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Pope Francis calls for investigation into 'Genocide' in Gaza

Detailed News On Page-07

Education central route to development

Detailed News On Page-03

England must be careful to retain culture

Detailed News On Page-06



Shared economic road map with IMF

Govt's efforts put economy back on track: Fin Min

Development comes after IMF's mission, led by Nathan Porter, concluded staff visit to Pakistan

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Clearing up speculations about the visit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission to Pakistan, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said there were no surprises as "we shared the country's economic road map" with officials of the international financial institution. The minister made these remarks while addressing a press conference following the conclusion of a visit by IMF's mission - led by Nathan Porter from November 12 to 15. "They [IMF] didn't say anything that we were not aware of already [...] there were no surprises," Aurangzeb said, adding that he welcomed the Fund mission's visit. Since the visit was not anticipated, there were reports that the global lender's visit would mean that the federal government would have to roll out a mini-budget. However, Aurangzeb - while talking to Geo News earlier - dismissed the possibility and also denied reports of additional tax measures. In a statement earlier today, the global lender said it has urged Pakistan to broaden its tax base by targeting untapped revenue sources - as the country grapples with challenges in expanding its tax collection. The Fund said the staff visits are standard practice for countries with semi-annual programme reviews and aim to engage with the authorities and other stakeholders on the country's economic developments and policies and the status of planned reforms. Addressing the presser, the finance minister said that the Fund and Pakistan were engaged in a continuous dialogue as "mutual credibility and trust" is built through bilateral talks. The minister pointed out that reforms related to taxation, energy reforms and state-owned enterprise (SOE), privatisation and public finance were on the IMF's visit agenda. He further said that the visiting mission took stock of the situation and held discussions on various matters,

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ADB launches initiative to promote food security

Lender to carry out risk assessments of glacial melt under "Glaciers to Farms" initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As countries around the world continue to face worsening effects of climate change, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Sunday launched a new regional programme "Glaciers to Farms" to promote sustainable water use and food security in Central Asia, the South Caucasus and Pakistan. The initiative will see the ADB, supported by the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) Project Preparation Facility, carry out risk assessments of glacial melt in Azerbaijan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan - forming the scientific and technical basis for the programme, read the press release issued by the lender. With temperatures in the region projected to rise by up to 6°C by the next century, the loss of glacial mass threatens the fragile balance of ecosystems, jeopardising water supply for agriculture and hydro-power and risking the livelihoods of more than 380 million people. A declaration of support for preserving

Continued on Page 06



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of the Netherlands Henny De Vries. - DNA

Naqvi, Dutch envoy discuss bilateral ties

Says that there is a need to take steps on a sustainable basis to promote bilateral relations

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with Ambassador of Netherlands Henny De Vries. During the meeting, issues of mutual interest, bilateral relations and increasing cooperation in various fields were discussed. Discussions were also held on the promotion of cricket between the two countries. Both sides agreed to hold a cricket series between Pakistan and the Netherlands next year. Netherlands also agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding with PCB for the promotion of cricket.

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Belarusian President to reach Pak on Nov 25

Lukashenko, during his tour, would also meet with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President of Belarus Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko will reach Pakistan on a two-day visit on November 25. Sources told that a delegation would also accompany him, adding that both sides would sign the Pakistan-Belarus Trade Roadmap 2025-2027. Similarly, four memorandums of understanding

Continued on Page 06

'Double agent' role Dialogue door not shut yet, Khawaja Asif tells PTI

"PTI founder only wants dialogue with the establishment," says defence minister

NEWS DESK

SIALKOT: Days before the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) planned nationwide protests, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that the federal government's offer for dialogues with the Imran Khan-founded party still stands. "From our side, dialogue offer to PTI still intact," said the defence minister during his interaction with journalists in Sialkot on Sunday. Last week, the incarcerated PTI founder called on his supporters to march to Islamabad on November 24. "Imran Khan says this is the final call for a [anti-government] protest. The PTI founder has stressed that the party's entire leadership will be part of the march," said his lawyer Faisal Chaudhry following a meeting in Adiala Jail. Khan has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in the Toshakhana case and

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PTI finalises plan for Nov 24 protest

PTI plans nationwide protest on November 24, storming Islamabad with an indefinite sit-in at D-Chowk.

FAISAL SHEIKH

FAISAL SHEIKH: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has finalized its strategy for a large-scale protest on November 24, with plans to 'storm' Islamabad from all directions as reported by a Pakistani newspaper. According to sources, the PTI leadership is determined to reach Islamabad at any cost, and significant responsibilities have been assigned to the party's leadership in

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Imran Khan appoints new focal persons

Barrister Gohar, Salman Akram Raja and Omar Ayub were appointed focal persons

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Senior PTI leaders Barrister Gohar, Salman Akram Raja and Omar Ayub were appointed as the focal persons of party founder Imran Khan. A notification in this regard has also been issued by the party. The decision was taken on the directions of party founder Imran Khan. All the three bigwigs will be the spokespersons of Imran Khan, said the notification. It merits mention here that Barrister Gohar is serving as the chairman of the party while Salman Akram Raja is the secretary general. Moreover, Omar Ayub is already serving as the opposition leader in National Assembly.

Lahore AQI drops out of 'hazardous' category

Air quality slightly improves

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Lahore's pollution levels on Sunday finally witnessed some improvement with its air quality index (AQI) dropping out of the "hazardous" level after registering extremely high levels toxins in the atmosphere for weeks as thick smog kept the megapolis shrouded. With an AQI of 295, - which is termed "very unhealthy" - the provincial capital today emerged as the second most polluted city in the world with India's New Delhi topping Swiss group IQ Air's ranking with an AQI of 751. The city, home to its 14 million residents, has been facing the brunt of the worsening smog crisis that continues to engulf the province prompting authorities.

To establish peace in country

Hafiz Naeem calls for national dialogue

"Afghanistan must ensure that its land is not used against Pakistan"

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has emphasized the pressing need for a comprehensive national dialogue to address the ongoing challenges faced by Pakistan. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Sunday, Naeem-ur-Rehman criticized the government for its missteps, claiming that its actions often lead to the success of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protests even before they gain momentum. He stressed the urgent need for a national dialogue to address critical issues like public safety in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Hafiz Naeem condemned the targeting of a JI leader in Bajaur, noting that protests are ongoing across KP in response to the deteriorating security situation. He emphasized that maintaining law and order is the government's responsibility and called for revisiting national policies. "Afghanistan must ensure that its land is not used against Pakistan."

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Fazl criticises KP for prioritising politics over public interest

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's entire focus is on politics rather than maintaining peace: JUI-F chief

SHAMIM SHAHIHD

PESHAWAR: In a sharp critique of recent legislative changes, JamaatUlema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana FazlurRehman has said Pakistan's 26th Constitutional Amendment has introduced laws that make citizens feel like "suspects in their own country." FazlurRehman's comments came in Peshawar, where he offered condolences on the death of prominent political figure Ilyas Bilour. "The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are enduring

Continued on Page 06

Mushahid welcomes Trump resolve to contain 'Deep State'

Mushahid Hussain also called for a regional reset in Pakistan's foreign policy, urging the government not to unilaterally beg India for trade, talks and cricket matches

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has welcomed Donald Trump's election as US President, terming it, as good for world peace and also welcomed his resolve to control the US 'Deep State'. In a keynote address at the 'Margalla Dialogue', he also defined the 'red lines' in Pakistan's national security and foreign policy, listing these as the nuclear/missile programs, Occupied Kashmir & Palestine, China/CPEC, rejection of Indian hegemony and refusal to be part to any destabilisation of Iran. Pakistan's cuisine Referring to the conference themed 'Emerging Global Realities', he cited new realities as retrenchment of Western and American power with diminished clout, the peaceful rise of China and resurgence of the Global South, with the likely emergence of Muslim Middle Powers like Pakistan, Turkiye, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia playing pivotal regional roles in the coming decade. Mushahid-Hussain praised Donald Trump as the first US President since John Kennedy who's not a representative of the

Continued on Page 06

Trump team begins compiling list of officers for possible court martial

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The transition team of US President-elect Donald Trump is reportedly compiling a list of former and current senior US military officers directly involved in the "disrespectful" withdrawal from Afghanistan to determine whether they could face court martial. Trump's team is exploring the possibility of forming a commission to investigate the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, NBC News reported on Sunday. This effort would focus on identifying those directly involved in the decision-making process, examining how the withdrawal was

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Lahore drops out of hazardous category

With an AQI of 295, which is termed "very unhealthy" the provincial capital today emerged as the second most polluted city in the world with India's New Delhi topping Swiss group IQ Air's ranking with an AQI of 751

DNA

LAHORE: Lahore's pollution levels on Sunday finally witnessed some improvement with its air quality index (AQI) dropping out of the "hazardous" level after registering extremely high levels toxins in the atmosphere for weeks as thick smog kept the megapolis shrouded. With an AQI of 295, which is termed "very unhealthy" – the provincial capital today emerged as the second most polluted city in the world with India's New Delhi topping Swiss group IQ Air's ranking with an AQI of 751. The city, home to its 14 million residents, has been facing the brunt of the worsening smog crisis that continues to engulf the province prompting authorities to take extraordinary measures to fight off smog. The crisis hits the most populous province of the country every winter, but air pollution has worsened in the recent years, as a result of cold air trapping dust, low-grade diesel fumes and smoke from illegal stubble burning on fields. The authorities have blamed the intensifying pollution crisis in Punjab

on neighbouring India, where the capital city New Delhi ranked as the most polluted city in the world. As Punjab continues to battle with spiraling air pollution – with various cities recording "unprecedented" levels of toxins in the air – Lahore's AQI remained well above the 300 mark the on the IQ Air's list of most polluted cities in the world. per the Swiss air quality monitor, anything above the 300 mark on the AQI is considered "hazardous". A day earlier, senior Punjab Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the senior minister said that all departments had been given specific targets to combat the menace. Her remarks came as schools across the province have closed with instructions to shift towards online classes. Other measures taken by the government include a 10-day ban on construction activities in the two worst smog-hit cities of Punjab, complete lockdown on the weekend (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays), restaurants limited to

takeaway services after 4 pm etc. The city's PM2.5 pollutants level was recorded at 220 µg/m – 44 times higher than the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines. However, the city is not the only one facing the adverse effects of smog as other cities including Multan (228), Peshawar (166), Rawalpindi (145), Islamabad (144) and Karachi (134) also reported "unhealthy" to "moderate" AQI levels. Traffic, visibility issues dense smog has had a severe effect on visibility which in turn forced the authorities to close down motorways on different points. M-2 motorway was closed from Lahore to Kot Momin, along with M-11 motorway connecting Lahore and Multan. According to Motorway police, other routes that were closed include M-3 (Lahore to Darkhana); M-4 (Pindi Bhattian to Multan) and M-5 (Multan to Sukkur). However, M-2 was later opened for all traffic, said the Motorway police spokesperson. The visibility issue even led to an accident in Kasur where a truck carrying bricks overturned resulting in one casualty. Motorway police have advised citizens to avoid unnecessary travel during fog hours, use fog lights and avoid speeding.



LAHORE: Spanish Parliamentary delegation led by Vicente Azpttarate Perez with Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan, Pakistan's Ambassador to Spain Zahoor Ahmed arrives for laying a wreath at the Mazar-e-Iqbal.

Low vaccine coverage during COVID causes rise in Diphtheria cases in KP

PESHAWAR :Low vaccine coverage during COVID-19 pandemic has caused rise in cases of Diphtheria as hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are receiving noticeable number of children infected with this rare and serious infection that usually affects mucous membranes of the nose and throat. The paediatric ward of KP's largest hospital, Lady Reading, is over crowded with children infected with Diphtheria, a vaccine preventable fatal infectious disease that is caused by the toxin-producing bacteria, *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. According to data, around 212 patients have arrived in Lady Reading Hospital till October month of current year 2024.

The situation further aggravates due to shortage of Diphtheria Antitoxin Serum (DAS), a medication made up of antibodies used in the treatment of complication in diphtheria patients. Complications in most of the cases are because of late arrival of patients to hospitals, says Dr. Amir Muhammad of Paediatric department LRH. The alarming situation in Diphtheria re-emergence is that around 80 percent patients are zero dose who have not received any vaccination, observed Dr. Amir Muhammad. "In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa total number of Diphtheria cases are around 383 till November 16, 2024 out of which around 26 patients died," informed Director Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Dr. Asghar Khan. —APP

Spanish delegation tours Lahore's historical sites

LAHORE: A delegation of the Spanish Senate Foreign Affairs Committee toured several historical landmarks of the city to explore its rich cultural heritage, here on Sunday. The distinguished guests visited several key sites, including the Lahore Museum, Badshahi Mosque, Royal Fort (Shahi Qila), the tomb of Allama Iqbal, and the Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. They deeply explored the city's rich cultural heritage, connecting with its history and traditions. The delegation's visit began at the Lahore Museum, where the Director of the Lahore museum, Nabeela Irfan, warmly welcomed the guests and presented them with souvenirs. On arrival, Research Officer Ihtisham Aziz Choudhry guided the delegation through the museum's various galleries. The visitors explored the Art Gallery, Historic Gallery, and the Indus Valley Gallery, where they were briefed on key archaeological finds from Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa, Cholistan, and other significant sites in the region. Museum's keeper paintings Uzma Usmani then led the guests through the Islamic Art Gallery, China Art Gallery, Gandhara Art Gallery, and Jain Temple Gallery, offering in-depth explanations of the exhibited artifacts. The delegation expressed great interest in the rich history showcased within the museum's walls. The Spanish delegates also visited the mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Upon arrival, the delegation was greeted by a ceremonial salute from the Rangers, who stood in formal guard. The guests paid their respects by placing a floral wreath at Mazar-e-Iqbal and signed the guest book with their impressions of the visit. The delegation proceeded to the Lahore Fort (Shahi Qila), where they received a detailed briefing from the Walled City Lahore Authority (WCLA) and Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) on the fort's various sections. The delegation toured key features of the fort, including the Painters' Garden, Royal Baths, Sheesh Mahal, Nolakha Pavilion, Barood Khana, and the Elephant Gate. The visitors also had the opportunity to take group photographs at various scenic locations within the fort. Later, the delegation visited the iconic Badshahi Mosque, where Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad welcomed them and provided a tour of the mosque's architectural and historical significance. The delegation marveled at the mosque's grandeur, a testament to Mughal architecture. The final stop on the delegation's tour was Gurdwara Dera Sahib, a sacred site associated with the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji. Facilitation Officer Aqsa briefed the guests about the historical importance of the Gurdwara and the surrounding area, including the Samadhis of Maharaja Khardak Singh, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and Samadhi Kunwar Nau Nihal Singh. During this visit, the Spanish Ambassador to Pakistan Zahoor Ahmed was also present.

