak to five matches

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Haider Abbas's anchoring half-century, coupled with a combined bowling effort, led FB Area Tigers to a narrow seven-run victory over North Hawks in the 18th match of the Karachi Premier League (KPL) Season 2 here at Naya Nazimabad Cricket Ground on Saturday. Batting first, the Tigers registered a commendable total of 169/7 on the board, courtesy of a strong start provided by their openers. The opening duo of Shah Raza and Abbas knitted a brisk 52-run partnership,

lasted with core aggressor Raza's dismissal in the fifth over. Raza struck five fours and three sixes on his way to a 16-ball 42. Abbas was then involved in another crucial partnership for the Tigers when he added 58 runs for the second wicket with S M Tahami, who scored a cautious 17 off 20 before perishing in the 13th over. The opening batter the put together brief partnerships with Sohail Tanveer (18) and Wahaj Riaz (13) before finally departing in the penultimate over. He remained the top-scorer for the Tigers with a 52-ball 66, laced with two fours and five sixes. For

the Hawks, Rafay Safdar and Zohaib Khan bagged two wickets while Dawood Khan and Suleman Khan made one scalp apiece. In response, the Hawks only



managed 162/8 in the allotted overs despite Qadir Khan's 39-run knock. Qadir remained the top-scorer for the Hawks in the run-chase, followed by Ameet Ravi

(33) and Zain Anwer (29), while the rest made modest contributions. Sohail Tanveer, Waseem Ali and Asad Ullah Hamza took two wickets each, while Nadir Shah and Shah Raza struck one batter apiece. The seven-run victory extended the Tigers' unbeaten run in the tournament to five matches. In the 17th match of the tournament, Clifton Lions humbled Gulshan Stallions by six wickets in a low scoring affair. Batting first, the Lions' batters struggled against a disciplined Stallions' bowling attack and were skittled for a meagre 96 in 18.2 overs. Top-order batter Hurair

Shahid waged a lone battle with a 22-ball 25. Tariq Burki led the bowling charge for the Lions with three wickets, followed by Khuzaima Bin Tanveer, Fayyaz Hussain and Usman Shah with two scalps each. Chasing a modest total, the Lions raced to the victory in just nine overs, courtesy of Nasir Nawa's anchoring knock and Afaq Khan's blistering cameo. Nasir remained the top-scorer for the Lions with a 23-ball 37, while Afaq made 33 off just 13 deliveries, smashing one four and four sixes. For the Stallions, Rumi Ahmed bagged three wickets, while Zia Ullah made one scalp.

Briefs

Mauritius holds election with cost of living on everyone's minds

PORT LOUIS: Mauritius was holding a parliamentary election on Sunday with Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and his main rivals all promising to tackle a cost of living crisis in the Indian Ocean archipelago. Polling centers opened at 7 a.m. (0300 GMT), with small numbers of voters seen moving to check their names in the register before picking their ballots, a Reuters witness said. Voting was expected to end at 1400 GMT. The country of about 1.3 million people markets itself as a link between Africa and Asia, deriving most of its revenues from a flourishing offshore financial sector, tourism and textiles. It has forecast 6.5 percent economic growth this year compared with 7.0 percent last year but many voters are not feeling the benefits. Jugnauth's Alliance Lepep coalition has promised to raise minimum wages, increase pensions and reduce value-added tax on some basic goods. It says it will use payments from the UK under an October agreement for Britain to cede the Chagos Islands while retaining the US-UK Diego Garcia air base. Mauritius also receives aid from China.—APP

Canada reports first case of bird flu in a person

MONTREAL: A teenager in British Columbia has become the first person in Canada to test positive for bird flu, authorities said Saturday. This person is receiving treatment in a children's hospital for H5 avian flu, the provincial health department said. The source of contagion and any possible contacts are being investigated. Officials said the infection probably came from a bird or animal. "This is a rare event," British Columbia Health Officer Bonnie Henry said. "We are conducting a thorough investigation to fully understand the source of exposure here in B.C." Bird flu is most commonly found in wild birds and poultry, but has more recently been detected in mammals, with an outbreak in cattle seen across the United States this year. It can occasionally infect humans through close contact or contaminated environments. Scientists have voiced concern about the growing number of mammals becoming infected by bird flu, even if cases in humans remain rare. They fear a high rate of transmission could facilitate a mutation of the virus, which could enable it to be passed from one human to another.—APP

