



# Islamabad POST

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**Japan's PM survives parliament vote, to lead minority govt**

Detailed News On Page-08

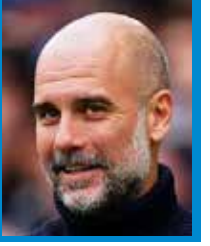
**Imran's release unlikely for now, says Fazl**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Guardiola vows Manchester City will recover**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Joint Arab-Islamic Summit

# PM calls for unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

Opening the summit, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the international community must "immediately halt the Israeli actions against our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon", condemning Israel's campaign in Gaza as "genocide"

### NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, arms embargo on Israel and lifting of blockade against Gaza, ensuring prompt delivery of food, water, electricity and medical aid. In his address to the Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh today [Monday], he stressed the need to pursue the adoption of UNGA's emergency special session resolution 10/24 that follows up historic advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice. He also called for a comprehensive review of Israel's membership in the United Nations. Mentioning Israel's oppression in Gaza, the Prime Minister said the humanitarian crisis has reached a level beyond imagination. He said that for over a year, the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly Gaza, has fallen into endless darkness and despair, with devastated homes, lives lost, and families torn apart. He questioned how long humanity should shut its eyes to hospitals being blown up, with injured women clutching the lifeless bodies of their infants. Shehbaz Sharif said these atrocities committed against the Palestinians have rightfully been labeled as genocide, not only by the media but also by the International Court of Justice. With each passing day, every moral code has been flagrantly violated by Israel. Yet the killing and destruction continue with no end in sight. He asked how long this annihilation will be ignored. The Prime Minister said Israel has been emboldened by the world's indifference and inaction. There is utter disregard for humanity's repeated calls for a ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian relief, and the protection of civilians, while houses and their occupants are being blown up.

Continued on Page 06

## COP29 opens in Baku, centred on climate funding

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will visit Baku, Azerbaijan today to participate in the "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of COP29

### AGENCIES

BAKU: The annual United Nations climate summit has started in Azerbaijan, with countries readying for tough talks on finance and trade, following a year of weather disasters that have emboldened developing countries in their demands for more funds. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will visit Baku, Azerbaijan today to participate in the "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29). The Prime Minister will be

Continued on Page 06



RIYADH: Saudi Investment Minister Engr. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih and Advisor Royal Court Mohammed Al-Tuwajri call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit. – DNA

## Zardari thanks Xi for goodwill message

President of Pakistan plans visit to China soon



### SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday extended gratitude to the Chinese President Xi Jinping for the goodwill message, adding that he would visit China in near future on a suitable date. In his letter dated November 3, President Xi expressed concern over the President of Pakistan's injury and conveyed his best wishes for a speedy recovery, according to a press release issued by the President House Press Wing. President Xi, in his letter reaffirmed

Continued on Page 06

## IMF delegation 'arrives' in Pakistan

IMF delegation is expected to meet with Finance Minister, Chairman FBR, and State Bank officials

### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation has arrived in Pakistan for loan talks. According to sources within the Ministry of Finance, the IMF team will review Pakistan's economic performance and hold talks with relevant ministries. Sources said that the government already briefed the delegation on its economic goals and achievements during the first quarter of the fiscal year. Key areas of discussion include tax collection, where Pakistan has seen a 96.6% achievement of its tax target from July to September.

Continued on Page 06

## Karachi airport attack

# Mastermind, woman facilitator among other arrested: Govt

"Mastermind Javed and woman facilitator were arrested from RCD highway," says Zia Lanjar

### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The police and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) have arrested three terrorists, including a woman, who were involved in a deadly blast that killed two Chinese nationals among three people near the Karachi airport, Sindh Home Minister Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar said on Monday. "Javed alias Sami, who is the mastermind of the [airport] attack, and the woman facilitator Gul Nisa were arrested from RCD highway [which connects Karachi to Quetta]," the provincial minister said while addressing a press conference along with Inspector-General of police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon. Last month, a massive explosion occurred on a road near Jinnah International Airport, killing a total of three people and injuring at least 16 others, including another Chinese citizen. The police confirmed that it was a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), which also damaged approximately 15 vehicles. According to the Bomb Disposal Squad's (BDS) report,

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## Government announces Hajj Policy 2025

The Minister said 89,605 seats have been reserved each for the government and the private Hajj schemes

### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: One hundred seventy-nine thousand, and two hundred ten Pakistani pilgrims will perform Hajj in 2025. This was announced by Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain, while unveiling the Hajj Policy 2025 in Islamabad on Monday. He said the Hajj quota has been divided with a ratio of 50:50 between the government and private Hajj schemes. The Minister said 89,605 seats have been reserved each for the government and the private Hajj schemes. He said five thousand

### FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Attempts to undermine the mutual trust and cooperation between Pakistan and China would not succeed as both countries shared a long history of cooperation in difficult times. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lin Jian made these remarks during his regular press conference on Monday. At his presser he was asked,

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seats will be kept for sponsorship scheme under the government Hajj Scheme, while 30,000 seats will be allocated to the private hajj tour operators for sponsorship. He further said it is mandatory to send foreign exchange through the banking channel to participate in the sponsorship scheme. Chaudhry Salik Hussain clarified that the government sponsorship scheme will operate on a 'first come, first served' basis and will be exempted from balloting. He said the foreign exchange collected through the sponsorship scheme will be used solely for Hajj-related expenses in Saudi Arabia. The Minister further elaborated that under the Government Hajj Scheme, the traditional long stay will be of 38 to 42 days, and the short stay will be 20 to 25 days. He said each organized private Hajj group must consist of at least 2,000 pilgrims as per Saudi regulations. Talking about the Hajj expenses, Chaudhry Salik Hussain said the cost for the Government Hajj Scheme for 2025 is expected to range between 1,075,000 to 1,175,000 rupees, while the

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## Briefs

### No ban on broadcasting Imran's name

Response came as LHC heard petition filed by PTI's Akmal Bari, alleging restriction on using Imran's name on TV

### COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has submitted a written response to the Lahore High Court, denying any directive or ban on broadcasting the name of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan on television. The response came as Justice Ferooz Haider heard a petition filed by PTI member Akmal Khan Bari, alleging a restriction on using the PTI founder's name in television broadcasts. PEMRA, however, clarified that it had issued no notification or order to this effect. In its detailed report to the court, PEMRA stated that the petitioner failed to present evidence of any such restriction imposed by the regulatory authority.

### Govt 'blocks unregistered VPNs'

Unregistered VPNs have been blocked temporarily for white-listing

### MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan government has started blocking unregistered Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) in firewall trial. As per details, the unregistered VPNs have been blocked temporarily for white-listing. The sources within PTA termed unregistered VPNs a 'security risk' for Pakistan, as they can be used to access 'sensitive information.' PTA has urged businesses—such as IT companies, software houses, freelancers, and banks—to register their IP addresses to ensure continued VPN access and uninterrupted internet services for authorized users.

## COAS meets Australian counterpart

# Pakistan, Australia vow to strengthen defence coop

Australian Army chief calls on COAS Asim Munir at GHQ



### STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir and Chief of Australian Army Lieutenant General Simon Stuart reiterated their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in defence and security. The resolve was expressed when the Australia's top general met with COAS at General Headquarters (GHQ),

said military's media wing on Monday. They also recognised the value of continued collaboration for regional and global peace. During the meeting, both the leaders engaged in discussions covering matters of mutual interest, particularly the global and regional security environment. The COAS emphasised Pakistan's appreciation for its ties with Australia, noting

Continued on Page 06

## Justice Mansoor questions legitimacy of regular bench

"Even if we decide the case, what will happen? Who is going to stop us," says senior puisne judge

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Amid prevailing uncertainty regarding the future of various cases in light of the issue of constitutional benches, the Supreme Court's senior puisne judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has raised questions on the constitutionality of existing benches until designated constitutional ones are not formed. "Until a constitutional bench is formed, are we unconstitutional?" questioned Justice Mansoor during the proceedings of a tax-related case in the apex court being heard by a three-member bench including Justices Ayesha Malik and Aqeel Abbasi on Monday. The judge's remarks come after the ruling coalition bulldozed the 26th Amendment in both the National Assembly and the Senate last month providing inter alia, the formation of designated constitutional benches at the apex court and the high courts. The contentious constitutional tweaks have since then seemingly resulted in a rather uncanny ambiguity regarding the future of various cases and the domain of the benches hearing them.

Continued on Page 06

## Justice Aminuddin reviews procedure for constitutional benches

Another meeting awaits a member judge's return from abroad

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has directed the classification of cases during a meeting on the formation and functioning of the constitutional bench. The session, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan in his chamber, reviewed procedures and operations for the constitutional benches. Staff briefed Justice Aminuddin on constitutional cases, including Articles 184 (1), 184 (3), 186, and human right issues. The bench head instructed the categorization and scheduling of cases, which will be set with input from two senior judges. A three member committee will form a bench of at least five judges.

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## Apni Chhat Apna Ghar' programme Mashhood gives cheques to lucky winners

Mashhood said that all resources were being utilised for the improvement of backward areas, especially those which are deprived of basic facilities even though they are in Lahore

LAHORE: Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that the government is working day and night to provide basic facilities to the people and the elements who defamed the country were now defaming themselves. He expressed these views at a cheque distribution ceremony among lucky winners who were declared eligible for loans under the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" scheme at Babu Sabu on Monday. Rana Mashhood said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would inaugurate the "Green Youth Movement" programme next month to deal with climate change. "The government believes in action not promises. The Apni Chhat Apna Ghar program is the fulfillment of the promise made to the people," he added. Mashhood said that all resources were being utilised for the improvement of backward areas, especially those which are deprived of basic facilities even though they are in Lahore. "Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has given a special package for these areas and in this regard development work will start next year," he added. He said Maryam Nawaz had won the hearts of the people of Punjab by giving a wonderful project Apni Chhat Apna Ghar worth Rs700 billion. "We are serving the people day and night and the country has reached a position to take-off, and inflation has reduced," he added.

e said that the federal government un-

der the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was playing its full role in bringing the Muslim world together. "The international community has to come together regarding climate change and in this regard Pakistan is playing its key role. Pakistan's share in environmental pollution is very small, but we are suffering worst consequences. The people of Pakistan are being deprived of air and light. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will go to Baku and discuss this issue," he maintained. Mashhood said that the government was taking all possible measures to empower the youth by following its election manifesto. "The federation has started the Green Youth Movement and PM Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the programme next month. The Green Youth Movement is a very important programme of the PM Youth programme under which young innovators are encouraged to promote the prevention of climate change, including financing the youth in resources needed to deal with climate change in the country," he said. He said that under the program, the youth would not only be made aware of the prevention of environmental and climate change, but also small-scale grants would be provided to overcome crises through innovative methods in various fields. "The objective of the program is to mobilize the youth to promote environmental protection and environment-friendly behavior among the

public and to promote development and research related to environmental protection and climate change," Mashhood said. He said that the PTI government did not pay any attention to sports activities during its government and departmental sports which was abolished by the PTI founder had been revived. "The government is working day and night to improve the country's affairs. We are going to start a talent hunt programme all over Pakistan and other countries will be our partners," he added. He appreciated the efforts of the players and the management for the victory of the national cricket team in Australia after 22 years. He also congratulates PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who started work at the grassroots level. In response to a question, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan said that the country's economy was destroyed in the previous government as no foreign investment came into the country after 2018. "However, due to positive policies of the government, foreign investment is coming to the country. Inflation is falling and prices of daily-use goods are coming down significantly," he added. To another question, he said that Pakistan is a free country and will not take dictat from anyone. "Elections will be held on time, We are working sincerely for the integrity of the country and the welfare of the people," he added.