Saif lauds services of Paraplegic Centre

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif visited the Paraplegic Centre Peshawar here Sunday and visited various sections and departments, including rehabilitation wards for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the physio gym, orthotics department, autism section, clubfoot clinic, occupational therapy gym and several other areas. Barrister Saif praised the Paraplegic Centre Peshawar as a unique national institution, providing exceptional rehabilitation services for PWDs in Pakistan and the neighboring country of Afghanistan. —APP

Court Notice

In the court of Shair Hassan Parvaiz Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat.

Title: Ch. Lal Khan, Verus Province of Punjab etc.

Notice to: Malik Adnan Sadeeq S/o. Muhammad Sadeeq R/o. Khanpur, Sohail Akram S/o. Muhammad Akram R/o. Kang Mirpur, Zain Zafar S/o. Zafar Iqbal R/o. Khanpur Khokhran Tehsil & District Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with consequential relief Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-11-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Plan for grafting of wild olive trees in Orakzai reviewed

DNA

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa program "Awami Agenda", visited Tribal District Orakzai where he reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming Spring Tree Plantation Drive. He also reviewed the large-scale systematic plantation of the olive trees and successful grafting of Wild Olive trees in the tribal district in the upcoming spring season starting after 2 months. Commissioner Kohat along-with the authorities concerned of the district administration and the Departments of Forests and Agriculture, made a detailed visit to the forests selected for grafting wild olive trees in different areas of the Orakzai. He also inspected the grafts planted in wild olive trees 3

months ago and congratulated the concerned staff for the extremely successful grafting. Commissioner Kohat beside visiting the areas that have been selected for planting olive trees and other new plants, also inspected the new nursery of 3,000 olive trees in the main government nursery of Orakzai which will be planted in the upcoming plantation campaign. In many areas, local landowners were also informed about the plan for new plantation and grafting of wild olives in the entire Kohat division under the Chief Minister's Program "Awami Agenda". It was further informed that in the spring campaign, more than 3 lakh plants will be grafted and millions of new plants will also be planted, which will protect the environment, forests and wildlife. Local elders and landowners appreciated this activity and assured their complete cooperation in this campaign. Later,

the commissioner directed the authorities concerned to make micro-planning for this plantation and grafting campaign on the lines of the polio campaign, which will be submitted in writing in the 1st week of December. Voluntary Grafting Training Sessions will also be organized for students in all the boys' high schools and colleges so that the students become familiar with forests, environment, and plants and every youth becomes a protector of the environment and plants. The Department of Agriculture and Forests will also organize training programs in plantation and grafting for ordinary landowners and volunteers in forest areas throughout Kohat Division under the supervision of the district administration.

Commissioner Kohat and the deputy commissioners of the concerned districts will personally supervise this process.

Efforts afoot to promote higher education in KP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi has said that the provincial government is making sincere efforts to promote higher education and his visits to various colleges and universities are a step toward this direction. His visits to the entire province are aimed at spreading awareness regarding problems of colleges and universities by taking concrete steps towards this end, he added. He expressed these views during a briefing given to him at the Government Post Graduate College Karak regarding all colleges of the district. Earlier, he was also given a detailed briefing at the Khushal Khan Khattak University Karak. On this occasion, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major (R) Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal, Shahid Khattak MNA, Chairman DDAC Karak Khurshid Ahmed Khattak, the party's district leadership and the principals of male and female colleges were also present. The minister was informed about the performance of 6 males, 4 females and a Commerce college of Karak district. Meena Khan declared that there can be no compromise on the quality of education and teacher attendance adding that teachers must deliver to their utmost capacity. He expressed deep regret that despite the presence of PhDs and highly qualified teachers in government colleges, their poor performance in comparison to the private colleges is a question mark because private educational institutions do not have the qualified manpower like government institutions. The provincial minister, while talking on the transfer policy, said transfers must be purely merit-based. There is no question of disobeying the transfer orders and everyone has to implement it or else they will have to go home, he warned. Regarding the electricity problems in colleges, he said that this problem is prevalent in the entire province and to solve this crucial issue, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has already launched a Solarization Project costing Rs.20 billion, which will solve the electricity problems of all educational institutions including government offices. The education minister resolved most of the minor issues on the spot with the mutual cooperation of the elected local leadership of Karak District, while directing those other issues be sent in the form of a formal summary.—DNA

Lok Mela lifeline for country's fading crafts

ISLAMABAD: The lively Lok Mela festival has evolved from a celebration into a vital support system for the country's diminishing traditional crafts, allowing artisans nationwide to display their creations, earn recognition, and preserve their ancestral legacies. Lok Mela stands as a beacon of hope in a rapidly modernizing world where centuries-old crafts often face the risk of extinction. This year, a significant number of young artisans graced the festival, many of whom were apprentices learning the trade under the tutelage of their elders. Participation of these artisans has reflected a growing interest among the youth in preserving the cultural treasures of their regions. Samia Inam, a wholesale cloth entrepreneur, shared her journey of employing women from Bahawalpur to produce exquisite

hand-embroidered garments. Her dresses, ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000, exemplify intricate craftsmanship. While buyers increasingly lean towards branded outfits, Samia believes the uniqueness and durability of hand embroidery are regaining popularity. However, she noted a disparity in earnings, with artisans from remote areas working for minimal wages while sellers earn significant profits. Naeem Soomro, a Kashigir from Hala, Sindh, captivated visitors with his display of Kashi Kari products such as jars, vases, and fountains. This ancient art form, traditionally limited to blue and white colored designs, has evolved with vibrant colors to meet modern demand. While Naeem takes pride in continuing his family's legacy, he lamented the intense labor required and the younger generation's waning interest in the craft.

Yet, training centers in Hala are striving to keep the art alive for local and international markets. While Lok Mela provides a vital platform for artisans, many expressed concerns about low profitability, lack of patronage, and diminishing interest among the younger generation. But still, events like these bring hope, connecting craftspeople with larger audiences and opening doors to new opportunities. Shahid Hussain of Khairpur is preserving the craft of 'Lungi and Khes weaving', a legacy handed down by his mother, Siyani Khatoon who is a Civil Award recipient. Despite the admiration for handmade shawls, Shahid faces declining demand due to the availability of cheaper, machine-made alternatives. He emphasized the need for government support to ensure the survival of these labor-intensive yet culturally significant crafts. Rai-

ban Baloch from Balochistan brought a unique touch to the Lok Mela with her stall of date-leaf products, including table mats, baskets, and pen holders. Having earned over Rs. 60,000 throughout the event, she highlighted the arduous nature of her craft and the reluctance of her children to continue this unprofitable tradition. Denaar from Chitral at a stall featured Kalashi handmade caps, dresses, and ornaments, items admired for their uniqueness worldwide. She expressed concern over the economic viability of such crafts, advocating for their promotion in larger markets while encouraging the younger generation to prioritize education alongside cultural preservation. For many young artisans, Lok Mela is not just a marketplace but it is an affirmation of their value in preserving Pakistan's cultural identity. The recog-

niton and appreciation they receive at the festival boosts their morale and their commitment to crafts. Pakistan's cuisine For Noore-Sahar, a student from Kashmir said, Lok Mela provided her first taste of entrepreneurship. Her stall featuring Kashmiri tea, kulchas, and homemade cupcakes drew overwhelming praise. Inspired by her initial success, Noor is planning to continue blending her academic pursuits with her passion for showcasing Kashmiri culinary culture through such platforms.

Amir Hamza, a young boy from Peshawar expressed his passion for designing handmade jewelry, including earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and rings. Despite modern trends, these intricate pieces continue to attract customers, reinforcing the timeless charm of traditional craftsmanship.—DNA

Campaign against subpar meat concluded

DNA

PESHAWAR :The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority has successfully concluded an eight-day special campaign against subpar and hazardous meat, seizing and disposing of thousands of kilograms of unfit meat and imposing hefty fines on violators. According to details provided by the

Authority's spokesperson on Sunday, over 1,839 inspections were carried out across the province during the campaign. The operations included rigorous inspections of butcher shops and slaughterhouses, as well as the establishment of checkpoints on key routes to inspect meat transportation vehicles. A total of 5,038 kilograms of substandard meat, including beef, mutton, chicken, liver,



and other products, was confiscated and discarded. Divisional-wise breakdown revealed that 1,020 kg of substandard meat was seized in Peshawar Division, 55 kg in Hazara, 240 kg in Mardan, 3,050 kg in Bannu, 272 kg in Kohat, and 498 kg in Malakand. The Authority took strict action under the Food Safety Act, issuing heavy fines and warning notices to those involved.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

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

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Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

PAEI, PAEA sign MoU to facilitate business interaction

In the memorandum of understanding, it was reiterated to increase trade and economic cooperation. The purpose of the agreement is to facilitate business interaction by organizing exhibitions, business conferences, and business-related events

DNA

ISLAMABAD :A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry and Pakistan Alternative Energy Association yesterday. . On behalf of Pakistan Association, Former founder Chairman Khurshid Barlas, Vice Chairman Kashif Waheed, Shamraz Iqbal, Hira Amir and on behalf of Pakistan Alternative Energy Association Abdul Nasir Rahman, Senior Vice Chairman, Abdul Salim Khan, Executive Director, Mir Ahmad Shah Secretary. General attended the meeting. The MoU was signed by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Vice Chairman Kashif Waheed and Pakistan Alternative



native Energy Association Senior Vice Chairman Abdul Saleem Khan and documents were also exchanged. In the

memorandum of understanding, it was reiterated to increase trade and economic cooperation. The purpose of the

agreement is to facilitate business interaction by organizing exhibitions, business conferences, and business-related events.

In view of the need to develop this reliable, practical and beneficial relationship between the two organizations, effective and cordial relationship between the two organizations was initiated through increased cooperation between the business people of the two organizations. The parties agreed to this That the Parties will organize direct (B2B) meetings with delegations on the improvement of trade, business, friendly policies and contact for exchange of information and cooperation and proposals. The parties shall ensure participation of each other's business community in national and international conferences. Both parties shall take appropriate measures to publicize events related to their activities

Education central route to development : Khalid

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has said, education is the sole path to Development of the country. He expressed these words while addressing as chief guest at the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Sindh Chapter, held in Karachi on Sunday. The minister emphasized that education is not only a necessity of the times but also the first commandment of our religion. He warned that if we fail to align ourselves with the demands of the present era and do not strive to change ourselves, external forces will impose their changes upon us. Federal Minister for Education and Vice-Chancellor AIU has distributed degrees to passed out students and the students with outstanding performance were awarded gold medals. Congratulating the graduates, the Federal Minister emphasized that their success is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the quality education provided by Allama Iqbal Open University, along with the efforts and competence of its teachers. He remarked that the fast-changing world has transformed everything, and those who fail to adapt are left behind, as even divine intervention does not aid those unwilling to change themselves. Highlighting Pakistan's youth as both an opportunity and a challenge, he noted that 65% of the country's population comprises young people, equating to approximately 180 million youth. Pakistan's cuisine He urged them to adapt to contemporary changes to contribute effectively to the country's progress. The Minister gave special congratulations to the gold medal recipients, stating that their medals are a source of pride for the nation. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nasir Mahmood mentioned that AIU has 10 regional campuses in Sindh, with around 44,000 students currently enrolled. He revealed that approximately five million students have graduated from the university to date, claiming that there is hardly a household in Pakistan without a student or graduate of AIU. Dr. Nasir highlighted that AIU's educational scope is no longer confined to Pakistan, with students from 36 countries pursuing education at this prestigious institution. He congratulated the graduates, saying, "This university is yours, and you are our pride. Let us contribute to the progress of this nation."—DNA

CDA hospital hosts World Diabetes Day awareness event

ISLAMABAD: Capital Hospital, Islamabad, observed World Diabetes Day with an awareness event organised by its Endocrinology Department to highlight the rising prevalence of diabetes and the importance of prevention. The event featured prominent medical professionals, including Executive Director Dr. Naeem Taj, Head of Endocrinology Dr. Sarwar Malik, and other specialists. In his keynote address, Dr. Naeem Taj described diabetes as a global health challenge and stressed the need for public education. "Our focus is on raising awareness and encouraging preventive measures to combat this growing issue," he said. Dr. Sarwar Malik detailed the symptoms, types, and significance of early diagnosis, emphasising the importance of timely treatment to prevent complications. Other speakers, including Dr. Hina Inayat and Dr. Maria Shafi, provided practical advice on lifestyle changes and advancements in diabetes care. Dr. Taj concluded the event by reaffirming the hospital's commitment to offering education and preventive services to help reduce the community's diabetes burden.—DNA

COP 29 delegates appreciated the work of afforestation & wildlife in Pakistan

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD :The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29), held under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), brought together global leaders, experts, and stakeholders to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change. Pakistan's active participation in COP 29 highlighted the nation's commitment to combating environmental degradation and advancing sustainable practices. Among the participants, the Forest Officers of Pakistan played a significant role, showcasing initiatives and achievements in addressing climate-related challenges within the country. Pakistan's delegation at COP 29 included key forest and wildlife officials who played an instrumental role in presenting the country's environmental initiatives and achievements.