Israel steps up ethnic cleansing amid news void in besieged northern Gaza: CPJ

NEW YORK: Israel's systematic attack on journalists in northern Gaza is a "deliberate tactic" to prevent the news media from documenting its campaign of ethnic cleansing in the besieged territory, the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said Saturday. CPJ, the independent media watchdog, said that Israel has adopted a "starve or leave" policy to force Palestinians out of northern Gaza, which has been under relentless Israeli military attacks. It said that there are almost no professional journalists left in the area "to document what several international institutions have described as an ethnic cleansing campaign." The Israeli occupation authorities, CPJ said, "has not allowed international media independent access to Gaza in the 13 months since the war began." In October, Israel's airstrikes killed at least five journalists, according to CPJ Programme Director Carlos Martinez de la Serna.—APP

Indonesia, China seal \$10b in deals

"The strong participation of Chinese businesses in Asia is an important element in close cooperation between our two countries. I have met the president and prime minister, where we agreed to continue this collaboration," Prabowo said at the Indonesia-China Business Forum in Beijing, as reported by state news agency Antara

JAKARTA: Indonesian and Chinese companies signed business agreements worth more than \$10 billion on Sunday, as the two countries agreed to strengthen ties during a state visit by President Prabowo Subianto to Beijing. Prabowo on Sunday wrapped up the first stop of his first overseas tour since taking office last month. After China, he will head to the US before making his way to South America for the APEC and G20 summits, which will be followed by trips to the UK and the Middle East. He and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to deepen ties on Saturday, elevating security to a fifth "pillar" of cooperation, on top of political,

economic, maritime and people-to-people exchange. The two countries will hold a first-ever joint meeting of their foreign and defense ministers next year, according to a joint statement. "Indonesia and the People's Republic of China are committed to strengthening our friendship and furthering the prosperity of our two nations," Prabowo wrote on X on Sunday. Before leaving Beijing for Washington, Indonesia's new leader presided over a ceremony between the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and top Chinese corporations, during which they inked billions of dollars worth of deals on renewable energy, and health and food security, among

other issues. "The strong participation of Chinese businesses in Asia is an important element in close cooperation between our two countries. I have met the president and prime minister, where we agreed to continue this collaboration," Prabowo said at the Indonesia-China Business Forum in Beijing, as reported by state news agency Antara. "This is part of our synergy across all sectors, in education, business, industries, people-to-people ... we are very optimistic about the prospects," he added. "We must give an example that in this modern age, collaboration — not confrontation — is the way for peace and prosperity." China, which was also Prabowo's initial

foreign destination as president-elect in April, is Indonesia's biggest trading partner and the source of more than \$7 billion of investment. "The visit to China is significant because China currently supports Indonesia's ambitious economic program through investment, including industrial downstream programs. China also supports various infrastructure projects ... Prabowo has met Xi Jinping before and this visit strengthens the ties," Dr. Ahmad Rizky Mardhatillah Umar, an Indonesian political researcher at the UK's Aberystwyth University, told Arab News. Economic and defense affairs appear to be a top priority for Prabowo for his overseas

tour, which includes China and the US, the world's two biggest economies. "He's trying to balance and hedge between two sides," Umar said. "He is trying to maximize economic benefits with China with trade and investment, and to bolster defense ties with the US for defense modernization." His choice of China as the first stop on his multi-country trip is likely a strategy to lure more investment from the US, said Teuku Rezasyah, an international relations expert from Padjadjaran University in West Java. "This development will become an ammunition for Prabowo when he speaks with American businesses," he said. "He'll be able to say: If you want to

make a comeback in Southeast Asia and be part of the economy, this is now the time." Prabowo is trying to establish his own legacy early on, Rezasyah added. Though the president has said he will continue the programs started by his predecessor, Joko Widodo, those are matters related to domestic affairs. "He wants to give the international community some confidence that they're dealing with the right person in their language because Prabowo speaks more than one international language," Rezasyah said, referring to Prabowo's ability to speak English, Dutch, French and German. "So, he can easily convince the world."—DNA