KARACHI: Russian Ambassador Albert Khorev meets with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House. —APP

## Sultan seeks Austria's influence in EU for resolving Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, (AJK) on Sunday called upon Austria to utilize its influence within the European Union and international community to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute. Talking to ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Andrea Wicko, Chaudhry appealed Austria to help resolve the Kashmir conflict and end the human rights abuses in the occupied Kashmir region. The president AJK briefed Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicko on the current situation in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the ongoing Kashmir dispute. During the meeting, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicko discussed various issues of mutual interest. The president highlighted that Austria's balanced relations with both Pakistan and India, along with its strong commitment to human rights, place it in an ideal position to help facilitate a peaceful resolution to the prolonged conflict. He noted worsening human rights abuses in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and urged the international community to help resolve the Kashmir dispute and end these violations. —APP

## Mega sewerage to be set up in Chiniot: Qaiser

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said a mega sewerage system would be set up in Chiniot with the financial help of the World Bank to redress the issue on a permanent basis. Talking to media persons during an open court arranged at his dera in Chiniot on Monday, he said that the government was fully aware of the fundamental problems including electricity, gas and sewerage. He said that population growth had enhanced civic problems and the government was trying its optimum best to resolve the major issues at the grassroots

level. He said that five new public parks were being developed in Chiniot to provide better environment and recreational facilities to people of the city. "The government is in touch with all government departments and as discrepancies are identified, the departments concerned will be immediately directed to resolve the issues up to the entire satisfaction of the masses," he added. He said that officers of all departments had been directed to hold open courts to have direct links with the masses and resolve their genuine issues without any delay. "We are fully aware of the shortage of med-

icines while infrastructure problems are also creating problems for the masses", he said, adding, "we are working to tackle the issues on a permanent basis". He said that the bureaucracy was directed to prove that they were subservient to the masses and make sincere efforts to facilitate them at maximum extent. He also heard public problems during the open court and issued orders for redress them. The minister also distributed certificates under the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" program. A large number of people including area notables were also present. —APP

## Measures afoot to prevent dengue

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The district administration Laki Marwat has launched a drive to prevent dengue. As part of efforts, the district administration says several teams have been mobilized to conduct spray at various places and village councils to eliminate dengue larvae besides promoting awareness in this regard. People have been urged to take precautionary measures by avoiding wearing clothes with open sleeves, staying indoors during sunrise and sunset, using nets on doors and windows, and using mosquito nets while indoors. —APP

## Naqvi lauds Tableeghi Ijtema role for promotion of Islamic teachings

DNA

LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the annual Tablighi Ijtema in Raiwind. Mohsin Naqvi met with the leaders of the Tablighi Jamaat including Farooq Bhai, Dr. Naadeem Ashraf, Anwar Ghani, Imtiaz Ghani, Ibadullah and others. The Interior Minister also met with the participants from abroad and appreciated their services for the religion of Islam.

He congratulated the organizers for the excellent arrangements for the Tablighi Ijtema and said that all of your exemplary arrangements for the millions of participants of the Tablighi Ijtema are commendable. He assured that those who do good work of preaching the religion of Islam will have success in this world and the hereafter. He further said that I regularly come to the Tablighi Ijtema which gives me spiritual peace. The Interior Minister said that

Allah Almighty will reward the organizers of the Tablighi Ijtema for their good work. At the end of the meeting, Farooq Bhai prayed for the unity of the Muslim Ummah, the elimination of evil and falsehood, and the prevalence of truth and justice. Special prayers were also offered for the security, progress, prosperity, and peace of Pakistan. Farooq Bhai and other scholars thanked Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for attending the Tablighi Jamaat.

## Zafar vows to resolve Swat business community's issues on priority

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of UBG (FPCC), Zafar Bakhtawari, stated that the development of Swat will benefit the entire national economy, and UBG (FPCC) will fully support this endeavor. He assured that all issues facing the Swat Chamber of Commerce will be addressed on a priority basis, with every possible effort to improve the infrastructure in the region. He expressed these views during a meeting with the President of Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Noor Muhammad Khan, highlighting UBG (FPCC)'s commitment to actively support Swat's industrial and economic growth. Bakhtawari further guaranteed that these issues would be presented to



the relevant authorities to ensure the protection of the business community's interests in Swat. During the meeting, Noor Muhammad Khan dis-

cussed the pressing business and industrial challenges in Swat and requested support across various sectors. Emphasizing the importance of

establishing the Swat Industrial Estate, he stated that this step is crucial for accelerating the region's business growth. He also highlighted the need

for land allocation for the Swat Chamber building, repairs to the Kalam-Landakai Road, and infrastructure improvements. Additionally, he underscored the importance of enhancing security measures to create a safe environment for business. Noor Muhammad Khan also stressed the need for modern processing plants to preserve fruits produced in Swat's orchards, which would benefit local farmers. He proposed utilizing the region's mineral resources and called for constructing a motorway from Chakdara to Fatehpur to improve accessibility and boost business activities. Bakhtawari appreciated these initiatives aimed at Swat's industrial and business growth and assured that he would bring these demands to the attention of the government for effective resolution.

## British Council's Chief Executive Scott McDonald visits

ISLAMABAD: The British Council's Chief Executive, Scott McDonald, is currently in Pakistan from 11-15 November for his second visit, marking a pivotal moment for the organization as it celebrates 90 years of connecting people worldwide. This visit underscores the British Council's steadfast commitment to fostering deep and lasting relationships between Pakistan and the United Kingdom through education, arts, cultural exchange, and opportunity-building, said a press release. Since opening its first office in Karachi in 1948, the British Council has been an active partner in Pakistan's journey, evolving its presence and expanding its impact

to touch the lives of millions. Today, with more than 300 staff members working across Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore, the British Council is uniquely positioned to connect Pakistan's young people, educators, and communities to global opportunities, supporting them to achieve their potential and contribute to a peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous Pakistan. Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council said: "My last visit to Pakistan was in 2022 when we were celebrating our landmark PK-UK Season which marked 75 years of UK-Pakistan relations. I am delighted to be back - Pakistan has one of the strongest operations of any Brit-

ish Council office around the world and I am excited that we continue to create more long-lasting opportunities for millions of young Pakistanis to succeed and build an optimistic, peaceful, and prosperous future." Scott McDonald will be visiting British Council offices in Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad. His programme includes attending a special event to commemorate 10 years of the Scotland Scholarship for Young Women and Girls, invigilating a school exam, and attending an event that will look at the progress of six projects granted funding to protect cultural heritage at risk as part of the Cultural Protection Fund which is led by the British Council in part-






nership with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Scott will also meet senior stakeholders in the government and launch several new programmes. The British Council has delivered more than 1,000,000 examinations over the last 18 months in more than 40 cities across Pakistan, granting access to globally recognized qualifications for 230,000 young Pakistanis. It has supported 435,000 children to enrol in public schools across Pakistan and through the Scottish Government's Scholarship Scheme has been able to provide opportunities for 2,000 young women to access higher education in Pakistan - and helped 17,000 girls into school over the past

decade. The Pak-UK Education Gateway, a collaborative initiative with Pakistan's Higher Education Commission, is helping both nations work together on pressing issues such as climate change, while also promoting world-class research and student mobility. This relationship supports Pakistani students' access to UK's world class Transnational Education, with 10,000 students currently enrolled and 55 British institutions active in offering qualifications. As the British Council celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, Scott McDonald's visit to Pakistan is a testament to our commitment of building long term relationships and trust between the people, institutions. —APP

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### NOVEMBER

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

## Hotels & Restaurants



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Marriott.....051- 2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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



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PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange9270831-5  
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CAA.....9281092



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Qureshi for long-term economic strategy for sustainable growth

President ICCI Qureshi urged the government to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), citing their potential to generate employment, drive economic growth, and reduce poverty. Despite their essential role in the economy, he noted that SMEs face significant inefficiencies that hinder their full potential

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has called on the government to adopt a comprehensive, long-term economic strategy to address Pakistan's pressing economic challenges and lay the groundwork for sustainable growth and prosperity. In a statement on Monday, Qureshi emphasized the importance of political stability, urging leaders to set aside their differences and collaborate on a

unified national strategy. Highlighting the severe impact of terrorism on the nation's progress, he underscored the need to reassess foreign relations and prioritize trade expansion, particularly with neighboring countries. Qureshi pointed out several bureaucratic challenges hindering business growth, including the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) reintroduction of the affidavit requirement with Sales Tax Returns and the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) unprecedented taxes, which burden the business community. Additionally, he noted



that security issues persist as a significant concern, creating

a challenging environment for businesses.

Qureshi urged the government to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), citing their potential to generate employment, drive economic growth, and reduce poverty. Despite their essential role in the economy, he noted that SMEs face significant inefficiencies that hinder their full potential. Creating a supportive environment for SMEs, he argued, would unlock substantial economic opportunities.

The ICCI remains committed to working with all stakeholders

to create a conducive business environment, address prevailing challenges, and help propel Pakistan's economic growth, Qureshi concluded. Qureshi for long-term economic strategy for sustainable growth

President ICCI Qureshi urged the government to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), citing their potential to generate employment, drive economic growth, and reduce poverty. Despite their essential role in the economy, he noted that SMEs face significant inefficiencies that hinder their full potential.



ISLAMABAD : Additional Foreign Secretary Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui hosted lunch in honour of Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiro, today, who has completed three years of his tenure in Pakistan.

## The Magic of Pastels, solo exhibition opens at PNCA

This exhibition aims to challenge traditional perceptions of pastel art, presenting it as a major fine art medium in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) is honoured to host The Magic of Pastels, a solo exhibition by acclaimed contemporary artist Mr. Naveed Khan, on Monday, in Gallery #10, National Art Gallery, Islamabad. Mr. Rahat Saeed, Operational Manager, Creative Wing, Pakistan National History Museum, Islamabad, inaugurated the exhibition. Mr. Rahat Saeed is a senior artist and graphic designer and has been exploring a variety of mediums in his paintings for many years. In his remarks, the Chief Guest, Mr. Rahat Saeed, praised Mr. Naveed's contributions to Pakistan's art landscape: "Mr. Naveed Khan's dedication to the pastel medium is a testament to his vision and artistic spirit. His work not only showcases technical expertise but also offers

a profound connection to the diverse beauty of our world. This exhibition is an inspiration, expanding the potential of pastel art in Pakistan and encouraging future generations to explore this versatile medium." The Magic of Pastels celebrates Mr. Khan's twenty-year journey with pastels, presenting an impressive array of portraits, figures, birds, and landscapes. Known for his distinctive style, Mr. Khan explores a range of genres, from hyper-abstract to realism, with a focus on light, shadow, and intricate textures. This exhibition aims to challenge traditional perceptions of pastel art, presenting it as a major fine art medium in Pakistan. Mr. Naveed Khan's distinguished career spans over 15 years, during which he has excelled as an artist, educator, critic, and

rator. He has exhibited in nearly 70 national and international exhibitions, including seven solo shows, and has earned over fifty national and international awards, including the National Award 2009 from the Government of Pakistan.

To further celebrate pastels as a fine art form, PNCA will also be organizing a Pastels Workshop on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, from 2 pm to 4 pm. This workshop, led by Mr. Khan himself offers an opportunity for both aspiring and established artists to explore pastel techniques and experiment with the medium under his guidance.