Niaz Kakar, Project Director for Wildlife in Balochistan, Riaz Wagan, Chief Conservator of Sindh, Haider Raza Khan, Project Director from Sindh, Shehzad Sadiq, Forest Officer from Sindh. These officials not only represented Pakistan's efforts in environmental conservation but also contributed to discussions on global strategies for addressing climate change. Their expertise and practical experience underscored the importance of regional initiatives in achieving broader climate goals. Balochistan has increased the number of wildlife reserves and sanctuaries, ensuring the preservation of endangered species such as the Markhor (national animal) and the Houbara Bustard. Local communities have been involved in conservation programs, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility toward protecting wildlife. Combating Illegal Poaching: Stringent measures have been

implemented to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade, contributing to the recovery of vulnerable species. Sindh's coastal belt is home to some of the most extensive mangrove forests in the region, particularly in the Indus Delta. Mangroves serve as critical buffers against coastal erosion, storm surges, and saline water intrusion, while also acting as carbon sinks. The efforts of Riaz Wagan, Haider Raza Khan, and Shehzad Sadiq in enhancing mangrove conservation have garnered international recognition. Pakistan's participation in COP 29, highlighted by the contributions of its forest and wildlife officers, reflects the nation's commitment to combating climate change and preserving its natural resources. The achievements in wildlife conservation in Balochistan and mangrove restoration in Sindh serve as inspiring examples of how targeted efforts can make a tangible difference.

Railway passengers increased by 6.51m

ISLAMABAD: Around 41.91 million passengers traveled by train during 2023-24 compared to 35.40 million in 2022-23 – an increase of 6.51 million in the annual count, according to the data of Pakistan Railways. Pakistan's cuisine According to the data, a total passenger earning in the fiscal year 2023-24 was Rs. 47.712 billion, exceeding the budgetary target by a margin of Rs. 8.712 billion. Besides, there is an increase in earnings by Rs. 13.799 billion as compared to the earnings of the previous financial year 2022-23. The revenue generated through other means in the fiscal year 2023-24 was Rs. 39.803 billion which includes freight, military traffic, property and land, scrap and others, it added. The railway authorities are hopeful that the number of railway

passengers will rise further during the upcoming year. Pakistan Railways has made special arrangements to facilitate passengers at stations and in trains en-route including provision of state-of-the-art dining cars, mobile charging sockets are provided in coaches and provision of water dispensers in coaches to provide clean drinking water to passengers. Besides this, the department has installed Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) for purchasing tickets, information counters to guide and facilitate passengers, digital display boards for arrival and departure of trains and provision of wheel chairs and ramps for disabled people. To improve the punctuality of trains, Pakistan Railways is removing speed restrictions through special maintenance of track,

signaling system is being improved through computerized interlocking and installation of solar system, locomotive failures are being removed through timely maintenance and new passenger coaches are being inducted. Redressal of passenger complaints, the department has established a state-of-the-art call center under Railway Automated Booking and Travelling Assistance (RABTA), passengers can also lodge their complaints on Pakistan Railways' website and complaint registers are also provided at stations and in trains so that the passengers can lodge their complaints. "If a contractor is found selling substandard products, they are fined and issued a warning. Upon receiving three fines, the contractor's agreement with Pakistan Railways is terminated," it added.—APP

Students of Cantt Public School Saham visit Muree

RAWALPINDI: On the special instructions of DG ML&C Major General Irfan Ahmed Malik, students of various public educational institutes including Cantt Public School Saham were taken on a successful educational tour to Muree. The purpose of the tour was to enhance the image of the cantonment schools and to expose the students to the environment outside the classroom. The school students were taken to churches, TV station in Convent School Bhuri, Muree Arts Council, and the Wildlife Department, and were introduced to the beautiful tourist attractions of Muree. The purpose of the tour was to increase other activities along with education for the students. The students were also taken to the scenic places of Muree. On this occasion, the school students thanked DG ML&C for organizing a special trip for the students, which provided opportunities for sightseeing along with studies. The students said that visiting other tourist places along with education will further enhance the knowledge of the children.—APP

IMCG I-8/4 holds investiture ceremony of student council

ISLAMABAD: An active student council serves as a liaison between the students and the administration of an institution. Islamabad model college for girls I-8/4 holds the Investiture Ceremony of Student Council for the year 2024-25. The honorable Principal Prof Shagufta Awaiz grace the occasion as chief guest. Worthly parents of the Executive Council members also attended the auspicious ceremony. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and translation followed by Naat-e-Rasul-Maqbool (SAW). The stage secretary threw light on the academic and co-curricular achievements of the college in the past academic session. She also highlighted the role of the Student Council in organizing the Inter-House and Inter-Collegiate competitions. The chief guest took the Oath from the newly elected President Javeria Ived, Vice President Aliya Iman, General Secretary Sadia Noor, Finance Secretary Ayesha Noor Head Girl Zoya Deputy Head Girl Zubaisha.—APP

Pakistan, China needed to share each other's experience for disaster response

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan, as close neighbors with frequent natural disasters, must ensure that we learn from each other's experience, achieve technology transfer, and train machinery, equipment and skilled labor in the field of disaster response." This was stated by Shoaib Kiani, Assistant Professor at the University of Karachi's Institute of Marine Science during an interview with Gwadar Pro He believes that since the two countries have a lot in common in terms of topography and ecology, the right strategy implemented in one country is likely to bring good results in the other. China's green organizations, especially those engaged in green technology, organic sustainable agriculture, sustainable aquaculture, ecological restoration, hydrology and the like, should be invited to Pakistan to actively explore opportunities to achieve the goal of a community with a shared future for mankind. Meanwhile, Andersen, Executive Director of the UNEP stated that the prevailing situation of Indus River is extremely worrying and immediate steps are needed for properly managing it in order to save lives. Pakistan has seen heartbreaking climate-induced disasters in recent years, causing destruction on a scale that no country can or should accept," Inger Andersen said, according to Gwadar Pro. "It is therefore important to recognize and support projects like the Surviving Indus initiative, which can bring hope and resilience to Pakistan and the region," he added. "Shoaib Kiani added that before Living Indus, there was no any comprehensive plan to manage the Indus. Without strong intervention, the river will soon degrade to such an extent that it is doubtful whether it will continue to exist. "If we hope the Indus to continue flowing for the benefit of future generations, programs like Living Indus are our only hope." Following devastating floods caused by climate change in 2022, Pakistan's parliament approved the Living Indus Initiative and formally launched it at COP27. The initiative recognizes the Indus River as a living entity with rights. It has been recognized as a World Flagship for Restoration, which is part of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and recognizes initiatives that help protect and restore the natural world.—APP



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Briefs

IRSA
releases
105,700
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 105,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 52,900 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1510.84 feet and was 112.84 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 26,500 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1170.35 feet, which was 120.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,600 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 65,000, 47,300, 37,200 and 5,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 12,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Mushahid
welcomes
Trump
resolve to
contain
'Deep State'

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed has welcomed Donald Trump's election as US President, terming it, as good for world peace and also welcomed his resolve to control the US 'Deep State'. In a keynote address at the 'Margalla Dialogue', he also defined the 'red lines' in Pakistan's national security and foreign policy, listing these as the nuclear/missile programs, Occupied Kashmir & Palestine, China/CPEC, rejection of Indian hegemony and refusal to be part to any destabilisation of Iran. Pakistan's cuisine Referring to the conference themed 'Emerging Global Realities', he cited new realities as retrenchment of Western and American power with diminished clout, the peaceful rise of China and resurgence of the Global South, with the likely emergence of Muslim Middle Powers like Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia playing pivotal regional roles in the coming decade. Mushahid Hussain praised Donald Trump as the first US President since John Kennedy who's not a representative of the American security establishment, which, he said, tried to block Trump in this election. He also welcomed President Trump's resolve to contain the US 'Deep State' which had been active in fomenting unrest, destabilisation and regime change in developing countries. Mushahid Hussain also called for a regional reset in Pakistan's foreign policy, urging the government not to unilaterally beg India for trade, talks and cricket matches, build better friction-free ties with Afghanistan and Iran, and alleviate Chinese concerns on Terrorism.—APP

Business community, Police
for combating crimes together

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted that Islamabad's business community has always been proactive in improving law and order. He remarked that police and security play a fundamental role in the development and prosperity of any region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To improve law and order in Islamabad, the police and the business community have agreed to mutual cooperation and measures to enhance the city's security, combat crimes and drug abuse, and curb theft and robbery incidents. For consultation and decision-making, an 8-member committee comprising City Circle Police Islamabad and market presidents will be formed. This agreement was reached during a meeting of the business community chaired by Chairman Clean and Green Islamabad Movement, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President All Traders Welfare Association Blue Area, Raja Hassan Akhtar, and Group Leader Yousaf Rajput. The meeting was attended by SP City Khalid Awan, SDPO City Khan Muhammad Baloch, Haji Naeem, Atique Khan, Chaudhry Imran, Sarfraz Khan, Zubair Kayani, Imran Shahid, Tahmas Butt, Hameed Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur-Rehman, and other traders. SP City assured the business community of full support from the police, stating that patrolling in Blue Area and other commercial hubs would be increased. Strategies will be devised in collaboration with traders to prevent mobile snatching and other crimes.



He acknowledged the vital role of the business community in national development and emphasized that together, challenges to law and order will be addressed effectively to make Islamabad a safe city. Search and combing operations are ongoing, and further improvements will be made. He also assured that business activities in Islamabad would not be disrupted by protests. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted that Islamabad's business community has always been proactive in improving law and order.

He remarked that police and security play a fundamental role in the development and prosperity of any region. He appreciated the collaboration between traders and police, considering it crucial for ensuring secure and stable commercial activities in the city. He expressed confidence that with SP Khalid Awan's extensive experience in Islamabad, security in the city would see significant improvements. He suggested increasing police patrolling on Fazal-e-Haq Road during evening

hours and reaffirmed the business community's support for police efforts, emphasizing collective action to make Islamabad a safe, clean, and green city. Raja Hassan Akhtar stated that Islamabad's business community would play an active role in crime prevention alongside the police. He welcomed the increase in police patrolling as a positive step. Yousaf Rajput emphasized that ensuring the security of the business community is a critical need of the hour and proposed estab-

lishing a permanent framework for collaboration between police and traders to ensure sustainable peace in the city. Haji Naeem noted that all stakeholders would work together to enhance Islamabad's law and order, providing a safe and peaceful environment for citizens. He called for an increase in police personnel, focused efforts on controlling encroachments, thefts, and robberies, and extended readiness to cooperate with institutions for the city's betterment.

PRCS, RCS
for fostering
stronger ties

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari met President of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, Dr Novruz Aslanov, at the National Headquarters of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society. According to a press release issued by PRCS AJK Chapter, Afaq Huseynzada Coordinator to Karabakh Regional Centre and Ms Jeyhun Mirzayev, Sajjad Ali Kandhir and Ms Maryam were also present on the occasion, it added. The meeting marked the first-ever interaction between the two National Societies, symbolizing a significant milestone in fostering stronger ties. Both leaders expressed their enthusiasm for this inaugural engagement and discussed the potential for collaborative initiatives aimed at addressing humanitarian challenges in their respective countries. Chairman Laghari briefed Dr. Aslanov on PRCS's extensive humanitarian work across Pakistan, particularly the organization's response to the devastating monsoon floods of 2022. He highlighted the ongoing recovery programs, which include shelter provision, livelihood support, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, and cash assistance for flood-affected families. Expressing his delight at the meeting, President Dr. Novruz Aslanov praised the impactful work of PRCS under Chairman Laghari's leadership, particularly in responding to natural disasters and crises.—APP

DIG orders
patrolling units
to enhance
crime control
efforts

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Syed Ali Raza on Sunday emphasized Islamabad Police commitment to eradicating crime during a briefing to the officers of the Dolphin Squad, Ababeel Squad, and Anti-Riot Unit (ARU). During the briefing, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza tasked the officers with their respective duties and recognized the efforts of police officers who had performed exceptionally in recent days, awarding them commendation certificates and rewards, a public relations officer told APP. DIG Ali Raza assured the officers, "Your dedication and hard work will not go in vain. Together, we will ensure the safety of this city and its residents while eliminating criminal elements." Make all patrolling units more effective in curbing crime," said DIG Syed Ali Raza.—APP

BMP asks govt to
announce clear
economic strategies

BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government will have its work sharply cut out as far as the economic challenges are concerned

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has called upon the government to announce clear and robust economic strategies, as the country has stuck in low economic growth situation, where double-digit policy rate for the last few years has diminished capacity to increase domestic production, and exports, negatively impacting domestic resource mobilization. FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government will have its work sharply cut out as far as the economic challenges are concerned. Coming at the back of fast-unfolding climate change crisis that pushed millions into poverty with little fiscal capacity of government to provide anywhere near close to what was needed in stimulus spending. Then there is acute debt distress, and seriously high inflation at the back of global aggregate supply shock, and accentuated by a world of rising conflicts, mainly in Ukraine, and the Middle East. They emphasized that such transparency from the government is crucial, as the country has had trouble raising enough money to cover its expenses. He said that the domestic investment at the moment is alarmingly low which has sent a negative signal to the potential foreign investors and now is the time that the federal government should give some patient hearing to the private sector calling. They said if the government was seriously desirous of having economic turnaround in the coming years it would have to do two things that are: an immediate freeze on domestic and foreign borrowing and secondly put in place a well-tailored strategy to show-case Pakistan's potentials to the outer world.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A visitor learning to spin a spinning wheel during Lok Mela festival, at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.