Three killed in Turkish drone strike in northern Iraq

ISTITUBUL: A Turkish drone strike killed three members of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq late on Saturday, Iraqi Kurdistan's counter-terrorism service said on Sunday. The Turkish strike targeted a vehicle in a mountain area near Iraq's northern province Dohuk, killing three, including one person identified by the Iraqi Kurdistan's counter-terrorism service statement as a "senior PKK official," the statement added. Turkey regularly carries out airstrikes on PKK militants in northern Iraq and has dozens of outposts in the Iraqi territory. The PKK launched an insurgency against Ankara in 1984 with the initial aim of creating an independent Kurdish state. It subsequently moderated its goals to seeking greater Kurdish rights and limited autonomy in southeast Turkey.—APP

Gunmen kill 10 in central Mexico bar attack

MEXICO CITY: Gunmen attacked a bar in central Mexican city of Queretaro killing 10 people on Saturday, a local security official said. The attackers opened fire inside the Los Cantaritos bar in the city's historic district, according to the head of Queretaro's public security department Juan Luis Ferrusca. "Emergency services arrived at the scene and confirmed that at least four people armed with long weapons had arrived on board a pickup truck," he said in a video posted on social media. "Inside, 10 people were reported dead and at least seven more were injured so far," he added. One suspect was detained and the vehicle used in the attack was found abandoned and set on fire, Ferrusca said. Queretaro is considered one of the safer cities in Mexico, where spiraling violence, much of it linked to drug trafficking and gangs, has seen more than 450,000 people murdered in since 2006.—APP

Syrians, Iraqi archive Daesh jail crimes in virtual museum

PARIS: After jihadists jailed him in 2014, Iraqi religious scholar Muhammad Al-Attar said he would sometimes pull his prison blanket over his head to cry without other detainees noticing. Daesh group extremists arrested Attar, then 37, at his perfume shop in Mosul in June 2014 after overrunning the Iraqi city, hoping to convince the respected community leader to join them. But the former preacher refused to pledge allegiance, and they threw him into prison where he was tortured. In his group cell of at least 148 detainees at Mosul's Ahdath prison, at times "there was nothing left but to weep," Attar said. But "I couldn't bear the thought of the younger men seeing me cry. They would have broken down." So he hid under his blanket. Daesh, also called Daesh, seized control of large parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq and declared a so-called caliphate there in 2014, implementing its brutal interpretation of religion on inhabitants. The militants banned smoking, mandated beards for men and head-to-toe coverings for women, publicly executed homosexuals and cut off the hands of thieves. They threw perceived informants or "apostates" into prison or makeshift jails, many of whom never returned. Attar's story is one of more than 500 testimonies that dozens of journalists, filmmakers and human rights activists in Syria and Iraq have collected since 2017 as part of an online archive called the Daesh Prisons Museum. The website, which includes virtual visits of former jihadist detention centers and numerous tales about life inside them, became public this month. The project is holding its first physical exhibition, including virtual reality tours, at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO, the UN's culture and education agency, until November 14.—APP

Rana reviews SME development strategy

LAHORE: Federal Minister Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain has made a review of the proposed action plan to be prepared by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) as per vision of the prime minister of Pakistan. Pakistan's cuisine. The meeting, held in this regard here at SMEDA premises, was also attended by Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum and senior management team of SMEDA. Socrat Aman Rana, CEO SMEDA, gave a detailed presentation on this occasion to apprise the minister about interventions required to be made at government level for providing SMEs with necessary support for easy and enhanced financing, marketing, technology upgradation, subcontracting and women entrepreneurship development. Besides highlighting the features of the subject presentation, he said that Provincial Working Groups set up under the National SME Policy-2021 were already in action to lay down the provincial SME Development Strategies.—APP

