



Islamabad POST

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Bushra calling the shots for protest

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Pak-Germany pledge stronger collaboration

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PM calls for peace

Shehbaz reaffirms govt resolve to eliminate terrorism

Addressing apex committee meeting, PM calls for prioritising country's progress over "protests and sit-ins"

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz on Tuesday called for prioritising peace and progress of the country over "protests and sit-ins" as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) all set to march on Islamabad on November 24. Addressing the National Action Plan's apex committee meeting, PM Shehbaz said that they should think rationally if the sit-in was in the country's interest. "We have to decide whether [one should be] staging sit-ins or long marches or work for the [country's] progress." He said that the country's economy was gradually heading towards stability due to the collective efforts of the federation, provinces, institutions and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir. "Political and economic stability are interlinked," he added.

Urging the participants to play their role for the improvement of the economy, the prime minister said: "Economic and political stability vital for the country's progress and prosperity." He thanked the all the provinces for their support to the Centre for securing the \$7 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package. Addressing the key meeting, the premier reaffirmed government's firm resolve to wipe out the menace of terrorism. "We have no other choice, but to crush the terrorist elements for peace and progress of the country." Describing terrorism as the biggest challenge, he voiced concerns over the uptick in terror attacks in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He recalled: "The menace was eradicated back in 2018 due to the sacrifices of our people and security personnel through a consensus plan formulated under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif." Expressing satisfaction over the improved economic indicators, he said the country's stock exchange had touched the historic peak level, while inflation has come down to a single digit and the key policy rate reduced from 22% to 15%. The premier said record increase has been witnessed in

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Pakistan, KSA working together to strengthen ties

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Dr. Nasser bin Abdul Aziz Al Dawood, Deputy Interior Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister welcomed the Saudi Deputy Interior Minister to Pakistan and wished him a successful visit. He conveyed his greetings and best wishes to The Custodian of Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia. Recalling the historic, fraternal relations between the two countries, the Prime Minister thanked the Saudi leadership and government for always supporting Pakistan and said both sides were working together to further strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties into mutually beneficial economic and investment cooperation. The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction over the implementation of MoUs between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan with regard to Saudi Investment of 2.8 USD in Pakistan. The situation in the Gaza and the broader Middle East was also discussed.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Apex Committee of National Action Plan. - DNA

IDEAS 2024 kicks off at Karachi

Over 350 high-level delegations from 55 countries are visiting the exhibition

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS 2024) commenced at the Karachi Expo Centre on Tuesday. Inaugurated by Minister for Defence and Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the exhibition will continue till November 22 (Friday). Besides trade visitors, more than 350 high-level delegations from 55 countries are visiting the exhibition, a mega-regional event; biennially organised by the Defence Export Promotion Organisation (DEPO) in Pakistan.

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Pakistan, Kazakhstan discuss regional ties

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the momentum in bilateral cooperation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kazakhstan held the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations in Islamabad. Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Ahmad Naseem Warraich led the Pakistan side while the Kazakh side was led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Alibek Bakayev.

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Meets Gandapur in Adiala Jail

Join 24 protest or leave party: Imran Khan to PTI leaders

Meanwhile, incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has agreed to hold talks but only with the "powerful quarters", his lawyer Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry said as the former ruling party is all set to hold "do-or-die protest" in Islamabad on November 24

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday told party leaders and ticket holders to "disassociate themselves from the party" if they could not participate in the PTI's announced power show for November 24. On Nov 13, Imran issued a "final call" for nationwide protests on Nov 24 (Sunday), denouncing what he described as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime". Since Imran's arrest in August 2023 on several counts, his party has been holding protests across the country for his release and against the alleged rigging of the Feb 8 elections. Imran reiterated his call for the protest today in a statement posted to his X account. "Everyone must join the protest on November 24th.

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PTI's protest will fizzle out like bubble: Vawda

Vawda accuses certain people of exploiting names of those imprisoned for political gains

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda has dismissed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest call as "a bubble of water", asserting that no one will be released on Nov 24. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Senator Vawda accused certain people of exploiting

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Briefs

KP CM's arrest warrants issued

The case was heard by ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gul, where Gandapur failed to appear before the court

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in Lahore has issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. The case was heard by ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gul, where Gandapur failed to appear before the court. The warrants were issued in connection with a case registered at the Manawan Police Station. It should be noted that a police case had been registered against the CM Gandapur under serious charges for smashing car windows during a political rally in Kahna.

Electricity prices likely to go up again

Nationwide electricity consumers are paying Rs 1.74 per unit under the quarterly adjustment mechanism

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The cost of electricity is expected to rise further for consumers across the country, including Karachi, due to quarterly adjustments. A request has been submitted for the first quarter adjustment of the current fiscal year, seeking an additional collection of Rs 8.72 billion from electricity consumers. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) will hear Nepra's plea on Tuesday. According to NEPRA, Rs 8.06 billion is being requested under capacity charges, while Rs 1.25 billion is sought for operations and maintenance, and Rs 1.65 billion for system charges and market operation fees.

From 3 to 5 years

SC dismisses petition challenging COAS's tenure

Petition challenging the extension of the army chief's tenure dismissed due to non-appearance of the petitioner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has dismissed a petition challenging the extension of the army chief's tenure due to non-appearance of the petitioner. A seven-member constitutional bench, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan, reviewed the case on Tuesday amid existing objections from the Supreme Court's Registrar's Office. Despite multiple notices, petitioner Mehmood Akhtar Naqvi, who initially filed the challenge against the extension of the army chief's term, was not present during the hearings. The Registrar's Office had raised objections to the admissibility of the petition, which argued that the recent amendments to the Army Act violated constitutional limits on military service extensions. As the petitioner failed to appear to address these objections or argue the case, the court chose to dismiss the petition for non-prosecution. The bench noted the absence as a significant lapse,

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Naqvi meets Fazl, discuss matters of national interest

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman on Tuesday. The two leaders engaged in discussions on matters of mutual interest and the overall political and economic situation of the country. During the meeting, Minister Naqvi asked about Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman's health and conveyed his best wishes. He also expressed gratitude to the JUI chief for his pivotal role in the historic approval of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. "Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman has consistently prioritized Pakistan's interests," said Naqvi.

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Pakistan seeks international coop for Afghan refugee crisis

The Chief Commissioner shared that there were around 600,000 Afghan resettlement applicants registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) but that UNHCR's quota for resettlement applications for the year was only 8,000

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: "The Government of Pakistan should host an international multilateral stakeholders' conference aimed at addressing the challenges related to the voluntary repatriation and third-country resettlement of Afghan refugees," said Muhammad Abbas Khan, the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees (CCAR) at the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON). He added that the main objective of the conference should be to encourage the Western countries to increase their quotas and expedite the process for admitting Afghan applicants into their countries from Pakistan. He was speaking at a seminar titled "Challenges and Opportunities in Repatriation and Resettlement of Afghan Refugees" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Mr Khan underscored the importance of international burden-sharing, urging global stakeholders to enhance resettlement opportunities for Afghan citizens on Pakistani soil. The Chief Commissioner shared that there were around 600,000 Afghan resettlement applicants

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UAE doesn't 'shared document' on visa restrictions: Embassy

"Factually incorrect. No such document shared by UAE authorities," says embassy in Abu Dhabi

FOREIGN DESK

DUBAI: The Embassy of Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates has rejected media reports, claiming that the UAE government shared a document citing reasons for imposing visa restrictions on Pakistani nationals. "These claims are factually incorrect. No such document has been shared by the UAE authorities," the embassy said in a press release issued on Tuesday. The statement stated that Pakistan enjoys strong and cordial relations with the UAE, and both governments are committed to addressing any issues of

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Jemal lauds Tessori initiatives for youth uplift

The Governor Sindh said the Government of Pakistan is committed to the Look Africa and Engage Africa policy, appreciating the Ethiopian Airlines role in connecting his country with the whole continent of Africa with a market of over 1.4 billion people

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula on Tuesday called on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori and discussed different means to enhance bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between the two countries. Both sides discussed matters of common interest including needful initiatives to increase bilateral cooperation in aviation, economic, education, health, science and technology sectors.

Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula briefed the Governor Sindh about the second phase of Home Grown Economic Reforms Programme of Ethiopia, which is aimed at addressing macroeconomic imbalances, increasing productivity, creating ease of doing business, and also a conducive environment for Foreign Direct Investment through domestically designed policies. The Ambassador also highlighted enormous business, trade and investment opportunities in its major economic sectors including agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker lauded the role being played

by the Governor Sindh for empowering the youth of Pakistan by equipping them with modern technologies that enabled them to become global citizens. On the other hand, the Governor Sindh briefed the Ambassador about the courses and trainings of modern skills being imparted to the youth in the Governor House for enabling them to get respectable and profitable livelihoods. The Governor Sindh said the Government of Pakistan is committed to the Look Africa and Engage Africa policy, appreciating the Ethiopian Airlines role in connecting his country with the whole continent of Africa with a market of over 1.4 billion people.—APP



KARACHI: Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula called on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori.

CM reviews progress of public complaints portal

PESHAWAR :An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (CM-KP) Ali Amin Gandapur to review the status of public complaints resolution through the public complaints portal (Ikhtiyar Awam Ka). The CM was briefed by the relevant officials on the progress made so far in addressing the complaints registered on the portal. The meeting was informed that a total of 6,242 complaints have been registered on the portal so far. Out of these, 2,559 complaints have been resolved, while 3,683 complaints are still being processed. As many as 1,200 citizens have received relief through the portal, and 757 citizens have received partial relief. The participants were informed that 13,384 citizens have registered on the portal, with nearly 300 women actively using the service. District Peshawar has reported the highest number of complaints, with 1,458 complaints, followed by Mardan 405, Bannu 363, Dera Ismail Khan 335, and Abbottabad 344. Complaints related to municipal services topped the list with 1,966 complaints, followed by issues in education 1,040, public agenda implementation 876, corruption 602.—APP

Sindh launches child protection management info system

KARACHI: The Sindh government's Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF, and other key stakeholders have officially launched 'Child Protection Management Information System (CPIMS)' here on Tuesday. This significant milestone was celebrated in conjunction with World Children's Day, aiming to initiate a new movement for the protection and promotion of children's rights and welfare. The launching ceremony was graced by the Minister for Social Welfare, Mir Tariq Ali Talpur, Secretary of Social Welfare Pervez Ahmed Sehgar, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Deputy High Commission Martin Dawson, and UNICEF Islamabad's Chief of Child Protection Ms. Susan Andrew. While addressing the event, Mir Tariq Ali Talpur highlighted the importance of children's rights, stating, 'Children are the future of our society, and protecting their rights is our top priority. Emphasizing the significance of CPIMS, the Minister said: 'This system will not only streamline the management of child protection cases but will also strengthen decision-making processes. It will help us identify areas and children requiring more focused attention.' He further added, 'The Sindh government has always taken serious steps to protect children's rights. We are ensuring not only effective legislation but also its proper implementation. CPIMS will guarantee that no child is left without support.' The Minister appealed to parents, teachers, and civil society, saying: 'Child protection is a collective responsibility. We must all work together to support systems that address children's issues. I urge parents and teachers to adopt a friendly approach towards children and understand their concerns.' Reaffirming the government's commitment to child rights, Talpur said, 'We envision a society where every child can fully realize their potential in a safe and empowered environment.'

ronment.' He also announced that the Sindh government would soon introduce more comprehensive policies on child rights and protection, including awareness campaigns in schools and communities. The event featured a presentation on the development and features of CPIMS, followed by its formal launch. A heartwarming skit and a special performance by children made the day even more memorable. On the occasion of World Children's Day, various activities were organized to raise awareness about children's rights. The Minister announced an awareness walk to be held on November 23 at Karachi's Sea View, inviting the public to participate and support the cause of child protection and rights. The Department of Social Welfare and its partners are optimistic that CPIMS will set a new standard for child protection services in Sindh, paving the way for a safe and inclusive future for every child.—APP

New polio case reported in KP, raising disease toll to 50 in country

PESHAWAR: The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad has confirmed the detection of another wild poliovirus (WPV1) case. According to a press release issued here by Emergency Operation Center (EOC) KP on Tuesday, the lab confirmed the case from girl-child from Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), bringing the number of cases this year to 50. Genetic sequencing of the virus isolated from collected samples indicates it is genetically linked to WPV1 detected in the same district in July. "This is the second polio case from Tank and 50th polio case from Pakistan this year," the press release added.—APP

Lost and Found



I, Syed Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Parvez Zaidi (Resident of House No. CB-1073, Areef Grocery Store street, Azizabad, Abid Majid Road, Rawalpindi), the undersigned, solemnly declare that I, the undersigned, passed the Matriculation examination in 2014 from the Federal Board, Islamabad, under Roll Number 115267 and Registration Number 1422051220. On my Matriculation certificate, my name and my father's name are incorrectly listed as Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Zaidi. According to my NADRA record, the correct name is Syed Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Parvez Zaidi. Therefore, I request that my and my father's correct names, Syed Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Parvez Zaidi, be entered on the Matriculation certificate, and that the certificate be issued to me accordingly.