Pakistan, China academicians participate
in Bio-health agriculture moot

DNA

BEIJING: The 6th International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health Agriculture and China-SCO National Bio-Health Agriculture Overseas Science and Technology Demonstration Park Construction Forum was held at Northwest A&F University (NWAU), China in the recent week. Professor Mush-taq Ahmad from Quaid-i-Azam University, a member of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Professor Zhang Lixin from NWAU served as chairmen of the conference. Co-organizers include but not limited to the Silkroad (Yangling) Bio-health Agricultural Industry Alliance (SBHAIA), the Sino-Pak Research Center for Agro-Biological Resources, the Sino-Pak Agricultural Cooperation and

Exchange Center, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan, Shaanxi Hybrid Rapeseed Research Center. According to Gwadar Pro, more than 200 representatives home and abroad, from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Czech Republic, Iran, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, participated in the forum offline and online. In a keynote speech, Luo Jun, Vice President of NWAU, noted that all parties availed the opportunity to discuss the theme of promoting food safety through agricultural biodiversity and smart multifunctional agriculture. Matters also came under discussion for promoting the development of biodiversity, green and smart agriculture through scientific and technological collaboration among countries along the Belt and Road Initiative. "Meanwhile, researches

involved potential crops, Chinese medicinal materials and energy plant varieties, and built a technical system for biodiversity and ecological restoration, bio-health agricultural product production, and agricultural environmental governance are proceeding orderly, thus achieved rich results," Luo added. Agriculture is Pakistan's economic pillar. Through holding such seminar, China and Pakistan should accelerate the cooperation process in agricultural talent training, establishment of joint laboratories, construction of demonstration parks, and development of smart agriculture," emphasized Khan Muhammad Wazir, Scientific Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China. Professor Zaba Khan Shinwari, President of Federal Urdu University of Science and Technology, Pakistan, and Professor Shukhrat

Shokirov, Vice President of Tashkent University of Water Resources and Agricultural Machinery Engineering, Uzbekistan, also expressed earnest desire and specific suggestions to strengthen China-Pakistan and China-Uzbekistan agricultural cooperation with NWAU in their speeches. A total of 20 keynote reports on biodiversity, production of bio-healthy agricultural products, as well as green and smart agriculture, has been delivered by Chinese and Pakistani representatives. They included Professor Mushtaq Ahmad, Professor Muhammad Ishtiaq Ali, Professor Zaba Khan Shinwari, Professor Shah Nawaz Mari, Professor Hafiz Saad Bin Mustafa, Senior Researcher Shazia Sultana, Associate Professor Shabana Memon, Researcher Guo Rui from Shaanxi Aerospace Breeding Engineering Technol-

ogy Research Center, Jia Shuhao, Cloud Solution Architect of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., and Dai Bao, Deputy General Manager of China Machinery Industry Engineering Group's Pakistan subsidiary. "Bio-health Agriculture" (BHA) was put forward by Professor Zhang Lixin, NWAU in 2017 at the first International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health. It referred to the use of biological means for safe and high-quality agricultural production involving the sustainability of soil, plant, animal, human and ecosystem health, reducing or excluding external agricultural inputs, especially pesticides and synthetic fertilizers or other hazardous/toxic chemicals. During the five-day period, a sub-forum on healthy aquaculture and waste resource utilization has also been held.

33 criminals
arrested; drugs,
illegal weapons
seized

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Sunday apprehended 33 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including selling drugs, and possessing illegal weapons recovered huge cache of narcotics from their possession. A police spokesperson told APP that, the ICT Police Secretariat, Shahzad Town, Kohsar, Sangjani, Sabzi Mandi, Kirpa and Sihala police stations teams took legal action against accused involved in possessing illegal weapons. 33 criminals arrested; drugs, illegal weapons seized. He said the police team also arrested 19 accused namely Shah Faisal Khan, Abdur Rehman, Naeem, Farhan Ali, Gulam Habib, Zar, Sardar Khan, Syed Abbas, Rashid, Junaid and Farhad and recovered 11 pistols with ammunition from their possession.—APP

NUST, PAEC Hospital
join forces for enhanced
collaboration

Chairman emphasized NUST's commitment to fostering partnerships that contribute to national development

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) General Hospital formalised a strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Pakistan's signing ceremony, held at the NUST Main Office, brought together key representatives from both institutions, said a news release. The MoU aims to foster collaboration in education, research, and various other mutually beneficial activities. By combining their strengths, NUST and PAEC General Hospital seek to elevate healthcare standards and scientific advancements. Chairman PAEC, Dr Raja Ali Raza Anwar commended NUST's impressive achievements and academic reputation, particularly recognising the establishment of the NUST School of Health Sciences (NSHS). He emphasized that this partnership is a significant step towards realizing shared goals. The MoU was formally signed by Dr Abdul Majeed, Director PAEC General Hospital, and Professor Dr Rizwan Ashraf, Principal NSHS. The agreement outlines key areas of collaboration, including joint research initiatives, professional development and facilitating faculty and student exchange programs to foster knowledge sharing and cultural exchange. Rector NUST, Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari expressed his gratitude to the esteemed guests and highlighted the importance of this collaboration. He emphasized NUST's commitment to fostering partnerships that contribute to national development.—DNA

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ME peace & Trump

DONALD Trump's re-election as the US president earlier this month comes at a time of extreme volatility in the Middle East. The president-elect has promised to end all wars. In his usual impulsive and unpredictable manner, he has pledged to resolve the Ukraine conflict within 24 hours of taking office and help Israel finish its Gaza and Lebanon operations quickly. Yet the Middle East is a complex place. Trump will have much difficulty balancing his ardent support of Israel and his other ambitions in the region, especially given the changing dynamics between Iran and its rival, Saudi Arabia. Here's what Trump can expect when he takes office in a few months. Overshadowed by the US election was Qatar's announcement that it has paused its role as a ceasefire mediator between Israel and Hamas. The tiny, oil-rich emirate has worked hard over the past year to try to reach a deal to end the war. In the process, it made good use of its close relations with the United States, which has its largest Middle East military base in Qatar, and with Hamas, whose political leadership and office have been based in Doha. This, Qatar believed, would help it gain the confidence of the warring parties. However, its efforts did not produce anything more than a brief ceasefire last year, which resulted in the release of more than 100 Israeli hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners. There are several reasons for this. For one, the two sides cannot get past a couple of main sticking points. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has resolved to eliminate Hamas completely, ruling out a temporary truce. Hamas is demanding a complete end to the fighting and total Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza. Meanwhile, Washington has failed to play a meaningful role in the talks. While repeatedly emphasising its desire for a ceasefire, the Biden administration did not at any point put tangible pressure on Israel beyond diplomatic rhetoric. It has also refused to cut off military aid to Israel. Instead, it approved a US\$20 billion arms sale to Israel in August. This means Netanyahu has had no compelling reason to divert from his mission. As the chances of a Gaza ceasefire have faded, hopes have been raised about a Lebanon ceasefire. Washington has reportedly engaged in intensive diplomatic efforts to get Israel and Hezbollah to reach a common ground to end the fighting there. Israel wants Hezbollah to be disarmed and pushed back at least beyond the Litani River in southern Lebanon – about 30km (19 miles) north of the Israeli border – with a security zone to be established between the two. Israel wants to maintain the right to strike Hezbollah if necessary, which Lebanese authorities are likely to reject. Israel has considerably weakened Hezbollah in its bombing and ground invasion of southern Lebanon at the expense of massive civilian casualties. However, just as Israel has not been able to wipe out Hamas, it has so far not succeeded in crippling Hezbollah to the extent it would be forced to accept a ceasefire on Israel's terms. The militant group continues to possess sufficient political and military prowess to remain resilient. His electoral triumph has comforted Netanyahu's government to the extent that his finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, has asked the relevant authorities to prepare for the formal annexation of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Trump has been a committed supporter of Israel for a long time. During his first presidency, he recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordered the US embassy to move there. He also recognised Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967.



Cooperation and development

THE 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held on Saturday in Lima, the capital of Peru. President Xi Jinping will deliver an important speech at the meeting to elaborate on the significant measures taken by China to deepen reform and opening-up and propositions on advancing Asia-Pacific cooperation. This speech attracts widespread attention, not only because China is a key member of APEC, but also because promoting economic cooperation among countries across the Pacific through genuine multilateralism is people's shared aspiration in the region. This APEC meeting is themed "Empower, Include, Grow," placing a clear emphasis on the host's focus on regional unity and development, cooperation, and innovation. The three priority areas for discussion under the meeting's theme are trade and investment, innovation and digitalization, and sustainable growth. These align with the Putrajaya Vision 2040 adopted at the 2020 APEC meeting, reflecting the body's pragmatic pursuit of goal-setting. Some analyses suggest that the selection of these topics indicates the host's intention to maximize consensus and foster more inclusive and resilient APEC cooperation, while avoiding unnecessary divisions in key areas. Indeed, in the face of unprecedented uncertainty, the APEC Lima meeting saw a high degree of consensus among participants. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim stated that cooperation with the Global South must be enhanced to "tap into the vast new potentials and opportunities." Vietnamese President LuongCuong stated, "Isolationists, protectionism and trade wars lead only to recession, conflict and poverty." This clearly demonstrates that promoting sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region through trade and investment remains at the core of APEC's activities. It has been noted that during the meeting, many parties sought dialogue with China, whose initiatives and proposals garnered considerable attention and discussion. This is a natural reflection of China's growing contributions to and influence within APEC and highlights the appeal of China's consistent commitment to APEC's principles and goals. Since joining APEC in 1991, China has consistently worked to promote the liberalization and facilitation of regional trade and investment, reducing its overall tariff level from 39.5 percent to 7.3 percent. It has become a major trade partner and export market for most APEC members and has maintained an open attitude toward trade arrangements that contribute to shared development and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. As the world's second-largest economy and the second-largest economy within APEC, China plays a critical role in fostering mutual development and prosperity through win-win cooperation. China's own development creates opportunities for growth and collaboration across the Asia-Pacific. Whether it's through the shared development path "from Chancay to Shanghai," the widespread implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative in the region, active participation in regional free trade agreements such as the RCEP, or its strong support for advancing the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific agenda, China consistently contributes to regional development and prosperity. These efforts align with the interests of many APEC economies, fostering mutual benefits and win-win outcomes.

Clearing the air: Bold steps to combat smog in Lahore

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The collective effect of these actions—reducing new licenses, incentivizing electric and hybrid vehicles, promoting public transport, and enforcing stricter traffic regulations—could contribute significantly to alleviating Lahore's pollution crisis. Each measure would reduce the demand for fuel imports, resulting in financial savings that could be redirected toward sustainable development initiatives. Additionally, lowering the incidence of pollution-related illnesses would decrease healthcare costs, further supporting the economy. In summary, Lahore's smog crisis calls for decisive action, with a particular focus on vehicle emissions

LAHORE, once celebrated as the city of gardens, is now shrouded in a thick layer of smog each winter, affecting every aspect of life from health to economy. This pollution crisis demands urgent, targeted interventions, particularly in managing vehicle emissions, which contribute significantly to air quality deterioration. Addressing Lahore's vehicle-driven pollution effectively could create a ripple effect, not only safeguarding public health but also enhancing economic resilience. The number of vehicles on the roads in Punjab is staggering. As of March 31, 2024, there are 7,353,659 vehicles registered in the province, with Lahore alone accounting for approximately 6.2 million. Among these, 4.2 million are motorcycles, which, despite being relatively fuel-efficient, contribute significantly to the city's pollution due to outdated technology and lack of proper maintenance. This overwhelming presence of vehicles plays a major role in Lahore's deteriorating air quality, producing pollutants like particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide that exacerbate the city's smog crisis. The impact of smog on public health has reached alarming levels. A recent report by the Punjab Health Department revealed that over 1.9 million people were hospitalized in Punjab due to smog in October alone. The report highlighted 1,934,030 cases of respiratory diseases, 119,533 cases of asthma, 13,773 heart-related ailments, and 5,184 strokes recorded across the province. These statistics underscore the severity of smog as a public health crisis. For Lahore residents, the persistent haze exacerbates respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, particularly affecting children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions. The increasing strain on healthcare facilities reflects the urgent need for measures to mitigate smog and its consequences. The economic costs of this pollution are equally substantial. Healthcare expenses rise as more citizens require treatment for pollution-related illnesses, and productivity declines as workers take sick leave more frequently. The economic toll extends beyond healthcare: vehicles operating in smoggy conditions often require more maintenance, and fuel consumption increases as engines run less efficiently in congested and polluted environments. For a city already grappling with infrastructure challenges, the added pressure from pollution-related issues strains its resources further.

From a broader economic perspective, Pakistan's reliance on imported petroleum and diesel to power Lahore's massive vehicle fleet aggravates the issue. The financial burden of these imports is significant, impacting Pakistan's trade deficit and draining resources that could be directed towards local development. Reducing fuel demand would alleviate some of this burden, freeing funds for initiatives that foster sustainable growth. A multi-faceted approach to tackling these issues is essential, and a critical first step could involve suspending the issuance of new driving licenses on a trial basis for one year. This measure aims to curb the influx of new private vehicles, reducing both road congestion and emissions. Such a suspension would discourage new purchases, thereby decreasing the demand for fuel and contributing to cleaner air. The benefits could be immediate, setting a precedent for how reduced vehicle use can impact air quality positively. Encouraging the use of electric and hybrid vehicles offers another promising solution. Hybrid and electric options produce significantly lower emissions, and incentives could make these vehicles more accessible to the general public. Subsidies, tax breaks, or reduced registration fees for such vehicles could drive a cultural shift in Lahore's transport habits, reducing reliance on fuel-intensive cars and fostering an eco-friendly ethos among city residents. Alongside promoting cleaner private vehicles, expanding Lahore's public transport system with electric or hybrid options could play a pivotal role in reducing pollution. A reliable, energy-efficient public transport system would provide an alternative to private car use, reducing emissions per capita. Such a system would also make commuting more affordable for citizens, especially those who may find the maintenance and fuel costs of private vehicles prohibitive. Public transport investments could reshape Lahore's urban landscape, promoting convenience and sustainability. Another effective policy could involve changes in government transport practices. If all government employees, from the highest-ranking officials to support staff, were encouraged to use official vehicles for transportation and deduct the associated costs from their salaries, it would optimize vehicle use and reduce overall fuel consumption. This measure would reduce the number of vehicles on the road, easing traf-

fic congestion and lessening emissions. Additionally, it would set an example of responsible resource management, illustrating how strategic policies can curb pollution. Further, enforcing strict traffic regulations modeled after those in the Middle East or Europe could prove beneficial. For instance, restricting vehicles to carry a minimum number of passengers during peak hours would reduce underutilized vehicles on the road. Ensuring a higher occupancy rate in cars could decrease the number of vehicles in operation at any given time, directly lowering emissions. These regulations, if implemented with consistency and rigor, could dramatically improve the city's air quality over time. Enhanced traffic enforcement would also be critical to the success of these measures. Traffic police could actively discourage the use of vehicles with fewer than four passengers, imposing fines or other deterrents to discourage unnecessary car usage. This initiative, when coupled with public awareness campaigns, would encourage citizens to adopt carpooling or alternative transport methods, lessening the strain on Lahore's roads and reducing emissions. The collective effect of these actions—reducing new licenses, incentivizing electric and hybrid vehicles, promoting public transport, and enforcing stricter traffic regulations—could contribute significantly to alleviating Lahore's pollution crisis. Each measure would reduce the demand for fuel imports, resulting in financial savings that could be redirected toward sustainable development initiatives. Additionally, lowering the incidence of pollution-related illnesses would decrease healthcare costs, further supporting the economy. In summary, Lahore's smog crisis calls for decisive action, with a particular focus on vehicle emissions. A combination of immediate interventions and long-term strategies is essential to create a cleaner, healthier environment. By curbing fuel consumption, optimizing vehicle use, and promoting sustainable alternatives, Lahore can move towards a future where economic growth aligns with environmental responsibility. The proposed measures offer a roadmap not only to reduce smog but to build a resilient, prosperous city where public health, economic stability, and environmental well-being reinforce one another. The journey may be challenging, but the rewards—clean air, healthy citizens, and a stronger economy—make it a path worth pursuing.

