

# Samahad

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

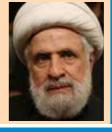
Price Rs. 30

Spain legend Rafael Nadal bids farewell to tennis

**Detailed News On Page-06** 

Israel 'cannot impose conditions' for truce: Naim

**Detailed News On Page-08** 



**CII Chief** blames 'typo' in statement



If breakthrough in talks

## PTI hints at calling off Nov 24 protest

"Our protest will be called off only if our demands are met," says Imran Khan's lawyer

Ansar M Bhatti

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has said that celebrations will be staged instead of a protest if there's a breakthrough in the PTI-government talks, his lawyer said, hinting at calling off the protest. Following a meeting with Khan at Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, lawyer Faisal Chaudhry said: "If there's headway in talks by tomorrow, there'll be celebrations instead of protests. Otherwise, we are prepared for peaceful demonstrations." The lawyer went on to say that the PTI founder has said that this was the second time he had given a protest call since the May 9 protest – which saw state installations being ransacked. Khan also said that there is no option left except for protests, emphasising that political parties are crucial in keeping the country united. The PTI founder also expressed concerns over restrictions faced by the party, saying, "We are not allowed to hold rallies or gatherings." "I have always called for peaceful protests," he claimed. The former premier further stated that he had given time for the negotiations until tomorrow. "Talks

deposed prime minister's lawyer quoted him as saying. The cricketer-turned-batter, the lawyer said, reiterated that PTI's demands would form the basis of any dialogue and that the cancellation of protests depends on the acceptance of those demands. "It takes effort from both sides for progress to be made." Moreover, the PTI founder also clarified that reports of spending Rs1 billion on protests were baseless, Chaudhry added. The former ruling and now opposition party has announced a "do-or-die" demonstration Islamabad on

will only take place with those who hold the real power," the

Continued on Page 06

**Briefs** 

**PPP formally** 

seeks PAC chairmanship

Mandviwalla requested

the speaker's support

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: The Paki-

stan Peoples' Party (PPP)

has officially demanded the

chairmanship of Public Ac-

counts Committee (PAC). Senator SaleemMandviwalla

wrote to National Assembly

Speaker AyazSadiq, urg-

ing him a meeting on the

requisition submitted by

the 11 PAC members. The

PPP hinted at convening

the session independently

if the speaker delays. Mand-

viwalla requested the speak-

er's support, suggesting

members elect an interim

chairman until a permanent

one is chosen. Meanwhile,

the PTI insists on Sheikh

WaqasAkram for the role. The PML-N has signaled

support for the PPP's claim,

prolonging the PCA's leader

ship stalemate since March. Senator

Irfan calls on PM

Briefs PM on parliamentary party's performance in Senate

MEHTAB PIRZADA

PML-N leader and chairman

of Senate's standing com-

mittee on Foreign Affairs

Irfan Siddiqui on Wednesday

called on Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

Irfan Siddiqui briefed the

prime minister regarding

the performance of parliamentary party in the Senate. The PML-N leader also

lauded the prime minister on

achieving the major econom-

ic targets. "The senators of

PML-N are playing a great

role in the upper house of

parliament under the leader-

ship of Irfan Siddiqui," said

the prime minister. Shehbaz

Sharif directed Irfan Siddiqui

to remain in touch with other

political parties as well in the upperhouse of the parliament.

ISLAMABAD:

Ahead of Nov 24 protest

#### **Imran Khan** gets bail in new Toshakhana case

"To my knowledge, there isn't any case left, in which Imran has to secure bail," says lawyer Salman Safdar

#### COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: In a major development ahead of the looming November 24 protest by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday approved the bail plea of party founder Imran Khan in the new Toshakhana case. IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb accepted Khan's bail plea against two surety bonds worth Rs1 million each, which must be submitted by separate guarantors. PTI founder is no longer wanted in any other case within Islamabad's jurisdiction following the latest development. Meanwhile, the IHC cautioned the ousted prime minister

Continued on Page 06

President, PM pay tributes

## Twelve security personnel martyred in Bannu attack

Six terrorists killed in "attempt to attack joint check post" in Bannu's Mali Khel, says ISPR