I, Syed Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Parvez Zaidi (Resident of House No. CB-1073, Areef Grocery Store street, Azizabad, Abid Majid Road, Rawalpindi), the undersigned, solemnly declare that I, the undersigned, passed the F.A. examination in 2019 from Rawalpindi Board under Roll Number 815408, Registration Number 20194122982. On my F.A. certificate, my name and my father's name are incorrectly listed as Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Zaidi. According to my NADRA record, the correct name is Syed Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Parvez Zaidi. Therefore, I request that my and my father's correct names, Syed Shahzaib Zaidi, son of Tasleem Parvez Zaidi, be entered on the F.A. certificate, and that the certificate be issued to me accordingly.

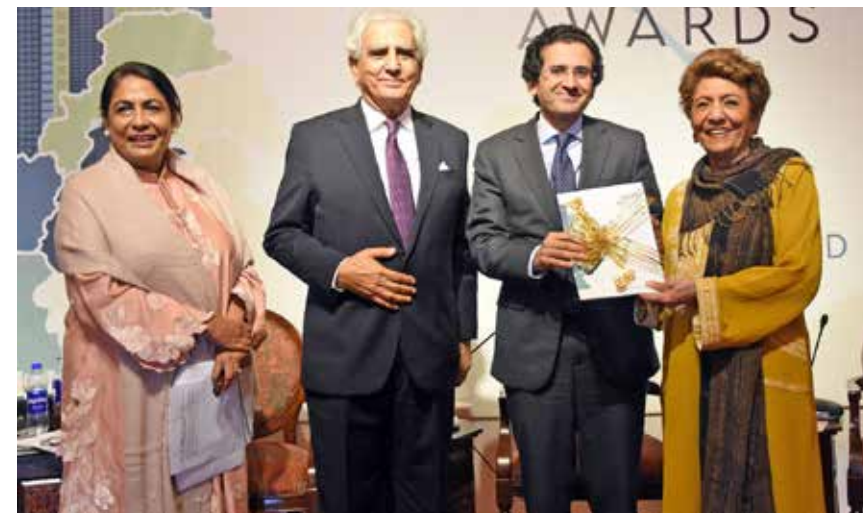
Sharjeel inaugurates People's bus service's command, control centre

KARACHI: The Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon on Tuesday inaugurated Command and Control Center of People's Bus Service. The Command and Control Center has been established at the office D-43 Block 2, Clifton, of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority. The Command and Control Center will monitor, facilitate, and live-track the operations related to the People's Bus Service. Talking to the media on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Command and Control Center will provide proper monitoring and timely necessary instructions to the People's Bus Service running across Sindh. This command and control system would monitor the convenience of the passengers of the People's Bus Service and their live videos and will monitor the conduct of the staff. If there is any complaint or the fare is being charged excessively, you can complain. If any item of a passenger gets stolen or missing, it will also be captured on camera, a communique said. He said that, for the very first time in Sindh, such a modern command and control system has been established that would monitor all the operations of the People's Bus Service. Along with this, complaint numbers have also been given on which any complaint related to the service can be made. If anyone has any complaint, it can also be redressed in a timely manner. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that this facility was in developed countries. The Sindh government is providing facilities like that to developed countries in Sindh. Earlier, a card system was introduced for purchasing tickets for the People's Bus Service. The Sindh government will soon bring more facilities for its people, he added. In response to a question while talking to media, the Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the same group that announced protests on November 24 is the same force that wants anarchy and lawlessness in the country. To another question, he said the Sindh government has serious reservations on the construction of canals on the Indus River. Sindh is already suffering from a water shortage; our stand on this issue is clear and firm. Answering another question, he said we are not an ally of the federal government, but we supported the government unconditionally so that the democratic system could move forward. To another question, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that under instructions from the party leadership, the Sindh government has launched an operation against drugs. The Senior Minister answering a question said, "A very important exhibition of ideas is going on in Karachi. Such events are sending a message to the whole world that Pakistan is a safe country. Owing to the exhibition of ideas, the routes of People's Bus Service have been temporarily changed, which will be restored immediately after the exhibition. More buses are coming." We are also purchasing double-deckers for Karachi. The double-decker buses will start plying in Karachi. Pakistan's cuisine.—DNA

Corporate Philanthropy hits PKR 23.65b in 2023

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP)'s latest corporate philanthropy report reveals that business companies in Pakistan collectively donated PKR 23.65 billion for various social causes in 2023, marking a notable increase from PKR 16.76 billion in 2022. In recognition of the generous contribution of the business sector, PCP organized the Corporate Philanthropy Awards 2024 on November 19th in Islamabad. The event was chaired by Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power. During his address, he acknowledged and encouraged the increasing importance of corporate philanthropy in supporting the government's efforts for social and economic develop-



ment, particularly in times of crisis. The distinguished guests of the award ceremony included Mr. Zaffar A. Khan (S.I.), Chairman PCP Board of Directors, Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, Chairperson PCP Research Committee, Ms. Shazia Maqsood Amjad, Executive Director of PCP, and representatives from leading corporate firms and civil society organizations. PCP's Executive Director shared the salient features of the report highlighting that Public Listed Companies (PLCs) contributed

the largest share, amounting to PKR 17.69 billion, while Public Unlisted Companies (PULCs) and Private Limited Companies (PvLCs) also significantly contributed PKR 2.60 billion and PKR 3.36 billion respectively.

Spanish senators discover unforgettable charms in Pakistan

LAHORE :Senator Vicente Azpitarte Perez of Spain has said that Pakistan is an amazing country and he had discovered its charms and greatness during the week-long visit. Pakistan's cuisine in an exclusive talk with APP on the eve of their departure, the Spanish senator from Granada, Andalucia said the first-ever visit had opened up a new world of knowledge about Pakistan, adding it enabled them to discover a positive image of the country. A four-member delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Senate of Spain visited Pakistan from November 13-19. The delegation comprised Senators Antonio Gutierrez, Vicente Azpitarte Perez, Ms. Natalia Ucerro and Luis de la Pena. Clad in Shalwar-Kameez – the national dress of Pakistan – the senators attended the pre-departure dinner hosted by Chairperson National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs MNA Hina Rabbani Khar at the sprawling lawns of the Lahore Polo Club. "It was absolutely amazing and

unforgettable and we are impressed by so many facets of the country which were hidden to us prior to the visit," he responded, adding they did not know anything about the immense potentials of Pakistan. To a query, he said the delegation had no idea about Pakistan but they had a great picture now and would share the greatness of the country on their return to Spain. On the historic connections between the two countries, Senator Perez said: "Spain shares rich Muslim history as a country and most of us represent the regions of Muslim heritage like Andalucia, Granada and Cordova – a city which has deep friendship with Lahore." "We are following the footsteps of great philosopher poet Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal, and he provides the vital link between the two countries," the senator said, adding: "We share history, literature, culture and food as well and these connect us together," he added. Pakistan's cuisine About providing expertise on developing olive oil industry in Pakistan, he said Andalu-


lusia is the world's greatest region in olive oil production and research, adding that the collaboration with Pakistan will go beyond the olive oil industry. He said the Spanish businessmen need to visit Pakistan and see on their own what massive opportunities they have to explore and invest. When asked about the cultural heritage of Lahore, the senator said they had visited many heritage sites in the historic city, including the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort and Samadhi of Raja Ranjeet Singh, adding that it is marvelous city which is full of architectural marvels embodying rich cultural and architectural history. On the outcome of the visit by the Spanish delegation, he said: "This visit is a great success and we are proud to be first Spanish parliamentarians to come and see Pakistan," adding the visit will go a long way in cementing bilateral ties between the Pakistan and Spain in energy, tourism, textile, olive oil research and beyond.—APP

Lahore to get 300 electric buses: Azma

ISLAMABAD :Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari Tuesday announced that electric buses would roll out in the province by December's end, a major step to combat smog and boost eco-friendly transportation. The government's long-term plan, led by the Chief Minister, would further reduce pollution and switch to environmentally friendly transportation solutions. Azma Bokhari, in an exclusive talk

with a private news channel, unveiled Punjab's ambitious plan to revolutionize public transportation in Lahore, adding, "We are committed to providing eco-friendly transportation solutions to our citizens." "The 300 electric buses will not only reduce environmental pollution but also provide a comfortable and efficient commute experience," Bokhari explained. She also expressed her gratitude to Allah and praised






the environment department for effectively managing the smog situation in Punjab and revealed, "The Punjab government is planning to transition to green technology soon." "This shift towards green technology is part of the government's long-term plan and vision of Chief Minister Punjab to reduce pollution and promote sustainable development," she added. Khari also shared some encouraging updates on the smog situation in Punjab.—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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Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway 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



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Literature fest showcases Pakistan's rich culture

The festival at NUML was a kaleidoscope of events including soulful recitations of Hamad and Qalam-e-Iqbal, a lively Rabab performance, and a thought-provoking theatrical act, "Nightingale and the Rose"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The English Literary Society (ELS) of the National University of Modern Languages hosted the annual Literature Fest 2024, full of vim and vigour, celebrating Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and literary brilliance. The event brought together students, faculty, and distinguished guests for a colourful display of creativity, unity, and patriotism, leaving an ineradicable impression on all attendees. At the outset, Dr. Muntazir Mehdi, Head of the English Department, welcomed the audience, emphasizing the importance of literature and culture in shaping identities. "Through events like the NUML Literature Fest, we aim to reconnect our students with their roots, noting that such efforts play a vital role in promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage". The event was attended by Pro-Rector Academics, Dr. Safer Awan, Head of English Department Dr. Muntazir Mehdi along with a renowned literary critic, short-story and fiction writer Muhammad Hameed Shahid (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) as a Chief Guest; the festival celebrated the unflinching spirit of Pakistan's traditions and literature. They hailed NUML's commitment to preserving cultural identity in a fast-changing world. "In today's era, where it is increasingly difficult for individuals to remain connected to their cultural values, NUML has always taken steps to keep our traditions'



essence alive. This initiative has stirred up love and pride for Pakistan's culture in the hearts of every individual," remarked Muhammad Hameed Shahid. The festival was a kaleidoscope of events including soulful recitations of Hamad and Qalam-e-Iqbal, a lively Rabab performance, and a thought-provoking theatrical act, "Nightingale and the Rose". The vivacious Bait Bazi competition and cultural poetry performances added a lively charm to the event, showcasing the cultural heritage

of all the provinces, while modern elements such as beatboxing and comic literary news showcased the versatility and creativity of NUML's students. The aesthetics of the festival were equally captivating, with the art corner displaying vibrant and imaginative works by students. The enthusiastic applause, lighting, and cheers from the audience resonated throughout the performances, reflecting their engagement and pride in the cultural showcase. The NUML

Literature Fest 2024 emphasized the importance of reconnecting with cultural values while fostering artistic expression. Each activity symbolized a different facet of Pakistan's heritage, from the poetic depth of Ghazals to the dynamic energy of beatboxing. These performances not only marked the diversity of Pakistan's culture but also inspired the students to carry forward this legacy with pride and creativity. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad

Hameed Shahid highlighted the festival's significance: "This event is more than a celebration; it is a call to remember who we are and where we come from. Through literature and arts, we can keep our culture alive and inspire the next generation to contribute to Pakistan's vibrant identity." He commended the performances presented by the students, adding that such events help to keep the youth aware of their rich traditions. The festival concluded with souvenir presentations and a group photo.

CDA chief accelerates major construction projects

Chairman CDA inspected the ongoing construction activities at the sites. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Memon, relevant CDA officers, contractors, and consultants were also present.