Asia, the world's economic engine, prepares for Trump shock

TOKYO: Some Asian countries stand to gain if US president-elect Donald Trump pushes ahead with his promised massive tariffs on China and triggers a new wave of factory relocations to the rest of the region. But a trade war between the world's biggest economies would also destabilize markets everywhere, with Asia — which contributes the largest share of global growth — the most affected. Trump, who won a crushing presidential victory this week, vowed during his campaign to slap 60 percent tariffs on all Chinese goods entering the United States in an attempt to balance trade between the two nations. Analysts however question whether the new president will stick to such a high figure, and dispute the blow such tariffs could inflict on the Chinese economy, estimating GDP could be lowered by between 0.7 percent and 1.6 percent. The cooling effect would also make waves throughout Southeast Asia, where production chains are closely linked to China and enjoy significant investment from Beijing. Lower US demand for Chinese goods due to higher tariffs on China will translate into lower demand for ASEAN exports, even if there aren't US tariffs levied directly onto those economies," said Adam Ahmad Samdin, of Oxford Economics. Indonesia is particularly exposed through its strong exports of nickel and minerals, but China is also the top trading partner of Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. In addition to China, Donald Trump has also warned of an increase of 10 to 20 percent on duties for all imports, as part of his protectionist policies and fixation that other countries take advantage of the US. "The extent of these effects likely depends on the direct exposure of each economy to the US," said Samdin, who added that America accounts for a 39.1 percent share of Cambodian exports, 27.4 percent from Vietnam, 17 percent from Thailand and 15.4 percent from the Philippines. Trump first slapped China with heavy tariffs in 2018 during his first administration, leading to the emergence of "connector countries," through which Chinese companies passed their products to avoid American taxes.—DNA

UN atomic watchdog chief to arrive in Iran Wednesday

TEHRAN: The chief of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi, will visit Iran in days for talks with senior officials, Iranian state media reported on Sunday. "The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency will arrive in Iran on Wednesday ... at the official invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the official IRNA news agency reported. Grossi will meet Iranian officials on Thursday, the agency added. The IAEA confirmed Grossi's visit to Iran this week, without specifying the date in a post on X. It said the visit would include talks with Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi. The agency also quoted Grossi as calling for "substantive progress" on a March 2023 deal that had outlined basic cooperation, including on safeguards and monitoring. In a September interview with AFP, Grossi said Iran was showing "willingness" to re-engage on the nuclear issue, but it was not willing to walk back on a decision it took to ban some of the IAEA's inspectors. Iran withdrew the accreditation of several inspectors last year, a move the UN agency described at the time as "extreme and unjustified." Tehran had said then its decision was a consequence of "political abuses" by the United States, France, Germany and Britain.—APP