Did COP 29, like COP 27 & COP 28, conclude with speeches?

Mumtaz Ahmed Bhatti



These figures highlight the growing crisis of climate-induced migration, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations. Looking ahead, the World Bank estimates that by 2050, 216 million people could be internally displaced due to climate change. This massive displacement will strain social, economic, and political systems, particularly in under-resourced nations

THE 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) concluded with yet another set of promises, echoing the outcomes of COP 27 and COP 28. While the annual COP summits provide a unique platform for indigenous communities and under-resourced nations to address global leaders directly, their outcomes remain marred by the inaction and unfulfilled commitments of developed nations. These summits are vital opportunities to bridge the gap between policy and action, but without substantial contributions from the largest emitters, the fight against climate change remains largely rhetorical. Since its inception, the COP summits have been pivotal in bringing together nations to discuss and coordinate efforts to address climate change. These gatherings offer a rare platform where marginalized voices—such as indigenous populations and representatives of under-resourced nations—can engage directly with global superpowers. For these communities, COP is a critical space to highlight the disproportionate impact of climate change on their lives and advocate for equitable solutions. The effectiveness of COP lies in the implementation of its resolutions, and therein lies its greatest weakness. Many developed countries, which hold the lion's share of responsibility for historical and ongoing emissions, have failed to translate their commitments into tangible action. Instead, these summits often end in vague promises, leaving under-resourced nations to bear the brunt of climate impacts. The lack of urgency among developed nations to fulfill their climate-related financial commitments is a recurring theme at COP. At COP 27 and COP 28, significant pledges were made to support climate adaptation and mitigation in vulnerable countries. These promises remain largely unmet, underscoring a troubling pattern of insensitivity and inaction. For instance, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), established to assist developing nations, has consistently fallen short of its financial targets. While billions of dollars have been pledged, actual disbursements are delayed or significantly lower than promised. This financial shortfall severely hampers the ability of un-

der-resourced nations to invest in critical areas such as renewable energy, disaster resilience, and sustainable agriculture. Pakistan serves as a case study in resilience despite limited resources. Despite facing severe climate-induced challenges, including devastating floods in recent years, the country's forestry departments have demonstrated exemplary performance. Pakistan's success with initiatives like Upscaling Green Pakistan Program UGPP offers a blueprint for sustainable development. Such efforts require international support to scale and sustain their impact. Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is a present reality with dire consequences. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), one of the gravest effects of climate change is its potential to displace millions of people. In 2022 alone, approximately 32.6 million individuals were displaced within their own countries due to natural disasters, including floods, storms, and droughts. These figures highlight the growing crisis of climate-induced migration, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations. Looking ahead, the World Bank estimates that by 2050, 216 million people could be internally displaced due to climate change. This massive displacement will strain social, economic, and political systems, particularly in under-resourced nations. Developed countries, despite being major contributors to global warming, often remain insulated from the worst impacts. This illusion of safety is fleeting—climate change knows no borders and will ultimately affect all nations indiscriminately. Financial support is a cornerstone of effective climate action. Developed countries, as the primary contributors to global warming, have a moral and practical obligation to assist vulnerable nations in adapting to and mitigating climate impacts. Yet, the small amounts of funds pledged by these nations stand in stark contrast to the magnitude of the crisis. Adequate funding can enable under-resourced nations to invest in renewable energy infrastructure, build resilience to natural disasters, and implement sustainable development practices. Without this support, these countries are left to

fend for themselves, often at great human and economic cost. It is imperative that developed nations disburse the promised funds promptly and ensure their effective utilization. Limited resources, Pakistan has emerged as an example of effective climate action. The country's forestry departments have made remarkable strides in increasing forest cover and promoting sustainable practices. Initiatives like Upscaling Green Pakistan Program UGPP not only mitigate climate impacts but also create jobs, enhance biodiversity, and contribute to carbon sequestration. Pakistan's efforts demonstrate that meaningful action is possible even in resource-constrained settings. The fight against climate change demands collective action and accountability. All countries, irrespective of their economic status, must show seriousness and commitment to addressing this existential threat. This includes honoring financial commitments, implementing ambitious emissions reduction targets, and supporting vulnerable nations in their adaptation efforts. Developed countries, in particular, must recognize their historical responsibility and lead by example. This includes transitioning to clean energy, investing in sustainable technologies, and providing the necessary financial and technical assistance to under-resourced nations. Without such leadership, the goals of the Paris Agreement and other international climate frameworks will remain out of reach. COP 29, like its predecessors, ended with promises rather than decisive action. While the summit provides a crucial platform for dialogue and collaboration, its impact is limited by the inaction of developed nations. The urgency of the climate crisis demands immediate and sustained action, particularly from the largest emitters. The consequences of inaction are stark—millions displaced, ecosystems destroyed, and livelihoods lost. However, there is hope in the form of initiatives like Pakistan's reforestation efforts, which demonstrate the potential for resilience and innovation in the face of adversity. To realize this potential on a global scale, all nations must come together with a shared sense of purpose and accountability. Climate change is a universal threat, and only through collective action can we secure a sustainable future for all.

Briefs

ADB launches initiative...

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glaciers has been signed with ADB President Matsugu Asakawa and GCF Chief Investment Officer Henry Gonzalez. The signatories include COP29 President and Azerbaijan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mukhtar Babayev; Kazakhstan Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Yerlan Nyssanbayev; Kyrgyz Republic Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision Meder Mashiev; Tajikistan Committee on Environmental Protection Chairman Bahodur Sherlizoda; and Uzbekistan Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change Aziz Abdulkhakov. "As melting glaciers change waterflows, disrupt lives, and destroy ecosystems, we must act now," said Asakawa. "As Asia and the Pacific's climate bank, we are pleased to be joined by key partners to launch this programme to drive international collaboration and deliver results where they matter most — on the ground, in communities at risk," he added.

Hafiz Naeem calls for national...

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The direct impact of insecurity on our economy is undeniable. If we do not unite to resolve major issues, progress will remain a distant dream," Hafiz Naeem asserted. Criticizing the government's economic policies, he remarked, "The rising stock exchange doesn't translate into relief for the public. Industries are shutting down, electricity tariffs need immediate reductions, and the drama of deceiving people with fake promises must end." He also pointed out the lack of progress on taxing feudal elites and improving IT infrastructure, despite the sector's vast potential. The JI leader slammed the allocation of Rs 5 billion for 1,087 vehicles for government officials this year, questioning its justification amid economic hardships. Hafiz Naeem accused the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of engaging in a "mock battle" for political gains.

Fazl criticises KP for...

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severe hardships," he told reporters, alleging that the provincial government has placed politics above public welfare. "Their entire focus is on politics rather than on maintaining peace, which is wrong," he added. The JUI-F leader criticised the removal of Article 8 during the 26th Amendment, which he claims has opened the door for laws that infringe upon basic rights. "Following this amendment, legislation has been rushed that violates human rights," he said. According to Rehman, these laws permit authorities to detain anyone for up to 90 days without due process. "Such measures have created a climate where people feel like suspects within their own borders," Fazlur Rehman remarked, voicing concerns over the impact on civil liberties.

Mushahid welcomes...

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American security establishment, which, he said, tried to block Trump in this election. He also welcomed President Trump's resolve to contain the US 'Deep State' which had been active in fomenting unrest, destabilisation and regime change in developing countries. Mushahid Hussain also called for a regional reset in Pakistan's foreign policy, urging the government not to unilaterally beg India for trade, talks and cricket matches, build better friction-free ties with Afghanistan and Iran, and alleviate Chinese concerns on Terrorism. Mushahid Hussain concluded his keynote address by stating that 'Pakistan now has Strategic Space' in the region but the biggest challenge for Pakistan is the mindset of defeatism and fear.

De Jong's comeback bolsters Netherlands' UEFA Nations Cup ambitions

His last appearance for the Dutch came in European Championship qualifiers in September last year

SPORTS DESK

BRUSSELS: The return of midfielder Frenkie de Jong has come as a major boost for the Netherlands and given coach Ronald Koeman better options after qualifying for the Nations League quarter-finals. There was widespread praise for De Jong's performance in Saturday's 4-0 home win over Hungary which ensured a top-two finish in Group A3 and progress to the last eight. "You saw his qualities in a number of moments", said Koeman as De Jong made his long-awaited return. "He helped us to create a lot more chances." De Jong last played against Ireland in Dublin in a European Championship qualifier in September last year before an ankle injury ruled him out for six months, including Euro 2024 in Germany. He



had missed the last 18 Dutch internationals and only recently returned for his LaLiga club Barcelona. The 27-year-old De Jong showed his class in the first half with his passing game and control

of the midfield before being substituted in the 68th minute. "You can see from everything he did that he is a great player. Maybe he is not yet at his best, but he reads the game very quickly. You can play football with him so easily," said former Dutch international Rafael van der Vaart, a pundit on Dutch NOS television. De Jong told reporters, however, that he was still well short of his best. "I still need some time to really get into top form," said De Jong. "After an injury, I usually felt I would get back into form quickly, now after this injury that is really different." There were two heavy tackles in Saturday's match which would have left Dutch supporters anxious. "It's not unstable, but it is still sensitive at certain moments," De Jong said of his ankle. "You have to regain your confidence completely. That only comes from playing matches, and then hopefully the pain will go away by itself."

England must be careful to retain culture: Harry Kane

LONDON: Harry Kane says England must be careful not to lose the strong team culture they have built following his criticism of players pulling out of the squad. Nine of the players called up by interim head coach Lee Carsley withdrew from the squad on Monday before Nations League games against Greece and the Republic of Ireland. In an interview with ITV leading up to England's 3-0 win in Greece, captain Kane said he was unhappy about the amount of withdrawals, adding: "England comes before club." Before Sunday's encounter with the Republic of Ireland, the striker, 31, spoke to the media. He said: "I probably didn't expect it to get as much coverage as it did, but it was my opinion. "The November camp has always been a difficult camp. Even if you look at other years, other players have pulled out. It's a tough stage of the season." Former England manager Gareth Southgate transformed the culture within the national team and led the Three Lions to consecutive European Championship finals and a World Cup semi-final in 2018 during his tenure. Kane said such a culture "takes a long time to build and maybe not so long to lose if you're not careful". He added the autumn camps after a major tournament "get forgotten about a little bit", but are "really important". England will be promoted to League A if they beat the Republic of Ireland in Sunday's Nations League match at Wembley. "If we win, it sets us up really well for the year ahead going into the [2026] World Cup," said Bayern Munich forward Kane. "These are the camps where you build that culture and togetherness that lead you into the World Cup. It is just a reminder that playing for England is really, really special. "For me personally it is one of the greatest things I do



as a professional footballer." Thomas Tuchel takes over as England boss on 1 January and Kane said it was up to the experienced players to pass on the message about team culture to the younger ones in the national set-up. "I'm sure Thomas will come in and have ideas and ways he wants to build his culture," added Kane. "Ultimately we have had some really good tournaments and it's about sharing those experiences with the players who haven't had as much exposure to that." Kane was dropped in favour of Ollie Watkins for the win over Greece before replacing the Aston Villa striker on 66 minutes. The former Tottenham forward, who is set to start against the Republic of Ireland, said he was "a little bit" shocked at being dropped by Carsley. "I've made it clear that I want to start every game," said Kane. "I want to try to help the team. I understood his decision. But it was new for me." Speaking to BBC Radio 5 Live, Kane added: "Ultimately I'm here because I'm one of the top players in the world at the moment. Times I feel like there's a perception maybe I'm just here because I'm the captain, but it's not the case. I'm in the best form I've been in in my career." The match against the Republic of Ireland will be Carsley's last in his interim role. The 50-year-old has given six debuts during his five matches in charge and has leaned heavily on players he knows from his time as manager of under-21s side. Curtis Jones, Lewis Hall and Morgan Rogers all made their debut as an inexperienced England side convincingly beat Greece. "They have the mentality to compete and now the challenge for them is to stay in the squad," said Carsley. "There's that many quality players around and the competition is so extreme that they have got to make sure they stay in the race." Carsley also added he will catch up with Tuchel after the current camp to "talk through the players" and share his thoughts and experience. — Agencies

Wales aim to avoid new record low against Australia

LONDON: Wales will sink to an all-time results low in their 143-year international rugby history if they lose to Australia in Cardiff. Defeat against Fiji last weekend saw Wales equal a run of 10 Test losses set under Warren Gatland's fellow New Zealander Steve Hansen in 2002 and 2003. Lose to the Wallabies and Warren Gatland's side will be the first Wales side to suffer 11 consecutive international defeats. Since beating Georgia at the World Cup in October 2023, Wales have been topped by Argentina, Scotland, England, Ireland, France, Italy, South Africa, Australia (twice) and Fiji. With world champions South Africa looming on 23 November, Wales could go through a whole calendar year without winning a Test, which they have not experienced since 1937 when they lost three games in that 12 months. Since returning for a second stint as Wales boss prior to the 2023 Six Nations, Gatland has overseen just six wins from 22 Tests. Wales finished bottom of the Six Nations this year for the first time since 2003 and have slipped to their lowest position of 11th in the world rankings. This downturn starkly contrasts with his first 12-year spell which delivered World Cup semi-final appearances, Six Nations titles, Grand Slams and briefly world number one status. Critics, including former Wales players Mike Phillips, Tom Shanklin, Dan Biggar and Welsh Rugby Union non executive independent board member Jamie Roberts, have taken aim at Gatland leading up to Australia's Principality Stadium visit, and media duties included a number of questions about his future. The 61-year-old says he has not thought about stepping away and that he is comfortable with any decisions which might be made. He knows though that his Wales side need a win like never before. — Agencies