ISLAMABAD: In line with the directions of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa conducted a detailed visit of the Sareena Chowk and Jinnah Avenue F-8 Interchange projects and reviewed the ongoing progress of construction work. He also inspected the ongoing construction activities at the sites. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Memon, relevant CDA officers, contractors, and consultants were

also present. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa instructed the contractors to ensure the completion of the projects within the stipulated time frame under all circumstances. He also praised the workers involved in the projects. Additionally, he directed that the process of reallocation of service lines be completed promptly. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized that the pace of work should be further

increased by ensuring 24/7 operations on the projects, while the construction work should be carried out simultaneously at various sections of the projects. He also instructed that work on the flyover at the Jinnah Avenue F-8 Interchange be initiated at the same time. Chairman CDA stated that the highest standards of construction work must be ensured. He further mentioned that the Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi, is personally

monitoring the progress of both projects. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa was also briefed on the ongoing construction work at the sites. He was informed that all activities on the projects are in line with the timelines and schedules, with construction work proceeding simultaneously on various sections, including the underpasses. The work on piling and casting of girders is also progressing rapidly. APP

Pakistan's earns \$ 876m from IT services

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan earned US \$876.457 million by exporting different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first three months of the current fiscal year 2024-25. This shows a growth of 33.69 percent as compared with the US \$ 655.606 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the months under review, the computer services grew by 39.38 percent as it surged from US \$534.220 million last year to US \$744.571 million during July-September 2024. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 39.68 percent, from US \$182.371 million to US \$254.740 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 18.51 percent, from US \$1.451 million to US \$1.720 million. The export of repair and maintenance services surged by 102.12 percent from US \$0.286 million to US \$0.579 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services however decreased by 9.27 percent, from US \$153.525 million to US \$139.289 million. In addition, the exports of other computer services witnessed a growth of 77.15 percent from US \$196.585 million to US \$348.241 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review also increased by 1148.24 percent growing from US \$0.721 million to US \$9.011 million. Among the information services, the exports of news agency services up by 2141.76 percent, from US \$0.385 million to US \$8.646 million whereas the exports of other information services also rose by 8.35 percent, from US \$0.336 million to US \$0.364 million. The data revealed that the export of telecommunication services also increased by 1.83 percent as these went up from US \$120.663 million to US \$122.874 million.—APP

Call for dialogue to resolve Kashmir dispute

Mirwaiz who is head cleric of Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, in a sermon at a mosque in city's Bota Kadal, delivered a compelling discourse on Haqooq ul Ibaad (rights and responsibilities among people)

ISLAMABAD: Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has emphasized that dialogue was the only viable path to resolving the Kashmir dispute. He urged India to revisit initiatives such as cross-LOC trade and bus services, describing them as vital confidence-building measures between Pakistan and India. According to Kashmir Media Service, speaking to the media in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Mirwaiz stressed, "The policy of repression can not resolve conflicts and reiterated that dialogue is only way forward." Highlighting the limitations of local governments in resolving political issues like Kashmir, he called for sincere engagement by the Indian government in addressing the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The local

government can address issues of basic amenities, but for the political aspect of the Kashmir issue, New Delhi must change its perspective. People here want an end to uncertainty and bloodshed," Mirwaiz said. Welcoming the relative calm along the Line of Control over the past few years, Mirwaiz urged India and Pakistan to capitalize on this momentum by reopening trade routes and improving connectivity. "Such initiatives have benefited many families in the past and must be revisited. These steps are beyond the purview of the local government and rest with the central authorities," he noted. Mirwaiz expressed optimism about the potential for dialogue. "If New Delhi shows a positive inclination, Kashmiri leadership is ready to engage. Pakistan also under-

stands that confrontation is not the solution," he added. He also shared a personal instance, lamenting that strained relations prevented him from visiting Pakistan to mourn the loss of a relative. Mirwaiz praised the resurgence of Kashmir's traditional arts and crafts, including the copper industry, and urged artisans to maintain authenticity and quality in their work. "Such initiatives create opportunities for youth in the absence of other jobs and businesses," he said. The revival of local industries could pave the way for economic stability, he added. Mirwaiz who is head cleric of Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, in a sermon at a mosque in city's Bota Kadal, delivered a compelling discourse on Haqooq ul Ibaad (rights and responsibilities among people).—DNA

Pak needs political stability: Nusrat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Political and social leader Nusrat Khan has said that there is a need to bring stability to national politics today. Political tension harms both the country and the nation. In a statement, Nusrat Khan stated that Pakistan is once again caught in crises. It is regrettable that those responsible for resolving the country's issues are, in fact, the ones responsible for creating them.

In response to a question, Nusrat Khan said that we must understand that Pakistan has changed. Today, from Khyber to Karachi, the common Pakistani is well aware of the underlying causes of our problems. Therefore, it is essential to comprehend the rapidly changing circumstances instead of using outdated tactics from the past.—APP

Al-Ihsan Hospital given deadline to comply with court orders

RAWALPINDI: "The Rawalpindi Cantonment Board has given Al-Ihsan Hospital a 10-day deadline to comply with court orders. If the hospital fails to do so, the Cantonment Board will take action again. The court has held Al-Ihsan Hospital's administration responsible for contempt of court and ordered them to apply for commercialization and composition within 10 days. If the hospital fails to comply, it will be sealed again.—APP

ANF recovers over 210 kg drugs in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 210 kg drugs worth Rs 140 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation, 800 grams hashish and 200 grams ice were recovered from an accused arrested near a university in Sialkot. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 2.5 kg ice was recovered from the trolley bag of a passenger going to Bahrain at Lahore Airport.—APP

Cheezious unveils fast delivery campaign

ISLAMABAD: Cheezious, A proud Pakistani brand is setting a new benchmark for delivery excellence with the official launch of its #AaRahaHuMein campaign. The brand is proud to announce its commitment to faster, more reliable delivery with the release of its new Digital Video Commercial (DVC), showcasing its operational upgrades. With the launch of this campaign, Cheezious is reaffirming its commitment to delivering exceptional customer satisfaction. Customers can place their orders until 3 AM, and Cheezious Riders will deliver their food directly to their doorsteps with an assurance of efficiency and speedy delivery. This initiative underscores Cheezious dedication to staying ahead of consumer expectations in Pakistan's fast-paced food delivery market, ensuring a seamless and fast delivery experience for every order. Head of Marketing Cheezious Zohaib Hassan said that "Aa Raha Hu Mein is not just a campaign; it's a promise to our customers that we are focused on delivering not only great taste but also the speed they deserve." He further said We are excited to share this evolution with our loyal customers, who continue to inspire our commitment to excellence." The campaign is already seeing positive customer feedback, with prominent engagement highlighting the need for this customer-centric approach in the market.



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Briefs

IRSA releases
100,600
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 100,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 54,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1507.53 feet and was 109.53 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 25,300 cusecs and 49,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1167.45 feet, which was 117.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,700 cusecs and 28,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 59,200, 49,100, 37,700 and 5,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 15,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Pakistan,
UK agree to
deepen coop
on climate
challenge

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Tuesday agreed to deepen the bilateral cooperation in multiple spheres including on the matters related to the challenge of climate change. The bilateral relations were discussed as UK Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East and South Asia Hamish Falconer met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar here, according to a Foreign Office press release. In the meeting, the two leaders discussed regional and bilateral issues of common interest and agreed on ways to deepen Pakistan-UK cooperation including addressing climate change-related challenges. The deputy prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen the traditionally cordial Pakistan-UK ties.—APP

Police hold 9
illegal arms
holders

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested nine illegal arms holders and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession during a crackdown. According to police spokesman, Sadiqabad, Naseerabad, Race Course, Wah Cantt, Mandra, Jatli and Chakri police rounded up nine illegal arm holders namely Ijaz, Abbas, Suleman, Ubaidullah, Waheed, Imran, Zia Mehboob, Sajid and Basharat and recovered eight pistols 30 bore, a 9mm pistol and ammunition from their possession. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress. SSP Operations commended police teams and instructed to take strict action against those carrying illegal weapons.—APP

Dutch envoy, finance minister
discuss ways to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore ways for further strengthening the existing ties between Pakistan and The Netherlands. According to press release issued by finance ministry, during the meeting, various aspects of the longstanding friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries were discussed. They identified priority areas like mining, IT, oil and gas, agriculture,

Ahsan for NCS to work out
reforms on modern lines

The Planning minister also expressed the desire to establish a state-of-the-art Teachers Training Center to improve the quality of education and produce manpower that meets contemporary needs, for which the Ministry of Education had already been given the task

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said the Ministry of Education had been asked to hold a 'National Curriculum Summit' (NCS) to work out necessary reforms and align the country's education system with the requirements of the modern era. "We want to take the national curriculum beyond the O and A level education system," he said while addressing the launch ceremony of the Model Assessment Framework at the auditorium of the Federal Board of Inter-

mediate and Secondary Education (FBISE). He called for inviting experts from both the private and public sectors to discuss educational reforms so that a 'comprehensive review' could be carried out to frame and implement a modern curriculum system in the country. The Planning minister also expressed the desire to establish a state-of-the-art Teachers Training Center to improve the quality of education and produce manpower that meets contemporary needs, for which the Ministry of Education had already been given the task. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government had initiated this project during its last tenure but could not complete

it due to political instability. He added that the center, in collaboration with provincial education departments, would be the best in South Asia, where students could receive quality education focused on improving their critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and team-learning skills. "It will be a paradigm shift from memorization-based education," Iqbal said, adding that the initiative would also reform the existing examination system. Ahsan Iqbal said memorization-based education was irrelevant in the modern era, where innovation and creativity drive development. He believed that the country could not achieve the required goals of progress and prosperity without improving ed-

ucation standards and developing human resources. "Today's era is not about muscle power; it's about brain power. Nations with superiority in brain power will succeed. The first step toward national progress is improving the education system." Mentioning a recent report by Pakistan's District Education Performance Index (DEPI), which evaluated 134 districts' performance, he regretted that not a single district was listed in the 'Very High' category. Only Islamabad was placed in the 'High' category, while 56 districts secured the 'Medium' category—32 from Punjab, 16 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 8 from Sindh. He said 77 districts fell into the 'Low' category, with 33 from Balochistan

and 22 from Sindh. Looking at the overall performance, the minister said Punjab's score stood at 61.39 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's at 54.47 percent, Sindh's at 51.55 percent and Balochistan's at 45.50 percent. Ahsan Iqbal stressed that every country in the world today faced the challenge of aligning its education system with the needs of the modern age, due to the rapid changes taking place in all fields. "In the coming days, the pace of development will further accelerate, and we (Pakistan) need to prepare its next generations with the skills of intellect, modern education, critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving and team learning," he remarked.



ISLAMABAD: November 19 - Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence.—APP

Ayaz for fostering cordial
ties with Australia

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday expressed Pakistan's strong commitment to fostering cordial and friendly relations with Australia. Pakistan's cuisine During a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins, he highlighted the importance of enhancing parliamentary diplomacy as a means of expanding bilateral ties

between the two nations. In the meeting, comprehensive deliberations were held on a range of issues, including the strengthening of bilateral ties, regional cooperation, and global matters of mutual interest. "Pakistan places great importance on its cordial and friendly relations with Australia," he said and emphasized that parliamentary diplomacy could play a pivotal role in deepening these ties. The Speaker while underscoring the significance of parliamentary exchanges

in strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation between both countries, said that it will also provide valuable opportunities for parliamentarians to learn from each other's experiences. Ayaz Sadiq also acknowledged the vital role played by the Pakistan-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly. This Parliamentary group, he said, has been instrumental in enhancing communication and collaboration between the two

countries. He emphasized that the group's ongoing efforts are essential in promoting bilateral contacts and fostering stronger ties between the two nations. Ayaz Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's constitutional commitment to protecting the rights of all communities within the country. "Pakistan's constitution guarantees the protection of the rights of all communities within Pakistan," he said, highlighting the country's firm stance on ensuring equal rights for all citizens.

Ombudsperson
hears cases in Pindi

She informed that the Punjab government is also taking important steps for the betterment of women

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Ombudsperson Punjab, Nabila Hakim Ali Khan here on Tuesday issued orders to swiftly resolve cases. Hearing cases related to non-share in inheritance and harassment of women at Regional Office she gave a decision in a long pending case related to Chakwal's family about their inherited property. The women petitioners thanked the Ombudsperson and appreciated her efforts for the rights of women. The Provincial Ombudsperson Punjab disposed of dozens of cases related to inheritance share of the women. Advocate Malik Zahoor Ahmed Awan, Deputy Director Information Rawalpindi Division, Tabinda Saleem and other relevant officers were also present on this occasion. The enforcement of Property Rights Act 2021 has made it easier for women to get their legal share in inherited property, the Ombudsperson said adding, women had to wait for years in the civil courts for the right of inheritance. The Ombudsperson informed that under this act, it has become very easy for them to get their Shariah rights. The

institution is working very effectively in this regard. It is no longer difficult for women to get their inheritance, she added. She further said, "Within a year, we have resolved cases of property worth Rs 15 billion. Our nine regional offices are working to address women's issues." All possible measures are being taken to provide inheritance rights to women, she said. "It is our duty to provide women their constitutional and Shariah rights. We have to make women bold and confident," she added. The institution is making efforts to provide best environment to women at work places. Women cannot be deprived of the right of inheritance under any circumstances, she said adding, "We have to encourage women to move forward in life. We are working to support the women who are valuable members of the society and have equal rights," she said. The Ombudsperson said that all facilities are being provided to women in regional offices. She informed that the Punjab government is also taking important steps for the betterment of women.

Marri
stresses
dialogue for
addressing
national
challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A prominent leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Shazia Marri Tuesday urged the government and opposition to resolve their differences through dialogue, criticizing PTI's destructive politics that has disturbed citizens and damaged state property. Shazia Marri stressed the importance of peaceful dialogue in tackling national challenges during an exclusive interview with a private news channel. Shazia Marri mentioned that while her party wholeheartedly supports peaceful protests as a fundamental democratic right, these protests should never be allowed to turn destructive. She also highlights the importance of balancing the right to free speech and assembly with the need to maintain public order and safety. Marri also strongly criticized PTI protests, stating that they consistently disturb citizens and harm the country, emphasizing that this should not be tolerated at any cost. Shazia Marri also expressed optimism about Pakistan's direction, emphasizing that the country is moving in the right direction. Responding to a query, Shazia Marri also highlighted Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's support for the 26th amendment, emphasizing his interest in collaborating with the government.