Riyadh prepares for second Joint Arab-Islamic summit

RIYADH: As the world's attention turns to Riyadh, leaders from across the Arab and Islamic world prepare to convene at the Second Joint Arab-Islamic Summit today (Monday) hosted under the auspices of Saudi Arabia. This high-stakes gathering is expected to drive critical dialogues on the escalating crises in the Middle East and other issues facing the Islamic world. The summit builds on the accomplishments and momentum of the first Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which was held on November 11, 2023, to address the volatile situation in Gaza and the broader challenges within the region. Since the inaugural summit, significant strides have been made towards enhancing regional stability, supporting humanitarian needs, and creating diplomatic pathways for conflict resolution. The 2023 summit led to critical emergency relief for the people of Gaza, international calls for an end to Israeli occupation measures, and collective commitments among member states to support the Palestinian cause. Saudi Arabia, leveraging its leadership within both the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has played a pivotal role in mobilizing diplomatic efforts to address the humanitarian and security challenges facing Palestinians and neighboring states. Ahead of the summit, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs during its weekly briefing informed that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will travel to Riyadh to participate in the November 11 session. As a committed supporter of the Palestinian cause, he is expected to reiterate Pakistan's stance, demanding an immediate end to the suffering in Gaza and a cessation of Israeli military actions that threaten regional stability. Pakistan's foreign office spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has emphasized, "Pakistan stands united with the people of Palestine in their struggle for sovereignty. Prime Minister Sharif will call for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, along with international protection for Palestinian citizens. Pakistan firmly believes in establishment of an independent Palestine on the borders of June 4, 1967 and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital." Additionally, she was of the view that the Prime Minister Shehbaz is expected to advocate for enhanced multilateral cooperation within the OIC and Arab League frameworks to counter humanitarian crises and protect the rights of oppressed communities in the region. To further prepare for the summit, she informed that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will attend the preparatory Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting on November 10. This session will set the summit's agenda and reinforce consensus on the core issues, enabling the leaders to address shared challenges and explore avenues for peace and stability.

10th ILF highlights Pak's literary legacy, future

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 10th Islamabad Literature Festival (ILF), 'Words Change Mindsets,' comprising fifty intellectually inspired sessions, including movie screening, dance recital, mushairas, theatre, and a memorable Sufi night, concluded with a fantastic closing ceremony at the Allama Iqbal Auditorium last evening. The event was graced by 100+ prominent voices in literature and art who spoke and reflected as keynotes and panelists in the festival, and esteemed guests. Commenting on the transformative character of such events, renowned writer, and critic Muneeza Shamsi shared, "ILF has shown us the unifying power of words, fostering dialogue across divides and inspiring change." Poet and writer Najeeba Arif echoed the sentiment, adding, "Literature shapes our perspectives and allows us to see the world through others' eyes." The event also featured remarks by Mohammad Mikail Soomro, Head of Corporate Communications, Getz Pharma, who emphasized the value

of supporting literary platforms, saying, "We are proud to be part of an initiative that encourages intellectual discourse and nurtures Pakistan's vibrant literary culture. Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press Pakistan, expressed his gratitude to attendees and contributors, stating, "Our passion and commitment is towards ensuring that Literature continues to drive the change towards a progressive and equitable society. We are blessed to

have found an ever-expanding group of friends like you to empower our mission." Bringing up the last five of the total seventeen book launches; Day 3, continued with Akbar in Wonderland by Umber Khairi. In a lively conversation between the author and Aamir Ghauri, Khairi shared insights on her protagonist's challenges of social and political ethos in the nineties. In the Urdu fiction category, Najeeba Arif's Mazahir o Mubahis was presented, in

conversation with Abid Hussain Sial, who explored the themes of cultural identity and modernity. Shahid Siddiqui's latest work, Toronto, Dubai, and Manchester, was discussed in a session with Asghar Nadeem Syed, highlighting Siddiqui's narrative journey through the socio-political landscapes of three cities. M. Athar Tahir's Telling Twilight offered a poetic exploration of nature and nostalgia, with Tahir discussing his work with filmmaker Anmar Aziz. Similarly, Pani pe likhi kahani by Muhammad Asim Butt was launched in an engaging discussion with Qasim Yaqoob, delving into Butt's reflections on time and memory. A heartfelt session was held for My Friend Mairaj: An Intimate Biography by Shamim Ahmad, who, in conversation with Safiya Aftab, spoke on the legacy and personal memories of Mairaj Muhammad Khan. In a session filled with introspection and personal insights, Aankh se Aasman jata hai by Tariq Naem, was launched, with Mehbob Zafar moderating a conversation on Naem's unique poetic vision. The festival also celebrated English poetry with the launch of Poetry in English from Pakistan, edited by Ilona Yusuf and Shafiq Naz. A diverse panel of