The Magic of Pastels will be on display until November 17, 2024. The exhibition is open to the public daily from 10 am to 4 pm. Saturdays, the galleries are closed.—APP

## Number of railway passengers increased by 6.51m

ISLAMABAD: Around 41.91 million passengers traveled by train during 2023-24 compared to 35.40 million in 2022-23 – an increase of 6.51 million in the annual count, according to the data of Pakistan Railways. Pakistan's cuisine According to the data, a total passenger earning in the fiscal year 2023-24 was Rs. 47.712 billion, exceeding the budgetary target by a margin of Rs. 8.712 billion. Besides, there is an increase in earnings by Rs. 13.799 billion as compared to the earnings of the previous financial year 2022-23. The revenue generated through other means in the fiscal year 2023-24 was Rs. 39.803 billion which includes freight, military traffic, property and land, scrap and others, it added. The railway authorities are hopeful that the number of railway passengers will rise further during the upcoming year. Pakistan Railways has made special arrangements to facilitate passengers at stations and in trains en-route including provision of state-of-the-art dining cars.—APP

## Salik calls health, safety of workers prime responsibility

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday said that the health and safety of workers was the prime responsibility of the government.Addressing the national tripartite labour conference on Monday, he said that workers play an important role in the development of the country and contribute a major share to the economy. "We are working to bring such an environment that would eliminate the hurdles in the life of workers", he added. He said that Pakistan ranked better on the list of countries that provide health and safety to workers due to the efforts of the government. He said that the first Occupational Safety and Health Profile (OSH) was opened in Pakistan to monitor the health and other concerns of workers.—APP



## 9 accused arrested over dengue SOP violations

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's district administration has intensified efforts to combat dengue, with nine arrests made for violations of anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Meanwhile, the officials stressed the strict adherence to these measures to control the ongoing outbreak. In a move to enforce anti-dengue measures, the Islamabad district administration conducted operations targeting sites suspected of harbouring dengue larvae. Four arrests were made in connection with dengue larvae found at a private flour mill, while another five people were detained during inspections at I-8 Markaz. These operations were led by Assistant Commissioners of the Pothohar and Industrial areas. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has urged residents to cooperate in following dengue SOPs, emphasizing that strict implementation is the only way to curb the spread of the disease. In a recent review meeting chaired by DC Islamabad, officials from the health department discussed the current dengue situation across Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The briefing revealed a concerning rise in cases, with 5,526 reported cases in Rawalpindi and 3,496 in Islamabad as of November 7. Men make up 67% of these cases, while women account for the remaining 33%. The majority of patients are aged between 20 and 39. The district administration is actively conducting fumigation as part of its anti-dengue campaign. Meanwhile, awareness campaigns have also been set up to educate the public on preventive measures to control the outbreak.—APP

## ICT admin steps up anti-smog measures Bans smok-emitting materials

ISLAMABAD: To tackle the rising air pollution and smog levels in Federal Capital, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon held a meeting with Assistant Commissioners, the Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA), and the Excise Department, outlining strict steps to curb harmful emissions across the city. In the meeting, the district administration has introduced new restrictions to control smog. They decided that the all brick kilns in Islamabad Capital Territory will remain closed until further notice, while, factories that emit smoke will be temporarily shut down to help reduce smog levels. Meanwhile, the smoke-emitting vehicles will be banned from the roads in Islamabad Capital Territory. Furthermore, the burning of garbage, leaves, or any other materials outdoors is prohibited and activities that harm the environment will face restrictions. On the other side, the Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA) has been conducting regular inspections to enforce these measures. During a recent inspection led by the ITA Secretary, several vehicles at the vegetable market were checked for emissions. In this inspection, nine vehicles were penalized for excessive smoke emissions, while warning letters were issued to 27 others. Daily operations are now in place to monitor vehicles across the city, ensuring adherence to emission standards.

## Alarming situation about increase in diabetes patients highlighted

ISLAMABAD: Chief operating officer diabetes center, Dr. Sajid Mahmood Ashraf, on Monday highlighted the alarming situation regarding increase in diabetes patients in Pakistan and said that this growing issue needed urgent attention. While talking about statistics of diabetes worldwide, he said, according to the international diabetes federation report, about 33 million people in Pakistan has suffered from this disease, however, worldwide this number stood 537 millions accounting the percentage of 10.5 of world's population, while rate of percentage in Pakistan placed at 26.7 percent. Chairman of the Diabetes Center, Dr. Asjad Hameed also addressed about the role of diabetes centers, and said they should create friendly-environment by initiating diabetes related campaigns and treatment procedure. He also said that 1.5 million people died from complications of diabetes in the whole world every year. He also added, while in Pakistan alone its rate is 5.35 percent which was highest in the world. He also informed that one in every two lakh children got diabetes worldwide. Medical Superintendent of the Diabetes Center, Dr. Ahsan Nisar, while preventions and causes of diabetes, he stressed, that one could avert the complications lead to diabetes by adopting a proper lifestyle, balanced diet, regular exercise and weight control. Talking about the role of media, Azhar Jatoti, President of National Press Club Islamabad, said that media could play a vital role in informing the public regarding the symptoms, preventions and treatment of diabetes.—APP



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## Briefs

AIOU  
expedites  
mailing of  
books

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has expedited the process of mailing of books to its students of Autumn 2024 semester across the country. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood has directed the Mailing Section to complete the process as per schedule and enable the students to get the books well before time, so that they could do their academic assignments within stipulated schedule. According to the Mailing Section, over 62,000 students have been enrolled in the Matric program, while more than 74,000 students are enrolled in the FA program. The University is sending the course books to students of these programs these days. The process would be completed by the end of this week while mailing of books to students of BA will begin next week. The University has advised students of Matric and FA programs who have not received their books by November 20 to contact their respective post office or the university's regional offices in this regard. —APP

VEON, Jazz  
delegation vis-  
its PTA head-  
quarters

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from VEON Group and Jazz visited the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), engaging in productive discussions with Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Hafeez Ur Rehman, on strategic initiatives to further digital transformation across Pakistan. Pakistan's cuisine According to a news release, the delegation, led by Augie K Fabela, Founder & Chairman of the Board, VEON Group, included VEON Group's Chief Executive Officer Kaan Terzioglu, Group Director of Corporate Affairs Marine Babayan, Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim, and Jazz VP of Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs Muddassar Husain. —APP

Pharmaceutical  
exports  
increase 31.11%  
to \$105.936m

ISLAMABAD: The exports of pharmaceutical witnessed an increase of 31.11 percent during the first quarter of the current financial year 2024-25, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year. The pharmaceutical exports from the country were recorded at US \$105.936 million during July-September (2024-25) against the exports of US \$80.796 million during July-September (2023-24), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Pakistan's cuisine Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the pharmaceutical exports witnessed an increase of 61.55 percent during the month of September 2024 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of pharmaceutical from the country during September 2024 were recorded at US \$43.607 million against the exports of US \$26.992 million in September 2023. —APP

Pak pledges to ending  
violence against children

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting children's rights and eradicating violence against children as its delegation, led by Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson of the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), and Ms. Sarah Ahmad, Chairperson of the Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Punjab, represented Pakistan in the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children (VAC), said a press release issued here on Sunday.

This landmark event, hosted by the Government of Colombia in collaboration with Sweden, UNICEF, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and the World Health Organization, aims to accelerate global efforts toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of ending violence against children by 2030. Hosted in Bogotá, Colombia, the conference gathered representatives from 143 countries, along with global leaders, child

rights organizations, and United Nations bodies, to address the universal challenge of ending violence against children.

The conference commenced with an inspiring plenary session, where Mr. Gustavo Petro, President of Colombia, underscored the urgent need to eliminate violence against children. Leaders and stakeholders worldwide pledged their commitment to ensuring children's safety through universal access to comprehensive parenting support, secure and enabling environments, and effective response services for victims of violence to prevent recurrence and foster resilient pathways for children and families.

Pakistan's delegation presented the commitments followed by the National Preparatory Session held in Islamabad on October 3, where key stakeholders from national and provincial governments, civil society, and academia discussed the nation's child protection goals.

At the conference, Pakistan will present two significant pledges; Strengthening Integrated Child Protection Services; Pakistan pledges to expand and enhance

child protection services across the country by 2027. This includes reinforcing district-level child protection units, enacting and enforcing child protection laws, and developing a gender-responsive, child-sensitive workforce. This initiative aims to support at least 18,000 child survivors and their families while extending protection services to over 28 million children.

Promoting Positive Parenting and Non-Violent Discipline: Recognizing the key role of parents and caregivers in preventing violence, Pakistan will implement nationwide parenting programmes that promote non-violent, positive discipline. The initiative aims to equip approximately 28 million parents and care givers with tools to create safe, nurturing environments for children, while challenging harmful social and gender norms.

In her address, Ayesha Raza Farooq shared the pledge on behalf of Government of Pakistan "I make this pledge on behalf of children of our country Pakistan to ensure that every child is safe from all forms of violence in all contexts through strengthening

and expanding integrated child protection services, by 2027. Supported by a comprehensive policy framework, enhanced inter departmental coordination, well capacitated workforce and a dedicated allocation of financial resources. The pledge emphasizes the strengthening and enforcement of child protection laws including those against corporal punishment, child marriage, and online sexual abuse and exploitation. Additionally, the government will focus on building a child sensitive and a gender responsive workforce, capable of providing equitable necessary and timely support to children in need while ensuring that responsive services are accessible and effective across all provinces and territories."

The pledge also reinforces the enforcement of child protection laws, particularly targeting issues such as corporal punishment, child marriage, and online sexual abuse and exploitation. Pakistan aims to build a child-sensitive, gender-responsive and inclusive workforce capable of delivering necessary and appropriate support services for children in need of protection. The plan in-

cludes a focus on enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of family-based multi-sectoral responsive services aligned with constitutional and international standards across all provinces and territories.

Pakistan's participation in the conference underscores the country's commitment to child protection and sets the stage for future evidence-based and child-focused action. The delegation has outlined clear steps to turn these pledges into action, including expanding family-based child protection services, coordinating efforts across government agencies, allocating resources for prevention programs, and training the child protection workforce.

Pakistan's commitment to strengthening family-based child protection services and promoting positive parenting is a vital step toward ensuring a future where every child grows up safe, healthy, and free from violence. Through these initiatives, Pakistan is not only aligning with global goals but also positioning itself as a proactive player in the international fight to end violence against children.

Al-Farabi  
Kazakh  
University  
remembers  
Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Middle East and South Asia at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University recently hosted a special event titled "Iqbal's Readings" in honour of Renowned poet Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal Day.

The occasion was marked by the presence of distinguished personalities, including Ms. Rizwana Qazi, the Consul of Pakistan to Kazakhstan, and Mr. Walid Iqbal, the grandson of the legendary philosopher-poet, said a press release on Monday. Pakistan's cuisine Other notable guests included Dr. Abdul Iqbal Rafiqi, Director of the Iqbal Academy, and Muhammad Mur-taza Noor, National Coordinator, Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan. Dr. Em Natalia Borisovna the dean of the Oriental Studies Faculty Al-Farabi Kazakh National University welcomed the guests. During the event, speakers highlighted Allama Iqbal's invaluable contributions to Pakistan and the world, emphasizing his role in shaping the intellectual and political landscape of the subcontinent. The students at the event performed renditions of Iqbal's famous poems, bringing his words to life and adding to the rich celebration of his legacy. —APP

IRSA releases  
106,300  
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 106,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 52,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1516.36 feet and was 118.36 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 28,100 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1175.45 feet, which was 125.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,000 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Tausa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 57,500, 49,000, 36,800 and 4,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 10,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Nov10 - Artists performing during Lok Mela, at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.

