



# Islamabad POST

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## PM at COP29 Baku

# Pakistan calls for 'redefining' climate finance strategy

"Today we stand at a crucial threshold," PM Shehbaz says at Climate Finance Roundtable Conference

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Ahead of the 29th United Nations climate conference, also known as COP29, in Baku, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for "redefining" the global climate finance framework to "effectively meet the needs of vulnerable nations". The premier made these remarks while addressing the Climate Finance Roundtable Conference, which was attended by multiple global leaders, held on the sidelines of "World Leaders' Climate Action Summit" of the COP29. "Despite years of promises and repeated commitments, the gaps are growing in quantum leaps leading to egregious barriers in achieving the objectives of United Nations (UN) framework on climate change," he said. The prime minister pointed out that the developing countries need to deliver to their people on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) "that is why we need to spur both ideas and discourse." He said the donor countries should fulfill their commitment to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change. He also stressed the need to resume focus on non-debt financing solutions, enabling countries to fund climate initiatives without additional burden. On arrival at the summit venue, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev welcomed the prime minister. Later, he also posed for a family photo along with the participating leaders at the venue which followed the opening of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit. As the participating leaders gathered for a group photo, PM Shehbaz held an informal interaction with them and exchanged pleasantries besides discussing matters of mutual interest. PM Shehbaz interacted with United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed matters of mutual interest including bilateral cooperation in the climate change field. During interaction with

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## Shahbaz, Danish counterpart agree on enhanced coop

The prime minister stressed on the need to expand economic ties

DNA

BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen on Tuesday agreed on the need to enhance bilateral cooperation as well as build global consensus on the key climate change priorities so that the planet could be saved from the harmful impact of climate change. During a meeting on the sidelines of the COP 29, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Denmark in political, trade and investment, agriculture, information technology and climate change with special emphasis on the areas of green transition and infrastructural development, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Referring to 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Denmark this year, the prime minister stressed on the need to expand economic ties through collaborative partnerships. The Danish premier conveyed their willingness to work with Pakistan for further bolstering bilateral economic ties and addressing regional and global issues of common interest.



BAKU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen on the sidelines of the COP-29 Climate Action Summit. - DNA

## India should visit Pakistan for Champions Trophy

He stressed on amicable relations with all neighbouring countries

DNA

LONDON: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif said Indian team should visit Pakistan to participate in the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025. The former prime minister was talking to media outside his residence in London along with his daughter Maryam Nawaz, Punjab Chief Minister. He stressed on amicable relations with all the neighbouring countries. The statement comes as India has officially informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) that its team will not travel to Pakistan to participate in tournament.

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## Constitutional bench to start working from November 14

Constitutional Bench Committee convenes meeting to discuss upcoming cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench Committee convened a meeting to discuss upcoming cases. Sources said that the meeting decided to fix cases before the constitutional bench. According to the sources, the constitutional benches would begin hearing these cases from November 14. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar participated in the meeting via telephone. A day ago, during the hearing of a tax-related case in the Supreme Court, the judges got into a debate over

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## 'Violating' Section 144 PTI leaders, SIC chief released after brief arrest

Politicians were taken into custody after they went to meet PTI founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Top leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) chief were released after brief detention by the Punjab Police for "violating Section 144" on Tuesday. Opposition party leaders Omar Ayub, Asad Qaiser, Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar, and SIC Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza were taken into custody when they went to meet PTI founder Imran Khan in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail. Khan, the former prime minister, has been imprisoned for more than a year now and the PTI leaders often hold meetings with him to discuss their political strategies. Raza's SIC is an ally of Khan's party and the PTI lawmakers are currently shown as SIC members in parliament. Aliya Hamza Malik was also part of the delegation that came to meet the PTI founder; however, she was not arrested as she was standing at a distance from the other leaders.

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## Omar Ayub demands dismissal of IG Punjab

PTI leader also vowed to bring the matter to Parliament and write to the Chief Justice of Pakistan for further action

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and opposition leader in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub, called for the immediate removal of the Punjab Inspector General (IG) of Police, the IG of Prisons, and the interior secretary over what he described as unlawful actions during his detention. The incident took place while Ayub and other PTI leaders were attempting to meet with the party's founder, Imran Khan, at the jail in accordance with a court order. Speaking at a press conference in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

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## Court delays decision on sentencing Donald Trump to November 19

That landmark ruling saw the court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, decide that presidents have sweeping immunity from prosecution

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: The judge in Donald Trump's New York criminal case has delayed to November 19 a decision on potentially throwing out the US president-elect's conviction, the court said Tuesday. Trump was convicted of 34 felony counts in May after a jury found he had fraudulently manipulated business records to cover up an alleged sexual encounter with a porn star ahead of

the 2016 election. The president-elect is due to be sentenced on November 26, may receive a reprieve if Judge Juan Merchan decides to dismiss the case following the Supreme Court's recent ruling on presidential immunity. That landmark ruling saw the court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, decide that presidents have sweeping immunity from prosecution for a range of official acts committed while in office. Ahead of the election, Trump's lawyers moved to have the case thrown out in light of the Supreme Court decision, a move that prosecutors have firmly rejected. If the judge throws out the case on that basis,

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## Briefs

### Fawad Chaudhry tenders apology to ECP

ECP suspended the hearing till December 10

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has apologized in the third contempt case of the Election Commission. A three-member commission headed by CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja conducted the hearing of the contempt case against the former information minister. During the hearing, it emerged that Fawad Chaudhry extended an apology in the third contempt case filed against him by the ECP. The former minister said he had already apologized in two cases. But still, he had been facing cases in ATC. To this, the CEC directed him to file a written answer.

### France to sanction Israeli ambassador

Israeli forces arrested two staff members of France's Consulate General in Jerusalem on November 7

AGENCIES

PARIS: France decided to "sanction" the Israeli ambassador in the wake of last week's temporary arrests of some of its consulate staffers in Jerusalem, the French foreign minister said Tuesday. "It is a situation that is unacceptable, and that is why I decided to summon Israel's ambassador to France," Jean-Noel Barrot told broadcaster France 24. The minister said: "France would not tolerate that Israeli security forces enter its premises," without authorization. "We considered this incident extremely serious, so I decided to activate the first of sanctions".

## Peshawar Police Lines blast

# Arrested facilitator was 'our own policeman': IG

Arrested suspect held meeting with terrorists of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Mohammad Khurasani: Gandapur

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Police have arrested a constable identified as the key facilitator of the suicide attack that killed at least 86 police officials in the Police Lines area of Peshawar in January 2023, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General (IG) Akhtar Hayat Gandapur said. The explosion had occurred in the central hall of the mosque, causing the roof to come crashing down upon those who were offering Zuhr prayers at the time. According to security officials, the suicide attacker was present in the front row during the prayer when he exploded himself. Sahibzada Noor Ul Amin, Imam of the mosque, was also martyred in the blast, police had said. The outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had taken responsibility for the attack. During the press conference in Peshawar on Tuesday, Gandapur said that the constable, Mohammad Wali, was apprehended a few days ago at Jamil Chowk, where two suicide jackets were recovered from him. "It was revealed during the investigation that

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## Through NAB amendments 100 corruption major cases dismissed by parliament: IHC judge

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani criticises end of high-value corruption references in NAB jurisdiction case; Says 'Toothless NAB now for all to enjoy'

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: During a hearing on the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) jurisdiction, Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani made critical remarks, stating that Parliament had dismissed high-value corruption cases worth billions of rupees. According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, Justice Kayani expressed concern that over a hundred significant corruption cases have been closed,

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# Polish envoy highlights strong ties with Pakistan

The Ambassador of Poland also emphasized Poland's vibrant relationship with Pakistan, noting that the two countries have been diplomatic partners for 62 years and share historical ties that go back even further

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Polish Embassy in Pakistan hosted a memorable celebration in Islamabad to mark Poland's Independence Day and Armed Forces Day, with distinguished guests including Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Pakistan's Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development. The Polish Ambassador delivered a speech highlighting Poland's hard-earned independence and expressing solidarity with other nations in their fight for freedom and peace. Reflecting on Poland's turbulent history and struggle for sovereignty, the Ambassador linked these past challenges to current global events. He emphasized Poland's support for Ukraine in resisting Russian aggression, calling it vital for European stability. "The aggressor must be repelled, not rewarded," he stated, underscoring Poland's view that Ukraine's victory is essential for a just and lasting peace. He also called for civilian protection in conflict zones, particularly in Gaza and Lebanon, and expressed support for a peaceful resolution in the Middle East that respects the right of Palestinians to a state alongside Israel. The Ambassador paid tribute to the partnership be-

tween Poland and Pakistan, which has grown significantly in the areas of trade and investment. He noted that bilateral trade is approaching the \$1 billion

mark, with Polish companies such as Orlen involved in gas exploration in Pakistan's Sindh region. "Polish investors in the energy sector have proven success-

ful and resilient," he said, commending the ongoing collaboration in Pakistan's industrial sector. As part of Poland's commitment to sustainable development, the Embassy organized a recent trade mission to Pakistan, focusing on green technology solutions through its GreenEvo program. "I am happy to note that some conversations which began during this mission are continued," he added. The Ambassador congratulated Pakistan on its recent election to the UN Security Council and emphasized the two countries' shared commitment to the UN Charter's principles, such as sovereignty, territorial integrity, self-determination, and human rights. He expressed optimism for future collaboration to uphold these values in the international arena. Celebrating a longstanding cultural connection, the Ambassador reflected on the history of Polish exploration in Pakistan. He marked the 100th anniversary of Polish explorer Bronislaw Grabcewski's 1888 expedition across the Pamirs and Hindu Kush. This journey, documented in Grabcewski's book, inspired future generations of Polish mountaineers, leading to Poland's lasting fascination with Pakistan's northern landscapes. He paid tribute to iconic Polish climbers like

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# Ahsan for emergency steps to tackle increasing pollution

Chairing a meeting on the escalating smog and air pollution in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, he said "Without a change in public behavior, smog and air pollution will lead to severe consequences for both health and the economy, posing a risk not only to public health but also to the country's GDP growth rate

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday expressed serious concerns over the growing environmental pollution and smog in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, stressing the need to tackle these issues on an emergency basis. He described the causes and worsening impact of the smog as a 'consequence' of human behavior, which now necessitated urgent action. Chairing a meeting on the escalating smog and air pollution in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, he said "Without a change in public behavior, smog and air pollution will lead to severe consequences for both health and the economy, posing a risk not only to public health but also to the country's GDP growth rate." Among others, the meeting was attended by senior officials from the World Bank (WB), the Punjab Planning and Development Department, the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), the

Ministry of Environment, the Country Director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Nadia Rehman, Member of the Planning Commission for Environment and Climate Change, representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, civil society, the NDMA and environmental protection agencies from all provinces. During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal called for a unified national approach to combat this challenge. He said environmental protection was a key component of the government's Five-E framework, which includes various measures to address these issues. He pointed out that while there was no shortage of knowledge on the matter, the real problem was the lack of implementation, stressing that all relevant institutions must take joint actions to tackle the issue effectively. The minister further identified cross-border pollution, vehicle emissions, crop burning and urban development as primary contributors to smog. "The negative

effects of smog on public health and daily life underline the need for a public awareness campaign so that every citizen becomes mindful of their environment and personal practices," he added. The meeting underscored the importance of a coordinated strategy among federal and provincial institutions, academia, and other stakeholders. Ahsan Iqbal stressed the urgent need to develop a comprehensive action plan emphasizing effective implementation. The minister also highlighted that even pristine areas like Gilgit-Baltistan were now being affected by air pollution, warning that the consequences would be severe if environmental pollution were not controlled. He cautioned that failing to act promptly could lead to serious outcomes in the future. Ahsan Iqbal called upon all institutions to collaborate to address this issue and promote environmental awareness at the public level. "This collective effort is essential to building a healthy and clean future," he remarked.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with President PML (Q) Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain at his residence.