poets, including Naem Pasha, Rayan Khan, Alamgir Hashmi, Harris Khalique, Waqas Naem, Haseeb Sultan, Wajahat Malik, Athar Tahir, Mehvash Amin, Saad Ali, Zain Ul Abidin Khan Alzai, and Sophia Bano, presented their works, with Anmar Aziz moderating a discussion that highlighted the rich tapestry of Pakistan's English-language poetry scene. An engaging lineup of panel discussions and sessions sparked lively conversations on diverse topics relevant to Pakistan's socio-cultural and literary landscape. Season 2 of Capital Talk featured a thought-provoking conversation between Hamid Mir and Meher Bukhari, touching on pressing issues in journalism and public discourse. In a timely discussion on social media: Free Speech vs. Censorship, panelists Farnood Alam, Hunsain Jamal, and Munizae Jahangir, moderated by Khayyam Mushir, delved into the challenges of balancing freedom of expression with the need for responsible content regulation. Munizae spoke of the pains of fighting fake news but insisted that censorship must change its role towards protecting the rights of the minorities and not suppressing the voice of people. Visual Journey,



Briefs

ANP leader Zahid Khan set to join PML-N

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Zahid Khan, the former spokesman and senior politician of the Awami National Party (ANP), has made the decision to part ways with the party and reportedly join the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Zahid, who previously served as a Senator twice—from 1997 to 2003 and again from 2009 to 2015—will officially announce his move to PML-N on Sunday (today) in a press conference, several media outlets reported. He is expected to be joined by Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, during the event. Throughout his political career, Zahid Khan held significant positions, including membership on various Senate committees such as Communications, Information Technology & Telecommunication, and Parliamentary Affairs.

Ch Shujaat approves new party wings

DNA

LAHORE: With the approval of the party President, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) has established several new wings to strengthen its organisational framework. According to a private news channel report, the appointments were formalised with notifications signed by the party's Chief Organizer, Dr Muhammad Amjad. Key appointments include former Election Commission Secretary and ex-Provincial Minister Kanwar Dilshad, who will lead the party's Think Tank Wing, and Barrister Dr Raheem Awan, assigned to the Law and Justice Wing. As per the notification, Atif Malik will head the Traders Wing of the PML-Q, while Mehrin Malik Adam will oversee Provincial Coordination.

Hezbollah's rockets hammer Israeli soldiers, assets

BEIRUT: The Islamic Resistance in Lebanon - Hezbollah - continues carrying out ceaseless operations against the Israeli occupation, commencing its first of the day at exactly midnight on Sunday by bombarding an Israeli soldier gathering near Hasan's Gate in the southern Lebanese village of Shebaa using a rocket salvo. Israeli enemy soldiers deployed in the Hagoshrim settlement in north al-Jalil, as well as in the eastern area between the Lebanese villages of Markaba and Houla, were both targeted with a rocket salvo each. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Winners and participants of the marathon race posing for a group photo. The race for organized by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. A large number of diplomats and members of the civil society took part in the race. A Mohsin Naqvi and CM Bugti visits Civil Hospital Quetta to inquire about health of injured in railway station blast. - DNA

Ukraine attacks Moscow with drones, biggest strike on capital

This came after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a pact with North Korea Saturday night, obliging the two countries to provide immediate military aid using "all means" if either is attacked

NEWS DESK

KYIV: A massive drone strike rattled Moscow and its suburbs overnight into Sunday, injuring a woman and temporarily halting traffic at some of Russia's busiest airports, while a huge nighttime wave of Russian drones targeted Ukraine, officials reported. This came after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a pact with North Korea Saturday night, obliging the two countries to provide immediate military aid using "all means" if either is attacked. The agreement marks the strongest link between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. Earlier this week, Ukraine reported its troops engaged for the first time with North Korean units. U.S. officials earlier confirmed the deployment of at least 3,000 North Korean troops to Russia, fueling concerns this may further destabilize the Asia-Pacific and broaden Moscow's war on Ukraine. Both Moscow and Kyiv have kept a tight lid on casualty figures since the start of the full-scale war despite regular reports of Russian forces