Two dead as
car overturns
into ditch

ISLAMABAD: A fatal road traffic accident occurred in the early hours of Tuesday morning near Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of two individuals. According to initial reports, rescue officials informed that the vehicle overturned into a ditch, causing immediate fatalities, private news channel reported. Rescue teams rushed to the scene shortly after receiving reports of the accident. The teams, comprising personnel from the Rescue 1122 and local police worked diligently to retrieve the bodies from the wreckage. The rescue teams successfully recovered the bodies from the ditch and shifted them to the nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities.—APP

Musical
activities
helped to
boost tourism

ISLAMABAD: Singer Salman Paras from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) said on Tuesday that music-related activities boosted tourism in the region as local languages are known and heard worldwide. While talking to the media, he said, "We are blessed with four seasons, and GB is surrounded by mountains that boost the tourism around the world." Paras said that the local traditional musical instruments played an important role in the composition of music. The songs were especially composed to entertain the local and foreign tourists, he added. He discussed the customs and culture of GB, emphasizing the friendliness of the local people and the beauty of the natural scenery. Salman Paras is a Shina Folk singer from Gilgit-Baltistan. He has recorded more than 50+ songs since 2002. He is proficient in various genres and is also close to Sufi folk music.—APP

Accused
wanted in
house robbery
cases arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police have arrested an accused wanted in house robbery cases after being injured in an encounter in Naseerabad area. A Honda City car stolen from the Westridge area a few days ago, a mobile phone and a pistol were recovered from the accused identified as Muhammad Ali, who was wanted in house robbery cases registered at various police stations, a police spokesman said on Tuesday.—APP

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Climate finance

THE world's climate leaders have gathered in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the latest UN climate conference. It takes place in the midst of warnings that if the global community does not cut emissions by 42 per cent by 2030 and 57 per cent by 2035, we will not be able to avoid the catastrophic costs of climate change. The good news is that thanks to advances in China, Japan, Europe and the United States, the technology that is needed to meet these targets stands ready. All that is necessary is to provide the right incentives and financing. The bad news is that rather than rising to the challenge, negotiations on financing appear mired in a finger-pointing exercise where some countries are blaming others for not paying their fair share of the cost. It is simply not the case that China lags behind in this aspect. New research indicates that China is a leader in global climate finance. In the alphabet soup of United Nations climate acronyms, what is at stake is the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance. Rich nations pledged at the Copenhagen climate conference in 2009 to provide US\$100 billion of climate finance to developing countries by 2020. Those countries only made good on that goal in 2022, and now many of them are calling on India and China to step up and contribute as well. Pointing fingers at China, which is already a leader in climate finance, will not cause it to raise its ambitions. A paper released in September by the Washington-based Centre for Global Development puts China's climate finance contributions at about US\$34 billion by 2021, or US\$4 billion annually since 2013. The World Resources Institute, a global authority on climate finance, employed the same methodology that the United Nations uses for climate finance but adopted a broader range of available data sets. It found that from 2013 to 2022 China provided upwards of US\$45 billion. This would put China sixth in global climate finance contributions, behind Japan, Germany, the US, France and the United Kingdom. According to China's own estimates, which were published recently, it has provided more than 177 billion yuan (US\$24.4 billion) in climate finance to developing countries. This estimate is smaller than those of the Centre for Global Development or World Resources Institute because it focuses on the period from 2016 to 2022, but on an annual basis the figure would be about 25.3 billion yuan, a similar amount to those from the third-party estimates. The Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition, the author of the China estimate, notes that the above figure does not include two recent large pledges. China announced pledges of US\$100 billion in loans at the Belt and Road Forum in October last year and US\$50 billion for African countries during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in September. Both pledges are primarily focused on clean energy projects. Data released earlier this month by the Global Development Policy Centre at Boston University shows that the Export-Import Bank of China provided loans worth US\$502 million last year for renewable energy projects in Madagascar, Burkina Faso and Uganda. In addition, China unveiled its Green Investment and Finance Partnership at last year's Belt and Road Forum in hopes of driving issuance of green bonds for overseas engagement and new green standards for China's overseas banking.



G20's focus on development

THE 19th G20 Summit is being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from November 18 to 19. Chinese President Xi Jinping said at the summit that China has announced the decision to give all the least developed countries having diplomatic relations with China zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines. President Xi previously stated that development must be placed at the center of G20 cooperation. This echoes this year's G20 theme, "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet," established by Brazil, the G20 presidency. This allows the world to see that this G20 Summit will continue to focus on development issues, leading to more positive expectations from the global community. The summit has three central topics: combating hunger, poverty, and inequality; addressing climate change with a just transition; and reforming global governance. Two of the three topics are directly related to development, highlighting an important change in the G20 in recent years, that is, it has gradually transformed from an emergency consultation platform for crisis response into a long-term and effective governance mechanism dedicated to promoting a more just, inclusive, and equitable global economic system. Another more important historical change is that the voices of "Global South" countries have become louder, with more demands from developing countries being reflected in G20 agendas. Many in the Western public have also taken note of this shift. Achieving such a transformation is not an easy task. Especially in recent years, with the rise of unilateralism and protectionism, frictions among various parties have increased, and geopolitical issues have frequently taken the spotlight, squeezing the space for pragmatic cooperation within multilateral platforms. However, the G20 did not go into this direction. As early as the 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit, China, as the host country, placed development at the core for the first time, effectively promoting the G20's shift from focusing on economic issues to addressing a diverse range of topics, including development. This trend continues to this day. Then United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon commended China for taking the G20 Summit to another level of inclusiveness. In recent years, China has been promoting such a transformation. For example, it has proposed and advanced cutting-edge agendas such as the digital economy and artificial intelligence, while also introducing topics like green finance. China has consistently upheld true multilateralism, advocating for mutual respect, equal cooperation, and win-win outcomes, effectively countering the interference of unilateralism and protectionism within the G20. Today, the G20, while focusing on economic and development issues, has further increased its attention to building a more equitable and reasonable global governance system. This has earned the G20 greater credibility and support, making it more vibrant and dynamic. The G20 was born out of crisis, but it has not diminished with the passing of that crisis; instead, it has gradually grown into a cooperative platform dedicated to fundamentally addressing crises. The reason for this evolution is evident: It aligns with the expectations of the vast majority of countries around the world, which is to promote a bright future of peace, security, prosperity, and progress for the world.

Trump's bureaucracy cuts: A daunting task

Qamar Bashir



Like Vivek, Elon Musk is a visionary entrepreneur, engineer, and inventor, known for founding and leading several transformative companies. Born on June 28, 1971, in Pretoria, South Africa, Musk moved to the U.S. to pursue higher education. He earned degrees in physics and economics from the University of Pennsylvania. Musk co-founded Zip2, an online business directory, and PayPal, a digital payments platform, before venturing into ambitious projects like SpaceX, Tesla, Neuralink, and The Boring Company

THE stunning results of the USA elections surprised both Democrats and Republicans alike. Trump's unprecedented victory was accompanied by Republican wins in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Before the 2024 elections, Democrats controlled the Senate with 51 seats to Republicans' 49, while Republicans held a narrow majority in the House with 220 seats to Democrats' 212. After the elections, Republicans gained control of the Senate with 53 seats, and in the House, they retained their majority with 220 seats to Democrats' 213, with 2 races undecided. This outcome resulted in unified Republican control of both chambers of Congress. This has emboldened President-elect Donald J. Trump to undertake one of the boldest policy and administrative decisions in U.S. history, which could be a potential game changer. Mr. Trump has established the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), to streamline federal operations by identifying wasteful spending, reducing regulatory burdens, and restructuring or potentially abolishing certain agencies to enhance government efficiency. He is poised to substantially reduce the size of the U.S. civilian and military bureaucracy, which, according to the strategic reform team led by Elon Musk and VivekRamaswamy, has grown excessively large. They argue that the bureaucracy has become a de facto "fourth branch" of government, assuming overriding control over decision-making processes and diminishing the power of the democratically elected political leadership. The rationale behind this initiative is that the federal bureaucracy has grown disproportionately large, with hefty perks and benefits, while many departments, despite their significant size and employment levels, are either underperforming or have lost sight of their original purpose. This has led to an unsustainable diversion of government funds to sustain a bloated bureaucracy rather than focusing on essential public services. The composition of the team leading this significant reform effort is noteworthy. Both Elon Musk and VivekRamaswamy come from private-sector backgrounds and have no prior experience in government bureaucracy. However, as highly successful corporate entrepreneurs, they bring a proven track record of building organizations from scratch and transforming them into success stories. For instance, VivekRamaswamy, born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Indian immigrant parents, is a biotech entrepreneur and a prominent Republican figure. A Harvard graduate in biology and a Yale Law School alumnus, he founded Roivant Sciences in 2014, spear-

heading groundbreaking pharmaceutical ventures. Ramaswamy gained national prominence through his criticism of "woke" corporate culture, as outlined in his 2021 book "Woke, Inc." Recognized for his conservative principles and innovative thinking, he was appointed by Trump to co-lead DOGE. His vision includes reducing the federal workforce by up to 75%, abolishing redundant agencies, and implementing eight-year term limits for unelected federal employees to prevent the entrenchment of power. He supports rescinding Executive Order 11246 to shift to a merit-based system and advocates utilizing Schedule F to streamline the removal of "deep-state" actors. These reforms aim to streamline government operations, reduce costs, and ensure a more responsive and meritocratic system. Like Vivek, Elon Musk is a visionary entrepreneur, engineer, and inventor, known for founding and leading several transformative companies. Born on June 28, 1971, in Pretoria, South Africa, Musk moved to the U.S. to pursue higher education. He earned degrees in physics and economics from the University of Pennsylvania. Musk co-founded Zip2, an online business directory, and PayPal, a digital payments platform, before venturing into ambitious projects like SpaceX, Tesla, Neuralink, and The Boring Company. Through these ventures, Musk has revolutionized industries such as space exploration, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, and infrastructure, earning a reputation as one of the most influential and innovative leaders of the 21st century. Elon Musk has consistently called for a drastic reduction in federal bureaucracy, advocating for the elimination of redundant agencies and unnecessary regulations. In a November 2024 interview, he proposed cutting the number of federal agencies from 428 to 99, effectively reducing the government by 77%. The proposed slicing include several agencies, including the Department of Education, FBI, ATF, IRS, CDC, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Musk has criticized overlapping responsibilities and entrenched bureaucratic elements, often referred to as the "deep state," which he believes hinder efficiency and innovation. Comparing excessive regulation to having more referees than players in a game, he emphasizes the need for a streamlined, responsive government that fosters progress. According to the concept, reducing federal bureaucracy by 70% to 77% can promote self-governance, efficiency, and potential tax reductions. By decentralizing power to state and local governments, it would foster greater accountability and responsive-

ness while empowering communities to address their unique needs. Moreover, streamlining operations eliminates redundancies will enhance decision-making agility, and will integrate modern technologies to reduce costs. Savings from reduced expenditures can lower taxes, address national debt, and boost public investment in critical areas like infrastructure and social welfare. This leaner structure would encourage economic growth, reduce dependence on centralized systems, and builds trust in a fiscally responsible government, benefiting both individuals and the private sector. In an hypothetical scenario, if the civil and military bureaucracy is reduced by 77%, it would generate savings of approximately \$815.24 billion, and economic growth would add another \$260 billion, the total additional funds available would be \$1,075.24 billion annually. If this amount is used to reduce taxes for the common people, it could result in a tax reduction of approximately \$3,239 per person annually, significantly easing the financial burden on households across the United States, besides the higher growth rate would amplify the benefits of deregulation and tax cuts, driving economic dynamism, fostering business expansion, and enhancing government revenue through increased overall economic activity. Though the concept and ideal looks great on paper and while reducing bureaucracy would promise cost savings, improved efficiency, and enhanced self-governance, its practical implementation most likely would face significant challenges. Political resistance from entrenched interests, legislative hurdles, and opposition from the bureaucracy itself could impede progress. Downsizing risks substantial job losses, economic disruption, and potential service gaps in critical public functions, including national security. Administrative complexities, such as restructuring workflows and maintaining morale among remaining employees, add further difficulties. The anticipated economic growth from deregulation and tax reductions may not materialize quickly, and regional economies dependent on federal jobs could suffer. Legal and ethical concerns, including labor lawsuits and equity issues, also pose significant risks. To succeed, such reforms would require a phased, strategic approach, stakeholder engagement, and meticulous planning to avoid unintended consequences and ensure sustainable outcomes.

— Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC

Intersectionality in women's political participation in Pakistan

Farzeen Khalid



Harassment remains one of the most pervasive issues faced by women in politics in Pakistan. Verbal, physical, and online harassment discourages many women, particularly from rural and conservative families, from pursuing political careers. This fear of harassment often extends to their families, further limiting opportunities for women to step into the public sphere. Elite women, such as Benazir Bhutto, often face fewer barriers...

INTERSECTIONALITY refers to the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as gender, class, religion, ethnicity, and caste as they apply to individuals or groups. These overlapping identities create systems of discrimination or disadvantage. In Pakistan, women face significant discrimination, primarily based on gender and religion. These experiences, shaped by systemic oppression and privileges, influence their personalities, behaviors, and opportunities. Particularly in the political realm, women encounter multiple forms of discrimination such as sexism, racism, and classism. These intersecting challenges hinder their political participation and representation, especially in a diverse country like Pakistan, where ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic differences amplify these barriers. Despite the challenges, women have played notable roles in Pakistan's political history. Benazir Bhutto, the most prominent example, broke barriers as the first female Prime Minister of a Muslim-majority country. Elected twice, serving from 1988-1990 and 1993-1996, Bhutto's legacy continues to inspire women in Pakistan and globally. Other figures like Ayesha Nazir, who represented the Christian minority, further illustrate that women from diverse backgrounds have made strides in Pakistani politics. Institutional reforms have also contributed to improving women's political representation. Gender quotas introduced in 2002 have ensured a degree of female participation in politics, a trend that continues. Currently, women hold 21.6% of the seats in the National Assembly, both reserved and general, and 19.2% of seats in the Senate. The National Assembly reserves 60 seats specifically for women, ensuring their presence in legislative processes. While these measures have increased representation, they fall short of addressing deeper systemic barriers that prevent equal political participation for women across all classes and regions. The political arena in Pakistan is often divided along class lines. Elite women, with access to education, financial resources, and family connections, are more likely to succeed in politics compared to marginalized women from rural or lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Political participation requires substantial financial resources and political experience—factors that working-class and rural women often lack. Cultural norms and patriarchal structures further exacerbate these issues. Many rural communities strictly adhere to traditions that confine women to domestic roles, discouraging political aspirations. These cultural restrictions, combined with limited access to education and financial resources, create significant obstacles for marginalized women to participate in politics or even contest elections. Harassment remains one of the most pervasive issues faced by women in politics in Pakistan. Verbal, physical, and online harassment discourages many women, particularly from rural and conservative families, from pursuing political careers. This fear of harassment often extends to their families, further limiting opportunities for women to step into the public sphere. Elite women, such as Benazir Bhutto, often face fewer barriers due to their strong family backgrounds and support systems. Bhutto's wealthy and politically influential family played a significant role in her rise to leadership, providing her with the resources and connections needed to navigate the political landscape. In contrast, women without such advantages struggle to gain formal political roles or decision-making authority. Intersectionality also shapes voting behavior in Pakistan. Voters in many regions prioritize ethnic, tribal, or religious affiliations over gender. For example, in provinces like Sindh and Balochistan, tribal loyalties often overshadow considerations of women's candidacies. This bias limits the electoral prospects of women candidates, particularly those from minority groups or rural areas. Minority women face additional challenges, such as skepticism about their loyalty to their religion or culture. Wealthier, urban women are often perceived as more capable of leadership, further marginalizing rural and middle-class women. These societal perceptions contribute to the systematic exclusion of women from leadership roles, particularly in regions where patriarchal norms dominate. To address these challenges and promote inclusive political participation for women, several policy measures and initiatives can be introduced: Introducing distinct quotas

for elite and marginalized women can ensure that women from all socioeconomic backgrounds have equal opportunities to participate in politics. This approach would allow rural and working-class women to gain representation alongside their elite counterparts. Programs focusing on leadership and public speaking can empower women with the skills needed to succeed in politics. These initiatives should target marginalized women, providing them with tools to overcome barriers related to education and experience. Strict legal measures must be enforced to address harassment and violence against women in politics. Establishing mechanisms for reporting and addressing such incidents can create a safer environment for women in political spaces. Political parties should ensure equitable nomination processes that include candidates from diverse socioeconomic, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. This would help break the cycle of elitism in political representation. Media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions. Highlighting the achievements and struggles of women, particularly those from marginalized communities, can challenge stereotypes and inspire others. Positive representation in media can also build public support for women's political participation. Public awareness campaigns can challenge societal norms that restrict women's roles to domestic spheres. These campaigns can emphasize the importance of women's contributions to leadership and governance, encouraging families to support women's political aspirations. Education is a critical tool for breaking down barriers to women's political participation. Providing access to education for girls, particularly in rural areas, can lay the foundation for future leaders. Educational institutions can also play a role in fostering political awareness and advocacy skills among young women. Additionally, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups can support women by offering training programs, mentorship, and resources. These organizations can also advocate for policy changes that promote gender equality in politics

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Briefs

Shehbaz reaffirms govt resolve..

FROM PAGE 01
IT exports while there is also significant surge in remittances. Efforts were underway to enhance tax base, he said and emphasised that they have to address the issue of leakages and massive evasion to free the country from debt. The PM stressed the need for collective efforts to take the country forward on the path of development. Today's meeting chaired by PM Shehbaz was attended by civilian and military leadership including all provincial chief ministers, the army chief, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief, Military Intelligence, Intelligence Bureau chiefs, key federal ministers, and others to discuss the security situation in light of surge in terror attacks in the country. Earlier, Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that Gandapur would table the PTI demands in the apex committee meeting. Gandapur had told The News that the PTI founder and the party were bound to be discussed in the apex committee meeting revolving around the law and order situation and the National Action Plan. The chief minister, while referring to the ongoing tensions between the PTI and the establishment, underscored that the situation was neither in the interest of the party, the country or the institution.

UAE doesn't 'shared document'...

FROM PAGE 01
mutual concern through official channels and constructive dialogue. "The embassy remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of Pakistani nationals in the UAE and will continue to work closely with UAE authorities to further strengthen the friendly ties between our two countries," it concluded. The rebuttal came after media reports of the UAE government imposing a ban on visas to Pakistani nationals emerged. The reports stated that the Emirati government shared documents with the Pakistani embassy, claiming that the ban was proposed in a cabinet meeting following complaints about the conduct of some Pakistani citizens. The documents indicated that certain nationals have engaged in protests, criticised the UAE government policies online, and misused digital platforms. These actions have been perceived as damaging to the UAE's reputation, prompting the country's government to take action. Additionally, concerns were raised over allegations of forgery in identity documents, such as altered identity cards and passports, by certain Pakistani individuals. The documents also highlighted involvement in criminal activities - including theft, fraud, begging, and drug-related offences - which were reportedly more prevalent among Pakistani nationals compared to individuals from other countries.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan discuss...

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The two sides comprehensively reviewed the bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, including political relations, inter-parliamentary exchanges, economic & trade ties, connectivity, education, information technology, telecommunication, culture and tourism. Expressing satisfaction at the current trajectory of bilateral relations, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the momentum in bilateral cooperation, and to collaborate closely at multilateral fora. It was agreed to enhance bilateral trade and economic relations and to expand collaboration in tourism and information technology. Important regional and global developments, including the situation in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir were also discussed.

Ambassador Galey calls for social equality

Dream Team wins club basketball tournament

Speaking at the event, French Ambassador Nicolaos Galey highlighted the significance of the tournament, stating, "This event allows us to promote the spirit of the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games here in Pakistan"

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Dream Team defeated Warriors Club 30-20 in the final to win the Federal Female Club Basketball Tournament title at Hamidi Hall, Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad. The tournament was organized by Right to Play in collaboration with Alliance Française and under the supervision of the Federal Basketball Association. The French Ambassador, Nicolaos Galey, and his wife, Camelia Galey, were the chief guests at the closing ceremony. Also in attendance were Uj E Zahoor, General Secretary of the Federal Basketball Association, Ali Khayam, Country Director for Right to Play, and other dignitaries. Ambassador's wife, Camelia Galey, a former professional basketball player in Algeria and France, played an active role in the event. Not only did she kickstart the tournament, but she also offered coaching tips to the participants during the competition. In the final match, Dream Team triumphed over Warriors Club, winning 30-20.



Maria Soratgar was a standout player for the winning team, scoring 10 points, while Humna Roohi contributed 8 points. Noor Fatima was the top scorer for Warriors Club, with 10 points. Speaking at

the event, French Ambassador Nicolaos Galey highlighted the significance of the tournament, stating, "This event allows us to promote the spirit of the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games

here in Pakistan. It is essential for us to contribute to the organization of a women's tournament. Gender equality and the promotion of women's rights are priorities for French diplomacy. Social

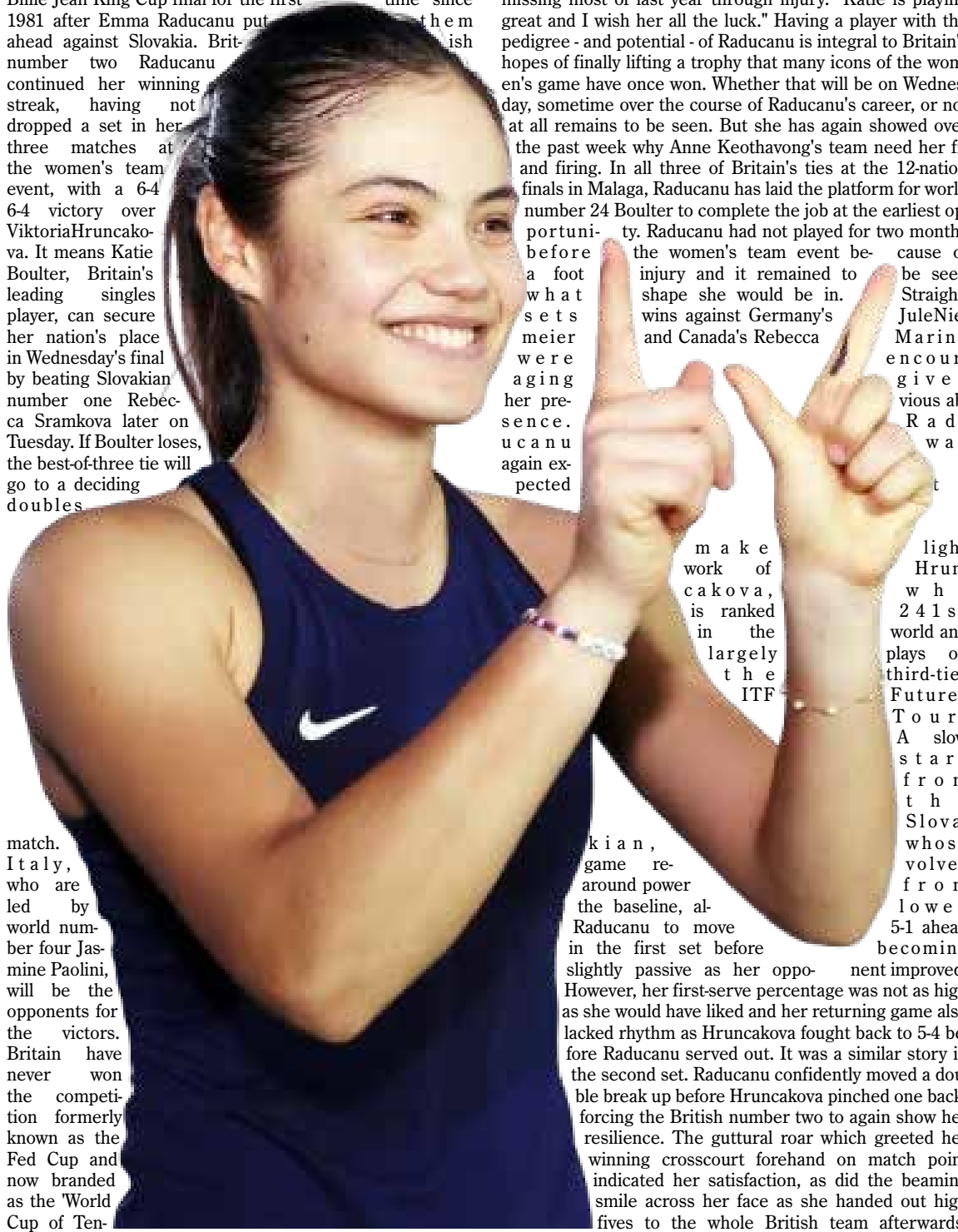
equality and inclusion are equally important." A total of eight amateur teams from different areas of Islamabad participated in the tournament, which was held under the theme of "Equal Playing Field."