Delegation from West  
African Countries studies  
BISP initiatives, impacts

They expressed keen interest in learning from BISP's expertise in social protection and its impact on marginalized segments of society

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation from West African Countries Monday visited Benazir Income Support programme (BISP) headquarters to learn from the social protection initiatives implemented under this largest programme and its impacts on the marginalized segments. The delegation was welcomed by the Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, and Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad. The delegation belonged from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, and Niger. The delegation is on a four-day study tour from November 11 to 14, 2024, in collaboration with

the World Food Program and the World Bank, aiming to learn from BISP's initiatives in social protection for disadvantaged sections of society. In her welcoming remarks, Chairperson Rubina Khalid described BISP as Pakistan's flagship social protection program, inspired by the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and launched in 2008 by then-President Asif Ali Zardari. She explained that BISP uniquely identifies 9.3 million low-income women across Pakistan using the CNIC system. The female head of each eligible household is entitled to financial as-

sistance, with Form 'B' made mandatory for program registration. During the briefing, Senator Rubina Khalid expressed optimism about the tour, noting that it will be mutually beneficial for Pakistan and the visiting countries. She highlighted the importance of sharing experiences in socio-economic upliftment and said BISP looks forward to building upon this relationship in the future. Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad, emphasized that the focus of the study tour would be on the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) database of eligible households and BISP's payment

system. The delegation will also visit the Benazir One Window Center and BISP field offices for a firsthand view of BISP operations. Mrs. Colonel Assa Badi-allo Toure, Minister of Health and Social Development from Mali, and Mr. Amedee BAMOUNI, Permanent Secretary of the National Council for Social Protection from Burkina Faso, thanked Pakistan and BISP for organizing the study tour. They expressed keen interest in learning from BISP's expertise in social protection and its impact on marginalized segments of society. —APP

Sultan seeks Austria's  
influence in EU for  
resolving Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, (AJK) on Sunday called upon Austria to utilize its influence within the European Union and international community to help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute. Talking to ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Andrea Wicke, Chaudhry appealed Austria to help resolve the Kashmir conflict and end the human rights abuses in the occupied Kashmir region. The president AJK briefed Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicke on the current situation in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the ongoing Kashmir dispute. During the meeting, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicke discussed various issues of mutual interest. The president highlighted that Austria's balanced relations with both Pakistan and India, along with its strong commitment to human rights, place it in an ideal position to help facilitate a peaceful resolution to the prolonged conflict. He noted worsening human rights abuses in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and urged the international community to help resolve the Kashmir dispute and end these violations. —APP

Power suspension  
schedule

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman said that due to AMI Meter Installation, System Maintenance and Development Work power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On Dated 12th November 2024 From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon EME Complex, Jhangi, P&T Wani, Alamabad, Jhanda feeders will remain closed due to installation of AMI meters. From 09:00 AM to 02:00 AM, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Qureshiabad, Girja-1, Ranyal, Zaraj-1&2, Zeta-1, Dhok Awan, Mora Nagyal Feeders, Islamabad Circle, Taramari, Lahtrar Road, Kund Rajgan, Chhata Bakhtawar, P C, DCCP, MCM, Gharial, Kohala, Sunny Bank Feeders, Rawalpindi Circle, Tamasabad, Dhok Hukamdad Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Ara Bazar Feeder, GSO Circle, 06:30 AM to 06:30 PM RCC II, III, IV, 132 KV New Rawat Grid Station, From 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM, Khanna Dak, Burma, Tiramari, Southern Road, ISI, Curry Road, Alnoor Colony, Wahidabad, Lahtrar Road Feeders and surrounding areas will remain closed. —APP

Tanzara to hold exhibition  
echoes and resonances

This three-person show weaves together diverse artistic voices, each exploring the complexities of human experience through unique perspectives. The exhibition will continue till November 27

ISLAMABAD: Tanzara Gallery has announced to hold three-person exhibition titled "Echoes and Resonances" featuring the works of prominent artists including Farazeh Syed, Laila Rahman and Saulat Ajmal from November 14 (Thursday). "Echoes and Resonances" is a poignant and thought-provoking exhibition featuring the works of Farazeh Syed, Laila Rahman, and Saulat Ajmal at Tanzara Gallery. This three-person show weaves together diverse artistic voices, each exploring the complexities of human experience through unique perspectives. The exhibition will continue till November 27. Farazeh Syed's

introspective drawings inhabit the liminal space between observation and rendering, where the external world meets the internal. Her subjective language of drawing speaks to the innate impulse to create, capturing the essence of the unseen - visions, memories, and imaginings. Laila Rahman's evocative works center around the circle, a symbol of infinite possibilities and connections. Her art contemplates loss, longing, and the human quest for meaning, reflecting on the fragile balance between chaos and hope. Through her pieces, Rahman invites us to contemplate the transcendent power of memory and connection.

Saulat Ajmal's bold, spontaneous paintings defy rationality, embracing chance, interruption, and risk. Her creative process twists time and convention, forging a space where doubt and hesitation fuel vivid movement and ambiguity. Ajmal's works inhabit the feminine sublime, where impulsiveness and self-determination reign, unbound by societal expectations. Together, these artists create an immersive experience that resonates deeply. "Echoes and Resonances" is an invitation to explore the intersections of memory, loss, and connection, where the familiar and unknown converge. As one navigates these liminal

spaces, he finds echoes of his own experiences, and the resonance of the human condition. According to the artist, Farazeh Syed, drawing is a subjective language for me, its directness speaks to the innate impulse to make a mark and render shape. It occupies the liminal space between looking and rendering, where the surface becomes the meeting point of the external world - in the form of an object or stimulus - and the internal world - in the form of the unseen; a vision, a memory, an imagining. In her statement, Laila Rahman says the circle is a space of infinite possibilities, having no beginning and no end. Its continuum is comforting because, for

me, it speaks to connections that bind me to all I have lost... people, homes, and gardens. To feel connected to other people and places is the essence of living life. But "...when gardens become arid wastelands..." there is pain and sorrow, in the contemplation of all that is unretrievable. So, while chaos may surround and overwhelm us, the hope of the enchanted garden in an unending circle remains both like a benediction and a promise. Excerpt from Roots, a poem by Heer Cheema, my daughter. According to the Saulat Ajmal, her practice includes paintings, performances and installations, where form. —APP



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## What Western values?

Someone sent me a statement signed by 15 Western and allied countries denouncing China's human rights records in Tibet and Xinjiang at the UN Human Rights Committee. Endorsed by Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, it was delivered late last month. These Western defenders of human rights, freedom and democracy demand "transparency and openness [which] are key to allaying concerns, and we call on China to allow unfettered and meaningful access to Xinjiang and Tibet for independent observers, including from the United Nations, to evaluate the human rights situation". China must live up to the human rights obligations it had "voluntarily assumed", it said, and accept the recommendations of the global community to improve its record. Global community? What global community? Your 15 countries? Sorry, I don't think you represent humanity at all. If anything, many of you actually represent inhumanity. Whatever horrible things Beijing has been doing, such as developing the whole region with modern road and high-speed train connections, at least it doesn't include helping to physically exterminate tens of thousands of Muslims, including entire families by root and by branch. Nor has it been starving an entire civilian population; bombing them with Western weapons, from north to south and then back again; denying food and medical aid to create famine conditions; destroying all infrastructure – roads, water and food supplies, hospitals, schools and basic shelters, without which basic survival cannot be sustained; and killing UN aid workers and their entire families, and journalists, doctors and nurses. Yeah seriously, most of those 15 countries are fine with all that. In fact, several actively support such commissions of crimes or else pretend they are not happening. In December last year, UN official Issam Al Mughrabi, who worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for three decades, along with more than 70 members of his extended family, including his wife and children, was killed in an Israeli air strike near Gaza City. On Sunday, Israeli air strikes on northern Gaza killed another 30, 13 of them children. Another day, another routine operation by the world's "most moral" army. I hate to know what the Israeli army considers "immoral". But you say, it's all Israel and American-made bombs. Actually, it's not just them, but several leading Western powers are also criminally involved to varying degrees. They all belong at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, if it weren't actually run by the Western powers to only target non-Western war criminals. Australia and New Zealand have sent troops to the Red Sea to support the US-Israel military axis against Yemeni civilians; refused to join the genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice; and shared military and other intelligence during Israel's destruction of Gaza. The Australian government has rejected about 7,000 Palestinians fleeing Gaza. By contrast, it previously granted more than 11,000 Ukrainians temporary visas and offered 6,000 additional places over three years to Afghan refugees under its humanitarian programme. We now know Britain has flown secret aerial missions over Gaza to provide data and intelligence to the Israeli military.



## Trump 2.0 is likely to be worse

And so, the blame game begins. Predictably, it didn't take long for the second guessers of the hindsight machine to throw grenades at Kamala Harris and the Democrats. The media is hyperventilating over what quickly has been dubbed another American seismic political shock. Note, however, that Donald Trump's apparent 2.5 percentage point margin of popular vote victory is far from historic. It is time to move on. Acceptance, as they say, is the first step on the road to healing. That's true not only of the 48 percent of American voters on the losing side of this election, but true for all citizens in a sharply polarised nation. But letting go does not mean ignoring the consequences of what happened on November 5. For me, it's important to think about what Trump 2.0 portends for the global economic outlook, in general, and for the US-China conflict, in particular. Notwithstanding consensus forecasts for a global soft landing over the next several years, my sense is that the risks on the downside far outweigh those on the upside for three reasons: a sticky disinflation that would prove problematic for monetary policy and interest rates, mounting disparities in the mix of global output, and the political and social repercussions of a world in conflict. That latter concern seems especially important in the aftermath of this election. Trump is a man of conflict – the ultimate political disrupter. His use of provocative messaging is unparalleled for a major figure in the annals of modern US politics. That's true not only of the vicious personal attacks he directs at political opponents but also of the extreme positions he takes on domestic and foreign policy. However, it is important that we don't get misled and distracted by his rhetoric. That could well be the clever trap he set for the US body politic. By exhausting ourselves through indignation and fact-checking, we risk missing the basic point of his approach – using provocation to dominate the political and policy discourse. Global reaction to Trump's win in the US presidential election that key lesson of Trump 1.0 is likely to be even more prominent in his second term. He not only has experience to draw on but also a carefully scripted game plan, Project 2025, prepared by a long sympathetic pro-Trump think tank, the Heritage Foundation. Candidate Trump disavowed any knowledge of this effort. Unsurprisingly, soon after the election, the "Make America great again" cult was quick to soften that view. It is never easy to decipher the implications of "Trump speak" for policy. He often says one thing and then, as in the case of North Korea where his threats gave way to "love", does the opposite. But as an agent of conflict, Donald Trump spells trouble for a vulnerable global economy. Trump's fixation on tariffs – his support of up to 20 percent tariffs on all US imports – introduces the distinct possibility of retaliatory actions from America's trading partners that could well spark a global trade war. In addition, Trump's "America first" approach to foreign policy raises equally disturbing concerns of geopolitical instability. The same goes for the likely impacts of Trump 2.0 on the US-China conflict. It was Trump who fired the first shot in an increasingly ominous trade war in 2018.

## Diversifying Europe must not tear itself apart

Baria Alamuddin

Much of this exacerbation in worldwide civil tensions, such as the rioting that erupted across Britain in the summer after three children were stabbed to death at a dance class, has been deliberately engineered by various entities with specific antisocial agendas. Fake online claims that the perpetrator of the Southport stabbing was a Muslim immigrant led to far-right and neo-Nazi groups organizing several nights of violent Islamophobic rioting. Hostels housing immigrants and people from ethnic minorities were attacked. The rioting subsided only after huge nationwide antiracism rallies, along with a robust government response.

Initial reports from Amsterdam last week described horrific scenes of Israeli football supporters being beaten up in violent clashes that the authorities condemned as antisemitic. A more nuanced version of events gradually emerged: extremist fans of Maccabi Tel Aviv had been creating chaos before and during the match against Ajax, with anti-Arab chants and the championing of Israeli attacks on Gaza. Houses bearing Palestinian flags had been attacked. Among a relentless succession of racist chants, supporters sang: "There are no schools in Gaza, because there are no children left." All hell broke loose after the match, with violent clashes between Maccabi fans and local people, many of whom are of North African origin. Gangs of youths attacked Israeli football fans. The Maccabi ultras have a shameful history of racist violence and agitation, with strong connections to Israel's extreme right. Fans are notorious for shouting racist slogans at players of various ethnicities, including members of their own team – such as the Jewish Ethiopian player Baruch Deigo, who routinely had to put up with monkey noises from the crowd. During the 2020-2021 anti-Netanyahu protests, Maccabi fans attacked protesters with sticks and broken bottles. This all raises the question of why European states let them enter in the first place and why preemptive measures were not taken to prevent violence. Indeed, the controversial decision has been taken to proceed with the Israeli national team's match in Paris this week, despite everything that occurred in Amsterdam. We should condemn violence of all kinds. But this is just one example of thousands of such tumultuous incidents since the eruption of violence in the Middle East in October 2023, which has given rise to mass demonstrations around the world by supporters of both sides, a sharp rise in antisemitic and Islamophobic attacks, and a tsunami of online hate speech, misinformation and incitement. Much of this exacerbation in worldwide civil tensions, such as the rioting that erupted across Britain in the summer after three children were stabbed to death at a dance class, has been deliberate-

ly engineered by various entities with specific antisocial agendas. Fake online claims that the perpetrator of the Southport stabbing was a Muslim immigrant led to far-right and neo-Nazi groups organizing several nights of violent Islamophobic rioting. Hostels housing immigrants and people from ethnic minorities were attacked. The rioting subsided only after huge nationwide antiracism rallies, along with a robust government response. Such events occur in the context of years of whipping up of anti-immigrant sentiments by right-wing politicians and the populist media, normalizing increasingly draconian political measures to curb immigration, often with the shocking outcome that thousands of those fleeing war and persecution are abandoned to drown at sea.