## British Mayor visits AIOU Mirpur

MIRPUR (AJK): Kashmir-origin Mayor of Britain's Keighly city Chaudhry Gulfranz has visited the Mirpur AJK Regional Campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and planted a commemorative sapling at the entrance of the university's campus. During his visit, Mayor Gulfranz explored the university's mobile app and received a briefing on the admission process for international students. He visited several facilities, including the library, computer laboratory, e-classroom, and the university's garden spaces nurtured under the ongoing plantation drive. Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Gulfranz praised AIOU's efforts to expand its global presence and reaffirmed his support for bringing the university's mission of "quality education at the doorstep" to the Pakistani diaspora in the UK. Regional Director of AIOU Faisal Shahzad expressed his gratitude to the British city mayor, appraising him in detail for an overview of the university's community outreach, program admissions, and the process for exercises, workshops, and examinations through AIOU's councils in the UK. The event was attended by university researchers Zubair Ahmed Qazi, educationists Bashir Faraz, Munir Naz, Syed Ayub Shah, Jamshed Ahmed, and regional campus staff.—APP

## Promotion of trade activities vital to uplift economy

SARGODHA: Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) President Khawaja Yasir Qayyum on Tuesday stressed the need for further reforms in trade policies to support the growth of local industries and remove obstacles faced by the business community. Talking to media, he also emphasised the importance of addressing the lack of banking channels with countries like Iran to facilitate smooth and more viable trade processes. He also called for the inclusion of local industries in the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS), as the absence of industrial development was leading to increased unemployment and social issues among the youth. Regional trade, transit trade, land trade corridors, border markets, and the promotion of barter trade were essential, he observed. Discussing the amendments to the Petroleum Act 1934, he highlighted the need for involving all stakeholders in consultations during the implementation of these amendments to protect.—APP

## CDA chief inspects work pace at Sareena Jinnah interchanges

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa visited the sites of Sareena Chowk and Jinnah Avenue Interchanges projects and made a detailed review of the ongoing development works on the projects. On this occasion, senior officers of the relevant formations were also present during his visit. According to the details, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa expressed his satisfaction on the progress of the work done so far. While giving a briefing to Chairman CDA, it was told that the work of transfer of electricity, gas and other service lines is going on

fast and work is being done simultaneously on different parts of the both projects. He was further informed that work has also been started on both underpasses of the Sareena Chowk Interchange. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa directed that the speed of ongoing construction works on the projects should be accelerated and both projects should be completed within the stipulated period by doing 24/7 construction work. He instructed that the relevant team of NESPAK should ensure their presence at the sites of the projects. Chairman CDA directed

that the flyover work on Jinnah Avenue Interchange should also be started soon, similarly beautification work should be planned along with the construction works of the both projects and all the obstacles in the construction works should be removed immediately. Chairman CDA further said that with the speed of construction works, any kind of shortcoming in quality will not be tolerated. He further said that these projects will prove helpful in improving the road infrastructure of Islamabad, which will make it possible to eliminate problems like traffic jams.—APP

## KP Governor, ANP vow to address provincial rights, challenges

MARDAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and leader of Awami National Party (ANP) and former chief minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti on Tuesday vowed to address provincial rights and challenges. A meeting took place in Mardan between Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, and Ameer Haider Khan Hoti. The meeting focused on the pressing issues of the province, including the need for a united political front to address provincial rights and challenges including law and order. Both leaders emphasized the necessity and effectiveness of political party unity to resolve the long-standing issues facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, such as maintaining peace, equitable distribution of resources, securing financial rights, and ensuring the province

receives its rightful share at the federal level. They cautioned that if immediate attention is not given to maintaining peace in the region, the situation could deteriorate to an alarming extent, potentially spreading instability to other parts of the country. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi stressed the need for all political parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to unite on a common platform to exert pressure on the federal government and secure the province's rights. He also highlighted the importance of a united voice for acquiring provincial financial resources and development funds. Ameer Haider Khan Hoti appreciated the call for unity and acknowledged that cooperation among political parties would not only help resolve public issues but also strengthen the province's po-

litical autonomy and stability. He lauded Governor Kundi's efforts and assured his full support for the provincial jirga and initiatives aimed at resolving the province's problems. Hoti emphasized that despite past political differences, the political parties in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had come together several times in the past for the betterment of the province, and this tradition should continue. The meeting also saw the presence of key figures from both parties, including Shuja Khanzada provincial General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Abrar Saeed Swati Deputy General Secretary of PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Farzand Ali Wazir Vice Chairman of KP Red Crescent Society, Haroon Khan Provincial Finance Secretary of ANP, and district leaders from both PPP.—APP

## LUMHS faculty, staff protest against villager's demand for access road

HYDERABAD: A large group of faculty members, officers, staff and students from Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, staged a protest rally on campus condemning recent demonstrations by residents of nearby villages located on Sindh University land. The villagers had demanded an access route within the university, which LUMHS representatives have deemed illegitimate.

According to a LUMHS spokesperson, the protest was organized by faculty, officers and staff associations in response to the villagers' demands for an access route through the campus. The spokesperson stated that allowing such access could compromise the safety of thousands of local and international students residing in campus hostels. Addressing the rally, President of the teachers' association Professor Dr. Rasool Bux Behan emphasized that student and employee safety cannot be compromised. He noted that the university had already provided the villages with four acres of land for an alternative route. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor has assured a permanent transportation service for village children to access their schools easily, along with ambulance services for emergencies. President of the officers' association Dr. Sajjan Khan Halepoto criticized the villager's protest as baseless and stated that derogatory language against university management would not be tolerated. He affirmed that LUMHS employees reserve the right to protest against any unjustified demands in the future. Saeed Ahmed Lashari, the General Secretary of the staff association.—APP

## Balochistan CM urges lawyers to address public issues

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti hailed the formation of constitutional benches as a historic initiative by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and allied parties, urging lawyers to play a proactive role in addressing public issues and guiding communities, especially in remote areas. Bugti emphasized his government's commitment to establishing good governance in Balochistan, noting that lawyers, as educated and aware members of society, could facilitate the implementation of governmental initiatives. Speaking at a meeting with the People's Lawyers Forum (PLF) officials and mem-

bers on Tuesday, Chief Minister Bugti discussed Balochistan's overall political and social landscape with provincial ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, and Haji Ali Madad Jattak, as well as party leader Syed Iqbal Shah in attendance. During the meeting, prayers were offered for the victims of the recent railway station bombing and for the speedy recovery of President Asif Ali Zardari. A special committee, led by the Chief Minister, was also established to strengthen the People's Lawyers Forum's unity and effectiveness. This committee includes provincial ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, senior party leader Syed Iqbal

Shah, and four representatives from the PLF. The provincial president of PLF will serve as the committee's secretary. In his address to the PLF members, Chief Minister Bugti stressed the importance of collective action across society, including the legal community, in the fight against terrorism. He reiterated that the battle against terrorism is not solely the responsibility of the military or security forces but one that every citizen must contribute to, highlighting the need to eliminate terrorism for the secure future of coming generations. Bugti reaffirmed the government's commitment to eradicating terrorism and called for joint efforts to overcome this challenge.

## KP govt to make plantation on 2800 hectares

He directed the authorities concerned to prepare a coherent and effective strategy to make the area more attractive for tourists and promote sustainable tourism practices

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah visited the remote area Darmalak of Tehsil Lachi, district Kohat along with the Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram Chitrali, DFO Forest and SDFO the other day. The purpose of his visit was to protect the environment, forests and wildlife and to plant about 2 million saplings through systematic and effective plantation within the available resources on a vast area of 2800 Hectares in the upcoming Spring Tree Plantation season. He reviewed in detail the steps to be taken under the plantation plan in the coming spring. He also analyzes the possible feasibility of seed broadcasting through helicopters. Commissioner Kohat, on this occasion, stressed the importance of preparing a comprehensive and effective contingency plan for the seed distribution process to ensure timely implementation of this important project. Later, the Commissioner along with the authorities concerned visited to Dralmak Dam, where he reviewed the potential for development of eco-tourism in view of the natural beauty and geographical location of the area. He directed the authorities concerned to prepare a coherent and effective strategy to make the area more attractive for tourists and promote sustainable tourism practices, which will not only help in protecting the environment but will also benefit the local community. The concerned authorities were instructed to prepare a comprehensive plan within 10 days. Motasim Billah Shah has called a special meeting of Deputy Commissioners of all the districts of Kohat division and officers of the Forest and Environment Department on Thursday in which certain important decisions regarding suitable locations and comprehensive planning within all districts for the upcoming tree plantation drive will be taken.—APP

## ISSI, UMT conclude MOU on mutual collaboration

Representatives from both ISSI and UMT expressed optimism that this MoU would pave the way for enhanced cooperation between academia and the policy research community

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Department of Political Science and International Relations (DPSIR) of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSSH) at the University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU was signed by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director Administration, ISSI and Dr Usman Askari, Chairperson and Associate Professor, DPSIR, UMT on their respective sides. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood was present at the ceremony, which was also attended by other delegation members.

Representatives from both ISSI and UMT expressed optimism that this MoU would pave the way for enhanced cooperation between academ-








ia and the policy research community. Both institutions aimed to bridge the gap between scholarly research and practical policy solutions, enabling a richer exchange of knowledge and expertise on issues relevant to national and regional geopolitical affairs. As part of this partnership, ISSI and UMT discussed several initiatives, including offering internship programs for UMT students, the organization of joint seminars on topics of mutual interest, and collaborative studies and publications in areas related to strategic and policy issues relevant to Pakistan. These collaborative efforts are expected to enrich academic discourse, equip students with practical experience, and provide thought leadership in addressing pressing policy challenges.—APP

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## Briefs

Cars' sale  
up 46.73% to  
30,625 units

ISLAMABAD: The sale of cars during the first four months of the current financial year 2024-25 increased by 46.73 percent compared to the same months of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said. According to the data, as many as 30,625 cars were sold during the months under review as opposed to 20,871 units in the same months of last year. The breakup figures showed that 4,424 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during July-October 2024-25 compared to the sale of 2,239 units during July-October 2023-24. Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars sales increased by 65.05 percent as it went up to 6,655 units from 4,032 units in the previous year. Suzuki Swift's sales also rose by 26.84 percent as its sales surged from 1,576 units to 1,999 units this year. Sales of Suzuki Cultus declined to 629 units during the first four months of the current year, whereas during the same months last year, the sale was recorded at 1,142 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 737 units from 1,160 units last year. Suzuki Alto's sales witnessed an increase of 35.90 percent from 9,362 units to 12,723 units during the current year, whereas the sales of Suzuki Bolan surged to 2,690 units as opposed to sales of 684 units in the same months of last year.—APP