Top Iranian, Saudi military brass discuss defense diplomacy

TEHRAN: Top Iranian and Saudi Arabian military brass have discussed possible ways to improve defense diplomacy as the Israeli regime continues to significantly escalate tensions in the region. Heading a high-ranking military delegation, Saudi Chief of General Staff General Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwaili arrived in Tehran on Sunday to hold talks with top Iranian military officials. In their meeting, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and al-Ruwaili also exchanged views about the improvement of bilateral defense cooperation. In a phone conversation with Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman in November 2023, Iran's highest-ranking military commander said the Armed Forces are fully prepared to promote military ties with Saudi Arabia. Baqeri and Salman also discussed key issues of the Muslim world and invited each other to visit their respective countries. In March 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed under a Chinese-brokered deal to restore diplomatic relations severed in 2016. As part of a joint statement issued by the two sides, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to implement a security cooperation agreement signed in April 2001 and another accord reached in May 1998 to boost ties in various sectors. - Agencies

They were paying "an extraordinary price" for the war, even as a grueling, monthslong Russian offensive in Ukraine's industrial east continues to eke out gains. He did not say how UK officials had calculated the Russian casualty figures. "There is no doubt that Russia is making tactical, territorial gains and that is putting pressure on Ukraine," he said, but that the losses were for "tiny increments of land," and Moscow's mounting defense and security spending was putting an increasing strain on the country. Radakin insisted that Ukraine's Western partners should stand by it for "as long as it takes" to beat back Russian aggression, even as allies of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump have signaled that Kyiv may have to cede territory to seek peace. On Sunday, the Kremlin's official spokesman voiced cautious optimism about Trump's upcoming presidency, saying: "At least, he talks about peace... he does not talk about confrontation." "The signals are positive. Trump, during his election campaign, said that he perceives everything through deals, that he can make deals that will lead everyone toward peace," Dmitry Peskov told reporters at a briefing.

Mohsin Naqvi offers full coop to Balochistan for ensuring peace

Interior Minister and Balochistan CM reviewed the overall security situation

QUETTA: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Sunday reviewed the overall security situation after suicide blast at Quetta railway station. They exchanged views about measures to protect lives and properties of people in the province. Mohsin Naqvi said the entire nation stands united in the war against terrorism. He said we would extend full cooperation to provincial government for ensuring peace in Balochistan. Earlier on Saturday, the interior minister had expressed firm determination to eradicate scourge of terrorism from country. Talking to media along with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti at Civil Hospital in Quetta, he said terrorists would not be spared at any cost. At least 26 people were killed and 56 others injured on Saturday as a result of a bomb blast at the Quetta Railway Station. Five railway employees and four passengers including a woman



were among dead. The injured were shifted to the Quetta Civil Hospital where an emergency was declared. Sources said the explosion took place just before a Quetta-bound Jaffar Express arrived where around 200 passengers were waiting. - DNA

Afghan women not barred from speaking to each other

WEB DESK

KABUL: Women in Afghanistan are not forbidden from speaking to each other, the Taliban government's morality ministry told on Saturday, denying recent media reports of a ban. Afghan media based outside the country and international outlets have in recent weeks reported a ban on women hearing other women's voices, based on an audio recording of the head of the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (PVPV), Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, about rules of prayer. PVPV spokesman Saiful Islam Khyber said the reports were "brainless" and "illogical". "A woman can talk to another woman, women need to interact with one another in society, women do have their needs," he said. Women in Afghanistan are barred from singing or reciting poetry aloud in public, according to a recent "vice and virtue" law detailing sweeping codes of behaviour, including that women's voices should be "concealed" along with their bodies when outside their homes.