Europe plays host to huge populations of multi-ethnic origins, including North Africa and the Middle East. While such xenophobia is frequently focused on recent migrants and refugees, the extreme right has also sought to foment hatred of all those of non-European origin. The Gaza conflict has contributed to this polarization, with the far right seeking to demonize Arabs and Muslims as "terrorism supporters," while huge numbers of white Europeans have become increasingly outspoken in support of the Palestinian cause. In France, more than 10 percent of the population are immigrants born outside the country, with a significantly wider proportion of citizens having parentage of various ethnic origins. Many other European states enjoy comparable levels of diversity. The reality is that immigration into Europe will continue increasing, because the economies of aging Western nations with plunging birth rates are in dire need of foreign workers and the number of people displaced by conflict and instability worldwide has soared. Over the coming century, we will probably reach the point at which a majority of European citizens claim, at least in part, descent from immigrants. Entire economic sectors these days are dominated by people of a broad spectrum of ethnicities. Thus, the racist panic of those on the extreme right arises from a recognition that their hateful cause is already lost. When I moved into my current

home many years ago, the previous owner remarked that in this "really nice neighborhood" I would not come across anybody else from other countries. Nowadays, a significant number of my neighbors are of South Asian origin. But we must not ignore the genuine social challenges of large-scale immigration. Refugees are often traumatized by the horrific experiences from which they fled. The children of immigrants often feel a sense of dislocation, of not properly fitting into either culture. Too many immigrant districts have become ghettoized, as impaired access to quality education, services and career opportunities create a vicious circle of deprivation. It is also vital that immigrants themselves strive to integrate with their new culture, conscientiously learning the language and not behaving in ways that will alienate and antagonize. With the preeminence of the European extreme right over the past decade, there have been consolidated efforts to weaponize cultural differences. Too often, the populist media, instead of enlightening and informing, has founded its business model on playing on people's prejudices and preconceptions – hyping fake and exaggerated stories to whip up animosity toward all those who are different. Cultural diversity is already wholly inherent to contemporary Europe, and managed immigration is a prerequisite for its continued economic vigor. The world's greatest cities, such as London, New York and Paris, are the most diverse. Newly arriving cultural influences immensely enrich Europe: music, art, literature, food and other cultural practices have immeasurably broadened the quality of life of communities that were previously rather more parochial, conservative and homogenous. Governments must take the lead in encouraging societies to celebrate and champion this diversity, which enriches us all. The real threat to Europe from within is not from North Africans, Turks or Afghans, but from the narrow-minded xenophobes and hatemongering media organs that aspire to tear their own societies apart.

Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK.

## When will the world finally hold Israel accountable?

Chris Doyle

The UN termed the situation in northern Gaza as "apocalyptic." The latest assessment from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification states: "The entire Palestinian population in north Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence." The aid agency Save the Children warns: "Famine is imminent in northern Gaza. The relentless Israeli bombardment and blocking of critical aid is driving starvation and malnutrition." Although the official fatality count is about 43,000, the real figure is likely closer to 200,000. The UN has also determined that 70 percent of the dead are women and children

A month ago, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear in a letter to the Israeli authorities that they had 30 days to boost humanitarian aid into Gaza or risk having American military assistance suspended. Many depicted this as the Biden administration getting tough. The deadline is due to pass on Tuesday. Last week, the US State Department confirmed Israel had not met the criteria but it still had time. However, nothing that has happened in the last 13 months gives any confidence that President Joe Biden will cut the weapons supply or impose any costs on Israel. Red lines, such as Biden telling Netanyahu not to go into Rafah, have been bulldozed as easily as every built-up area of Gaza. At no point has Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu been forced to hold back. Note the language. The US is not asking Israel to allow proper access for humanitarian aid, merely to boost it. Prior to this letter, Israel had not let any aid into Gaza for two weeks. The day after, it permitted a trifling 30 trucks into the northern part of the Strip. In October, only 6 percent of the aid that used to get into Gaza entered the besieged enclave. But what is the reality on the ground? If you watch the footage filmed by humanitarians who have gone into northern Gaza, it is hard to spot a single building left standing. What was an overcrowded concrete jungle looks like it has been ground down into dust. The occasional streetlamp stands unscathed. One UN official described the stench of rotting corpses. The UN termed the situation in northern Gaza as "apocalyptic." The latest assessment from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification states: "The entire Palestinian population in north Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from

disease, famine and violence." The aid agency Save the Children warns: "Famine is imminent in northern Gaza. The relentless Israeli bombardment and blocking of critical aid is driving starvation and malnutrition." Although the official fatality count is about 43,000, the real figure is likely closer to 200,000. The UN has also determined that 70 percent of the dead are women and children. The gap between the humanitarian agencies on the ground – with what they have been consistently reporting, with evidence, for months and months – and the anodyne statement of American and European leaders is stark. Israel has insisted all Palestinian civilians have to leave northern Gaza. Worse, on Nov. 5, the same day as the US elections, an Israeli general confirmed that Palestinians would not be allowed to return to their homes in northern Gaza. This is clearly to implement parts of the "Generals' Plan," which envisages the forcible expulsion of the entire Palestinian population to the southern half of Gaza. It is planned and deliberate. In addition to the north, Israel has already effectively annexed the 56 sq. km of the Netzarim Corridor it has flattened for its own use. It will not be long before the Israeli settler movement begins building homes on the ruins of those of the Palestinians, to concrete over the evidence of the army's war crimes with more war crimes, their settlements. What European and American leaders should be highlighting is the ethnic cleansing of northern Gaza and framing it as part of the genocide that Israel continues to perpetrate. Given the levels of death and destruction, which long ago went way beyond any possible claim of Israel self-defense, anything less looks like complicity. These govern-

ments know what is going on. American and European publics can see what is happening and the atrocities that are being committed, which is why opinion polls consistently back a full arms embargo on Israel. More than any other genocide, this is recorded. Worse, the perpetrators even boast about it. The Israeli president, prime minister and former defense minister, as well as other ministers, Knesset members, generals and other prominent Israeli public figures, have all made genocidal comments. But genocidal comments about Arabs seem to be permissible. Look at the reactions to last week's violence in Amsterdam. Leaders rightly condemned the antisemitic attacks on Israeli and Jewish fans of Maccabi Tel Aviv. But barely one called out the violent attacks by the visiting fans and their death chants about Arabs. The media focused on the former and underplayed the latter. The anti-Arab racism is clear to see. Europe and the US did little to stop the Syrian regime's war crimes. What has been done to end the horrors in Sudan? These leaders are now complicit in Israeli atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon. A few honorable exceptions must be cited. Spain last week prevented a container ship reportedly carrying arms to Israel from docking at the port of Algeciras. Ireland's parliament has passed a motion declaring that Israel is "perpetrating genocide in Gaza" and Dublin also joined the South African genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice. But it is the complicity of the US that the world is watching. Biden has just two months to stop this genocide, or that will be his lasting political legacy.

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding in London



## Briefs

## PM calls for unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

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He said the most sophisticated weapons continue to be supplied to Israel, which is indeed a show of unconditional assistance and protection. Shehbaz Sharif said that international humanitarian laws, meant to protect the vulnerable, have been torn to shreds. Humanity is being tested and failing, while Gaza bleeds, and the world watches in deafening silence. He said Pakistan stands firm in its commitment to the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Shehbaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the establishment of an independent, viable, and contiguous state of Palestine, with Quds al-Sharif as its capital, based on pre-1967 borders. This is the only avenue toward justice and durable peace in the holy land. The Prime Minister said Pakistan also strongly condemns Israel's recent strikes on Iran as an outright violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said Pakistan equally denounces Israel's ongoing military aggression against Lebanon and stands in complete solidarity with its innocent people. He added that such escalations constitute a dangerous threat that could unleash a broader war.

## COP29 opens in Baku...

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accompanying by Deputy Foreign Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and other senior officials. The Prime Minister will address the World Leaders Climate Action Summit on 13 November 2024. He will also attend several High-Level events on the sidelines of the Summit, and hold bilateral meetings with world leaders. Several high-level events and roundtable discussions hosted by Pakistan will also take place at the Pakistan Pavilion during COP29. At the COP29, Pakistan will call for balanced and ambitious progress on all issues such as loss and damage, adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation. It will seek predictable financing to address developing countries' climate goals. Pakistan will also underscore the historical responsibility and the principle of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibility and call on developed nations to undertake deeper emission cuts.

## Pakistan, Australia vow to...

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the importance of strong bilateral relations in promoting shared goals of peace and stability. Lieutenant General Stuart commended Pakistan's efforts in countering terrorism and expressed his resolve to deepen bilateral defense and security cooperation between the two countries. Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, the Chief of the Australian Army laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada to honor Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm welcome, with a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army presenting a guard of honor to him.

## Justice Mansoor questions...

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During the hearing of the aforesaid case, Justice Ayesha pointed out that Justice Mansoor-led bench was an "ordinary one" and the case was supposed to be heard by a constitutional bench instead. "At present, there is no constitutional bench so what is to be done with this 'unconstitutional bench'," responded the senior puisne judge. Wondering whether constitutional cases won't be heard till a designated bench is formed, Justice Mansoor said that no one could question them even if they heard the said case. "Even if we decide the case, what will happen? Who is going to stop us? [...]."

## IOA elects new executive Body for upcoming term

The process was conducted under the supervision of an Election Commission appointed by the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), marking a significant step toward ensuring transparency and effective governance within the Association

FZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Begum Ishrat Ashraf, former Member of the National Assembly, has been formally elected as the President of the Islamabad Olympic Association (IOA) for the upcoming term. The election took place during a general body meeting held in Islamabad. The process was conducted under the supervision of an Election Commission appointed by the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), marking a significant step toward ensuring transparency and effective governance within the Association. During the nomination process, a total of 19 candidates were elected unopposed, signaling strong consensus and support from the members. The newly elected office-bearers include President Begum Ishrat Ashraf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Sarwar, Vice Presidents Ouj E Zahoor, Ahmed Bilal Waqar, Agha Abbas Raza, Muhammad Arif Qureshi, Lady Vice President Sadaf Parveen, Secretary General Rizwan Ul Haq Razi, Deputy Secretary General Muhammad Pervez Habib Butt, Treasurer Ijaz Ul Haq, Associate Secretaries Ch. Muhammad Akram, Mian Naseer Ahmed,



Syed Haider Abbas, Jalal Haider Khan, Lady Associate Secretary Dr. Ruby Khalid, Representatives of Olympic Sports Syed Namood Muslim, Muhammad Asif Baloch, Mian Yasir Adnan, Fiza Najaf Jafri and Urva Naz. The only contested position was that of Senior Vice President, where Muhammad Sarwar triumphed over Sarfaraz Qamar Daha. Rana received an

overwhelming 46 votes, while Daha, who was absent from the proceedings, received no votes. The general body also ratified the unopposed office-bearers with a show of hands, confirming their positions in accordance with the nominations. The Election Commission, led by Pervaiz Ahmed, with Advocate Ijaz Ahmad Rana as Secretary and Advocate Muhammad Abdullah as a Member,

played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth and transparent conduct of the election process. Their announcement of the results was met with widespread praise for its transparency and efficiency. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the efforts of the Election Commission and the Pakistan Olympic Association in facilitating a seamless electoral process. The successful conclusion

of the elections marks a new era for the Islamabad Olympic Association, laying a strong foundation for future initiatives aimed at promoting sports and the Olympic movement in the region. The newly elected executive body is now poised to lead the development of sports across Islamabad, working closely with the Pakistan Olympic Association and affiliated sports bodies.