Aqib likely to become white-ball head coach

Javed is currently a part of Pakistan men's selection committee

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is likely to appoint national selector Aqib Javed as the head coach of the national men's white-ball team, sources said on Sunday. According to the details, the cricket board is considering Javed for the role, with the upcoming white-ball series against Zimbabwe most likely to be his first assignment as the Pakistan head coach. Considering the white-ball team's packed schedule — commencing with white-ball matches against Zimbabwe, comprising three ODIs and three T20Is from 24 November to December 5 — a decision in this regard is expected soon, sources further revealed. Aqib Javed, who is currently a part of PCB's selection committee, emerged as the frontrunner due to his vast coaching experience, bolstered by his successful stints with domestic teams and franchise cricket. The development came in the wake of Gary Kirsten's untimely resignation from the role, just days before the team's departure to Australia. As a result, the PCB roped in Jason Gillespie for the role on an interim basis for the ongoing Australia tour. A few days after Gillespie's appointment as Pakistan's interim white-ball head coach, reports emerged that the PCB is considering to hand the former Australian pacer a full-time role. Gillespie, however, rested the rumours by expressing his disinterest in assuming the role on full-time basis. "I've only taken over white-ball coaching on an interim basis. I am not keen on coaching permanently in the white ball format at the moment," Gillespie told Australian media in Melbourne. — DNA

Gill to miss first Test against Australia

Indian captain Rohit is also unlikely to feature in the opening Test

PERTH: Young top-order batter Shubman Gill will miss the first Test of the five-match away series against Australia due to a thumb injury, a renowned Indian newspaper reported on Sunday. According to the report, the right-handed batter sustained a hair-line fracture on his left thumb while fielding in the slips during the team's practice match on Saturday. "He hurt his thumb while fielding in the slips. He was sent for scans, and it seems he's suffering from a hairline fracture. He will miss the first Test due to the injury but should return for the second." — Agencies

Govt's efforts put economy back on track: Fin Min

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including climate resilience. "We shared our economic road map with visiting IMF mission and how we will take it [reforms] forward," he said, adding that the interactions would continue virtually. At the same time, he said he would also welcome another opportunity to meet IMF officials "face-to-face". At the outset of the presser, the finance minister said he wanted to share the developments, that occurred in the past four weeks, starting from October 19 and 20 when a Pakistani delegation visited Washington for IMF-World Bank meetings. The delegation — which included the Finance Secretary, Economic Affairs Division Secretary, SBP [State Bank of Pakistan] Governor — held extensive discussions with various stakeholders, including officials from IMF, World Bank, multi-lateral partners Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Bank and International Finance Corporation and rating agencies. "I have been very clear right from the front, that we will engage with rating agencies at

the highest level in the government because we need to know where we are and where we are heading," he said. Following "positive meetings" with Moody's and Fitch, Aurangzeb said, they succeeded in achieving upgrades in ratings in the first quarter of this fiscal year. Similarly, Aurangzeb said he engaged with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), China, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the US Treasury. The minister said the government's prudent economic policies have resulted in a reduction of inflation from 38% to just 7% and the policy rate from 22% to 15%, while foreign exchange reserves have surged from two weeks of import cover to 2.5 months of import cover. The Minister said the international community, financial institutions, and rating agencies have commended the government's efforts in leading the country's economy from deficits to surpluses. He further said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will also share a home-grown agenda soon on how we will take forward our economic stability. "It [the agenda] has been very well syndicated with all the stakeholders," he added. Aurangzeb concluded by requesting all the political parties, media, and other stakeholders to join hands for charters on the environment and economy to ensure a safe and healthy future for the coming generations.

Smog - the worst form of air pollution



TANVEER HUSSAIN

THE rapid industrial development of the last two centuries has created many conveniences for the human population, but on the other hand, our planet has also become a victim of severe pollution due to huge factories, vehicle smoke, wars and deforestation. This pol-

lution has created a big threat for human survival. There are many types of pollution such as noise pollution, water pollution, air pollution, food pollution, land pollution and marine pollution etc. According to the World Health Organization, every year seven million people around the world die due to various diseases due to environmental pollution. Although the whole world is suffering from pollution but this pollution has become a serious problem in our country. Pakistan has been badly affected by smog for the past 10 years, but this year, the smog season started in the last week of October

and in the first week of November, the air quality index in Lahore touched the level of 1000, making Lahore the world's most polluted city. Today, the smog spread in the atmosphere has ruined the lives of the citizens. Apart from this, Multan, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad and Karachi are also among the cities severely affected by smog. Smog is actually the name of yellow or black fog that is formed by pollution in the atmosphere. The fine particles in smog are called volatile organic compounds. These particles are formed by combining different gases, soil and water vapor. Due to smoke from various facto-

ries and vehicles as well as garbage burning, a large number of Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide particles are added to the air. When the sun's rays fall on these gases and particles, they turn into smog and pollute the atmosphere. Smog causes many diseases asthma, breathing difficulties, eye irritation, itchy throat, colds and lung infections. Smog affects visibility while driving, which increases traffic accidents. Smog also harms crop and plant growth, so the possibility of a food crisis cannot be ignored. Smog has now become a very dangerous factor for human life. Serious efforts are needed to control this scourge. It

is need of the hour that Wastages and fumes from factories should be properly controlled. Legislation is needed to take farmers and cultivators into confidence to prevent crop residue burning in fields. Instead of burning these crops, an alternative solution should be searched. Unnecessary felling of trees and housing societies on agricultural lands should be discouraged. Smoke-emitting vehicles should not be allowed on the road. Instead of petrol and diesel powered vehicles, electric vehicles should be encouraged. Adequate measures should be taken to reduce dust in construction work. Special attention should

be paid to the cleaning of roads and footpaths. Cement industry, steel industry and thermal power plants should use technologies that emit less energy and cause less damage to the environment. Awareness programs about environmental pollution should be started through educational institutions, public places and TV channels. Artificial rain should be arranged from time to time in cities where pollution is high. Although this is an expensive task, help can be sought from friendly countries and international organizations for the sake of human health. The above measures can reduce the problems of the citizens by controlling the smog.

Trump team...

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executed, and determining whether military leaders could potentially face charges, including treason, the broadcaster said, citing a US official and a source familiar with the plans. "They're taking it very seriously," the person with knowledge of the plan told NBC News, adding that Matt Flynn, a former deputy assistant secretary of defence for counternarcotic and global threats, is helping to lead the effort. The US presence in Afghanistan, which began in October 2001, ended after 20 years with the withdrawal of American troops in 2021.

Dialogue door not...

FROM PAGE 01
subsequently sentenced in other cases. Referring to the former ruling party's recent protest marches towards Islamabad, Asif said that the PTI, under the leadership of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, "attacked" the federation twice. The PTI held two protest rallies headed by KP firebrand CM in the federal capital in September and October amid riots and clashes with the police. Mocking KP CM, the minister said: "CM Ali Amin Gandapur ran away and left protesting workers abandoned [in Islamabad]."

PTI finalises plan for...

FROM PAGE 01
Islamabad and Rawalpindi regions. Sources indicate that the protest will begin with regional leadership organizing mass demonstrations in Rawalpindi and Islamabad until the convoys from other provinces arrive. PTI has assigned separate routes for each provincial convoy, with the final destination being Islamabad. The leadership is yet to decide on the exact location of the sit-in once they reach the capital.

Naqvi, Dutch...

FROM PAGE 01
The ambassador of Netherlands said that the cricket team of Netherlands will visit Pakistan next year and play a match with the A team. Interior Minister said that there is a need to take steps on a sustainable basis to promote bilateral relations. He also assured full support for the promotion of cricket in the Netherlands. Interior Minister clarified that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades, and a comprehensive policy is being implemented for the return of Afghan refugees living illegally in Pakistan.

Belarusian President...

FROM PAGE 01
(MoUs) on agriculture, trade, science and technology, industry, and drug manufacturing would also be signed. Sources informed that both countries would also ponder giving finishing touches to the electric vehicle bus manufacturing project. Likewise, there would be an exchange of views over enhancing cooperation in the sector of producing agriculture-related machinery and tractors.

Court Notice

In the court of Shair Hassan Parvaiz Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat.

Title: Ch. Lal Khan Versus Province of Punjab etc. Notice to: Malik Adnan Sadeeq S/o. Muhammad Sadeeq R/o. Khanpur, Sohail Akram S/o. Muhammad Akram R/o. Kang Mirpur, Zain Zafar S/o. Zafar Iqbal R/o. Khanpur Khokhran Tehsil & District Gujrat. Suit for Declaration with consequential relief Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-11-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Briefs

Iraq blast kills three security personnel: officials

A blast from an explosive device on Sunday killed three members of Iraq's security forces and wounded three others in the northern province of Salaheddin, officials said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack in Tuz Khurmatu, which borders a province plagued by sporadic jihadist attacks. Iraq declared victory over the Daesh group in late 2017, but its jihadists remain active in the country, particularly in rural areas. Sunday's blast killed an army regiment commander, another officer and a security service member, said Zulfikar Al-Bayati, mayor of Tuz Khurmatu. A security official confirmed the death toll to AFP, adding the victims had been in a vehicle when the explosion occurred. Those killed were members of the Peshmerga forces of the autonomous northern region of Kurdistan, while the wounded were members from the Iraqi army. The Iraqi defense ministry paid tribute to the three soldiers who "fell as martyrs... while carrying out their duty." —APP

Hezbollah spokesman killed in Israel strike on Beirut

BEIRUT: A Lebanese security source said Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Afif was killed in an Israeli strike Sunday in central Beirut that hit the Lebanese branch of the Syrian Baath party. "The strike on Ras Al-Nabaa killed Hezbollah media relations official Mohammed Afif," the security source said, requesting anonymity as they were not authorized to brief the media. Ali Hijazi, secretary-general of the Lebanese branch of the Baath party, "confirmed the death of Hezbollah media official" Afif, the official National News Agency reported. The Israeli army declined to comment. Lebanon's health ministry said the strike killed one person and wounded three others, adding that the toll was provisional and that work was ongoing to remove rubble from the site of the strike. Afif for years had been responsible for Hezbollah's media relations, and provided information to local and foreign journalists under the cover of anonymity. The NNA said the strike by "enemy aircraft" caused "great destruction," reporting an unspecified number of people "trapped under the rubble" in Ras Al-Nabaa, an area near the French embassy and a university. It said "one of the residents of a neighboring building had received a warning call urging evacuation but it was not taken seriously." —APP

UK doubles aid to war-torn Sudan

LONDON: The UK on Sunday announced a £113 million (\$143 million) aid boost to support more than one million people affected by the war in Sudan, doubling its current package. The new funding will be targeted at the 600,000 people in Sudan and 700,000 people in neighboring countries who have fled the conflict. "The brutal conflict in Sudan has caused unimaginable suffering. The people of Sudan need more aid, which is why the UK is helping to provide much-needed food, shelter and education for the most vulnerable," Foreign Secretary David Lammy said in a government press release. "The UK will never forget Sudan," he vowed. Fighting broke out in April 2023 between the army under the country's de facto ruler Abdel Fattah el-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Last month, United Nations experts accused the warring sides of using "starvation tactics" against 25 million civilians, and three major aid organizations warned of a "historic" hunger crisis as families resort to eating leaves and insects. —APP

MoU signed with Azerbaijan's private sector to boost trade ties

The MoU lays the foundation for a comprehensive trading network between Pakistan and these countries. As part of the deal, Huseynli's firm will set up a state-of-the-art warehouse, a trade display center and an office in Azerbaijan, which will serve as a hub for showcasing Pakistan's products, including Sunridge Foods' renowned offerings