ANF recovers  
127 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 127 kg drugs worth more than Rs 120 million and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that over 6.4 kg ice was recovered from the bag of a Bahrain-bound passenger at Islamabad International Airport. Over 10.4 kg heroin was Airport from a parcel booked for the UK at a cargo office located at Islamabad International and an accused was also arrested. 65 grams drugs were recovered from the possession of a Dubai-bound passenger at Sialkot International Airport. The recovered drugs included 52 grams opium, 2 grams heroin, 7 grams hashish and 4 grams ice.—APP

IIUI ranks  
high in latest  
QS rankings

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) has reached notable positions in the latest QS World University Rankings 2025. According to the information, IIUI stands at 243rd in Asia and holds 51st in the Southern Asia region, marking a significant achievement in its academic reputation. Earlier, International Islamic University Islamabad was placed among 51-100 in the subjects of Theology, Divinity & Religious, whereas it is globally placed at 351-400 in Mathematics. In addition, for the first time, IIUI is placed at 601-640 in Physics across the world in 2024 edition of the QS - world's top most university rankings agency.—APP

## Pak agribusinesses further explore Chinese market at 7th CIIE

The exhibition area is divided into six key sections: dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and agricultural produce; meat, aquatic products, and frozen foods; beverages and wines; snack foods, sweets, and condiments; comprehensive food products; and a special zone for the crop seed industry

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani agribusinesses further explore Chinese market at the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) held here from November 5 to 10. The Expo emerged as a prestigious platform showcasing the rich diversity and quality of global products, drawing visitors and potential buyers from 152 countries. Among the numerous agricultural and food exhibitors, Staple Foods Pvt Ltd and Jazaa Global from Pakistan stood out with their impressive range of rice varieties, sesame seeds and other culinary delights. This year's CIIE features an expanded food and agricultural products exhibition area, spanning 89,000 square meters, compared to the previous edition. The exhibition area is divided into six key sections: dairy products, fruits, vegetables, and agricultural

produce; meat, aquatic products, and frozen foods; beverages and wines; snack foods, sweets, and condiments; comprehensive food products; and a special zone for the crop seed industry. It brings together the world's top four grain traders, four major vegetable seed companies and more than 1,500 companies from more than 100 countries and regions to showcase their organic, healthy local specialties and a variety of processed agricultural and food products infused with modern technology. At the Staple Foods stall, six varieties of Pakistani rice including 1121 Steamed Rice, PK-386 White Rice, IRRI-9 White Rice, Long Grain 5X White Rice, Long Grain 100% Broken Rice and two types of sesame seeds are displayed in bulk with specialized packs for customers' convenience. As one of the 14 Pakistani companies that were first

approved by Chinese quarantine authorities to export rice to China in 2016, Staple Foods has witnessed a general upward trend in its exports to China. With its vast population and huge demand, China represents an immense market for Pakistan's agricultural and food industries. Data from the Pakistan National Bureau of Statistics revealed that the country's total exports for the fiscal year 2023-2024 amounted to USD 30.64 billion, marking a 10.54% year-on-year growth. Notably, agricultural exports performed exceptionally well, hitting a record high of USD 8 billion, representing a 37% year-on-year increase, Gwadar Pro reported. This is Staple Foods' second appearance at the CIIE, following its debut in 2018. "We are eager to continue participating in this event and hope to develop our business further. Currently, we mainly

work with B2B companies, but we aspire to expand into consumer packaging and increase our presence in supermarkets, diversifying our customer base in China," Imran from Staple Foods Pvt Ltd explained. Among the rice varieties popular with Chinese consumers are 1121 Steamed, 5% Silky, Super Kernel, and Broken. While Basmati rice still needs to be introduced to the broader Chinese market, it is already widely consumed by ethnic minorities in China. "We believe in increasing the number of products on our export list to China. Currently, we are preparing to export dried chili peppers to China," Imran revealed. Making its debut at the CIIE, Jazaa Global exhibited a wide range of products, including rice, Himalayan pink salt, spices (both whole and powdered), baked products from the fried onion series, assorted cookies and puff pastries,

various cooking sauces, and an assortment of desserts, candies, and snacks. "Our products are covering more than 55 markets globally, with a prominent emphasis on the Chinese market, where they are already being embraced by supermarkets, catering industries, and wholesale markets," said Shizra Jasani, Senior Export & Brand Manager at Jazaa Global, underscoring the strategic importance and vibrant potential of the Chinese market. Jazaa Global entered the Chinese market in 2020 and has received positive feedback from potential buyers through the 7th CIIE.

"The response from the Chinese market has been overwhelming, with serious and potential buyers showing keen interest in our products," Jasani said. "We are grateful for this platform and hope to continue participating in future editions."



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Pakistan, Col. (Retd) Pengiran Haji Kamal Bashah Bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad visiting a carpet weaving during the annual Lok Mela festival, at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.

## Pakistani merchants thrive in China's market

## DNA

ISLAMABAD : Pakistani merchants thrived in China's market exploring new opportunities to sell their products like jewelry, carpets, bronze sculptures, onyx artifacts, camel-skin lamps and Himalayan pink salt lamps. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) held here from November 5 to 10 has emerged as a place of opportunities for businesses across the globe. Pakistani jeweler Aqeel Chaudhry is one of the many international entrepreneurs who have benefited from this annual exhibition. For the seventh consecutive year, Chaudhry has brought his family's jewelry brand to CIIE, making his company one of the 186 companies around the world that have participated in all the seven editions of the world's first national-level import-themed exhibition. Over the past 6 editions, Chinese and international enterprises have recorded intended transactions totaling more than \$420 billion, underscor-

ing the expo's effectiveness in facilitating international trade. "CIIE is a global trade carnival, and it's a fantastic platform for us to showcase our products to the world," said Aqeel Chaudhry, who is busy engaging with visitors and potential customers throughout the exhibition. This year, handicrafts made from camel bones debut in his booth, attracting a steady stream of customers. Chaudhry observes that China's competitive market favors quality products. With 11 years of experience in the Chinese market, he has built a loyal customer base and is now looking to expand his presence in the country. "We want to expand our presence in China, not just in Shanghai, but also in Beijing and other cities," he added. "China's market is open and inclusive, and it's full of vitality." Capitalizing on the spillover effect of CIIE, Aqeel Chaudhry has opened his own stores in prime commercial districts in Shanghai and Shenyang. Currently, dozens of additional franchise stores are in the pipeline for more than ten cities. Furthermore, this year, he

launched the Pakistan Pavilion at the Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone, showcasing Pakistani handicrafts throughout the year. Habib, a seasoned Pakistani handicraft merchant with years of residence in Shanghai and a six-time CIIE exhibitor, also sees great potential in the Chinese market. Along with his two brothers, Habib runs three handicraft stores in Shanghai that offer a wide selection of items, including carpets, bronze sculptures, onyx artifacts, camel-skin lamps and Himalayan pink salt lamps. Furthermore, they have ventured into a new arena by establishing the Pakistan Pavilion at the Global Commodity Trading Port, strategically situated opposite the CIIE venue. "This platform serves as an exceptional venue for us to showcase our products to a broader audience throughout the year," he said. After the six-day CIIE concludes each year, the trading port continues to operate as a "365-day CIIE", providing a continuous showcase and sales outlet for China's imported goods, fostering global trade.

## Maqbool underscores role of creative education

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Tuesday underscored the role of creative education in driving economic growth and societal transformation. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Karachi Chapter of Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design (PIFD) at the historic Mohatta Palace Museum. The minister highlighted the importance of trade, fashion, and design for Pakistan's future. This milestone event celebrated PIFD's expansion into Karachi, with a mission to promote education in fashion and design for a brighter future, said a news release received from Karachi. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Hina Tayyaba Khalil emphasized PIFD's role in cultivating design talent and contributing to the nation's cultural and economic landscape. Dr. Maqbool Siddiqui's commitment to advancing skill development through education was a central theme, and his efforts were pivotal in establishing the PIFD Karachi Chapter.—APP

## Enforcement of China-like air quality plan vital for smog solution

ISLAMABAD: Air quality experts in Pakistan have praised the Chinese Air Quality Action Plan, considering it one of the most effective strategies for long-term implementation. They believe that if executed correctly, this plan could significantly reduce smog levels in major cities across the Punjab province. The Chinese Air Quality Action Plan includes a comprehensive set of measures such as stringent emissions standards, promoting clean energy alternatives, and enhancing public transportation systems, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Experts emphasize that adopting similar initiatives in Pakistan could drastically improve air quality, leading to healthier living conditions and a reduction in pollution-related health issues. Lahore's high Court recently identified heavy traffic emissions as the main cause of the smog. In order to quickly prepare their fields for the wheat crop, many farmers simply burn leftover plant debris after harvesting rice. The practice is known as paddy stubble burning. Every year, Punjab rice farms collectively burn about 7 to 8 million metric tons of leftover plant debris in October and November. At present, smog is inescapable in many major cities across Punjab, including Lahore, Multan and Faisalabad. Over the weekend, Multan saw air quality readings up to 2000. The North Western plains of India and parts of Pakistan are experiencing dense smog recently, which has caused the air quality index (AQI) to surpass record highs (1,000 - 2,000 in Pakistan). China has faced similar air pollution for years due to rapid industrialization, urbanization, and a reliance on coal as a primary energy source. However, in recent years, the country has made significant strides in reducing air pollution through a combination of strict policies and technological innovations. Experts believe that these efforts offer valuable lessons for other cities struggling with severe air quality issues. China's strict policy actions led to a swift reduction in pollution. Particulate pollution in China declined by 41 percent between 2013 and 2022 and by 3.4 percent from 2021 to 2022 alone.—DNA

## 2 dacoit arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted two dacoit and street criminal gangs by arresting six accused and recovered eight stolen motorcycles, cash Rs Rs 53,500, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Bani police arrested three, namely Suleman, Abdul Qadir and Umar, members of dacoit, snatching and bike lifting gang and recovered six stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 10,500, weapons and other items from their possession. Morgah police in their operation arrested three, Muhammad Haq, Asad and Bashi Khan, members of street criminal and bike lifting gang and recovered two stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 43000, weapons and other items. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. Police are making efforts to net other members of the gang, he added. The spokesman further said that Rawat police also arrested two proclaimed offenders, Abdullah and Samiullah, wanted in a dacoity case.—APP

## Students' council Oath taking ceremony IMCG G-10-2

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Investiture ceremony of IMCG G-10/2 was held in college auditorium. The Chief Guest of this function was Mr. Anjum Aqeel Khan, member National Assembly of Pakistan. While principal college Prof Shugufta Rauf presided this auspicious occasion. The function started by the recitation of Holy Quran followed by Naat. The principal welcomed the guests. The Students of Grade - I presented the welcome performance. The Chief Guest administered the Oath of the newly elected Student's Council being sworn in, will prepare young generation to become leaders and contribute positively towards self, society, nation and entire world. The Student's Council consists of President Ms. Shiza Tariq Vice President Bushra Fatima General Secretary Dua Qamar Head Girl Eman Waris and Deputy Head Girl Ayesha Tehreem Newly elected President Ms. Shiza Tariq thanked the college administration and teachers for electing her as a President. The principal of the college mentioned achievements of the college and excellent results shown at all levels by the college students. The Awards were given to the teachers securing highest GPAs in different subjects.—APP

## Smog causes significant eye issues

Prof. Dr. Inam Ul Haq said the public should minimize exposure by staying inside, avoiding walking or riding a bike along busy streets

## FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust (AST) asked the masses on Tuesday to protect their eyes from the adverse effects of smog that has engulfed a large part of the country.