Raducanu puts GB within touching distance of final

Britain have never won the competition formerly known as the Fed Cup and now branded as the 'World Cup of Tennis', but are aiming to reach the final for a fifth time in its 61-year history

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Great Britain are closing in on a place in the Billie Jean King Cup final for the first time since 1981 after Emma Raducanu put her name in the lead ahead against Slovakia. British number two Raducanu continued her winning streak, having not dropped a set in her three matches at the women's team event, with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Viktoria Hrunckova. It means Katie Boulter, Britain's leading singles player, can secure her nation's place in Wednesday's final by beating Slovakian number one Rebecca Sramkova later on Tuesday. If Boulter loses, the best-of-three tie will go to a deciding doubles



match. Italy, who are led by world number four Jasmine Paolini, will be the opponents for the victors. Britain have never won the competition formerly known as the Fed Cup and now branded as the 'World Cup of Tennis', but are aiming to reach the final for a fifth time in its 61-year history. "I will be coming back to support Katie and give everything like I did on the court," said 2021 US Open champion Raducanu, who is ranked 58th in the world after missing most of last year through injury. "Katie is playing great and I wish her all the luck." Having a player with the pedigree - and potential - of Raducanu is integral to Britain's hopes of finally lifting a trophy that many icons of the women's game have once won. Whether that will be on Wednesday, sometime over the course of Raducanu's career, or not at all remains to be seen. But she has again showed over the past week why Anne Keothavong's team need her fit and firing. In all three of Britain's ties at the 12-nation finals in Malaga, Raducanu has laid the platform for world number 24 Boulter to complete the job at the earliest opportunity. Raducanu had not played for two months before the women's team event because of injury and it remained to be seen what shape she would be in. Straight wins against Germany's Jule Niebauer and Canada's Rebecca Marino encouraged given previous absence. Raducanu was

to make work of Hrunckova, who is ranked 241st in the world and plays on the largely unknown ITF Futures Tour. A slow start from the Slovakian whose serves involves a low 5-1 lead in the first set before becoming slightly passive as her opponent improved. However, her first-serve percentage was not as high as she would have liked and her returning game also lacked rhythm as Hrunckova fought back to 5-4 before Raducanu served out. It was a similar story in the second set. Raducanu confidently moved a double break up before Hrunckova pinched one back, forcing the British number two to again show her resilience. The guttural roar which greeted her winning crosscourt forehand on match point indicated her satisfaction, as did the beaming smile across her face as she handed out high fives to the whole British team afterwards.

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India withdraw from Blind T20 WC in Pak

The tournament will proceed as per the schedule

LAHORE: India's blind cricket team has withdrawn from the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024, slated to be held in Pakistan from November 23 to December 3, Indian media reported on Tuesday. According to a report, India's withdrawal from the tournament came after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) denied them to cross the border for the global event. General Secretary of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CCBI) Shailendra Yadav confirmed the development to an Indian news outlet. Yadav shared that after receiving the No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Sports Ministry, the association was awaiting the government's approval. However, as per the latest development, the MEA has denied granting permission to the blind team to participate in the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 in Pakistan. "We were waiting for the last 25 days to get permission from the government to go to Pakistan. Now we can't wait any longer as the tournament is about to begin," said Yadav. "When I talked with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the phone then they told us that we won't be getting any permission to go to Pakistan and we can cancel our tournament. "They also told us that we will be getting an official letter of denial as well. However, we haven't got any official letter yet but on the basis of our conversation with MEA we've decided not to go to Pakistan and we will not participate in the Blind T20 World Cup." Yadav expressed his disappointment over the decision but affirmed that the cricketing association would abide by the MEA's directives. "Along with us, England, Australia and New Zealand are also not coming. Hence, India will become the fourth team which will not take part in this tournament. - DNA

PCB appoints Wahab as director of key tournament

Wahab has previously served as the national selector

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The PCB has appointed former pacer Wahab Riaz as the Director of a major domestic tournament. According to the details, Wahab's role would be to manage the matters related to the Champions tournaments - Champions One-Day Cup, Champions T20 Cup and Champions First-Class Cup - introduced by the cricket board earlier this year. For the unversed, Wahab has previously served as a member of the national men's selection committee and the team manager during this year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup. He, alongside Mansoor Rana, was sacked by the PCB just days after the national team's dismal campaign in the mega event. Soon after his removal from the selection committee, Riaz was also sacked as the senior team manager of the men's team. Sources at that time claimed that Wahab Riaz and Mansoor were sacked due to their inability to maintain discipline in the national men's team. In response, the left-arm pacer issued a detailed statement and claimed that he can say a lot but he does not want to be part of the blame games. "My time serving as a member of selection committee for PCB comes to an end, I just want my people to know that I have served the game I love with faith and sincerity and have given 100 percent for the betterment of Pakistan cricket.

Pak, KSA working together...

FROM PAGE 01

While recalling the recent Arab-Islamic Summit held at Riyadh, the Prime Minister appreciated the leadership of Saudi Arabia for holding the Summit and stance of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over the issue of Palestine. The Prime Minister applauded the leadership role of Saudi Arabia and the efforts of HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in unifying the Ummah to collectively seek an end to violence in Gaza due to Israel's genocidal actions. Emphasizing on the significance of cooperation in defence and security cooperation, the Prime Minister said the visit of the Deputy Interior Minister and his delegation would help to bring both sides closer in terms of cooperation in these sensitive areas.

Pakistan seeks...

FROM PAGE 01

registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) but that UNHCR's quota for resettlement applications for the year was only 8,000. This, he maintained, was very unrealistic. Mr Khan, highlighted the immense challenges associated with repatriating Afghan refugees. Forced displacement, he noted, was a cross-cutting issue, encompassing social, political, economic, and security dimensions and increasingly intersecting with climate change.

Join 24 protest or...

FROM PAGE 01

If any PTI leader or ticket holder is not able to ensure their participation in the protest, they should disassociate themselves from the party because this is the decisive moment when the entire nation will come out for freedom. "The nation will not accept any excuse at such a critical time," the statement reads. Meanwhile, Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has agreed to hold talks but only with the "powerful quarters", his lawyer Khalid Yousof Chaudhry said as the former ruling party is all set to hold "do-or-die protest" in Islamabad on November 24.

PTI's protest...

FROM PAGE 01

the names of those imprisoned for political gains. He claimed that some close associates of popular leaders take advantage of their proximity, and that Imran Khan's detention was being used for personal benefit. "I want no one to benefit from the detention of the PTI founder," he said. Vawda also responded to the recent support from US Congress members for Imran Khan, who had written a letter expressing concern about human rights violations in Pakistan.

SC dismisses petition...

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adding that the petitioner's lack of engagement with the court's notices demonstrated a lack of intent to pursue the matter seriously. The issue of the army chief's term extension has remained a sensitive topic in Pakistan, where recent legislative changes have extended the terms of all military chiefs. Earlier this month, the National Assembly approved a legislative amendment to extend the tenures of all armed services chiefs from three to five years.

IDEAS 2024 kicks off...

FROM PAGE 01

Since its inception in the year 2000, IDEAS has emerged as an international rendezvous for defence manufacturers, entrepreneurs, R&D specialists, financial experts and top-level policymakers to promote cooperation, knowledge sharing and support ventures in the field of defence collaboration. It brings together the global defence industry for synergistic businesses and cooperation. In his inaugural address, the federal minister said that today,

Federer pays tribute to Nadal for 'epic career'

Nadal will retire after Davis Cup in Malaga

WEB DESK

MADRID: Roger Federer paid tribute to his retiring rival Rafa Nadal on Tuesday, telling the Spaniard he challenged him like no other player and that he had made the tennis world proud during a glittering career lasting over two decades. Nadal is part of the Spain side that will begin their Davis Cup campaign against the Netherlands later on Tuesday, with the injury-plagued 22-times Grand Slam champion set to call time on his career after the team competition in Malaga. Federer, who was part of the "Big Three" of men's tennis alongside Nadal and Novak Djokovic, posted a letter, opens new tab on X looking back at his rivalry with the 38-year-old. "Let's start with the obvious: you beat me - a lot. More than I managed to beat you. You challenged me in ways no one else could," Federer said of Nadal, who edged their rivalry 24-16.

"On clay, it felt like I was stepping into your backyard, and you made me work harder than I ever thought I could just to hold my



ground. "You made me re-imagine my game - even going so far as to change the size of my racket head, hoping for any edge." Federer, who won 20 Grand Slam titles before retiring in 2022, also poked fun at Nadal's court-side quirks. "I'm not a very superstitious person, but you took it to the next level," Federer added. "All those rituals. Assembling your water bottles like toy soldiers in formation, fixing your hair, adjusting your underwear ... all of it with the highest intensity. "Secretly, I kind of loved the whole thing. Because it was so unique - it was so you. And you know what, Rafa, you made me enjoy the game even more." Nadal was by Federer's side in the Swiss great's final event when they played doubles for Team Europe at the Laver Cup in 2022, with images of the pair crying together going viral on social media. "It meant everything to me that you were there by my side - not as my rival but as my doubles partner," Federer added. "Sharing the court with you that night, and sharing those tears, will forever be one of the most special moments of my career."

Briefs

Rupee records marginal decline against US dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani rupee recorded a marginal decline against the US dollar, depreciating 0.03% in the inter-bank market on Tuesday. At close, the currency settled at 277.95, a loss of Re0.09 against the greenback. On Monday, the rupee had settled at 277.86, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Internationally, the yen got some much-needed respite on Tuesday as it steadied on the stronger side of 155 per US dollar thanks to a pull-back in the US currency, which ran into profit-taking after a stellar rally that saw it scale a one-year high. The yen last edged 0.2% higher to 154.40 per dollar, recovering from its fall in the previous session after Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda stuck to his usual script and failed to offer any hints on whether a rate hike could come in December. In the broader market, the dollar was on the back foot as it eased further away from last week's one-year top against a basket of currencies. The greenback has risen more than 2% for the month thus far, buoyed by reduced expectations of the extent of Federal Reserve rate cuts and on the view that President-elect Donald Trump's touted policies of tariffs, reduced immigration and debt-funded tax cuts will be inflationary to the US economy.—APP

Gold price increases by Rs 3,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased further by Rs.3,600 and was sold at Rs.273,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs.269,900. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.3,086 to Rs.234,482 from Rs.231,396 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.214,942 from Rs.212,113. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3250 and Rs.2,786 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$36 to \$2,623 from \$2,587, the Association reported. Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centres services increased by 25.63 percent during the months as its exports increased from US \$54.407 million to US \$68.352 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services decreased by 17.71 percent, from US \$66.256 million to US \$54.521 million during this year, the PBS data revealed.—APP

PSX reaches historic level of 95,856 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 861.00 points, a positive change of 0.91 percent, closing all time high at 95,856.67 points as compared to 94,995.67 points on the last trading day. A total of 830,931,008 shares were traded during the day as compared to 765,206,618 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30,019 billion against Rs. 23,924 billion on the last trading day. As many as 460 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 249 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 55 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 60,058,856 shares at Rs 10.24 per share, K-Electric Limited with 44,488,839 shares at Rs 5.24 per share and Cnergycio PK with 42,303,494 shares at Rs 4.64 per share. Raffan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.120.10 per share price, closing at Rs 8,004.60, whereas the runner-up was Abbott Laboratories (Pakistan) Limited with Rs 70.20 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,070.86.—APP

Governor SBP for supporting women entrepreneurs

Despite these challenges, women in Pakistan have shown remarkable determination and success in various sectors, including agriculture, technology, and manufacturing, he stated and added that SBP has taken various measures for financial inclusion and economic empowerment of the female which enhanced their access to financial services

DNA

KARACHI: The Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad, Tuesday, emphasized the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs for pacifying economic growth in the country, noting that women currently make up less than 10 percent of total borrowers and hold only 26% of bank accounts. The governor SBP, while addressing the main event of Women Entrepreneur-

ship Day here at SBP Museum, also reaffirmed commitment to enhancing women's participation in the economic landscape. The event brought together various stakeholders, including international and local partner institutes, banks, civil society, and successful women entrepreneurs. Jameel Ahmad, in his keynote address, highlighted the critical role of women-owned businesses in driving innovation, economic growth, and community development and also acknowledged the structural

and cultural challenges women entrepreneurs face, such as limited access to finance, markets, and mentorship. Despite these challenges, women in Pakistan have shown remarkable determination and success in various sectors, including agriculture, technology, and manufacturing, he stated and added that SBP has taken various measures for financial inclusion and economic empowerment of the female which enhanced their access to financial services. He appre-

ciated the efforts of banks in disbursing about Rs24 billion to over 20,000 women-led businesses from July 1, 2024, to November 10, 2024. The SBP conducted over 50 sessions through its Banking Services Corporation offices, reaching over 1500 women entrepreneurs to inform them about available financing opportunities, he added. Stressing the need of collective and coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders, including the government, regulators, bank-

ing and financial sectors as well as civil society, for ensuring inclusive financial services, he urged financial institutions to adopt innovative and inclusive approaches and also emphasized the importance of partnerships with organizations such as UN Women and USAID. The Governor reiterated SBP's commitment to fostering an inclusive financial ecosystem that empowers women and expressed hope that these trailblazers would inspire future generations.