## PCB to 'nudge' ICC after India 'refuse' to play in Pakistan

PCB will dispatch a letter to ICC within next two days, adhering to govt's guidelines, say sources

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is preparing to formally address the International Cricket Council (ICC) over India's decision to abstain from the upcoming Champions Trophy, which is scheduled to be hosted in Pakistan. Sources told Geo News that the PCB would dispatch a letter to the ICC within the next two days, adhering to the government's guidelines. Following comprehensive legal consultations, the PCB plans to request the ICC to provide concrete reasons behind the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) "refusal" to send its team to Pakistan for participation in the

mega tournament. The PCB intends to present a firm stance, reflecting the government's advisory, and will seek a written explanation from the BCCI detailing their decision, the sources said. The BCCI had previously communicated its decision to the ICC verbally, expressing its unwillingness to send the Indian team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy, the sources had earlier said. Subsequently, the ICC informed the PCB of India's decision in writing, they added. In response, the sources said, the PCB consulted with the government to determine the appropriate course of action. In addition to engaging with the ICC, the PCB plans to reach out to other cricket

boards to convey its position and gather support regarding India's withdrawal. The PCB's forthcoming correspondence with the ICC aims to address the implications of India's absence and to seek clarity on the matter. Additionally, the sources also revealed that the PCB would consult other cricket boards to share its concerns and gather support. This step follows directives from the federal government, which recently decided to adopt a firmer stance on sporting relations with India, responding to the Narendra Modi-led administration's refusal to send the Indian cricket team to Pakistan for the tournament. According to the sources, Pakistan's approach to cross-border sports diplo-

macy has shifted significantly, signalling Islamabad's resolve to challenge what it perceives as New Delhi's politicisation of sports. The PCB aims to emphasise the potential implications of India's absence on international cricket relations and ICC revenues, as the absence of Pakistan-India matches could have a substantial financial impact. The federal government had also instructed the PCB to resist any proposal of a hybrid model for the Champions Trophy, rejecting the idea of matches being held outside Pakistan. The Champions Trophy, a key event on the international cricket calendar, is slated to take place in February-March next year.

## Yamal, Lewandowski injured, to miss int'l duty

MADRID: Barcelona forwards Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal will miss international duty with Poland and Spain, respectively, after sustaining injuries, the LaLiga club said on Monday. Yamal missed Barca's 1-0 LaLiga loss at Real Sociedad on Sunday due to a right ankle injury suffered in the Champions League. The teenager could be out for up to three weeks and will miss Spain's Nations League clashes with Denmark and Switzerland. LaLiga top-scorer Lewandowski will be out for a little under two weeks with a back injury suffered on Sunday and will miss Poland's Nations League matches against Portugal and Scotland. "Tests performed on the morning of Monday 11 November have revealed that Lamine Yamal has a grade 1 syndesmosis injury in his right ankle. He is expected to be out of action for between two and three weeks. Meanwhile, Robert Lewandowski is having trouble in the lumbar region of his back, and will be rested for about ten days," Barcelona said in a statement. The Spanish FA (RFEF) announced that Girona's attacking midfielder Bryan Gil will replace Yamal. Meanwhile, Real Madrid said on Monday that they will be without defender Lucas Vazquez and forward Rodrygo in the upcoming weeks due to leg injuries sustained on Saturday. The club had already confirmed that Brazilian defender Eder Militao will undergo surgery and miss several months for the second consecutive season after sustaining an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in the recent 4-0 LaLiga win over Osasuna. The 26-year-old Militao became the second Real Madrid player to suffer an ACL injury this season, after full back Dani Carvajal. It is the 10th injury of its kind sustained by one of the club's players in 15 months. —APP

## Guardiola vows struggling Manchester City will recover

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola expressed hope that Manchester City will bounce back after his team suffered a fourth straight defeat for the first time during his stellar managerial career. City's 2-1 defeat at Brighton on Saturday came after losses to Tottenham in the League Cup, Bournemouth in the Premier League and Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League. Guardiola's men, chasing an unprecedented fifth straight Premier League title, are now five points behind leaders Liverpool after 11 matches in the English top flight. "I was a football player and many times I lost a lot of games — four in a row, five in a row, six in a row," said Pep Guardiola. —APP

## Gillespie slams Australia for prioritising India over Pak ODIs

LAHORE: Pakistan's interim white-ball head coach Jason Gillespie called out Cricket Australia (CA) for prioritising the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) over the ODI series against Pakistan. Gillespie's interim stint as Pakistan's white-ball coach led the side to achieve history as the green shirts claimed their first series victory in Australia since 2002. Pakistan suffered a narrow two-wicket defeat in the series opener last Monday but staged an astounding comeback by securing comprehensive victories over Australia in the remaining two fixtures and sealed a drought-ending series victory. Australia's key players are busy preparing for the upcoming five-match Test series against India, scheduled to commence on November 22 in Perth. The CA is actively promoting the upcoming Test series, something which Gillespie did not see for the recently-concluded ODI series between Pakistan and Australia. "To be honest, I pretty much saw no promotion of our one-day series by Cricket Australia, which was a bit of a surprise. It's pretty obvious that they're prioritizing the Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against India because I saw no promotion of this series," Gillespie told The Sydney Morning Herald. "Fox do a great job promoting but it was pretty clear to us where CA's priorities lie. That's their prerogative and their decision but I just didn't see any advertising, and promotion of this one-day series at all," he added. Reflecting on his team's performance in the ODI series, Gillespie shared that he was "pleased" that Pakistan beat Australia in a convincing manner. —DNA

## Buttler smashes England past Windies in 2nd T20

Just as in the series opener, West Indies had their lower-order, assisted by all-rounder Shepherd, to thank for preventing them slumping to a significantly below-par total as they took 32 runs from the last two overs to give themselves hope

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Jos Buttler smashed a blistering 83 from 45 balls as England cruised to a seven-wicket win over West Indies in the second T20. The England captain came in after Phil Salt was dismissed from the first ball of the tourists' chase and proceeded to hit eight fours and six sixes in a stunning knock. Buttler dominated a 129-run stand with opener Will Jacks before the pair fell in the same Romario Shepherd over. However, the damage had been done and the visitors went on to overhaul West Indies' 158-8 with 31 balls to spare. England are 2-0 up in the five-match series after victory in both matches in Barbados and now head to St Lucia for the last three games of the tour. Earlier, West Indies again had to rely on lower-order runs to take them up to a somewhat competitive total. After slipping to 35-3 in the powerplay, Rovman Powell led the rebuild for the home side, but when Dan Mousley bowled him for 43, they were

102-6. A few lusty blows from Shepherd, Matthew Forde and debutant Terrance Hinds got West Indies beyond 150 but, with Buttler in such fine form, England made light

work of knocking off the runs. Buttler's biggest six of the night was measured at 115 metres. The decision to move Buttler down to number three after so much success as an opener for England raised a few eyebrows. But given he was in to face the second ball of the innings after Salt, a day on from his century in the first T20,

chipped Akeal Hosen to cover first ball, the England skipper might as well have been opening. After a golden duck of his own on Saturday, Buttler made a careful

start and it was Jacks who got things started as England upped the tempo late in the powerplay. From the moment he clobbered Shepherd for a huge straight six in the sixth over, with a pair of boundaries either side, Buttler then led the charge. The 34-year-old hammered Gudakesh Motie on to the roof of the Kensington Oval and clubbed Roston Chase into the stands to bring up a 32-ball fifty. When he nailed back-to-back maximums off Chase a couple of overs later, an England victory seemed assured, as did a Buttler hundred. However, he skied a slower ball from Shepherd in the next over and was denied a second T20 international ton. Liam Livingstone came in and smacked an unbeaten 23 from 11 balls to get the job done in a hurry for England. Relinquishing the wicketkeeping gloves and moving to bat at three were the big decisions made by Buttler before this series and it remains to be seen whether they are the right calls in the long run. But with two wins from two and a trademark, swash-buckling innings so far.



## Mastermind, woman facilitator...

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they have found that the terrorists used 70-80 kilograms of explosives, which were planted in a double-cabin vehicle. As the Chinese convoy approached the airport signal, the attacker crashed the explosives-laden vehicle into the coaster carrying the Chinese nationals. Giving details of the incident, Lanjar said that the attack was aimed at disrupting Pakistan-China relations and sabotaging the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. He pointed out that the investigation revealed Javed's direct involvement in the suicide bombing, while Gul Nisa had facilitated him. He said that the investigators recovered the chassis number and registration plate, which belonged to a double-cabin vehicle, from the spot.

## China reiterates its support...

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following the recent attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan, has the concern for the security of Chinese citizens increased in Pakistan? He said, "China reiterates that terrorism is a common enemy of humanity so it is a shared responsibility of the international community to fight terrorism and prevent tragedies from happening again. China will continue to support Pakistan in fighting terrorism." He added, "We are firm in our commitment to protecting the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions overseas. China and Pakistan have the resolve and capability to foil any attempt to harm China-Pakistan relations and ensure that terrorists will pay the price."

## Government announces Hajj...

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additional cost for the sacrifice will be 55,000 rupees. Regarding pilgrims' residences, the Minister said applicants opting for double-bed and triple-bed accommodations in Makkah will need to deposit an additional amount of 220,000 and 75,000 rupees respectively. He said the first installment of Hajj dues, amounting to 200,000 rupees, must be deposited along with the Hajj application under the Government Hajj Scheme, while the second installment of 400,000 rupees must be deposited within ten days of the balloting. He further said the remaining amount must be deposited by February 10 next year.

## Zardari thanks Xi...

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the deep friendship between Pakistan and China. Chinese President Xi Jinping also extended a warm invitation to President Zardari to visit China. President Zardari stated that he was deeply moved by the messages inquiring his health by the leadership and people of China. "I will visit China in the near future at an appropriate time," the president said. He said this visit will further strengthen the long-standing and ironclad bonds between the two countries. Both leaders highlighted the importance of the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries.

## IMF delegation...

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The IMF delegation is expected to meet with Minister of State for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Chairman FBR, and State Bank officials to discuss the country's economic situation and future plans. Earlier, sources revealed that during the visit, IMF and Pakistani officials will discuss new concessional loans to support climate change initiatives and talks will also cover provincial budgets and their allocation for climate change measures. Sources said that the delegation will review the existing IMF loan program and provide an initial briefing and discussions may address Pakistan's tax revenue and potential shortfalls between July and September.



## Briefs

## PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 356 more points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Monday, gaining 356.64 more points, a positive change of 0.38 percent, closing at 93,648.33 points as compared to 93,291.68 points on the last trading day. A total of 815,188,409 shares were traded during the day as compared to 763,255,174 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 37.324 billion against Rs.30.206 billion on the last trading day. As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 227 of them recorded gains and 184 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 43 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Energycio PK with 98,601,408 shares at Rs 4.52 per share, Pak Elektron with 78,094,188 shares at Rs 29.01 per share and K-Electric Limited with 70,187,495 shares at Rs.4.98 per share. Rafhan Maizxe Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.211.95 per share price, closing at Rs 7,522.00, whereas the runner-up was Abbott Laboratories (Pakistan) Limited with Rs 87.42 rise in its per share price to Rs 984.72. Ismail Industries Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 87.46 per share closing at Rs 1,515.54 followed by Sapphire Fibres Limited with Rs 60.29 decline to close at Rs 1,129.08.—APP

## Gold price decreases by Rs.1,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.1,300 and was sold at Rs.277,500 on Monday against its sale at Rs.278,800, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went down by Rs.1,115 to Rs.237,911 from Rs.239,026 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.218,085 from Rs.219,107. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs. 3,300 and Rs. 2,829.21, respectively. The price of gold in the international market declined by \$13 to \$2,670 from \$2,683, the Association reported.—APP

## At least 10 killed in clash between Indian police, Kuki forces

NEW DELHI: Indian police in troubled northeastern Manipur state on Monday battled with Kuki minority forces and killed at least 10 people after their station was attacked, a district official said Monday. One officer was wounded as they "repulsed an attack on a police station", Krishna Kumar, deputy commissioner of the state's Jiribam district told AFP, adding that "10 bodies of miscreants have been recovered so far". The violence is the latest in a simmering conflict that broke out in Manipur in May 2023, between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community.