We have some of the most polluted cities in the world, where millions of people live. Still, the pollution levels have hit records this month, affecting many, it added. Air pollutants present in smog adversely affect health, especially the eyes. Dust and harmful particulate matter enter the eyes, causing unclear vision, redness, burning sensation, dry eyes, and itching, said Prof. Dr. Inam Ul Haq, Senior Consultant at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital. Talking to the media, he said that life has become challenging

due to rampantly rising air pollution in many cities,



and people's health has taken a significant hit. He said everyone is exposed to air pollutants every time they step out of their homes or offices, and it's virtually impossible to be completely protected. However, there are certain practices a person can adopt to prevent

these symptoms as much as possible, he added. Prof.

hours and avoid leaving home or the office between noon and 4 pm, as the air quality is lowest at this time. He strongly recommended wearing oversized sunglasses with adequate UV protection for better eye protection. He said people should avoid rubbing their eyes in case pollutants get in the eye. Instead, eyes should be washed thoroughly with cold water or lubricating eye drops for relief. He added that everyone should wash their eyes with cold water when back from outdoors as a preventive measure. He advised buying a home air filter to block out particulate matter, and placing cucumbers on the eyes can help reduce inflammation. He also recommended using lubricating eye drops, which specialists

recommend as part of a daily eye care routine. Prof. Dr. Inam Ul Haq also said that carrots, green leafy vegetables, almonds, walnuts, fish, etc., are perfect for the eyes. Frequent blinking and moistening eyes using lubricating eye drops are good ways to relieve the symptoms. But, he said, visiting an eye specialist is recommended if infections and allergies prolong the symptoms. He said that urgent and more extraordinary efforts are needed to reduce air pollution, as over 11 million children under five years of age were exposed to smog in the worst-affected districts of Punjab. The air quality is severely declining in many parts of the country, requiring urgent attention.

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## China or the US?

CHINA'S rise has challenged America's undisputed hegemony over the world economy – a status the United States has enjoyed since the Soviet Union's collapse. While some American national-security elites seek continued US primacy, others seem resigned to an increasingly bipolar world. A more likely outcome, however, is a multipolar world where middle powers exert considerable countervailing force, thus preventing the US and China from imposing their interests on others. Middle powers include India, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey and Nigeria – all large economies that have a significant footprint in the global economy or in their regions. They are far from rich – indeed, they account for a significant share of the world's poorest people – but they also have large, consumption-oriented middle classes and considerable technological capabilities. The combined gross domestic product (in purchasing-power-adjusted terms) of the six countries already exceeds that of the US and is projected to grow by 50 per cent by 2029. Typically, these countries have distinctive foreign policies that reject clear alignment with either the US or China. Contrary to what many in the US believe, middle powers have no great affinity for China, nor do they want to cosy up to it at the expense of their relationship with the US. In fact, insofar as they have been driven closer to China, it is because of US policy. America's weaponisation of its trade and financial might has impelled them to hedge their bets. The leaders of middle powers do not want a world where they are forced to take sides. "We refuse to be a pawn in a new cold war," said Joko Widodo when he was Indonesia's president. Instead, they want to build trade and investment relationships that are multidimensional. Many believe, along with Rana Foroohar of the Financial Times, that "the US is not an anchor for stability, but rather a risk to be hedged against". With advanced economies increasingly focused inward, middle powers have become the natural champions of global public goods. They are well positioned to lead in advocating action on climate change, public health and debt distress. A good example is Brazil's push for a global wealth tax on billionaires during its G20 presidency. The proposal under consideration would raise hundreds of billions of dollars and could play an important role in plugging the gap in climate finance for low-income countries. The middle powers are unlikely to become a formidable bloc of their own, mainly because their interests are too diverse to fit into a common economic or security agenda. Even when they have joined formal groupings, their collective impact has been limited. Brics was launched with great fanfare in 2009, but has accomplished little beyond providing photo ops for its leaders. Brics recently expanded to include four additional countries – Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates – and more may join. But it is difficult to see how such a heterogeneous group of countries can consistently act together. The worst outcome is that the grouping will reinforce even the democratically elected member-state leaders' own autocratic impulses. A common view among economists and political scientists is that a healthy, stable global economy needs a hegemon – whether it be the US after 1945 or Britain during the gold standard. According to the theory of "hegemonic stability", a supervening power is required to shoulder the costs of running an open world economy, such as maintaining open sea lanes or enforcing trade rules and the free flow of finance. Accordingly, multipolarity is a recipe for chaos and economic disintegration.

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## Amsterdam events

IT is no longer hidden regarding the series of solidarity events in Western countries with Palestine – including even sports events – how the Zionist propaganda that has entrenched itself behind the "monopoly of victimhood" has crumbled. The recent events in Amsterdam, along with the barbaric and chaotic crimes committed by the crowd of an Israeli club, reveal a small part of the Zionist mentality that seeks to monopolize victimhood, hide its crimes, and transform the criminal into a victim, all behind masks of anti-Semitism and other labels that have begun to unravel after the Al-Aqsa flood. This is especially true as all their crimes, racism, and their embrace of hatred in the pursuit of eradicating Palestinians through ongoing genocide for over 400 days have been documented, even by the cameras and platforms of Western media that often side with them. Under this title, writer and political analyst Yasser Al-Zaatara writes in a post that it is only left for the Zionists to declare November 7 as a memorial day for the Amsterdam massacre, akin to the Holocaust and October 7. He adds that it was their thugs who initiated the provocation, as testified by the police chief of Amsterdam, and the natural and commendable response came from Moroccan youth and others. Al-Zaatara continues, noting that the crowd of the club involved in the match (Maccabi Tel Aviv) is essentially a racist audience, and they came to make a show in Amsterdam, considering that the rival club (Ajax) also supports Israel. He pointed out that since Friday night, dozens of reports from Zionist and pro-Zionist media have lamented the "massacre," as they called it, and discussed its implications while rallying a number of politicians to intervene, with the foremost being the biggest symbol of Zionism in America Joe Biden. Al-Zaatara said that all the nonsense they spread along with the mobilization and wailing is merely an escape from the reality that their brutality in the Gaza war has left them exposed before the entire world. Zionism has become a discredited term in the consciousness of more global audiences, even if politicians accept it out of fear for their career. He notes that some acknowledge their loss in the battle for public opinion, but the majority still flee to the narrative of "anti-Semitism," which is no longer convincing after it has become linked to a televised horror the world has never seen before. He concludes by saying that the irony is that the Zionists are currently allied with the racist right in the West, despite being aware of the reality of "anti-Semitism," all because it tolerates the atrocities of their state while opposing Muslims. Al-Zaatara said that "we are in a phase of decline for a project founded on false propaganda and the monopoly of victimhood," contrasted with a "generation awakened by the flood alongside our people's resilience in the face of reality, transforming Palestine into an icon of awareness." Egyptian journalist Bassem Yousef also reacted to the recent events in the Dutch capital Amsterdam, which witnessed clashes and acts of violence by Israeli fans after a match between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ajax Amsterdam in the UEFA Europa League. In a post on his X and Instagram accounts, Yousef criticized the actions of the Israeli fans, accusing them of deliberately inciting violence and then portraying themselves as victims. He pointed out their disregard for moments of mourning for flood victims in Spain, while chanting slogans like "death to Arabs" and "no schools or children in Gaza," which sparked widespread outrage.

# Biden can still save what remains of Gaza, and his sorry legacy

Andrew Mitrovica

All along, Netanyahu has played Biden and company for chumps. He knew that America's unqualified support for Israel's "right to defend itself" – regardless of who occupies the Oval Office – meant that Biden and compliant company were obliged to approve of the destruction of Gaza and the West Bank. The public spats over the scope and scale of the carnage have been rhetorical. Netanyahu understood that Biden et al were also obliged to provide the arms and money to engineer a genocide that has killed more than 43,000 [and counting] in a little more than a year. Every minute of every hour of every day, Netanyahu has crossed each and every so-called legal, humanitarian, and strategic "red line" in pursuit of a "killing rage" that still burns hot despite Gallant's admission...

AFTER they lose, retire, or get pushed out, politicians tend, it is said, to become preoccupied with their legacies. This cliché may be true since – driven by hubris and narcissism – former presidents and prime ministers try to shape their legacies by penning self-serving biographies describing their triumphs [many] and failures [few] while exercising the singular powers and prerogatives of high office. I'm not sure, to be frank, whether US President Joe Biden has the time to publish an air-brushed account of his unremarkable four-year tenure as commander-in-chief. But I believe that Biden, like anyone living out their twilight years, is apt to devote a moment or two to quiet reflection and, perhaps, introspection. I think the seminal questions Biden is bound to be contemplating as he approaches his departure from the White House are familiar to many his age: What good have I done? How have I helped people who need help? How have I eased, as best I can, the suffering of others? In the raw residue of the Democrats' drubbing by a resurgent Donald Trump, Biden's epitaph is largely being written by angry pundits and once-loyal allies turned finger-pointing detractors who fault him for that stinging defeat. Biden, they insist, should have signalled much earlier his intention not to seek re-election and, as a result, allowed for an open primary where several candidates could have vied for the Democratic Party nomination for president. A stronger standard-bearer may have emerged, or, at the least, Kamala Harris would have been better able to establish her identity and presidential bona fides. Instead, Biden's stubbornness and blindness sealed Harris's and, by extension, America's unhappy fate. They could be right. They could be wrong. I don't know. This, I do know. Biden has a fast-closing window to wrest the "narrative" over his sullied "legacy" from the legion of miffed commentators and turncoat friends lobbying recriminations and blame at him today. Seizing this one last opportunity to make good on a blatant wrong will require will and deter-

mination – the kind of will and determination that Biden has, to date, not demonstrated. However slim and distant, there is always the hope, I suppose, that Biden will finally embrace the impulse to do the necessary and urgent thing and possibly end the genocide that is engulfing Gaza and the occupied West Bank with such grinding, relentless ferocity. Every minute of every hour of every day, the already awful, apocalyptic conditions faced by besieged Palestinians in what remains of Gaza and the West Bank worsen. The halting scenes of devastation and despair are almost beyond comprehension. Every minute of every hour of every day, more innocents – mostly children and women – are being killed, their bodies wrapped in white shrouds by surviving families whose grief is tempered by the knowledge that they will, in all likelihood, be the next to die. Every minute of every hour of every day, more innocents – mostly children and women – remain entombed under rubble or succumb to starvation, disease and the dispiriting exhaustion brought on by one forced march after another. Every minute of every hour of every day, Gaza and much of the West Bank has been erased, reduced to dust and memory. And every minute of every hour of every day, innocent Israelis remain captive by Hamas and the imperial designs and parochial whims of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has – according to his sacked defence minister, Yoav Gallant – rejected peace deals that would have ended the wholesale agony months ago. All along, Netanyahu has played Biden and company for chumps. He knew that America's unqualified support for Israel's "right to defend itself" – regardless of who occupies the Oval Office – meant that Biden and compliant company were obliged to approve of the destruction of Gaza and the West Bank. The public spats over the scope and scale of the carnage have been rhetorical. Netanyahu understood that Biden et al were also obliged to provide the arms and money to engineer a genocide that has killed more than 43,000 [and

counting] in a little more than a year. Every minute of every hour of every day, Netanyahu has crossed each and every so-called legal, humanitarian, and strategic "red line" in pursuit of a "killing rage" that still burns hot despite Gallant's admission that Israel has achieved, apparently, its military objectives. "There's nothing left in Gaza to do. The major achievements have been achieved," an Israeli TV station quoted him as saying. "I fear we are staying there just because there is a desire to be there." There is one man who can disabuse Israel and, more particularly, Benjamin Netanyahu, of the "desire" to continue the "killing rage" – US President Joe Biden. A deadline of sorts towards that merciful end has been set. It is November 12. Biden, if he is to be believed, has told Israel that unless it takes tangible steps to relieve the humanitarian calamity in Gaza and the West Bank, it risks having the pipeline of American arms turned off. Last week, State Department spokesperson, Matthew Miller, signalled the Biden Administration's alleged displeasure with Israel's phantom efforts to improve the catastrophic conditions rampant throughout Gaza and the West Bank. NBC News reported Miller saying that "US demands on aid so far were 'not good enough,' and that its recommendations had 'not been met.'" Well, in 24 hours or so, the world will see whether Biden will keep his word or confirm that his belated warnings are just the vacuous posturing of a spent, lame-duck president whose leverage with Netanyahu evaporated on November 6. Although I am pessimistic, Biden could surprise and use his pulpit and authority to put a recalcitrant Netanyahu in his place and demand that Israel's "killing rage" end, and end now, in order to save the lives of Palestinians and Israelis. If Biden fails to do what he promises, in part, to do, then his sorry legacy will indeed be fixed in history. Joe Biden will be judged and remembered as a president who saw suffering and did nothing to heal it and enabled a genocide, rather than stop it.