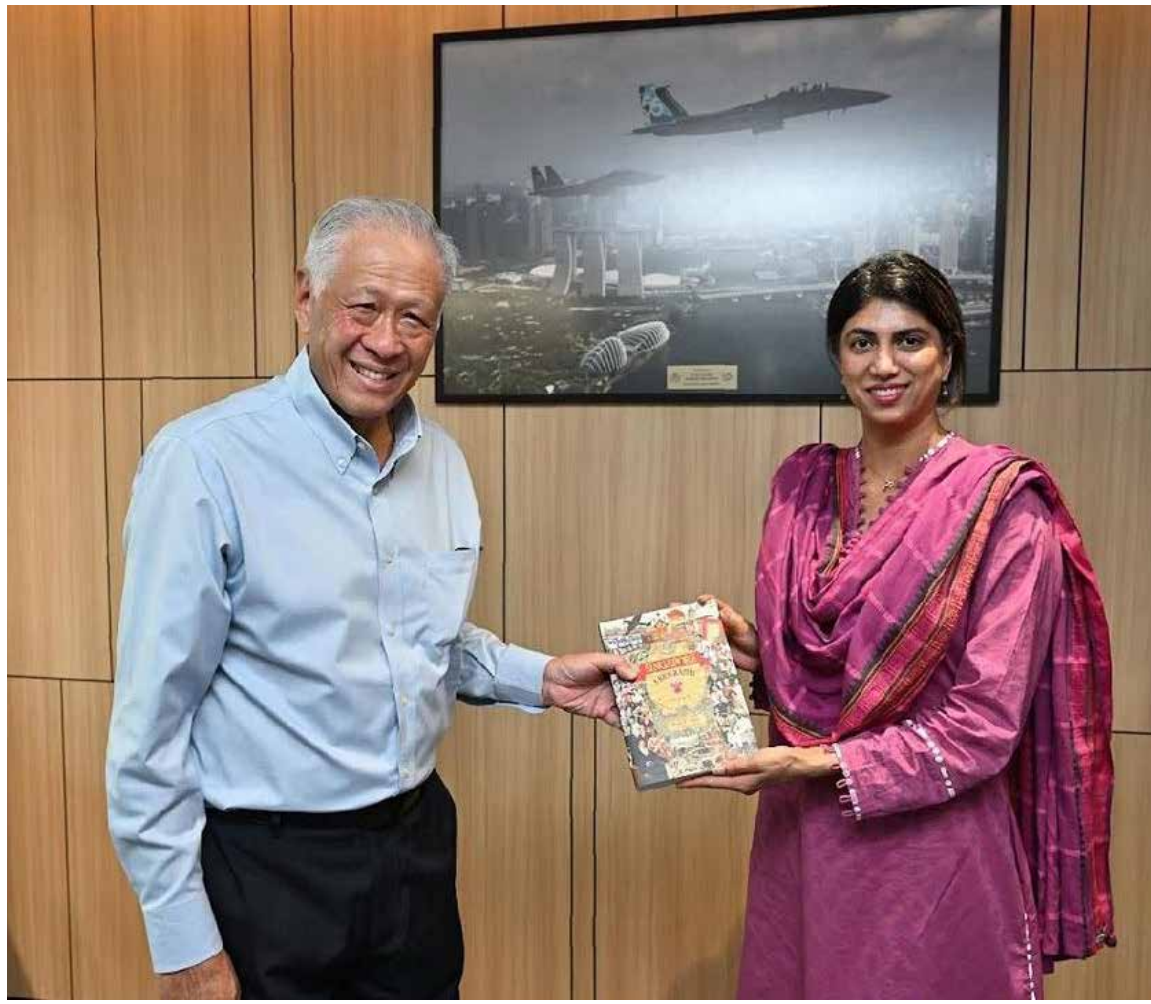
ISLAMABAD: In a pivotal move to bolster regional trade and investment, Amna Munawwar Awan, Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) and President of Matrix Global signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Babak Huseynli, Director for Central Asia and Azerbaijan at Digital Diplomacy here Sunday. The agreement, which aims to enhance economic diplomacy, will facilitate the

export of high-quality food products from Sunridge Foods Pvt Ltd to Azerbaijan and the broader Central Asian region. The MoU lays the foundation for a comprehensive trading network between Pakistan and these countries. As part of the deal, Huseynli's firm will set up a state-of-the-art warehouse, a trade display center and an office in Azerbaijan, which will serve as a hub for showcasing Pakistan's products, including

Sunridge Foods' renowned offerings. In parallel, Matrix Global's Islamabad office will play a crucial role in facilitating regional connectivity and ensuring smooth trade operations. At the signing ceremony, PBF SVP Amna Munawwar Awan highlighted the transformative impact of the partnership, stressing its potential to not only increase bilateral trade but also attract substantial investment into the region.

With a projected trade volume exceeding \$10 million, the collaboration is set to unlock new economic opportunities, strengthening ties between Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Central Asia. "This MoU marks a milestone in our efforts to expand trade horizons and enhance economic relations," Amna said and added by connecting markets in Central Asia and Azerbaijan with Pakistan, we are laying the groundwork for

long-term prosperity and regional growth. This agreement underscores Pakistan's commitment to enhancing economic diplomacy and positioning itself as a key player in regional trade and commerce. As the global economy becomes increasingly interconnected, initiatives like this one are vital in fostering stronger economic links across borders and ensuring mutual benefits for all parties involved. —DNA



SINGAPORE : Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Rabia Shafiq called on Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Defence .

Sudan women sexually exploited in Chad camps

ADRE, Chad: Crossing into Chad, the 27-year-old thought she'd left the horrors of Sudan's war behind: the bodies she ran over while fleeing, the screams of girls being raped, the disappearance of her husband when gunmen attacked. But now she says she has faced more suffering — being forced as a refugee to have sex to get by. She cradled her 7-week-old son, who she asserted was the child of an aid worker who promised her money in exchange for sex. "The children were crying. We ran out of food," she said of her four other children. "He abused my situation." She and other women who spoke to The Associated Press requested anonymity because they feared retribution. Some Sudanese women and girls assert that men, including those meant to protect them such as humanitarian workers and local security forces, have sexually exploited them in Chad's displacement sites, offering money, easier access to assistance and jobs. Such sexual exploitation in Chad is a crime. Hundreds of thousands of people, most of them women, have streamed into Chad to escape Sudan's civil war, which has killed over 20,000 people. Aid groups struggle to support them in growing displacement sites. Three women spoke with the AP in the town of Adre near the Sudanese border. A Sudanese psychologist shared the accounts of seven other women and girls who either refused to speak directly with a reporter or were no longer in touch with her. The AP could not confirm their accounts. Daral-Salam Omar, the psychologist, said all the seven told her they went along with the offers of benefits in exchange for sex out of necessity. Some sought her help because they became pregnant and couldn't seek an abortion at a clinic for fear of being shunned by their community, she said. —APP

All eyes on G20 as COP29 climate talks stall

BAKU: Negotiations were deadlocked on Saturday at the midway point of the UN climate summit, with hopes pinned on G20 leaders intervening to strike a critical finance pact at the crunch talks. After nearly a week of bargaining in Azerbaijan, nations were no closer to agreeing a \$1 trillion deal for climate-action investments in developing nations. Diplomats worked through the night in a sports stadium near the Caspian Sea to produce a fresh draft on Saturday that only served to underscore divisions, with little changed from an earlier text. "We absolutely want an agreement in Baku because it is in the collective interest," said a French diplomat granted anonymity to discuss the ongoing talks. But "clearly we are deadlocked, and not where we should be to have an agreement". Government ministers jetting into Baku on Monday face an uphill battle trying to break the impasse before the summit ends on Nov 22. "There is still much, much to do," said Samir Bejanov, deputy lead negotiator of COP29 host Azerbaijan. —APP

Egypt's middle class cuts costs as IMF-backed reforms take hold

CAIRO: Egypt's economy has been in crisis for years, but as the latest round of International Monetary Fund-backed reforms bites, much of the country's middle class has found itself struggling to afford goods once considered basics. The world lender has long backed measures in Egypt including a liberal currency exchange market and weaning the public away from subsidies. On the ground, that has translated into an eroding middle class with depleted purchasing power, turning into luxuries what were once considered necessities. Nourhan Khaled, a 27-year-old private sector employee, has given up "perfumes and chocolates." "All my salary goes to transport and food," she said as she perused items at a west Cairo supermarket, deciding what could stay and what needed to go. For some, this has extended to cutting back on even the most basic goods — such as milk. "We do not buy sweets anymore and we've cut down on milk," said Zeinab Gamal, a 28-year-old housewife.

Most recently, Egypt hiked fuel prices by 17.5 percent last month, marking the third increase just this year. Mounting pressures The measures are among the conditions for an \$8 billion IMF loan program, expanded this year from an initial \$3 billion to address a severe economic crisis in the North African country. "The lifestyle I grew up with has completely changed," said Manar, a 38-year-old mother of two, who did not wish to give her full name. She has taken on a part-time teaching job to increase her family's income to 15,000 Egyptian pounds (\$304), just so she can "afford luxuries like sports activities for their children." —APP

26 dead, 59 missing after Israeli air strike in Gaza

GAZA STRIP: Gaza's civil defense said 26 people were killed on Sunday, including children, and at least 59 were missing after an Israeli air strike hit a building in the Palestinian territory's north. Following the strike early Sunday, 26 bodies were pulled from the rubble of the five-story residential building in Beit Lahia, "including children and women," civil defense spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP. He added that at least 59 people were still trapped under the debris. AFP images showed men covered in dust scrambling to reach people under the rubble, while some of the bodies were taken away on a donkey-pulled cart. Other AFP images showed the flattened building with broken concrete and twisted metal sticking out from the ruins as more bodies covered in blankets lay nearby. —APP

Bangladesh deaths from dengue cross 400 as outbreak worsens

DHAKA: Bangladesh is battling its worst outbreak of dengue in years, with more than 400 deaths as rising temperatures and a longer monsoon season drive a surge in infections, leaving hospitals struggling to cope, particularly in urban areas. At least 407 people have died from related complications in 2024, with 78,595 patients admitted to hospital nationwide, the latest official figures show. By mid-November, 4,173 patients were being treated, with 1,835 of them in Dhaka, the capital, and 2,338 elsewhere. "We're witnessing monsoon-like rainfall even in October, which is unusual," said Kabirul Bashar, a zoology professor at Jahangirnagar University. Shifting weather patterns caused by climate change provided optimal conditions for the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the primary carrier of the disease, he added. "These changes in the season are fostering ideal conditions for the mosquitoes to breed." Dense populations in cities exacerbate the spread of the disease, usually more common in the monsoon season from June to September though it has spilled beyond that window this year. A rise in temperatures and longer monsoons, both linked to climate change, have caused a spike in mosquito breeding, driving the rapid spread of the virus. Bashar called for year-round vector surveillance in Bangladesh to monitor and rein in the disease. If detected early and treated properly, deaths from dengue can be reduced to less than 1 per cent, said a renowned physician, Dr ABM Abdullah, adding, "Early diagnosis and prevention are key to controlling dengue." Last year was the deadliest on record in the current crisis, with 1,705 deaths and more than 321,000 infections reported. The growing frequency and severity of outbreaks strains Bangladesh's already overwhelmed healthcare system, as hospitals battle to treat thousands of patients. Health officials have urged precautions against mosquito bites, such as mosquito repellents and bed nets, while experts want tougher measures to eliminate the stagnant waters where mosquitoes breed. Delays in seeking treatment, particularly among rural populations who must travel long distances to specialised facilities in Dhaka, are swelling the toll, doctors said. —DNA

Pope calls for genocide investigation into Israel's attacks in Gaza

"On the contrary, just as we see that there is a globalization of indifference, we must respond with the globalization of charity and cooperation," he added. Francis also mentioned the "still open wound of the war in Ukraine has led thousands of people to abandon their homes, especially during the first months of the conflict"

ROME: Pope Francis has called for an investigation to determine if Israel's attacks in Gaza constitute genocide, according to excerpts released Sunday from an upcoming new book ahead of the pontiff's jubilee year. It's the first time that Francis has openly urged for an investigation of genocide allegations over Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip. In September, he said Israel's attacks in Gaza and Lebanon have been "immoral" and disproportionate, and that its military has gone beyond the rules of war. The book, by Hernan Reyes Alcaide and based on interviews with the Pope, is entitled "Hope never disappoints. Pilgrims toward a better world." It will be released on Tuesday ahead of the pope's 2025 jubilee. Francis' yearlong jubilee is expected to bring more than 30 million pilgrims to Rome to celebrate the Holy Year. "According to some experts, what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide," the pope said in excerpts published Sunday by the Italian daily La Stampa. "We should investigate carefully to determine whether it fits into the technical definition formulated by jurists and international bodies," he added. Last year, Francis met separately with relatives of Israeli hostages in Gaza and Palestinians living through the war and set off a firestorm by using words that Vatican diplomats usually avoid: "terrorism" and, according to the Palestinians, "genocide." Francis spoke at the time about the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians after his meetings, which were arranged before the Israeli-Hamas hostage deal and a temporary halt in fighting was announced. The pontiff, who last week also met with a delegation of Israeli hostages who were released and their families pressing the campaign to bring the remaining captives home had editorial control over the upcoming book. The war started when the militant Hamas group attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and abducting 250 as hostages and taking them back to Gaza, where dozens still remain. Israel's subsequent yearlong military campaign has killed more than 43,000 people, according to Gaza health officials, whose count doesn't distinguish between civilians and fighters, though they say more than half of the dead are women and children. The Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza has triggered several legal cases at international courts in The Hague involving requests for arrest warrants as well as accusations and denials of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. In the new book, Francis also speaks about migration and the problem of integrating migrants in their host countries. "Faced with this challenge, no country can be left alone and no one can think of addressing the issue in isolation through more restrictive and repressive laws, sometimes approved under the pressure of fear or in search of electoral advantages," Francis said. "On the contrary, just as we see that there is a globalization of indifference, we must respond with the globalization of charity and cooperation," he added. Francis also mentioned the "still open wound of the war in Ukraine has led thousands of people to abandon their homes, especially during the first months of the conflict." —DNA

UK plans to sign deals with Turkiye, Iraqi Kurdistan to halt migrants

Those in discussions with the UK include Turkiye and Vietnam, as well as the semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. Deals are expected to be signed by the year's end

DNA

LONDON: The UK is set to agree deals with several countries in a bid to prevent thousands of illegal migrants reaching Britain, the Sunday Times reported. The deals will mirror those signed by Italy with other countries, with money exchanged in return for stopping migrants from setting off. Those in discussions with the UK include Turkiye and Vietnam, as well as the semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. Deals are expected to be signed by the year's end. Italy has managed to reduce the number of people crossing to it by 62 percent after Prime Minister

Giorgia Meloni struck deals with Tunisia and Libya. Tunisia received patrol boats and 100 million (\$105.4 million) to invest in education, energy and companies employed to halt migration, while Libya's coast guard will be trained and equipped by Rome. The EU has paid Tunisia an additional 105 million. However, both agreements have been criticized by human rights organizations over the treatment of migrants in Tunisia and Libya by local authorities. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer met Meloni in September, during which he praised Italy's "upstream work" in North Africa. "I have always made the argument that preventing people leaving

their country in the first place is far better than trying to deal with those that have arrived," he said. The UK has seen continuous increases in the number of people entering the country illegally, with the Labour government pledging to "smash the gangs" running the trade across the English Channel. By Nov. 11, the total to have made the crossing for 2024 stood at 32,900 people. In 2023, the total number of crossings was 29,437. According to UK government statistics, the top five nationalities for small boat crossings for the year up to June were Afghan at 5,730 (18 percent of the total), Iranian at 3,844 (13 percent), Vietnamese at 3,031 (10 percent),

Turkish at 2,925 (10 percent) and Syrian at 2,849 (9 percent). A deal signed by the previous UK government and France gave Paris £500 million (\$630.9 million) to stop the crossings. The UK also gives Turkiye significant funds to stop migrants reaching Europe. Last week, Dutch police arrested a Turkish man suspected of being a "major supplier" of small boat equipment in Amsterdam following a joint operation by the UK's National Crime Agency. The UK government is keen to strike a deal with Iraqi Kurdistan, from which a number of trafficking gangs operate. Earlier this year, high-profile trafficker Barzan Majeed, known as The Scorpion,

was arrested in Iraq after being tracked down by the BBC in the city of Sulaymaniyah. UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper is known to have sent fact-finders to the region to assess the viability of an Italy-style deal. Any deals are likely to involve funding and training for local security services, as well as potentially including return clauses for migrants who reach the UK. A source told the Sunday Times: "The assessment made after that trip was that Kurdistan's nationals monopolise every part of the journey made by small boat migrants from the procuring of the craft to putting people on the boats on the beaches in France."