7 die in smog related accidents

BHAKKAR/THATTA: Seven people have been killed in smog and fog related traffic accidents in different part of the country on Sunday. Six vehicles collided due to zero visibility amid dense smog on National Highway in Thatta as a result of which five people were killed and 11 injured. The dead bodies and injured had been shifted to the Thatta Civil Hospital. Meanwhile, two people were killed and 10 injured in another smog-related accident when a passenger bus rrammed into a trailer standing on the road in Bhakkar. The dead and the injured had been shifted to nearby hospital and some of the injured have been in critical condition. The bus was reportedly on way to Rawalpindi from Uch Sharif. The Motorway Police have advised the people to limit unnecessary travel and drive vehicles carefully. - Agencies

People protest in Valencia over floods

VALENCIA: Huge numbers of people have protested in Valencia against authorities' handling of recent deadly floods, demanding the resignation of regional head Carlos Mazón. Spanish outlets, including news agency Efe, cited a government body as saying 130,000 people took to the streets on Saturday - with protesters chanting "we are stained with mud, you are stained with blood". More than 200 people died in the flooding, which was caused by torrential rain hitting Valencia and neighbouring provinces in October. Eighty people are still missing. Protesters have accused local authorities of issuing flood warnings far too late. Angry protesters clashed with police towards the end of the demonstrations. Pictures show Valencia City Hall smeared with mud, while the Reuters news agency reports protesters throwing chairs and other objects. - Agencies

Muslim leaders to meet in KSA for Gaza

RIYADH: Arab and Muslim leaders will convene in Saudi Arabia for a summit scheduled for Monday that will focus on Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon, the Saudi Press Agency reported. "The escalating violence in the Palestinian and Lebanese territories, including the brutal Israeli aggression, has compelled Arab and Islamic leaders to take urgent action," read a statement on SPA. The summit builds on the earlier Arab-Islamic summit held in Riyadh on Nov. 11, 2023, to address the dangerous and unprecedented developments in Gaza and the rest of Palestine. "This requires solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations to confront these challenges and mitigate their consequences," SPA added. - Agencies

Democrats' bet on a generation of liberal voters has backfired badly

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump swept to victory on Tuesday by chipping away at groups of voters which Democrats once believed would help them win the White House for a generation. After Barack Obama's victory in 2008, many triumphantly claimed that the liberal voting coalition which had elected the first black president was growing more powerful, as the makeup of America changed. Older, white conservatives were dying off, and non-white Americans were projected to be in the majority by 2044. College-educated professionals, younger people, blacks, Latinos and other ethnic minorities, and blue-collar workers were part of a "coalition of the ascendant". These voters were left-leaning on cultural issues and supportive of an active federal government and a strong social safety net. And they constituted a majority in enough states to ensure a Democratic lock on the Electoral College - and the presidency. "Demography," these left-wing optimists liked to say, "is destiny." Sixteen years later, however, that destiny appears to have turned to dust. Cracks began forming when non-college educated voters slipped away from the Democrats in midterm elections in 2010 and 2014. They then broke en masse to Trump in 2016. While Joe Biden, with his working-class-friendly reputation built over half a century, won enough back to take the White House in 2020, his success proved to be only a temporary reprieve.

This year, Trump supplemented his gains with the blue-collar workers by also cutting into the Democratic margins among young, Latino and black voters. He has carved up the coalition of the ascendant. According to exit polls, Trump won: - 13% of the black vote in 2024 compared to Republican John McCain's 4% against Obama - 46% of the Latino vote this time, while McCain got 31% in 2008 - 43% of voters under 30 against the 32% for McCain - 56% of those without a college degree - back in 2008, it was Obama who won a majority Speaking on Thursday after his comeback victory, Trump celebrated his own diverse coalition of voters. "I started to see realignment could happen because the Democrats are not in line with the thinking of the country," the president-elect told NBC News. Trump did it with a hard-line message on immigration that included border enforcement and mass deportations - policies that Biden and the Democrats recoiled from when they took power back from Trump in 2021, lest they anger immigrant rights activists in their liberal base. Illegal border crossings reached record levels under the Biden administration, with more than eight million encounters with migrants at the border with Mexico. "If you watch a video from Hillary Clinton back in 2008 in the primaries, she talks about making sure there's wall-building, making sure that that immigrants who violate the law get deported, making sure everybody learns English." - Agencies

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