## Building BRICS: An alternative global order?

Shafiqat Rasool

The idea was given by a Goldman Sachs report that popularised the acronym when discussing the return of BRICS countries as leaders of the Global South economy. The block offers the values of BRICS in the shared commitment to restructuring the global political, economic, and financial architecture to a fair and balanced representative of multilateral and international law. The leaders of Brazil, China, India, and Russia first met informally on the sidelines of the G8 outreach summit in Russia, in July 2006

BRICS is shaping the Multipolar World Order, with member states having the objective of countering the Western economic liberal order. This block emphasizes minimizing the dependency and the de-dollarization of the US-dollar-based global order. BRICS member states (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa; United Arab Emirates; Saudi Arabia; Iran; Ethiopia; and Egypt) have huge potential to shape the global order; and have set a goal of challenging the organization G-7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and the United States), led by the United States. BRICS is challenging the establishment of the international order in different ways with the first being an independent economic system that heavily influences the global market. The second is an artificial intelligence governance framework that would jeopardize privacy, transparency, accountability, and human rights. The third method is the military-regional security alignment that could change the balance of power in regions vital to US national security interests. The United States is leading the Global North, liberal economic order, and the G-7; whereas the Global South is being led by China and Russia; which are both working diligently to control the rules-based international order. Looking at the world map, the "Greater BRICS" have 31 percent coverage of global land area, 46 percent of the world's population, and 20 percent of international trade. Major country's oil production and reserves account for approximately 40 percent of the global energy landscape. The mechanism of the BRICS leads to the rise of the Global South. It's playing a key role in the process of the world multipolarity international order. The

current issues surround tensions rising regarding violence and genocide such as the Russia-Ukraine War and Israel's aggression against Palestine, a responsibility that BRICS is naturally poised to fulfill. The idea was given by a Goldman Sachs report that popularised the acronym when discussing the return of BRICS countries as leaders of the Global South economy. The block offers the values of BRICS in the shared commitment to restructuring the global political, economic, and financial architecture to a fair and balanced representative of multilateral and international law. The leaders of Brazil, China, India, and Russia first met informally on the sidelines of the G8 outreach summit in Russia, in July 2006. However, shortly after, BRICS formalized the first foreign minister-level meeting, held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in Sept 2006. The First BRICS summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in June 2009. After, South Africa was invited to join BRICS in 2010, and attended the third BRICS summit, hosted by China in 2011. With the increasing keenness of other states to join, Russia and China have also invited like-minded countries to join. Due to the expansion of BRICS, important countries began joining the block which included Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates; which officially joined as member states on 1 January 2024. Extending the BRICS partnership with EMDCs further puts all member states in a state of agreement to contribute to strengthening the spirit of solidarity and true international cooperation. Turkey officially applied to join the block, and more are willing to join. Global South countries are looking for alternatives to Western blocks; BRICS and SCO are very relevant to making a new international order. Russia hosted the BRICS summit in Kazan on the

theme of "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security" from 22 to 23 October 2024 for the 16th BRICS summit. In a declaration, all states agree to further enhance BRICS solidarity and cooperation based on mutual interest and key priorities, and further strengthen strategic partnership. Dialogue Partners come together from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East under the motto: "BRICS and Global South: Building a Better World Together". Member states are keen to play their contribution in the Western liberal and democratic order, such as in the declaration of a consensus-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO), with emphasis on including the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN). They are looking forward to the International Bank for Reconstructions and Development (IBRD) shareholding review, to improve their role in the International Monetary and Finance System (IMFS), and role in the New Development Bank (NDB). The declaration's grave concerns regard the humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In sum, Russia and China, under the BRICS block, are demanding the US to share power in the International Liberal Order and are keen to play a role in international organizations, international matters, and international institutions, such as the WTO, UN, and the World Banking System. BRICS and EMDC member states don't have any proper framework to replace the Western liberal order in current circumstances, therefore, the United States is still dominant and leading the Western international order and continues having control over Bretton Woods Institutions.

## Briefs

## Pakistan calls for 'redefining' climate...

FROM PAGE 01  
Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkish First Lady Emine Erdogan, the two leaders discussed ways to cooperate in highlighting the issues of climate change and environmental pollution at the international level. The premier also met with UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, where the two discussed enhancing Pakistan-UK cooperation. In his interaction with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon, the leaders discussed protection of glaciers and water resources in Pakistan and Central Asia as well as the strengthening connectivity with both the countries. In his meetings with Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel and Bangladesh's Dr Muhammad Yunus, PM Shehbaz discussed growing temperatures, the threat of rising sea levels, and forest conservation in South Asia.

## Arrested facilitator was 'our...'

FROM PAGE 01  
the suspect [who is a part of a terrorist organisation] belonged to the police department," he said. IG Gandapur stated that the suspect contacted the terrorist group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) in 2021 and travelled to Afghanistan in February of that year. There, the suspect met with JuA terrorists, including Mohammad Khurasani. The suspect was later arrested by Afghan forces, but a JuA member named Junaid arranged his release. According to the IG, the suspect maintained contact with other terrorists, providing them with a map of the Police Lines. He also informed them about the suicide blast after it occurred. "He did all this in exchange for Rs 0.2 million, received via hawala-hundi at Chowk Yadgar," the IG added. The official further noted that Wali had targeted a priest in 2022 and was involved in the Warsak Road bomb blast as well.

## 100 corruption major cases..

FROM PAGE 01  
with accused individuals leaving the country, emphasising that by the time Parliament realises the consequences, it may be too late. In his remarks, Justice Kayani questioned NAB's current capacity and authority, advising the bureau to first confirm its jurisdiction before beginning corruption inquiries. He added, "Now even a toothless NAB can be enjoyed by the NAB officials and the citizens." The controversy surrounding NAB's role stems from amendments introduced in 2022 by the then Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government. The revisions to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999 reduced the terms of the NAB chairman and prosecutor general to three years, limited NAB's jurisdiction to cases exceeding Rs500 million, and transferred pending investigations to other authorities. In response, Imran Khan moved the Supreme Court, arguing that the changes were designed to shield influential individuals from accountability and legitimise corruption.

## PTI leaders, SIC chief...

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Ayub, the opposition Leader in the National Assembly, prior to his arrest, told reporters that the party leaders had arrived at Adiala jail after a court allowed them to meet Imran. In conversation with Geo News, Opposition Leader in the Senate Shibli Faraz said that they had come to meet the PTI founder to discuss the protest strategy with him as well as exchange views on the party's future strategy. In a statement, the former ruling party said that the politicians were arrested "unjustly" for "simply exercising their right to meet with Imran Khan, as permitted by law". The PTI also demanded: "Immediately release them!"

## Spain face daunting task against Poland in BJK Cup

"This year I have the opportunity to play in front of my people, it's really special," Badosa, who has not played in the competition since 2022, said

## SPORTS DESK

MALAGA: Hosts Spain must overcome an IgaSwiatek-powered Poland side if they are to avoid an early exit from the Billie Jean King Cup Finals which begin in Malaga on Wednesday. Twelve teams have assembled in Andalusia to battle for the title won last year for the first time by Canada. A change to the format means there is no room for error this time with a straight knockout replacing the group phase followed by semi-finals and final that was used a year ago. Four nations - champions Canada, runners-up Italy, Australia and the Czech Republic - have received byes to the last eight but Spain will have to go the long way round if they are to be crowned champions on Nov. 20. Spain will be boosted by the availability of former world number two Paula Badosa who has defied a potentially career-ending back injury to end the year just outside the top 10. "This year I have the opportunity to play in front of my people, it's really special," Badosa, who has not played in the competition since 2022, said. "We have a very big challenge at the begin-



ning. I like these kinds of challenges, so I'm really looking forward to it." Badosa will need all the support she can get inside the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena Arena as she will be up against five-times Grand Slam champion Swiatek in one of two singles rubbers, followed by a doubles if required. Swiatek failed to reach the semi-finals at

the WTA Finals last week and is no longer the world number one but will be a formidable obstacle for the Spanish team. "It's not the first time I'm playing somebody who is going to have the whole audience behind them," she said. "Playing against Paula is always a challenge. I'll prepare tactically because we haven't played in a while."

On paper Poland look favourites as apart from 12th-ranked Badosa they also have Magdalena Frech (25th) Magda Linette (38th), while Spain's second-best singles player according to rankings is 22-year-old Jessica BouzasManceiro (55th). The winners of the tie will face a Czech Republic side without the injured Karolina Muchova on Saturday. In the other first-round ties, the United States face Slovakia on Thursday when Japan are up against Romania. Britain face Germany on Friday. The United States will be without WTA Finals champion Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula but in Danielle Collins they have a formidable leader of the team. Britain will be boosted by the inclusion of former U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu in their team after she recovered from a foot injury that has sidelined her since September. The winners of that tie take on holders Canada. Malaga is geared up for a feast of tennis over the next fortnight with the men's Davis Cup Final Eight taking place immediately afterwards in the same venue. The winning nations for the BJK Cup and Davis Cup will receive \$2.4 million each.