ISLAMABAD: Bank Islami Pakistan Limited and The State Bank of Pakistan celebrate Women entrepreneurship Day in to inspire growth and resilience among women entrepreneurs.

Pak, Germany agree to strengthen coop in renewable energy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Alfred Grammas called on Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari on Tuesday and both sides agreed to strengthen their collaboration in renewable energy and other development projects to ensure continued cooperation moving forward. Ambassador Grammas

expressed Germany's commitment to supporting Pakistan's energy sector reforms, said a press release issued here. He stated that financial and technological assistance would be provided to address key challenges in the sector, where possible. The ambassador noted that innovations in artificial intelligence and battery storage facilities were helping reduce electricity costs. He acknowledged the important

role of Germany's private sector in Pakistan's energy projects. He assured that cooperation would continue in the future to help Pakistan transition to clean energy. The minister shared Pakistan's target of having 88% renewable energy in the national mix by 2034. He explained that the country was working to create a competitive energy market which would allow more participants in electricity trading to reduce

electricity prices in Pakistan. Sardar Awaiz Leghari highlighted the investment opportunities available in Pakistan's power sector. He encouraged German investors to take advantage of these opportunities. The minister said that Germany is a valued development partner for Pakistan. He emphasized that strengthening business-to-business ties was essential for bilateral relations.

Hamas negotiators 'not in Doha' but political office not closed: Qatar

DOHA: Hamas negotiators are not in Doha but the Palestinian militant group's office there has not been permanently closed, Qatar said on Tuesday. "The leaders of Hamas that are within the negotiating team are now not in Doha," foreign ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari said, adding: "The decision to... close down the office permanently, is a decision that you will hear about from us directly." Qatar, along with the United States and Egypt, had been engaged in months of fruitless negotiations for a truce in the Gaza war, which would include a hostage and prisoner release deal. But the Gulf state, which has hosted the Palestinian militant group since 2012, with Washington's blessing, announced earlier this month it was pausing its mediation efforts. "The mediation process right now... is suspended unless we take a decision to reverse that which is based on the positions of both sides," Ansari said on Tuesday. "The office of Hamas in Doha was created for the sake of the mediation process. Obviously, when there is no mediation process, the office itself doesn't have any function," he added, declining to confirm whether Qatar had asked Hamas officials to leave. Meanwhile, three Palestinians were killed in an Israeli military operation near Jenin in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, Israeli security forces said. A joint statement from the army, police and Shin Bet security agency said the three fighters died in an exchange of fire in Qabatiya village, where undercover border police attempted to arrest a wanted man. The Israeli forces came under fire from a building where the suspect, Raed Hanaysha, was hiding, the statement said, before killing him and "two armed terrorists". The Israeli army said it seized weapons from the scene, "destroyed two bomb-making labs", and that its forces were still active in the area. "There are three bodies of martyrs that are now with the Israeli side, after they killed them," local governor Kamal Abu al-Rub said, citing the office in charge of liaising between Israeli and Palestinian authorities in the West Bank. The Palestinian health ministry said the District Coordination Office had also informed it of the deaths of "three young men shot by Israeli forces near Qabatiya", which is in the Jenin governorate. The three men were between 24 and 32 years old, a ministry statement said, identifying Raed Hanaysha as one of the dead. Israeli security forces said Hanaysha had been involved "in shooting and bombing attacks" recently against the army.—APP

Russia, Chinese foreign ministers discuss ties

BAKU: Chinese and Russian foreign ministers discussed bilateral ties, the conflict in Ukraine and the situation on the Korean Peninsula on the sidelines of the Group of 20 meeting in Brazil, the foreign ministries of both countries said on Tuesday. "We are truly at an unprecedented stage in the development of our strategic relations of a comprehensive partnership," Russia's Sergei Lavrov told his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, according to a post on the Russian foreign ministry Telegram channel. Wang said that Beijing is willing to work with Russia to further strengthen bilateral "comprehensive strategic coordination," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement. The "two sides also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis and the situation on the Korean Peninsula," it added without providing further detail. The meeting is part of a frenzy of bilateral talks between China and Russia that followed Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine 1,000 days ago. The war ostracised Moscow from Kyiv's Western allies, bringing waves of sanctions on Russian politicians and businesses. China and Russia declared a "no limits" partnership when Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Beijing less than three weeks before his troops marched into Ukraine in February 2022, triggering the deadliest land war in Europe since World War Two.—APP

Syrian top diplomat arrives in Tehran for talks

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi welcomed his new Syrian counterpart Bassam Al-Sabbagh in Tehran on Tuesday, the latest in a series of meetings between top officials from the close allies. Sabbagh is in Tehran for his first visit since taking up his post in September to meet Iranian officials, local media reported. Details of his meetings have not yet been disclosed. Al-Sabbagh's visit comes less than a week after Ali Larjani, a senior adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, visited Syria and met with Syrian President Bashar Assad, a close ally of Iran. Over the weekend, Iranian Defense Minister Aziz Nasrizadeh was in Damascus to hold talks with Syrian officials. Earlier in October, Araghchi himself traveled to Damascus as part of a regional tour just days before Israel's first confirmed attack on Iranian military sites. This attack was a response to a large Iranian missile strike on Israel at the start of the month that was prompted by the killing of commanders of militant groups affiliated with Iran, including Hezbollah, and a commander of the Revolutionary Guards.—Agencies

Pakistani SMEs tap into Chinese market in Guangzhou

BEIJING: Pakistani Small and Midsize Enterprise (SMEs) have tapped into Chinese market in Guangzhou, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The 19th China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair (CISMEF) in the recent week has hosted more than 400 international exhibitors from 35 countries, alongside over 1,400 Chinese exhibitors. Among the international participants, the Pakistan Pavilion stood out with 10 exhibitors showcasing a diverse range of products including marble and onyx articles, furniture, gems and jewellery, and rugs. Muhammad Imran, Trade and Investment Counselor at the Commercial Section of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, expressed his delight at the positive reception of Pakistani products. "This exhibition provides a fantastic opportunity for Pakistani SMEs to showcase their talent and expertise to a global audience, fostering valuable business connections and enhancing Pakistan's international presence.—APP

As truce talks progress, Lebanon's army cornered by politics, funding

BEIRUT: Intensifying efforts for a truce in Lebanon have brought into focus the role of the country's army, which would be expected to keep the south free of Hezbollah weapons but is neither willing nor able to confront the Iran-backed group, seven sources said. Hezbollah, though weakened by Israel's year-long offensive, has long been stronger militarily than the Lebanese Armed Forces, which have stayed on the sidelines of the conflict even after Israel sent ground forces into south Lebanon on Oct. 1. While the army will likely be required to deploy thousands of troops to the south after any ceasefire deal, it will need Hezbollah's nod to do so and will avoid confrontations that could trigger internal strife, said the sources - three people close to the army and four diplomats, including from donor countries. "The Lebanese army is in a situation that is sensitive and difficult. It cannot practice normal missions like the armies of other countries because there is another military force in the country," said retired Lebanese brigadier general Hassan Jouni, referring to Hezbollah, which enjoys a semi-formal military status as a resistance force. This week, both the Lebanese government and Hezbollah agreed to a U.S. truce proposal, a senior Lebanese official told Reuters, while cautioning Lebanon still had "comments" on the draft. Hezbollah's approval is needed for any ceasefire to take effect, given its arsenal and sway over the Lebanese state. A second official said exactly how the army would be deployed to the south was still under discussion.—APP



KARACHI: Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune along with Moroccan armed forces delegation visit the stalls at IDEAS '24. Ambassador of Ethiopia Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula also present.

Pakistani IT companies showcase expertise in China

Pakistan's IT sector is experiencing significant growth driven by the country's growing population, digitalization and focus on technology as a key driver of economic growth

SHENZHEN: Pakistani custom software development companies made a strong impression at the 26th China International High-tech Fair (CHTF), held in Shenzhen from November 14 to 16. Among them, Koder Labs, a Karachi-based firm specializing in website design, mobile application development, e-commerce solutions, and business data analysis, debuted in the Chinese high-tech market to showcase its expertise and explore partnerships with Chinese enterprises. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Jawaid Gadiwala, Co-Founder and CTO of Koder Labs, highlighted the company's strategic decision to participate in the fair. "We have been active in the western and mid-level eastern markets, but we haven't ventured into the eastern market like China and other east Asian countries,

which are thriving," he said. "We had fruitful discussions with potential clients and hope to forge partnerships with local Chinese manufacturers to provide software solutions that complement their hardware offerings." Koder Labs was one of the three Pakistani exhibitors organized by the Trade Development Authority Pakistan and Pakistan Software Export Board. The 26th CHTF attracted more than 5,000 renowned enterprises and international organizations from over 100 countries and regions, showcasing cutting-edge technologies and innovations across various sectors. With a total exhibition area of over 300,000 square meters, the fair featured 22 professional exhibition areas, including national heavy equipment, technology giant industry chains, specialized and innovative enterprises, new productive forces, and

AI and robotics. Over 4,300 technologies, new products, and achievements were released during the event, noted Pakistani exhibitor, 10x Engineers Technologies from Lahore, also made a strong debut at the fair. The company helps chip design companies bring their products to market faster and at a lower cost. With world-class expertise in camera image processing and RISC-V, 10x Engineers showcased its open-source image processor named "Infinite ISP" and encouraged industry and researchers to use it in their designs. Bilal Zafar, Co-founder and CEO of 10x Engineers, noted that the fair was a learning experience for the company. "This is a learning experience first and foremost - about the technology landscape in China, the people, and the business culture here," he said. "Learning about how rapidly China is developing its semi-

conductor industry and some amazing work that companies based here in Shenzhen are doing is invaluable." Bilal also highlighted the abundant pool of highly skilled and qualified engineers in Pakistan, who possess strong analytical and problem-solving skills, making them ideal for ISP design, hardware design, and verification roles. Pakistan's IT sector is experiencing significant growth driven by the country's growing population, digitalization and focus on technology as a key driver of economic growth. According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan's Information Technology (IT) exports have soared to \$3.2 billion in the fiscal year 2024, marking a robust 24% year-on-year increase from the previous fiscal's \$2.59 billion. Muhammad Imran, Trade and Investment Counselor at the Commercial Section of

the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, expressed optimism about the opportunities for Pakistani exhibitors at the CHTF. "Through B2B engagements, the exhibitors will gain new leads in the Chinese high-tech market, expanding and diversifying their exports," he said. Pakistani industry experts and analysts remain optimistic about the IT sector's growth trajectory of the country, forecasting a continued expansion of 10-15% for FY25, with anticipated exports ranging between \$3.5 billion to \$3.7 billion. The Pakistan Software Houses Association (PASHA) conducted a survey revealing that 62% of IT companies are maintaining Special Foreign Currency Accounts, underscoring the sector's reliance on foreign exchange earnings for sustained growth.—APP

Briefs

PTI to tighten the noose around govt

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif said on Tuesday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was set to tighten the noose around the "Form-47 government" in its upcoming protest drive which is scheduled to take place from Nov 24. Saif said in a statement that people of KP were making full arrangements for Nov 24 gathering, adding that KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur had sent directives to parliamentarians from all constituencies to expedite their preparations for the anti-government drive. "We are holding rallies and corner meetings in every corner of KP for making Nov 24 gathering a huge success. Thousands of people led by public representatives will gather at the Motorway from where KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will lead the caravan towards Islamabad," Saif reiterated. He went on to say that Nov 24 will be a day for supremacy of law and constitution. "I urge people to keep themselves shielded from the actions of the fascist government otherwise they will have to bear the brunt," he concluded.

7 abducted police personnel recovered in Bannu

SHAMIM SHAHID

BANNU: Seven police personnel, who were abducted from the Atmanzai check post, have been recovered after successful negotiations conducted by a local jirga. District Police Officer (DPO) confirmed that all abductees have been recovered after the swift intervention of the local Jirga. The jirga's prompt action resulted in the police officers' safe release after the kidnapping took place at the Atmanzai checkpoint. The armed men stormed a police check post in Bannu and kidnapped seven cops on Monday. According to police, 30 to 40 armed men had attacked the police check post in Bannu's Atmanzai area and abducted seven personnel on duty. The attackers had also taken away weapons and other equipment of police. The abduction was escaped by four police personnel who were not there at the time. Earlier in the day, four individuals, including a tribal leader, were killed in an attack on car by unidentified assailants in the Jani-khel area of Bannu district. According to police, the vehicle was targeted by unknown assailants that claimed the lives of four and injured others including a woman and child. The deceased were identified as Malik Shoudi Khan, Ajab Khan, and Ajmal, the police said in its initial statement.