Those killed come from the Hmar people, a smaller group within the Kuki. The violence comes after the burned corpse of a Kuki woman was found in the district last week, sparking fury. At least 200 people have since been killed in the violence, and communities have splintered into rival groups across swaths of the state, which borders war-torn Myanmar. After months of relative calm, an uptick in violence in September killed at least 11 people, including by insurgents reportedly firing rockets and dropping bombs with drones. Long-standing tensions between the Meitei and Kuki communities revolve around competition for land and public jobs.—APP

## Tech investment moot to foster US-Pak collaboration: Shaza

Shaza Fatima said, "This reflects our collective efforts in cybersecurity, including initiatives like the National Cyber Security Policy, CERT rules, nCERT, Cyber Security Regulations, Hackathons, cloud-first policy, etc"

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said Monday that the 'Pak-US Tech Investment Conference' marked a significant milestone for Pakistan's IT industry and would help foster collaboration between companies of two countries deeply involved in the future of innovation. Pakistan's cuisine While addressing the first-ever Pak-US Tech Investment Conference 2024 through a video link, she said, "Pakistan's technology sector has shown promising growth in the past few years, driven by a vibrant

ecosystem of innovation, entrepreneurship, and an unwavering commitment to growth." "Our ICT exports have shown a remarkable 25% growth," she said. "We are committed to building on this momentum until we reach the \$25 billion goal that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has given us," she added. The minister said, "The event is a critical step in achieving that goal, as it provides a platform for U.S. and Pakistani businesses to come together," she added. She said, "By providing secure cyberspace to businesses, the government of Paki-

stan has made significant progress in that regard." She said, "As a result of the Global Cybersecurity Index of the ITU, Pakistan has been ranked in Tier-1 (role modeling), alongside global leaders such as the United States and Japan. Shaza Fatima said, "This reflects our collective efforts in cybersecurity, including initiatives like the National Cyber Security Policy, CERT rules, nCERT, Cyber Security Regulations, Hackathons, cloud-first policy, etc." She said, "Pakistan has also made notable advancements in the UN E-Government Develop-

ment Index, rising 14 places compared to its position in 2022." "We are now proudly in the High EGDI category, reflecting our growing strength in e-governance and digital innovation." She said, "Over 60% of Pakistan's IT and ITes exports go to the US and UK, which speaks volumes about the quality of the work that our enterprises and freelancers produce." "The government of Pakistan is fully dedicated to nurturing our IT industry and creating a digital ecosystem that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship," she maintained. She said, "Pakistan has

embarked on a journey of national digitization." The Prime Minister of Pakistan has directed the formulation of the National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital Authority, which will soon be legislated." She said, "The idea is to promote digitization across economic, governance, and social sectors and verticals within Pakistan. However, we are determined that this digitization process will be led primarily by the private sector." Shaza Fatima said, "Pakistan is also increasingly seen as an attractive destination for international investors and technology

partners." "Pakistan offers state-of-the-art facilities, tax exemptions, and a highly supportive business environment," she informed. She said 75,000 new IT graduates entered the workforce annually in Pakistan. "About 63% of Pakistan's population is youth. This youth bulge is one of our largest assets, and we are investing in their skills, certifications, and upskilling so that we have productive and innovative young people who can serve not only the domestic market but contribute internationally," she concluded.—APP

## Israeli strikes kill dozens in Gaza, Lebanon

JERUSALEM: Israeli air strikes killed dozens of people in Lebanon and Gaza Sunday, rescuers and authorities said, ahead of a US deadline for improved aid delivery to the Palestinian territory. Rescuers in the Gaza Strip said 13 children were among 30 people killed by Israeli strikes in the territory's north. The first strike early Sunday hit a house in Jabalia, killing at least 25 people including 13 children and injuring more than 30, Gaza's civil defence agency said. At around 6am, "there was a very huge explosion" at the Allouh family home, said relative Abdullah al-Najjar. "When we arrived here, all the bodies were torn apart," the distraught man added. Vowing to stop Hamas militants from regrouping in already ravaged north Gaza, Israel on October 6 began a major air and ground assault. The United Nations has described the area as "under siege", and Washington set a deadline of this coming week for Israel to get more aid in or face possible cuts to military assistance. After the strike in Jabalia, Israel's military said it hit "infrastructure" in which militants were operating and "posed a threat" to troops in the area. Another strike on the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City killed five people, the civil defence agency said. Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman said the Israeli prime minister "greenlighted the pager operation in Lebanon" in which hundreds of devices exploded.—APP

## Japan's opposition leader admits affair, issues apology

TOKYO: Yuichiro Tamaki, leader of Japan's Democratic Party for the People (DPP), which has gained significant influence in selecting the next prime minister, acknowledged that a tabloid report detailing an extra-marital affair was "essentially true." At a swiftly arranged press conference following the report's publication by SmartFlash, Tamaki expressed regret, stating, "I apologise for the trouble caused." Yuichiro Tamaki is a prominent Japanese politician who has led the Democratic Party for the People (DPP) since 2020.

Originally from Kagawa Prefecture, he studied law at the University of Tokyo and later attended Columbia University in New York, which broadened his perspective on international relations and policy. Tamaki's political career began in 2009 when he was first elected to the House of Representatives as a member of the now-defunct Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). Over the years, he has focused on policies that appeal to working-class citizens, supporting economic reform and advocating for education and social security improvements. Under Tamaki's leadership, the DPP has become increasingly influential, particularly as a swing vote in Japan's fragmented political landscape. Known for his pragmatic approach, Tamaki has positioned the DPP as a moderate voice that can appeal to both conservative and liberal voters, which has proven strategic in coalition-building efforts.—APP

## Pak, China vow to boost military coop

CGS Pakistan Army Condoles with China, Reaffirms Security Commitment for Chinese Nationals



RAWALPINDI: A meeting between Gen Li Qiaoming, Commander PLA Army and Lt Gen Muhammad Awais Dastgir, CGS Pakistan Army was held at PLA Army Headquarters, Beijing on 11 November 2024. Discussion was focused at evolving global and regional situation and follow up on measures for enhancing bilateral military to military cooperation. During the meeting, CGS offered heartfelt condolences on loss of Chinese lives in recent terrorist attack in Karachi and affirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensure enhanced security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan. The dignitary from China acknowledged Pakistan Army's efforts and measures for improving the security of Chinese and assured wholehearted support to Pakistan. Both sides agreed to further enhance mutual cooperation to counter common enemies working against the peace and development of the region. Other areas of defence cooperation were also deliberated and both sides reviewed progress of collaboration in areas of military education, training, equipment and technology. Both sides agreed to further institutionalise mechanisms for mutual sharing of experiences, and enhancing regular interactions.—DNA

## EU may launch new sanctions against Israeli settlers 'soon': France

PARIS: France's foreign minister said on Monday that the European Union could soon launch a new round of sanctions against Israeli settlers accused of fueling violence in Palestinian territories. France had already imposed sanctions against "28 violent settlers" and been instrumental in deciding sanctions at the European Union level, Jean-Noel Barrot told the Paris Peace Forum, an annual gathering dedicated to international dialogue. The EU's sanctions regime had already been activated twice, and "might be activated a third time soon," he said. "We are deeply attached to the security of Israel," Barrot said, but "in the interest of Israel, of Israeli security, international law needs to be respected and justice needs to be reached." During a visit to the West Bank on Thursday, Barrot had already threatened a new round of sanctions, and renewed France's commitment to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Settlement activities "threaten the political perspective that can ensure durable peace for Israel and Palestine," he said after talks with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah. The United States, Britain, Canada and Australia have also imposed sanctions against extremist settlers. The EU's foreign affairs commissioner, Josep Borrell, said in August that Israeli settlers were endangering "any chance of peace" and called on the Israeli government to "stop these unacceptable actions immediately." Sanctions would also be aimed at the "enablers" of violent settler actions, "including some Israeli government members," Borrell said. Over 700 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli troops and settlers in the last year, according to the Ramallah-based health ministry.—APP

## Man survives 24 hours at sea before being rescued

PERTH: A Vietnamese man, who had spent nearly 24 hours floating in the sea after falling off a cargo ship, was rescued by two Australian fishermen off the coast of Newcastle on Friday evening. The man, a crew member aboard the Singaporean-flagged cargo ship Double Delight, was reported missing at 11:30 PM on Thursday, sparking a large-scale search operation. The search, which involved helicopters and boats, was unsuccessful until the man was spotted around 6:20 PM on Friday, about 8 kilometres from where he fell overboard, near Blacksmiths Beach. The fishermen, who were on a recreational fishing trip, saw him waving his hands in the water. One of the fishermen, Dr Glen Valaire, described the moment as an "absolute miracle." "He was so fatigued he had to lie down in the back of the boat. He was freezing cold, had a weak pulse, and was extremely pale," Dr Valaire said. "We were really concerned for him." After pulling the man aboard their boat, the fishermen wrapped him in blankets, gave him water, and called emergency services. NSW Ambulance paramedics arrived soon after at Boatrowers Reserve, where the man, in his 20s, was treated for suspected hypothermia and dehydration.—APP

## Turkiye pressing US to rethink Kurdish alliance in Syria

ANKARA: Turkiye is pressing the United States to reconsider its support for Kurdish militants in Syria, according to comments by its leaders including President Tayyip Erdogan, who has again floated the possibility of a new cross-border offensive. "We are constantly reminding our American counterparts that they need to stop the cooperation they have with the terrorist organization in Syria," Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan was quoted on Monday as telling the Milliyet newspaper. "Our contacts on this issue have increased. We see that the US side is keen on more talks and negotiations too," he added. On Sunday, Erdogan said Turkiye could mount a new offensive into northern Syria to create new safe zones along its border, after saying on Friday that he would discuss a possible US troop withdrawal from Syria with President-elect Donald Trump. Strains in US-Turkiye ties include US support for the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, Washington's main ally against Islamic State in Syria. Ankara calls it a terrorist organization and extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which the United States also deems a terror group. NATO member Turkiye has carried out several cross-border operations against the YPG in recent years and has since threatened more. Erdogan said on Sunday these moves established safe zones in Syria that had "thwarted attempts to surround" it from the southern borders, and Turkiye was determined to "completely cut off contact between terrorist organizations." "God willing, we will complete the missing links of the safe zone we have established along our borders in coming period," he said. In recent months Erdogan has also made overtures to repair severed ties with Syrian President Bashar Assad's government after a decade of animosity. Ankara has complained that Damascus has not reciprocated its attempts at rapprochement, after Erdogan said in July he wanted to invite Assad for talks. Assad said those attempts have yielded no results and Damascus wants Turkish troops to withdraw from Syrian territories.—APP

## ISSI hosts seminar on 'Understanding complexities of Jammu and Kashmir dispute'

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood deplored India's attempts to alter the demographic structure and internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, characterising these actions as violations of UN resolutions and the 4th Geneva Convention

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), hosted a seminar titled "Understanding Complexities of Jammu and Kashmir Dispute," highlighting key perspectives on the legal, historical, and humanitarian aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The seminar was attended by academicians, practitioners, researchers and students. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, in his keynote address, emphasized Pakistan's steadfast solidarity with the people of Kashmir and reaffirmed

the nation's commitment to a just and lasting solution. In his remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood reiterated that Kashmir remains an unfinished part of the partition, a legally and morally valid cause recognized by the international community. He outlined three essential factors to guide Pakistan's approach: a realistic assessment of objective conditions, Pakistan's firm national resolve, and enhanced outreach to the international community. He further noted that Kashmir is the oldest unresolved dispute on the UN Security Council agenda, underpinned by numerous resolutions that call for self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kash-

mir through a free and impartial plebiscite. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood deplored India's attempts to alter the demographic structure and internationally recognized

disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, characterising these actions as violations of UN resolutions and the 4th Geneva Convention. He highlighted that Pakistan is with-

in its rights to address the issue both bilaterally and internationally. He further added that the UN's continued engagement indicates that Kashmir is not an 'internal

matter' for India. Pakistan's diplomatic efforts, supported by the OIC, have successfully kept the issue on the global agenda, reinforcing the Kashmiri struggle, refuting India's false narratives, and countering India's repressive measures. He proposed a multi-faceted strategy for Pakistan that includes internal consolidation, a whole-of-the-nation approach, strategic patience, and proactive diplomacy. Ambassador Mahmood underscored that Pakistan's anticipated role as a non-permanent UN Security Council member will allow it to further advocate for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He particularly emphasized the role of civil society, academia, and

the youth in promoting this just cause. Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director of ISC, presented a critical analysis of India's historical claims to Kashmir. He challenged the legitimacy of India's accession narrative, citing discrepancies and gaps in records, including the views of historians like Alastair Lamb and British records, which raise doubts about the authenticity of India's claims. Dr. Khurram stressed upon the significance of Pakistan's dealing with international partners in resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Ms. Naila Kiyani spoke on the severe repression faced by Kashmiris under new laws that strip their rights and special status.—APP