Rizwan eyes T20I whitewash after historic ODI series win  
Rizwan urged the players to chase bigger goals

## WEB DESK

BRISBANE: Pakistan's white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan has set his sights to clean sweep Australia in the upcoming three-match T20I series, scheduled to commence on November 14. Pakistan, on Sunday, made history as they registered their first ODI series victory in Australia since 2002. The green shirts suffered a narrow two-wicket defeat in the series opener but staged an astounding comeback by securing comprehensive victories in the remaining fixtures and clinched the three-match series 2-1. After leading Pakistan to a drought-ending series victory, Rizwan expressed confidence that if his team plays as a unit then it has every chance to not only beat Australia in the upcoming T20I series but to whitewash them. "No one was hoping that the team would beat Australia in Australia. We



played like a unit and if we keep doing that, we will whitewash them in T20Is," Rizwan told the players in a dressing room speech, released by the Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday. He further urged the players to chase bigger goals like Champions Trophy, World Cups and Olympic

medals. "It is fine we have celebrated the ODI series win because no one expected us to win in Australia. But at the same time all the players must remember they are ambassadors of Pakistan and behave appropriately at all times on tour," Rizwan stated. "I think we must all strive to

## Envoy highlights strong relations with Pakistan

## FROM PAGE 01

Wanda Rutkiewicz and Jerzy Kukuczka, who achieved historic feats on Pakistani peaks, and recognized Polish glider pilots who recently flew over K2, capturing breathtaking views of the Karakoram. The Ambassador also remembered the contributions of Polish aviators who helped establish Pakistan's Air Force, particularly Air Commodore Wladyslaw Turowicz and his wife Zofia. He expressed hope that a street in Islamabad might soon be named in their honor, paying tribute to their role in Pakistan's early aviation history. In a show of friendship, the Ambassador acknowledged the achievements of renowned Pakistani climbers Nazir Sabir and Sirbaz Khan, both of whom collaborated with Polish climbers. Sabir, the first Pakistani to summit Mount Everest, and Khan, who conquered all fourteen eight-thousanders, embody the spirit of camaraderie between the two nations. The evening ended with a musical performance by women musicians from Hunza, led by Meher Angez Hunzai. The Ambassador described music, like mountains, as a universal language that transcends physical and cultural boundaries. "Both invoke mystery, spirituality, and freedom," he said, celebrating how the shared love for Pakistan's mountains has created a lasting bond between Polish and Pakistani people. The event underscored the strength of the "Pak-Polish Dosti" or Polish-Pakistani friendship, which has deepened through mutual respect, cultural exchange, and economic collaboration. With Poland's upcoming European Union presidency, the Ambassador reaffirmed Poland's commitment to peace, unity, and continued partnership with Pakistan.

## Coote suspended amid video inquiry

## WEB DESK

LONDON: Premier League referee David Coote has been suspended after a video allegedly showing him making derogatory comments about Liverpool and the club's former manager Jurgen Klopp was circulated on social media. Refereeing body PGMOL says the suspension comes into force with immediate effect and is pending a full investigation. The video, widely shared on social media, has not been verified by the BBC. It is unclear when it was filmed or its authenticity. A source told the BBC that PGMOL's inquiry is treating the video as genuine. Coote, 42, refereed Liverpool's 2-0 win against Aston Villa on Saturday.



ISLAMABAD: Friendly Cricket match between Inara Technologies and PTCL held. - DNA

## Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Omarzai lead Afghanistan to ODI series triumph over Bangladesh

Afghanistan have now won three consecutive ODI series victory this year

SHARJAH: Rahmanullah Gurbaz's electrifying century and Azmatullah Omarzai's all-around performance helped Afghanistan to crush Bangladesh by five wickets win here at Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday to secure the ODI series 2-1. Chasing 245, Afghanistan opener Gurbaz and Omarzai stitched a 100-run partnership after the top-order failed to sustain Bangladesh's pace attack, led by Mustafizur Rahman. Gurbaz laid the foundation of Afghanistan's win with 101 off 120 including seven sixes and five fours in the series decider. Omarzai (70 not out) mixed caution with aggression and led the side to the victory rope along with Mohammad Nabi in 48.2 overs. "In my mind from the last (2023) World Cup, I thought of retiring but if I can play one Champions Trophy it will be great for me," Nabi said after becoming the player of the series. The next Champions Trophy is



being held in 2025 by Pakistan. "Just small contributions from my side to the youngsters and my insight to them will be more useful," he added. Bangladesh, who won the toss, started well as their openers Tanzid Hasan and Soumya Sarkar added 53 inside the first powerplay but Afghanistan rebounded with four quick wickets and left Mehidy Hasan Miraz-led side reeling at 72-4. Skipper Mehidy and Mahmudullah took charge, sharing a 145-run partnership off 188 balls, and took Bangladesh to 244-8, with Omarzai returning with figures of 4-37 in seven overs. Mahmudullah missed out on his century but was Bangladesh's top-scorer with a run-a-ball 98 while Mehidy, who was playing his 100th ODI, batted slowly but notched a half-century (66). With the win over Bangladesh, Afghanistan have now bagged their third consecutive ODI series victory this year. - Agencies

## Omar Ayub demands dismissal...

FROM PAGE 01  
(KP) House alongside other PTI leaders in Islamabad, Ayub stated, "We came straight from Adiala Jail, where we went to meet the founder chairman as per the judicial orders." He explained that they arrived at the jail gates at 2 pm, but were subjected to long delays, with jail officials making them wait for six hours. "We asked for a clear answer, yes or no, about the meeting, but were kept waiting." Ayub further detailed how, while waiting, police officers forcibly grabbed Ahmad Khan Bacher's arm, and vehicles displaying Pakistan's flag, including those of Ayub and fellow PTI leader Shibli Faraz, were blocked. The drivers were forcibly removed from the vehicles, and the cars were then locked inside the checkpoint. The PTI leader accused the police of unlawful detentions, stating, "Our vehicles were locked inside, and the police said they had orders to arrest us."

## Court delays decision on sentencing..

## FROM PAGE 01

there will be no sentencing of Trump, 78. If he does not, Trump's legal team would almost certainly seek to oppose or delay any sentencing, insisting it would interfere with Trump's role as commander-in-chief once he is sworn in on January 20. "The joint application for a stay of the current deadlines... until November 19, is granted," the court wrote in an email to parties in the case, seen by AFP. Alongside the New York case, brought by state-level prosecutors, Trump faces two active federal cases, one related to his effort to overturn the 2020 election and the other connected to classified documents he allegedly mishandled after leaving office. However, as president, he would be able to intervene to end those cases, and Jack Smith, the special counsel handling both cases, has reportedly begun to wind them down.

## India should visit Pakistan...

## FROM PAGE 01

which is scheduled to be played at three venues in Pakistan from February to March 9. The BCCI told ICC that the Indian government had advised it against sending the team to Pakistan, ESPNcricinfo reported a day after Indian media reported the same decision. On the other hand, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to give the reply in same tone. The government has suggested PCB to invite some other country if India refused to come for the Champions Trophy. Sources said that the PCB would involve ICC requesting the governing body to ask India to give concrete reasons for the refusal of the Board of Cricket in India (BCCI) to play in Pakistan.

## Constitutional bench to start...

## FROM PAGE 01

the necessity of a constitutional bench. Senior judge Justice Mansoor Ali Shah raised the question if the regular bench they were on was unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established. He also remarked that even if the regular bench heard the case, no one could question it. "Even if we decide the case, what will happen? If a review plea comes before us, we'll say it's our jurisdiction," he added. At the outset of the hearing, Justice Ayesha Malik remarked that this case would be heard by the constitutional bench. Justice Shah asked that since there was no constitutional bench as of now, what should be done about the "unconstitutional bench" they were a part of. "Are we unconstitutional until the constitutional bench is established?" he asked, adding that this means constitutional cases would not be heard until the constitutional bench comes into force. He further remarked that even if this regular bench heard the case, nobody could question it. Even if the regular bench decided the case, who could stop it, he asked further.

## Briefs

## PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 423 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 423.76 points, a negative change of 0.45 percent, closing at 93,224.56 points as compared to 93,648.33 points on the last trading day. Pakistan's cuisine A total of 792,904,878 shares were traded during the day as compared to 815,188,409 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.788 billion against Rs.37.324 billion on the last trading day. As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 151 of them recorded gains and 242 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 61 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Pak Int. Bulk with 79,861,776 shares at Rs 8.00 per share, K-Electric with 71,760,455 shares at Rs 5.13 per share and Pak Refinery with 56,364,168 shares at Rs.26.88 per share. —APP

## Gold price decrease by Rs.7,000 to Rs.270,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.7,000 and was sold at Rs.270,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.277,500, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also came down by Rs.6,000 to Rs.231,911 from Rs.237,911 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold decreased to Rs.212,584 from Rs.218,085. The price of per tola silver also decreased by Rs.50 to Rs.3250 and ten gram silver by Rs.42.86 to Rs.2,786. The price of gold in the international market declined by \$77 to \$2,593 from \$2,670, the Association reported.—APP

## Rupee sheds 06 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.92 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.86. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively. Pakistan's cuisine The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.57 to close at Rs 295.44 against the last day's closing of Rs 297.01, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).—APP

## German teen held over suspected Islamist attack plot

BERLIN: German prosecutors on Tuesday said that a 17-year-old had been arrested for plotting an Islamist terror attack, with media reports saying he wanted to target a Christmas market. He is suspected of "preparing a serious violent attack" and "conspiracy to commit murder," and had "extreme Islamist views," said the prosecutors in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein. The suspect is a German national and was arrested on Wednesday last week in the town of Elmshorn, they said. The Bild daily reported that the suspect had planned to attack a Christmas market with a truck. In December 2016 a truck rampage at a Berlin Christmas market killed 12 people, the deadliest jihadist attack ever committed in Germany. Alongside several other countries, Germany has been on high alert for Islamist attacks since Hamas's October 7, 2023 assault on Israel sparked the devastating war in the Gaza Strip. Authorities say they have foiled several planned attacks. However, three people were killed and eight wounded in a knife attack at a street festival in the western city of Solingen in August, allegedly carried out by a Syrian asylum seeker and claimed by the Daesh group.—APP

## Pak, Finland seek stronger trade ties, explore new sectors

The minister highlighted his vision of tapping into unutilized resources and expanding into areas such as education, information technology, textile, health, construction, and social development. There is a possibility of a government-level delegation from Finland visiting Pakistan, which could mark a milestone for both countries, with expectations to solidify agreements and increase investment opportunities, he added.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Finland are moving toward a new chapter in economic relations following a productive meeting between Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, and Finland's Ambassador to Pakistan, Hannu Ripatti. The ambassador met with Jam Kamal Khan at the Commerce Ministry to discuss strategies for expanding trade ties and exploring untapped areas for collaboration, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. Minister Jam welcomed Ambassador Ripatti and reaffirmed the Pakistani government's commitment to strengthening economic ties with Finland. "I believe in deep coordination with our counterparts to enhance trade relations," Jam stated, emphasizing the importance of identifying dormant sectors and activating them for economic benefit. The minister highlighted his vision of tapping into unutilized resources and expanding into areas such as education, information technology, textile, health, construction, and social development. There is a possibility of a government-level delegation from Finland visiting Pakistan, which could mark a milestone for both



countries, with expectations to solidify agreements and increase investment opportunities, he added. One of the key initiatives discussed during the meeting was Pakistan's establishment of the National Compliance Council (NCC), which seeks to ensure that local products meet international standards. Minister Jam Kamal explained that the NCC will work with provincial and federal bodies to "sensitize" them on the importance of compliance, positioning Pakistani exports to be competitive in international markets. "The NCC will play a crucial role in aligning our products with global quality standards," Jam added. Finland's presence in Pakistan's business landscape has already proven fruitful, with companies such as Nokia, Kone, and Qvantel Telecom operating in collaboration with local firms. Ambassador Ripatti praised the success of these businesses and highlighted the contributions they make to Pakistan's

educational landscape by providing technical training to university students. This collaboration, he said, not only supports Finland's business interests but also strengthens Pakistan's workforce by equipping students with globally relevant skills. The ambassador also praised the talent of Pakistani engineers, describing them as "assets of your country," capable of working under diverse conditions, and emphasized that Pakistan should focus

more on the global demand for skilled technicians. Jam Kamal responded by highlighting Pakistan's skilled yet affordable labor force, suggesting that this human capital could be further leveraged by Finnish industries. He invited Finnish companies to consider Pakistan's "cost-effective, skilled professionals" as valuable contributors to Finland's economy. In addition, Ambassador Ripatti extended a formal invitation to Minister Khan to attend the upcoming Finland-Pakistan Business Forum on February 12, 2025, in Karachi. This forum is expected to bring together representatives from both countries to explore and promote joint business ventures and investment prospects. The discussions also identified specific areas of shared interest, including education, information technology, textile, healthcare, and construction, as potential avenues for deeper cooperation. Both parties expressed optimism about the future, with a shared vision of fostering robust economic ties through these and other emerging sectors. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to expanding economic engagement, with Pakistan and Finland poised to build on their strong foundation for a more diversified, resilient partnership.