Briefs

Hamas slams Israeli on slaughter on Beit Lahiya

THE Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has censured the Israeli regime's fascist occupation army for a ferocious attack on a residential building that killed scores of people in the northern Gaza Strip, underlining that such acts of aggression will not break the will of Palestinian people. At least 50 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes on a five-story residential building in the BeitLahiya area of northern Gaza on Sunday morning, with several others trapped under the rubble.

"The criminal bombing carried out by the fascist occupation army targeting a residential building in BeitLahiya, north of the Gaza Strip, and destroying it over the heads of its residents—resulting in the martyrdom of more than fifty citizens, over a third of whom were children—is a blatant act of Zionist genocide, ethnic cleansing, and brutal revenge against defenseless civilians," Hamas said in a statement.

'Detox Punjab' campaign to reduce smog level

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday the air quality index in Lahore and surrounding areas has improved after the successful experiment of artificial rain. The 'cloud seeding' technique was tested in Jhelum, Chakwal, Talagang, and Gojran Khan, due to which rainfall was experienced in Jhelum and Gujran Khan, as confirmed by the Met Department. The minister said the detox Punjab campaign would reduce the hazardous level of smog in Rawalpindi. While in the case of provincial capital, a grand operation is at play which included, among other steps, the ban on the entry of smoke-emitting vehicles in the city.

Punjab increases Kisan Cards to 750,000

LAHORE: The Punjab government has continued to extend its farmer-friendly initiatives. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has increased the distribution of Kisan Cards from 500,000 to 750,000, with over 1.29 million applications received. According to the spokesperson for the Agricultural Department, more than 361,000 Kisan Cards have already been distributed. Through the use of the cards, farmers have made purchases amounting to over Rs18 billions so far, showing the success and impact of the programme on the community. — DNA

Russia hits Ukraine's energy infrastructure in huge attack

Explosions heard across Ukraine, including Kyiv and Odesa, as Russia advances at its fastest rate since the early days of the nearly three-year war

FOREIGN DESK

KIEV: Russia has carried out its largest air attack on Ukraine in months, launching 120 missiles and 90 drones that killed several people and caused severe damage to the power system, officials said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday that Ukrainian defences shot down 140 air targets across Ukraine. Various types of drones were deployed, he said, including Iranian-made Shaheds as well as cruise, ballistic and aircraft-launched ballistic missiles in one of the largest barrages of the nearly three-year war. "The enemy's target was our energy infrastructure throughout Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is damage to objects from hits and falling debris," Zelenskyy said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app. A Russian drone attack on the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv killed at least two people and wounded six others, including children, Zelenskyy said,

adding that "all areas" were left without power. Poland, a NATO member that borders Ukraine to the west, said it had scrambled its air force as a precaution. Explosions were heard across Ukraine on Sunday, including in the capital, Kyiv, the key southern port of Odesa, and the country's west and central regions, according to local reports. Ukraine's energy operator DTEK on Sunday announced emergency power cuts in the Kyiv region and two in the east. Earlier, Ukraine's Energy Minister German Galushchenko said on Telegram that "a massive attack on our energy system is ongoing" and that Russian forces were "attacking electricity generation and transmission facilities throughout Ukraine".

Russian attacks have hammered Ukraine's power generation capacity since Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbour in February 2022, prompting repeated emergency power shutdowns and nationwide rolling blackouts. Ukrainian officials have

routinely urged their Western allies to bolster the country's air defences to counter assaults and allow for repairs. The large-scale Russian assault came as Russian forces advanced at the fastest rate since the war's earliest days. To add to the pressure, North Korea has sent thousands of soldiers to the Russian region of Kursk to help Moscow fight off a Ukrainian incursion that started in August.

On Saturday, Zelenskyy said his side would do everything possible so that the war ends in 2025 "through diplomatic means". His comments came after Russian President Vladimir Putin held his first direct conversation in almost two years with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, saying an agreement to end the war would also need to address the "root causes" of the conflict which, according to Putin, include NATO's expansion. Though Scholz urged Putin to pull out his troops, which occupy a fifth of Ukraine, Kyiv bridled at a call that it said reduced Putin's isolation.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk echoed this sentiment: "The attack last night, one of the biggest in this war, has proved that telephone diplomacy cannot replace real support from the whole West for Ukraine. The next weeks will be decisive, not only for the war itself, but also for our future." Support for war-torn Ukraine is also in question following the victory of Donald Trump in the United States presidential election. In the run-up to the vote, Trump had repeatedly questioned the amount of US money spent on military aid for Ukraine. Vice President-elect JD Vance has suggested that a Trump administration could favour letting Russia keep the Ukrainian land it has seized on the battlefield.

Meanwhile, the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden has pledged to strengthen its support for Kyiv in its remaining time in power, and the leaders of the G7 alliance have reaffirmed support for Ukraine "for as long as it takes".

Citizens mustn't be swayed by false slogans

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) leader Awn Chaudhry asserted that the Pakistani government was working tirelessly for the country's development emphasising Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's patriotic people should not be misled by anti-state elements. In a press conference, Awn Chaudhry stressed that the importance of a free and independent state must be acknowledged, therefore identification of the anti-state elements creating an atmosphere of chaos and confrontation must be done.

He urged the nation to look into the states being colonised deprived of independence to realise the importance of independence. He mentioned that a free state was a great blessing from Allah and its protection was vital. "Some groups are attempting to destabilise the country and that party is aiming to attack Islamabad. True freedom is not just about individual liberty, but about upholding the law and safeguarding the integrity of the country," Chaudhry emphasised.

He criticised those who talk about the state of Madinah, saying they had been promoting uncivilised behaviour and violence. "We will not allow our children to be misled for these nefarious motives," he added. He also stressed the importance of stopping anti-state elements from engaging in activities that threaten national unity and security. Chaudhry also raised concerns about the rising digital terrorism being used against Pakistan, with individuals sitting abroad spreading propaganda against the Pakistani military. "Why don't these people run campaigns for Palestine or Kashmir?" he questioned.

Police arrest prime suspect in Zara murder case

DNA

LAHORE: In a significant development in the case of the brutal murder of a pregnant woman in Daska, police have arrested the prime suspect, Naveed, who was involved in the heinous killing of Zara. Naveed was presented before a judicial magistrate today, where the police sought a 10-day physical remand for further interrogation.

However, the duty magistrate rejected the 10-day remand request and granted only a one-day physical remand, sending the suspect into police custody. The other three individuals arrested in connection with the case will be presented in court tomorrow.

According to police reports, the victim's in-laws gruesomely murdered Zara, dismembered her body, and disposed of the remains in a bag, which was then dumped in a drain. Zara's husband, who is currently residing abroad, was not present at the time of the incident.

NDMA dispatches 19th shipment of aid to Gaza



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) dispatched its 19th shipment of aid on Sunday to Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, carrying 17 tons of essential supplies such as tents, food, milk, clothing, and hygiene kits in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation. The aid supplies, including rice buckets, powdered milk, canned food, family packs, sleeping bags, and medical support kits, were dispatched on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif via a chartered flight from Jinnah International Airport in Karachi to Damascus, Syria.

The send-off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by MPA, Ali Khursheedi, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, senior officials from NDMA, and Al-Khidmat Foundation. Ali Khursheedi emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected population, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration between welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts. This 19th consignment was dispatched for the people of Syria and refugees from Lebanon, before this, the Government of Pakistan sent 12 aid consignments to Palestine and 6 shipments to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1722 tons. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine. On instructions of the Prime Minister, a special account named the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon", has been established for the collection of donations from the public to aid their brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies.

8th death anniversary of KP's rights champion

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The 8th death anniversary of the renowned nationalist, ANP stalwart and champion of the provincial rights late Haji Mohammad Adeel is being observed today by his family, political workers and his well-wishers. Born on August 10, 1941, Haji Mohammad Adeel was died of renal failure in Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Peshawar on November 18, 2016 at the age of 75 years. He was a Hindko speaker, from a family of anti-imperialists, the son of Hakeem Abdul Jalil (Hakeem Mohammad Jalil Sahib) who had actively participated in the non-violent movement, KhudaiKhidmatgar against the British Empire in the Sub-Continent and was the president of All India National Congress Committee Peshawar District and a close colleague of Bacha Khan and Mahatma Gandhi and Member of Central working committee of Congress. Late Haji Adeel was a household political figure for Peshawaris, who won four consecutive elections to the provincial assembly and served as finance minister and deputy speaker of the provincial government of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. He was the senator and represented Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the National Finance Commission of Pakistan. Due to his active role and efforts, the then Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani led federal government succeeded in the announcement of a consensual National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, which is milestone in the history of the country that had increased the shares of the federating units in the federal divisible pool. Since the announcement of that NFC Award no other such award is announced so far and KP has been paid a huge amount of Rs.585 billion due to his efforts. Haji Adeel was also the member of standing Defence and Defence Production, Textile Industry, Information and Broadcasting and Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas.

Probe pins HIV outbreak at Nishtar Hospital

MULTAN: A four-member fact-finding committee has uncovered life-threatening malpractices in the dialysis ward protocols at Multan's Nishtar Hospital, potentially leading to the spread of deadly HIV among already terminally ill patients. A report by an investigation panel has accused the hospital authorities' scandalous negligence to enforce standard operating procedures (SOPs), including regular HIV and hepatitis screening and the use of sterilised equipment for each patient. The fact-finding committee was formed on the directions of provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique and Secretary Health Punjab to dig into the HIV outbreak — blamed on the staff in the dialysis unit at Nishtar Hospital Multan. According to the body's findings, medical officials at the dialysis ward had not conducted mandatory HIV tests for over a year, violating healthcare guidelines that require such screenings every six months. Similarly, hepatitis tests, mandated every three months, were also neglected. The first HIV case at the dialysis unit was reported on October 11, but the administration allegedly attempted to cover up the incident, fearing backlash from patients, families, and the media. — DNA

Pak-Syria direct flights set to start today: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. RamezAlraee on Sunday said that the direct flight between Pakistan and Syria will start from tomorrow, November 18th and the first flight will land in Lahore tomorrow morning. Earlier, Syrian Air Line had started its flight operations from Karachi since 2019 and tomorrow this will be the first flight of Syrian Airline to Lahore, for which the Foreign Affairs Ministries and Embassies of both countries have made great efforts, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Pakistan, Dr. RamezAlraee told APP here. The Ambassador said that tomorrow morning at 6:30 am, the first direct flight of Syrian Airline will land in Lahore, which will promote bilateral relations between the two countries.

He said that at this time, this direct flight will promote economic and trade relations between the two countries, and as the connections between the people of both countries will be established. The ambassador said that with the start of flight operations, where the business communities of both countries will be facilitated, tourism will also increase and mutual economic and trade relations will be promoted. Dr.Ramez said that at this time, the business communities of both countries need to strengthen bilateral relations so that both sides economic relations can develop, and trade can increase. He said that many people from Pakistan go to Syria for Ziyahara and they will also get facilities after this flight operation and this will in-

crease religious tourism. Speaking to APP on the occasion, the President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Atifkram, and the leadership of various chambers welcomed the direct flight from Syria to Lahore and called it important in promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries.

On this occasion, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Atifkram, called the direct flight between Pakistan and Syria significant for promoting contacts between the business communities of the two countries and bilateral economic relations. He said that Pakistan's economic relations with Syria will be further strengthened and prolonged with the flight from Syria to Lahore. — APP

Gaza civil defense says 26 dead after Israeli air strike

Gaza's health ministry on Sunday said the overall death toll in more than 13 months of war had reached 43,846

NEWS DESK

GAZA STRIP: Gaza's civil defense said 26 people were killed on Sunday, including children, and at least 59 were missing after an Israeli air strike hit a building in the Palestinian territory's north. Following the strike early Sunday, 26 bodies were pulled from the rubble of the five-story residential building in BeitLahia, "including children and women," civil defense spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP. He added that at least 59 people were still trapped under the debris. AFP images showed men covered in dust scrambling to reach people under the rubble, while some of the bodies were taken away on a donkey-pulled cart. Other AFP images showed the flattened building with broken concrete and twisted metal sticking out from ruins as more bodies covered in blankets lay nearby. Hamas, which runs the territory, accused Israel of committing a "massacre" which it said is "a continuation of the genocidal war and revenge against unarmed civilians."

Earlier on Sunday, Gaza's civil defense said other Israeli strikes killed at least 20 people, including four women and three children, across the war-torn territory. Hamas-run Gaza's health ministry on Sunday said the overall death toll in more than 13 months of war had reached 43,846. The majority of the dead are civilians, according to ministry figures, which the United Nations considers reliable. Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack that sparked the war resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia condemned on Sunday an Israeli strike that killed at least 10 Palestinians and wounded at least 20 others on Saturday at a school in Gaza City's Shati refugee camp currently sheltering displaced families. The Abu Assischool is run by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the main agency that has been procuring and distributing aid in the Gaza Strip. The Foreign Ministry said the Kingdom reiterates its "categorical rejection of the Israeli occupation's continued targeting of civilians and relief and humanitarian agencies amid the silence of the international community." It called on the international community to assume its responsibilities towards ongoing Israeli violations that increase the suffering of the Palestinian people and undermine the chances of achieving peace in the region.

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