## Briefs

### Kremlin denies Trump call

MOSCOW: Russia on Monday denied a reported call between President Vladimir Putin and US President-elect Donald Trump on the Ukraine conflict and said it saw no signs the West was ready for talks. The Washington Post said on Sunday that Trump had spoken by phone on Thursday with Putin, telling him not to inflame the conflict. Trump's election to the White House has the potential to upend the almost three-year conflict and has thrown into question Washington's multi-billion dollar support for Kyiv, crucial to its defence. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied the report, telling journalists it was "false". Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, told AFP in a written statement: "We do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders". A senior Ukrainian presidency official also said Kyiv was "not informed" of any call between Putin and Trump. The Republican said on the campaign trail that he could end the fighting within hours and has indicated he would talk directly with Putin. Trump has not said how he intends to strike a peace deal on Ukraine or what terms he is proposing. He spoke by phone with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Sunday and the pair "agreed to work together towards a return to peace in Europe", according to Scholz's spokesperson. But Peskov said "there are no preparations" for Putin to hold talks with Scholz and it was too early to say whether Europe's position on Ukraine had changed. — Agencies

### Burney's non-bailable arrest warrants issued

**COURT REPORTER**  
KARACHI: A court in Karachi on Monday issued non-bailable arrest warrants of Aliya Sarim, wife of social activist Sarim Burney, and also declared her as co-accused in human trafficking and tempering of documents case. During hearing of the case, investigation officer of FIA also submitted final challan of the case. According to challan Sarim Burney submitted fake/forged documents in the court about custody of the children. The challan further stated that the children were found on the gate of the Trust, but later it was detected that the parents of the children themselves handed over children to the Trust. Aliya Sarim is also a trustee of the Trust and look-after all the administrative matters of the Trust with her husband. As per final challan she was fully aware about the illegal human trafficking. The court stated that custody of the children granted without conducting their biological test and without obtaining permission from children's parents. The court said that accused submitted fake and forged documents in the court.

### Japan PM survives parliament vote

**WEB DESK**  
TOKYO: Japanese lawmakers voted on Monday for Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to stay on as leader, after his scandal-tarnished coalition lost its parliamentary majority in a lower house election last month. Ishiba, who called the snap poll after taking office on October 1, must now run a fragile minority government as protectionist Donald Trump returns to office in main ally the United States, tension rises with rivals China and North Korea, and domestic pressure mounts to rein in the cost of living. His Liberal Democratic Party and coalition partner Komeito won the biggest bloc of seats in the election but lost the majority held since 2012, leaving him beholden to small opposition parties to pass his policy agenda.

# Fin Min invites Turkish firms for JVs with Pak enterprises

He said Pakistan could learn from Türkiye's experience of power sector reforms and invited Turkish firms to enter into mutually beneficial joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Irfan Neziroglu here on Monday discussed various aspects of historical and longstanding brotherly ties between

the two countries, particularly the growing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and defense. According to press release issued by finance ministry, the ambassador called on the federal minister during which Aurangzeb welcomed him on his diplomatic assignment in Pakistan. He highlighted the historical and fraternal bonds and the great potential for enhancing the current

volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Türkiye. The Minister also recalled his meeting with Mehmet Simsek, Türkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister, in Washington DC on the sidelines of the World Bank Group/IMF Annual Meetings 2024 in Washington DC last month. He said Pakistan could learn from Türkiye's experience of power sector reforms

and invited Turkish firms to enter into mutually beneficial joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts, particularly in the field of information technology and agriculture. Irfan Neziroglu expressed his appreciation for the economic reforms and the resultant macroeconomic stability in Pakistan. He assured his full commitment and support for further strengthening the ties between both the nations' relations. Meanwhile, Fourth round of bilateral political consultations between Pakistan and Denmark was held in Islamabad. The Pakistani delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary Europe Shafiqat Ali Khan, while the Danish side was led by State Secretary for Foreign Policy Lisbet Zilmer-Johns. The two sides conducted a comprehensive review of the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, which includes political relations, trade and investment, climate change, renewable energy, infrastructure development, and people-to-people contacts. Important regional and global developments also came under discussion. Expressing satisfaction with the upward trajectory of bilateral cooperation, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining momentum in their relations and coordinating closely on all issues of mutual concern, including at multilateral forums. They also agreed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Denmark in a befitting manner this year. It was also decided that Pakistan and Denmark will explore new avenues of cooperation in green technologies under the framework of the Green Framework Engagement Agreement signed in September 2022.

## London Police reviewing complaint on Faez Isa attack

Twenty-three Pakistanis added to passport control list after London protest targeting Faez Isa

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Pakistan High Commission in London has made a formal complaint – without identifying anyone – to the City of London Police over the protest against Justice (ret'd) Qazi Faez Isa outside the Middle Temple, including the incident involving stopping of the diplomatic car by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists around two weeks ago. Scotland Yard told a Pakistani news channel that the incident happened in London in the city area, which is policed by the City of London Police and, therefore, it's a matter for the City of London Police. Sources said the complaint has been filed with the Diplomatic Police through the City of London Police but it can be confirmed that no action has taken place yet and the diplomatic unit of the police is looking into the incident that has unleashed a heavy crackdown by the law enforcement authorities in Pakistan. Several reports said that some arrests have been made and that some activists have been questioned by the police. Trusted sources within the UK law enforcement shared that the complaint it received from Pakistan High Commission has asked the police to identify the alleged "attackers" of Isa through the widely available footage. It's understood that Pakistan High Commission has provided the footage to the police but didn't identify anyone involved in the incident that took place when Qazi Faez Isa was leaving the Middle Temple after attending the event at around 10:20pm. A Pakistani news channel reported that it has also learnt that authorities in Pakistan have argued with and questioned the Pakistan High Commission for not identifying the alleged attackers to the diplomatic police. The Pakistan High Commission has said it is following the protocols and has done what's required and will further update the police when needed. In Pakistan, the names of 23 people allegedly involved in the London attack on former chief justice Isa have been added to the Passport Control List (PCL). According to the passport authorities, Pakistani identity papers of 23 people have been revoked. "Process is underway against at least six more individuals and strict action will be taken against them for encouragement and abetment in the attack on Qazi Faez Isa," a senior official told channel.

## Over 11m children under five exposed to toxic smog: Unicef

"Impact of this year's smog [...] will have devastating effects, particularly on children and pregnant women," says Unicef chief

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: More than 11 million children under the age of five are exposed to toxic air in Punjab, especially Lahore, has been gripped by severe smog for the past few weeks. Unicef Representative in Pakistan Abdullah Fadil expressed concern over the health issues, saying the worse quality of air will affect young children and pregnant women the most. Different cities of Punjab, including Lahore and Multan, have continued to battle with toxic smog for the past couple of weeks despite various mitigation measures taken by the provincial government as the level of pollutants in the air rises with the drop in temperatures. The situation has led to hundreds of people being hospitalised including dozens of children with air pollution so severe that it is now visible from space. Keeping in view the situation, the authorities restricted all outdoor activities in Lahore, including school closures and a ban on entry in parks and other open-air public places last week. Earlier today, the provincial government also banned all outdoor activities in Multan, Gujranwala, and Faisalabad, the most affected districts after Lahore, till November 17. "Prior to these record-breaking levels of air pollution, about 12% of deaths in children under five in Pakistan were due to air pollution. The impact of this year's extraordinary smog will take time to assess but we know that doubling and tripling the amount of pollution in the air will have devastating effects, particularly on children and pregnant women," Fadil said. He emphasised that young children are most affected as they have smaller lungs and lack the immunities that come with age. "They also breathe twice as fast as adults and take in more air, often through the mouth, along with pollutants, leading to life-threatening respiratory diseases." The Unicef representative further said that the potential impact of air pollutants could be extreme on babies' developing lungs and brains as breathing in particulate air pollution can damage brain tissue and undermine cognitive development – with lifelong implications and setbacks.

## PTI founder's release unlikely for now: Fazl

LONDON: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman denied knowing anything about the release of Imran Khan, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Fazlur Rehman while addressing the media in the Cathedral City of Wakefield, JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman stated, "The release of the PTI founder seems unlikely at the moment". However, the JUI-F recognised that political changes are uncertain. "I am not aware of any deal with the founder of PTI; I cannot comment on hearsay," says Fazlur Rehman. On a question related to playing an alleged role in securing bail for Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and his sisters, Fazlur Rehman stressed that these cases were handled 'independently'. He further asserted the public's right to protest, saying that PTI's demonstrations should not be restricted. He said that month-long negotiations on the 26th Constitutional Amendment led to a reduction in the draft from 56 clauses to 22. Fazlur Rehman in his media talk criticised the compromising nature of the top cadre of political parties, blaming it as the reason for 'frail democracy'. He also expressed his support for a strong military, emphasising, that a strong army is necessary for a secure Pakistan. Commenting on the Kashmir issue, the JUI chief remarked that the solution now lies within the hands of Kashmiri people. JUI chief mentioned that a meeting with PML-N President Nawaz Sharif is not planned but wouldn't be an issue if it happens. Fazlur Rehman announced public gatherings at the end of November in Sukkur and on 8 Dec in Peshawar. Earlier on 5 Nov, a PTI delegation led by Asad Qaiser held a meeting with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in federal capital to discuss potential joint actions against the government. — DNA

## Role of Parliament vital: Gilani

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday highlighted the pressing challenges humanity faces, including climate change, sustainable development, and socio-economic disparities. The Chairman Senate was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural session of the 10th Annual National Parliamentary Development Course at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS). He said that the role of parliament and parliamentarians has become increasingly crucial in steering the country towards achieving its strategic national and international objectives. He said that members of Parliament are the people's representatives, entrusted by the Constitution with the great responsibility of empathizing with the masses. He observed that Parliamentary work has become a specialized service that necessitates proficient and professional support from officers well-versed in cross-disciplinary concepts and practices. "You must take pride in the responsibility bestowed upon you to serve and provide technical assistance to the elected representatives."

## Yemen strikes military base in Tel Aviv

SANA'A: Yemen's Armed Forces announce striking a military base near the city of Jaffa in Tel Aviv with a hypersonic ballistic missile in a "high-profile operation." "Rocketry Force carried out a high-profile military operation targeting the Nahal Sorek military base southeast of Jaffa," the forces' spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said in a statement on Monday, Yemen's al-Masirah television network reported. Saree identified the missile deployed during the operation as a Palestine-2 projectile. "The strike was accurate, resulting in a fire breaking out in the vicinity of the targeted location," he added. According to the spokesman, the operation came "in support of the oppressed peoples of Palestine and Lebanon, and in support of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistances, and as part of the fifth stage of [Yemen's] escalation [against the Israeli regime]." — Agencies

## Sindh CM seeks Russian support for revival of PSM


Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah proposes installation of new plant to strengthen economy and boost employment



NAZIR SIYAL


KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has sought assistance from the Russian embassy in reviving Pakistan Steel Mills, proposing the installation of a new plant to strengthen the economy and boost employment. The request was made during a meeting with Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev, who was accompanied by Russian Consul General Andrey Fedorov and other officials. Chief Minister Shah emphasised the importance of Pakistan's relationship with Russia, highlighting that a functional

steel mill could stabilise the economy and resolve employment issues for mill workers. He also discussed the prospect of expanding bilateral trade and welcomed discussions on introducing Russian electric buses in Karachi. In response, Ambassador Khorev expressed Russia's willingness to support the steel mill's revival and announced that Russian and Pakistani experts will hold online discussions next week. Following the talks, a Russian delegation is expected to visit the mill for a site assessment. Further, Russia proposed establishing a cultural centre in Sindh to promote heritage and cultural ties. The Sindh government's Department of Culture will coordinate with Russian officials to explore this initiative.









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