## UN climate chief urges aggressive action as emissions hit GDP

RIYADH: The global climate crisis is rapidly evolving into an economic threat, with the impact of emissions reducing the gross domestic product of several countries by up to 5 percent, a UN official said. Speaking at the high-level segment for heads of state and government at the COP29 in Baku, Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, emphasized the urgent need for more aggressive climate actions to address economic challenges, including rising inflation. "We used to talk about climate action as being mostly about saving future generations. But there has been a seismic shift in the global climate crisis, as the climate crisis is fast becoming an economy killer," said Stiell. He added, "In this political cycle, climate impacts are curving up to 5 percent off GDP in many countries. The climate crisis is a cost-of-living crisis, as climate disasters are driving up costs for households and businesses." Stiell's comments came shortly after a report by finance consultancy Oxera, which revealed that climate-related extreme weather events have cost the global economy more than \$2 trillion over the past decade, with the US being the most affected. The UN official warned that worsening climate impacts will "put inflation on steroids" unless every country takes bolder climate action. Stiell urged the world to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the economic suffering caused by slow and ineffective collective action on supply chain issues. Describing climate finance as "global inflation insurance," he warned that failing to address the economic toll of climate change would lead to disaster. "Letting this issue languish halfway down cabinet agendas is a recipe for disaster," he said. However, Stiell remained optimistic, asserting that effective climate action could save economies and create new economic opportunities. He pointed to the growth of renewable energy as a potential driver of stronger financial states for nations. "This isn't just about saving your economies and people," he said. "Bolder climate action can drive economic opportunity. Cheap, clean energy can be the bedrock of your economies. It means more jobs, growth, less pollution choking cities, healthier citizens, and stronger businesses." Stiell called on governments to leave COP29 with a clear global climate finance plan and urged international cooperation as the key to combating global warming and ensuring humanity's survival. "We need your direct engagement on new national climate targets and plans — NDCs — so that all of you can benefit from the boom in clean energy and climate resilience," said Stiell. He added: "These are not easy times, but despair is not a strategy, nor is it warranted. Our process is strong, and it will endure. After all, international cooperation is the only way humanity can survive global warming."

## Residents frustrated with rise in organized child begging

ISLAMABAD: As Islamabad's streets and shopping areas become increasingly crowded with professional beggars, including children, residents are expressing frustration and urging authorities to intensify efforts against organized begging. Islamabad's busy roads, malls, and outdoor dining spots have become hotspots for child beggars, who approach residents persistently. Locals say these encounters are not only uncomfortable but also highlight the growing issue of organized begging in the city. Talking to APP, Muhammad Asif, a resident, shared his concerns, explaining how dining out with his family on weekends is often disrupted by child beggars. They initially ask for money, and when refused, they request food instead, making it difficult for families to enjoy their outings. Hafeez Ullah, another resident, described facing similar issues while shopping. According to him, a group of beggars often surrounds him, with one person approaching first and then signaling others to follow suit, creating a coordinated attempt to solicit donations. In response, the Islamabad district administration has launched an anti-begging drive. Recently, nine children involved in begging were transferred to the Edhi Center.—APP

## Turkiye deports 325 Afghan migrants amid growing crackdown

Istanbul: Turkiye has recently deported 325 Afghan migrants, both documented and undocumented, in the past two days, as part of a broader crackdown on Afghan refugees. The deportees, primarily from Istanbul, were returned to Afghanistan on November 10, where they were welcomed by officials from the Taliban's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations. Upon arrival, the returnees were given 150 (or its equivalent in Afghan currency) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as financial assistance. The deportation follows an intensifying pattern of forced expulsions of Afghan migrants from neighboring countries, including Iran and Pakistan. Turkiye's deportations come amid heightened regional tensions and security concerns, with many Afghan migrants feeling forced to return due to deteriorating conditions and a lack of economic opportunities. In a statement, Abdur Rahman Rashid, the Deputy Minister for Refugees and Repatriation, noted that the ministry was in contact with Turkish authorities to resolve ongoing issues related to Afghan migration. He assured the deported individuals that they would receive legal support, including guidance on obtaining civil documentation, once back in Afghanistan. The deportation coincides with a broader regional trend of forced repatriations. In the last month alone, Pakistan and Iran have reportedly sent back hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees. In total, an estimated 400,000 Afghan nationals have been expelled from these neighboring countries, with Iran deporting up to 3,000 Afghans daily. The situation is expected to worsen as winter sets in, putting additional strain on Afghanistan's already fragile infrastructure. Since the Taliban's return to power, the exodus of Afghan citizens has increased significantly, with Turkiye serving as a key transit point for those attempting to reach Europe. Turkiye is currently home to one of the world's largest refugee populations, including over 3.6 million Syrians, as well as significant numbers of Afghans and other nationalities. The country's handling of Afghan refugees has drawn international criticism, particularly from human rights groups who argue that Turkiye often forces undocumented migrants into "voluntary" repatriation, despite their desire to seek asylum. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has highlighted these concerns, noting that many Afghan refugees in Turkiye face coercion, with authorities pushing them to sign documents agreeing to return home. The organization has also documented instances where refugees, particularly women and children, are subjected to mistreatment during deportation.—DNA

## Indonesia, COMSTech collaboration advances Science technology among OIC member Countries

"Some OIC nations, especially Indonesia, boast extraordinary biodiversity. Indonesia alone is home to approximately 31 million plant species, not including diverse microorganisms, animals, and minerals," he remarked, referring Indonesia's designation as a mega biodiversity country in the 2019 Convention on Biological Diversity report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Indonesia, in collaboration with OIC-COMSTech (the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation), successfully hosted the COMSTech International Conference and Exhibition on Natural Products-Based Cosmetics and Nutraceuticals. Held in Jakarta, this prestigious event convened 260 experts, research scientists, industry leaders, and policymakers from OIC member countries to explore advancements and innovations in the thriving fields of natural wellness, beauty, and sustainable health products, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. This conference is part of Indonesia's Health Innovation Festival, held in conjunction with the celebration of the 60th National Health Day. With a global consumer shift toward sustainable, health-conscious products, the conference empha-

sized the importance of fostering collaboration and driving research to capitalize on natural resources. The event highlighted opportunities for OIC countries, which are rich in biodiversity, to lead in natural cosmetics and nutraceuticals and to add value to their resources through science and technology. Indonesia, COMSTech collaboration advances Science technology among OIC member Countries In his opening address, Director for Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Resilience at the Indonesia's Ministry of Health, Roy Himawan acknowledged the conference's significance. He underscored the necessity of high-quality research to elevate the standards of natural nutraceutical and cosmetic products, enhancing quality of life. "Some OIC nations, especially Indonesia, boast extraordinary biodiversity. Indonesia alone is home to approximately 31 million plant species,

not including diverse microorganisms, animals, and minerals," he remarked, referring Indonesia's designation as a mega biodiversity country in the 2019 Convention on Biological Diversity report. "Our recent studies reveal that over 32,000 natural ingredients can be derived from 2,800 plant species, though this represents only 20% of our potential. There is immense room for further research and development", he said. In his turn, Coordinator General of OIC-COMSTech, expressed pride in partnering with Indonesia on this significant initiative. He highlighted OIC-COMSTech's past successful collaborations with OIC countries in health sciences, including virology and vaccine technology, and stressed the urgent need to shift from exporting raw materials at low prices to value-added production. "We possess abundant natural resources, yet we are losing substantial value by export-

ing them without processing. This practice depletes resources and prevents economic advancement, as these resources are undervalued in global markets," he stated, and added "This conference represents an opportunity for OIC member countries to harness science and technology to elevate their resources and contribute to their economies." The conference featured two comprehensive panels. The first panel explored the regulatory landscape, public health policies, and market opportunities for halal-certified natural cosmetics and nutraceuticals, aiming to position OIC countries as leading exporters of safe, efficacious products. The second panel delved into the scientific potential of bioactive compounds in natural formulations and discussed the role of universities in modernizing herbal products, aligning with global trends. Throughout the discussions, participants posed

thoughtful questions to panelists, sparking dynamic exchanges on the role of natural biodiversity in health and wellness products. Engaging activities, including a quiz with prizes, added an interactive dimension to the conference. Himawan concluded the event by expressing heartfelt thanks to all participants and acknowledging COMSTech and supporting institutions for their collaboration. The collaboration between Indonesia and COMSTech exemplifies the effective partnerships within the OIC aimed at advancing science and technology among its member countries. This successful cooperation includes annual research scholarship and training programs in virology and vaccine technology, which have been conducted in Indonesia since 2022. Additionally, the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad, in collaboration with OIC-COMSTech.

## COP 29: UK's Starmer sets out new 2035 climate goal

BAKU: Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Britain would cut greenhouse gas emissions by 81 percent by 2035 as he committed the country to a more ambitious climate goal at the United Nations COP29 climate summit. The new goal is in line with a recommendation from a committee of climate advisers who said last month the target should exceed the current 78 percent cut to emissions, measured against 1990 levels. "At this COP, I was pleased to announce that we're building on our reputation as a climate leader, with the UK's 2035 NDC (nationally determined contributions) target to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by at least 81 percent on 1990 levels," Starmer told a press conference at the climate gathering in Baku, Azerbaijan. Starmer said the British public would not be burdened because of the new target, which excludes international aviation and shipping emissions. "What we're not going to do, is start telling people how to live their lives. We're not going to start dictating to people what they do," he said.—APP

## China, Russia must fight US 'containment': security chief

BEIJING: Senior Russian official Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday told China's foreign minister Wang Yi their two countries' most urgent task should be countering "containment" by the United States, as they met for security talks in Beijing. Moscow and Beijing have expanded military and defense ties since Russia ordered troops into Ukraine nearly three years ago, with Chinese President Xi Jinping one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's most important allies on the world stage. But Beijing has also found itself increasingly stuck between a burgeoning alliance of Russia and North Korea, which has sent soldiers to Ukraine and this week ratified a landmark defense pact with Moscow. Speaking to Wang in Beijing, Shoigu, the secretary of Russia's Security Council, stressed the need for China and Russia to "counter the 'dual containment' policy directed against Russia and China by the United States and its satellites." "The comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation (between China and Russia) represent a model of collaboration between two powers in today's world," Shoigu told China's top diplomat. "Although it is not a military-political alliance like those formed during the Cold War, the relations between our countries surpass this form of interstate relations," he said, quoted in Russian news agencies. Ahead of the talks, Beijing said the two officials would hold "strategic security consultations" this week and would discuss "major issues involving the two countries' strategic security interests and enhancing mutual trust." Shoigu was Russia's defense minister for the first two years of its offensive on Ukraine, before being moved to the Security Council by Putin after a string of military setbacks and criticism from the country's influential military correspondents.—APP