Pak, UK underscore shared interest in trade, investment

DPM Dar stressed that the resolution of longstanding disputes, including the core Jammu and Kashmir dispute, was critical to achieving lasting peace and stability in South Asia

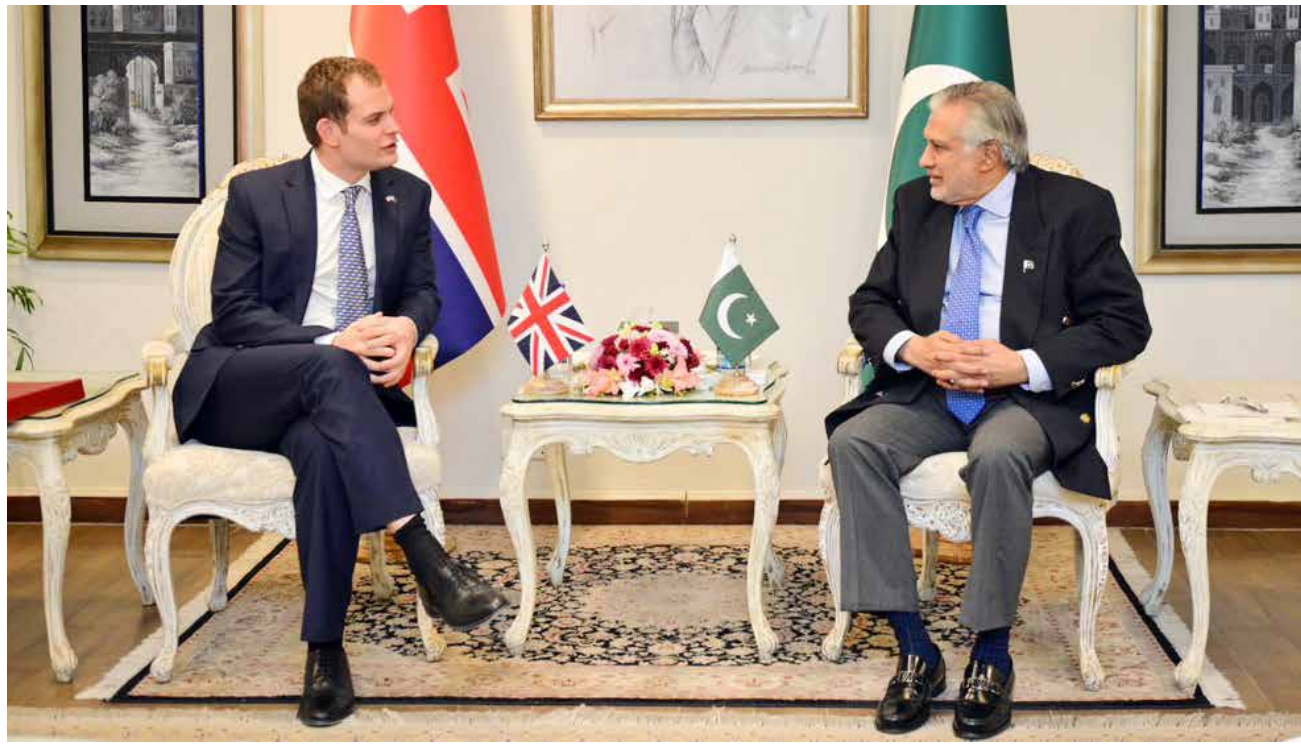
KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan) Hamish Falconer on Tuesday met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar here wherein two sides reaffirmed the importance of strong bilateral relations underscoring the shared interest in promoting cooperation in trade, investment and climate action. Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed regional issues of common interest, according to a Foreign Office press release. Deputy Prime Minister Dar and Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer noted the strong convergence between Pakistan and the United Kingdom on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues. The deputy prime minister emphasized the importance of transforming the close relationship between the two countries into an enhanced strategic partnership, commensurate with the rich history of Pakistan-UK cooperation and in line with the aspirations of the 1.7 million-strong British Pakistani community. Deputy Prime Minister Dar also briefed the Parliamentary Under Secretary Falconer on Pakistan's perspective on Afghanistan and the evolving situation in South Asia. He stressed that the resolution of longstanding disputes, includ-

ing the core Jammu and Kashmir dispute, was critical to achieving lasting peace and stability in South Asia. Parliamentary Under

Secretary Falconer thanked the deputy prime minister for receiving him and underlined the importance accorded by the United King-

dom to its relations with Pakistan. He added that the UK was looking forward to working with Pakistan at the UN Security Council.



'Push Russia harder' Zelensky urges allies

BRUSSELS: Ukraine's President Zelensky urged Europe to "push Russia harder" in a speech marking 1,000 days since Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of the country. "The more time he [Putin] has, the worse the conditions become," he told a special session of the European Parliament on Tuesday. Zelensky spoke amid speculation that Ukraine had for the first time used the US-supplied Atacams long range missile system to hit a target deep inside Russia, a day after Washington signalled its permission. An ammunition warehouse was struck with the missiles in the Russian region of Bryansk, about 100 kilometres from the border, an unconfirmed report on the RBC Ukraine news website said. But Kyiv often uses domestic drones to hit targets inside Russia, and there was no immediate evidence that US missiles were used. On Monday, US officials said that President Biden had removed US sanctions on the use of the Atacams system outside of Ukraine's borders. It is thought that Ukraine was given permission to use the missiles only to defend its forces inside Russia's Kursk region, where Kyiv launched a surprise incursion in August and where an assault from Russian and North Korean troops was expected within days. Addressing members of the European Parliament on Tuesday morning, 1,000 days since the invasion began on 24 February 2022, Zelensky warned that Putin "[would] not stop on his own" and urged that Russia be pushed towards a "just peace". - Agencies

'Apolitical' Bushra calling the shots for protest: Uzma Bukhari

PTI's march on Islamabad aimed at creating anarchy in the country, says Punjab minister

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab government spokesperson Uzma Bukhari on Tuesday took a jibe at Bushra Bibi, wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, for calling the shots in the "do-or-die protests" slated for November 24. She was referring to a leaked audio recording purportedly featuring the former first lady addressing party members in Peshawar. Taking a jab at the former first lady, the Punjab information minister said: "The apolitical woman delivers political speeches and clearly gives target [to her party's leaders and lawmakers]." According to reports, the former premier's wife, Bushra, instructed each PTI MNA and MPA to bring at least 10,000 and 5,000 workers respectively to Islamabad for the protest. "The apolitical woman was not apolitical when she was being called apolitical." Responding to a question, the Punjab minister said that the PTI's march on Islamabad aimed at creating anarchy in the country. Referring to expected clashes between the law enforcers and the PTI's support-

ers, she said that it seems the former ruling party wanted to do politics on "dead bodies". The Islamabad administration has already imposed Section 144 for two months ahead of the potential PTI's protest in the federal capital. In addition to this, the Islamabad Police have sought the services of 9,000 personnel of Rangers and FC with full anti-riot kits since November 22. Deployment of 5,000 additional personnel of the Pakistan Rangers and 4,000 of the FC has been sought by the Islamabad Police IG through a letter. Imran last week gave a "final call" for a nationwide protest against the alleged rigging in the February 8 elections, arrests of party workers, and the passage of the 26th Amendment. He called on his supporters to march to the federal capital on the upcoming Sunday. The audio of former first lady reportedly captures her conveying the PTI founder's message and directives to party workers in connection with the November 24 protest. In the audio recorded during the meeting, the former first lady is heard underscoring the importance of bringing the general public to the protests, not just the party workers.

ECC greenlights power relief package for winter

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Chairs the Meeting of ECC

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division, today. The meeting was attended by Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan (virtual), Economic Affairs Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema (virtual), Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, federal secretaries, and senior officers from concerned ministries and departments. The ECC considered proposal submitted by the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) regarding a winter demand initiative for the industrial, domestic (ToU and non-ToU consumers exceeding 200 units, commercial and general services con-

sumers of discos and K-Electric to enable optimum use of system generation capacity besides reducing gas demand due to shifting of favourable demand towards electricity. It was proposed that under the initiative, a tariff of 26.07 Rs/kWh shall be charged to all eligible consumers on the respective incremental consumption, above the benchmark consumption in the corresponding months. The initiative shall remain applicable for a three-month billing period effective from December 2024 to February 2024. The benchmark consumption will be the higher of either the relevant month's consumption in FY2024 or the historical consumption over the past 3 years for the relevant months, based on a formula and terms and conditions laid before the ECC. The ECC discussed the proposal and approved it, calling the subsidy-neutral interim relief initiative worked out by the Power Division as being timely and relevant in view of recent surge in electricity tariffs and the reduced demand across various consumer categories.

Punjab government orders all schools

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Tuesday announced the reopening of all schools across the province from November 20, including Lahore and Multan, in the wake of improved air quality. The recent smog situation was declared a "calamity" in Punjab last month. After the smog situation worsened on Nov 6, the Punjab government announced the closure of all educational institutions in 18 districts from Nov 7 to 17. Last week, it closed the schools across the province till Nov 24. The situation improved during the last three days in the province with the change in wind direction. Lahore's air quality index (AQI) also showed a slight improvement as it dropped out of the hazardous category on Sunday for the first time in 12 days. The meteorologists predicted a further decrease in smog intensity in the coming days. The Punjab government had also ordered the reopening of schools across the province from today, except Lahore and Multan divisions. However, in a notification Punjab's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered: "The ambient air quality has improved in Punjab, due to rain in upper parts of Punjab, change in wind direction and speed. Therefore, all the educational institutions in the whole province, including Lahore and Multan Division, shall be opened with effect from Nov 20 (Wednesday) with physical presence of students/staff."

Bilawal directs Kundi to convene APC

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari directed on Tuesday Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi to summon the All Parties Conference (APC) on the law and order situation. According to the details, Kundi called on the former foreign minister in Karachi. Kundi had apprised Bhutto-Zardari of the law and order situation in the province. The Bilawal House spokesperson said that the KP governor had informed Bhutto-Zardari about the "unfair attitude" by the federal government. Few days back, Bhutto-Zardari reacted to the VPN shutdown and slow speed of the internet. Expressing his thoughts in Karachi, the former foreign minister stated, "We have not been taken on board regarding the outages of the VPN and internet. Those who have made the decision not know anything about the VPN." "We would have given suggestions to the government if it had taken us on board regarding the shutdown of the VPN," he said. Bhutto-Zardari said, "Now the world is all about the fast internet speed. They say that the government is providing the 4G service. Lies are being made regarding the 4G speed. Now the internet speed is further being slowed." "Not only are the Chinese people our guests, but they are also friends. China has an objective to steer Pakistan's economy towards prosperity and ensure the uplift of the masses," he added.

Fed govt considering deployment of Rangers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is preparing for its November 24 protests, the government is reportedly considering deployment of Rangers and FC personnel in the federal capital Islamabad. According to sources, the federal government has decided to take strict security measures ahead of the PTI's protests. Sources say the federal government has requisitioned 9,000 Rangers and FC personnel for deployment in the federal capital ahead of PTI's protests. The government has requisitioned FC and Rangers troops with complete anti-riot kits. The federal government has reached out to relevant departments for deployment of paramilitary troops in the federal capital. Islamabad Police have sought the services of Rangers and FC troops from November 22. The services of 5,000 Rangers personnel and 4,000 FC personnel have been sought to maintain law and order during the PTI's protest.

Palestine joins global alliance against hunger and poverty

NEWS DESK

RAMALLAH: The State of Palestine has joined the "Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty", which was launched during the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on November 18-19, 2024. This accession comes as a result of joint efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates and the Ministry of Social Development, within the framework of strengthening the presence of the State of Palestine and representing the needs of the Palestinian people in all international forums, and in light of the increasing challenges facing them as a result of the Israeli occupation. This alliance aims to enhance international cooperation to eliminate hunger and poverty by 2030, through the exchange of experiences and coordination of efforts between member states. The participation of the State of Palestine in this alliance comes to emphasize the importance of implementing international law and international humanitarian law and preventing the use of hunger as a means of war, which Israel practices in the context of its war and aggression, in completion of its colonial project and the extermination of the entire Palestinian people. It indicated that this membership will contribute to achieving the goals of sustainable development, especially the first and second goals related to eliminating poverty and hunger. Through this step, the State of Palestine seeks to enhance social

protection programs, improve food security, and support the most needy groups in Palestinian society, by focusing on implementing national policies aimed at reducing poverty and hunger, enhancing international cooperation, and benefiting from the financial and technical resources available within the alliance. It also aims to improve and expand the implementation of local programs to suit the Palestinian reality, while sharing its experiences with the member states of the alliance to develop effective policies. The State of Palestine stressed that ending Israeli practices that hinder development, such as the blockade imposed on Gaza and policies that prevent access to agricultural land and basic services, is a prerequisite for achieving the sustainable development goals. With this accession, Palestine confirms its determination to move forward towards eliminating poverty and hunger, promoting human rights, and building international partnerships that contribute to achieving a more just and sustainable future. It called on the international community to pressure Israel to stop its arbitrary policies and enable Palestinians to access food, health care, and economic opportunities. This participation is expected to contribute to enhancing cooperation with the member states of the alliance, which are more than one country, and exchanging experiences and best practices in the fields of sustainable development, which will positively reflect on national efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger in Palestine.

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