## Iranian capital builds 'defensive tunnel' after Israeli strikes

DUBAI: Iran is building a "defensive tunnel" in the capital Tehran, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday, following strikes by Israel on targets in the country. The tunnel, located near the city center, will link a station on the Tehran metro to the Imam Khomeini hospital, thus allowing direct underground access to the medical facility. "For the first time in the country, a tunnel with defensive applications is being built in Tehran," the head of transport for Tehran City Council told Tasnim. Last month, Israel carried out its first officially-recognized strikes in Iran, hitting missile factories and other sites near Tehran and in the country's west, as a response to Iran's Oct.1 attack on Israeli territory.—APP

## Briefs

### Dozens killed in China hi-and-run incident

BEIJING: At least 35 people have been killed and 43 more injured after a man drove into a crowd of people exercising at a stadium in Zhuhai, southern China on Monday, authorities say. A 62-year-old male driver, identified as Mr Fan, drove his SUV through a barrier at Zhuhai Sports Centre in what local police say was a "serious and vicious attack". Many elderly people, as well as teenagers and children, were among the injured, Chinese media is reporting. Police said the driver was arrested as he tried to flee and is in a coma from self-inflicted wounds. Amid reports that the incident is being censored online in China, BBC journalists were told to stop filming when reporting from the stadium on Tuesday. Most videos of the incident shared by witnesses had been scrubbed off Chinese social media by Tuesday morning, but some footage still online showed dozens of people lying on the ground and being attended to by paramedics and bystanders. - Agencies

### 12 die as van plunges into river

ASTORE: At least 12 people were killed after a passenger van fell into a river in Astore district of Gilgit-Baltistan. According to rescue sources, the passenger van, filled with wedding guests travelling from Astore to Rawalpindi, lost control and plunged into the river. Twelve people have been confirmed dead, while the search for the remaining 12 passengers is ongoing. Police and rescue teams reached the site and started the operation. "So far, 12 bodies have been recovered, and one girl has been injured. The search continues for the remaining missing persons," said the rescue sources.

### PTA asked to remove harmful content

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs has directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to remove harmful and objectionable content on social media platforms. In a letter to the PTA, the ministry has highlighted that this content remains easily accessible online and requested immediate action to remove it. "Despite the proactive measures taken by PTA to block such content in line with Supreme Court orders (Jan 2016, May 2016 and March 2018), it has been observed that pornographic and blasphemous material is still readily accessible on multiple online platforms.

# Pak can get access to int'l markets in a few months

## French envoy praises Pakistan's economic reform agenda



**KHAYAM ABBASI**  
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed the expectation that due to control of financial deficit, stable currency, increase in remittances and stability foreign reserves, Pakistan can have access to international financial markets in the next few months, which As a result, institutional financial support will increase. According to the Federal Ministry of Finance, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb was met by the Ambassador of

France in Islamabad, Nicolas Gall, where matters of mutual interest including trade, business and bilateral cooperation in the socio-economic sectors were discussed. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb briefed the French ambassador about the state of the country economy and the significant improvement in economic indicators in the last 14 months. He said that due to control of fiscal deficit, stable currency, increase in remittances and stability in foreign reserves, Pakistan can get access to international financial markets in the coming months and this will increase institutional financial support.. He said that extensive reforms in various sectors, particularly in taxation, energy, privatization and governance, are a continuous process, aimed at putting the structure of the economy on the path of export-led growth and such direct non-To promote domestic investment which will increase the export potential. According to the Ministry of Finance, the French ambassador appreciated the government's reform agenda and the economic stability achieved on various economic fronts and said that the government has achieved the structural goals agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to achieve economic stability on a permanent basis. Has shown determination to maintain.

### Trump set to name Rubio secretary of state

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump is expected to name Florida Senator Marco Rubio as secretary of state, The New York Times reported Monday night. It quoted three people as saying that the decision is not final, but that Trump appears to have settled on Rubio, a loyalist whom Trump passed over as his vice presidential running mate. Rubio has been consistently named over the last week as one of the frontrunners to head US diplomacy, along with the abrasive former ambassador to Germany, Ric Grenell. Asked if he was destined for a senior cabinet job, Rubio told CNN last week, "I always am interested in serving this country." The nomination of the hawkish congressman, who has Cuban heritage, would cap a remarkable turnaround in his relations with Trump. In 2016, when they were competing for the Republican presidential nomination, Rubio called Trump a "con artist" and the "most vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency." Born to Cuban immigrants in Miami, he graduated with a political science degree from the University of Florida in 1993. He was elected to the US Senate in 2010 with his campaign buoyed by the Tea Party, a far-right contingent of Republicans that coalesced in the aftermath of Barack Obama's election as president. - Agencies

### Spain braces for torrential rain

MADRID: Two weeks after flash floods caused devastation in eastern Spain, several areas of the country are on alert, with a new weather front expected to bring torrential rain and low temperatures. Eastern and southern Mediterranean areas are again the most vulnerable, with Spain's meteorological agency Aemet placing parts of the Valencia, Catalonia and Andalusia regions, as well as the Balearic Islands, on orange alert from now until Thursday. Aemet warns of rainfall and storms that could be "very strong to torrential". That orange alert is the second highest and it signals a significant meteorological event "with a degree of danger for normal activities". A military vehicle has been driving through towns using a megaphone to warn of the expected storms. Precautions are being taken in many areas of Valencia, with school classes and sports activities suspended in some towns and sandbags piled up to protect the centre of the town of Aldaia. However this second "Dana" weather system is not expected to be as dramatic as the red alert on 29 October, when the Valencia region in particular suffered an unprecedented loss of lives and material damage. There were 222 confirmed deaths from the flooding in Spain last month, and 23 people are still missing. - Agencies

## Pak-China bus service resumes after 14-year

ISLAMABAD: A bus service connecting Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab border pass resumed on Tuesday after a 14 years hiatus. The bus service is operated by a Pakistani government-owned company and a leading Chinese transportation organisation. The bus service used to operate on the Khunjerab Pass, which connects Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan to China's Xinjiang region. It was suspended in 2010 after a massive landslide at Hunza's Attabad village damaged a 14 kilometer portion of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) connecting the two countries. The landslide killed at least 20 people and displaced 6,000 in the area. The damaged road was restored by the GB government while the Northern Areas Transportation Company (NATCO), a Pakistan government-owned company, collaborated with the Chinese transportation company Xinjiang-Kashgar Xin Lu Transportation Co. Ltd., to restore the bus service from Gilgit to China's Kashgar city. "After 14 years, the bus service resumed officially from Tuesday," Aziz Ahmed Jamali, NATCO's managing director, told Arab News over the phone. "The bus will run for this route twice a week and the fare per passenger is Rs18,000 [\$64.69]." Jamali said at least 320 passengers will be able to travel by the bus service each month. "NATCO has been serving in Gilgit-Baltistan since 1974 and it carries 500,000 passengers every year," he said. "It is operating on 40 routes across GB at national and international destinations."

## Israeli strikes hit south Beirut after evacuation warning

NNA also reported Israeli strikes across Lebanon's south that destroyed a building in the main southern city of Nabatiyeh and also targeted the eastern city of Hermel

BEIRUT: Israel launched at least 10 air strikes on south Beirut Tuesday morning, Lebanese state media said, shortly after Israel's army urged residents of several neighborhoods to evacuate the Hezbollah bastion. "Israeli warplanes launched a very violent tenth strike on Beirut's southern suburbs," the official National News Agency reported. AFP TV footage showed grey smoke covering the area, with big plumes rising after each strike. Earlier Tuesday, the Israeli army told residents of four south Beirut neighborhoods to leave immediately, warning it would strike Hezbollah targets there. "You are located near facilities and interests affiliated with Hezbollah, against which the Israel Defense Forces will act in the near future," military spokesman Avichay Adraee said in a post on X. The post included a map showing the buildings it would target in the Lebanese capital's south. Witnesses told AFP they heard gunfire in the area ahead of the strikes - warning shots by residents for people to leave following the evacuation call. NNA also reported Israeli strikes across Lebanon's south that destroyed a building in the main southern city of Nabatiyeh and also targeted the eastern city of Hermel. Last month, Israeli strikes razed Nabatiyeh's historic marketplace, with another wave of attacks also hitting its municipality building and killing several including the mayor.

DOHA: The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement says its fighters have killed at least 20 Israeli soldiers in northern parts of the besieged Gaza Strip in just two days, in retaliation for the occupying regime's genocidal war on the Palestinian territory. In a statement on Monday evening, Hamas said that fighters of its military wing, al-Qassam Brigades, "killed at least five occupation soldiers" in northern parts of the coastal territory earlier in the day. It added that Hamas fighters also killed 15 Israeli soldiers in the war-ravaged region on Sunday. The resistance movement's "qualitative operation ... confirms once again the failure of the criminal Zionist entity to suppress and eradicate the Palestinian resistance, which continues to direct qualitative strikes against its terrorist soldiers," Hamas further said on its Telegram channel. Palestinians have increased their resistance operations in the face of intensified Israeli aggression in northern Gaza that has claimed the lives of more than 1,000 over the past weeks. "Our valiant resistance is waging a war of attrition with the criminal enemy, inflicting daily losses on its soldiers and vehicles - Agencies

## Cut expenditures or unveil mini-budget, IMF tells Pakistan

International financial institution stresses need to address revenue shortfall of Rs 189 billion

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Mohammad Aurangzeb has initiated discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is urging Pakistan to enhance its revenue collection. The publication reported that the IMF is suggesting two options - either unveil a mini-budget to meet the revenue shortfall of Rs189 billion or come up with a viable plan to reduce the unbridled expenditures. Finance Secretary Imdadullah Bosal and Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial started the first session with the visiting IMF team scheduled to stay in Islamabad from November 11 to 15.

## N. Korea ratifies major defense pact with Russia

MOSCOW: North Korea ratified a major defense pact with Russia, which includes a provision committing both nations to mutual military assistance in the event of an attack on either side, state-run media reported on Tuesday. According to the Korean Central News Agency, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed the decree on Monday. "The 'Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation' signed in Pyongyang on June 19, 2024 was ratified as a decree of the President of the State Affairs of the DPRK," the agency said in its short report. The treaty will take effect from the day both sides exchange ratification instruments. The latest development came after President Vladimir Putin signed a law on Saturday, ratifying the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty between Russia and North Korea. Pyongyang and Moscow signed the treaty on June 19 that requires extending military aid in case of aggression by a third country. The agreement also seeks to foster a comprehensive partnership grounded in mutual respect for state sovereignty and territorial integrity, equality, and non-interference in domestic affairs. - Agencies

## Moroccan Air Force chief calls on Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff

The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitment in support of collaborative maritime security



ISLAMABAD: Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Air Force, Major General Mohammed Gadhi, called on the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional maritime security, were discussed. The Naval Chief expressed that

Pakistan and Morocco enjoy cordial relations underpinned by mutual respect, growing economic ties, and cooperation at multilateral forums. Various avenues, including bilateral training and exchange of visits were also highlighted. The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitment in support of collaborative maritime security. Both leaders agreed to further strengthen and diversify the scope of the existing bilateral defence relationship.

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