STAFF REPORT

BANNU: At least 12 security personnel were martyred in a suicide attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) District Bannu, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on against terrorism Wednesday. The military's media wing, in a statement, said that terrorists or "khawarij" attempted to attack a joint check post in the general area of Mali Khel in Bannu on WASHINGTON: The United States con-November 19 (Tuesday). "In [the] ensuing demned the recent terrorist attacks fire exchange, six terrorists were sent to in Pakistan and said it is "dedicated hell," the statement read, adding that the to enhancing Pakistan's civilian and attempt to enter the post was effectively military capabilities to detect and thwarted by the troops, which forced the counter these type of threats". In a attackers to ram an explosive-laden vehicle press briefing, US State Department into the perimeter wall of the post. Explain- spokesperson Matthew Miller said the ing the attack further, the military's media US was aware of the terrorist attacks wing said that the suicide blast led to the in Pakistan, saying "our hearts go out collapse of a portion of the perimeter wall to the families and loved ones of those

**Continued on Page 06** 

US committed to support Pak fight

**AGENCIES** 

and damaged the adjoining infrastructure. killed or impacted by recent attacks".

Continued on Page 06



during his visit of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024). - DNA

Warrior-VIII

#### Pak-China joint exercise kicks off

The exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training

SHAMIM SHAHID

PABBI: The opening ceremony of joint exercise 'Warrior-VIII' between Pakistan Army and Peoples' Liberation Army of China was conducted at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC), Pabbi, on Wednesday. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said three weeks long exercise in counter terrorism domain is eighth in the series of bilateral exercise being conducted annually The exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the iron clad brothers. Lieutenant General ShahidImtiaz, HI (M), Commander Rawalpindi Corps graced the occasion as chief guest.

Continued on Page 06 No chance of Imran's release, says Tarar

Ataullah Tarar says PTI founder's bail can be cancelled during trial

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for Information and **Broadcasting Ataullah Tarar** stated that Imran Khan's release is unlikely, despite being granted bail in the Toshakhana case. Speaking to a private television channel, Tarar explained that while the Islamabad High Court (IHC) approved Khan's bail in the Toshakhana case, the former prime minister remains in custody due to other pending cases. "Imran Khan's bail has not been

**Continued on Page 06** 

### Visits IDEAS-2024 expo COAS inaugurates advanced Shahpar-

III combat drone

Over 300 foreign delegates from 53 countries attended the event and showed full confidence in the exhibition and the defence industry of Pakistan

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: General Syed AsimMunir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS-2024) at the Karachi Expo Centre. During the visit, the COAS commended the active participation of detense manufacturers from friendly nations and observed an impressive display of arms and equipment by both domestic and international exhibitors. A total of 557 exhibitors are participating in the exhibition of which 333 are international exhibitors while 224 are domestic exhibitors. 36 countries established exhibitors' stalls of which 17 countries are participating for the first time. Over 300 foreign delegates from 53 countries attended the event and showed full confidence in the exhibition and the defence industry of Pakistan. During the exhibition, COAS also engaged in meaningful interactions with foreign military officials and defense delegates present at the event.

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to deploy rangers and FC in Islamabad ahead of Pakistan Tehreeki-Insaf's protest on Nov 24. The Interior Ministry has issued a notification approving the deployment, following a request from the chief commission-

#### **Govt to deploy** rangers in **Islamabad**

Rangers and FC will operate under the Anti-Terrorism Act and assist federal police in maintaining

#### FAISAL SHEIKH

er. As per the notification, the Rangers and FC will operate under the Anti-Terrorism Act and assist federal



\$55 Million Soft Loan and Grant to support Polio Eradication in Pakistanin partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Welcoming of the Polio Oversight Board

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the Polio Oversight Board (POB) visit to Pakistan – the highest decision-making body of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative - H.E. Nicolas Galey,

Ambassador of France, hosted a reception at his residence to welcome the delegation. The purpose of the POB visit is to engage with the government, diplomatic corps, and donor community on the status of polio eradication efforts in Pakistan and to advocate for decisive measures to



address the current nationwide polio outbreak. Regular visits by the Polio Oversight Board to Pakistan play a crucial role, providing a valuable opportunity to assess progress, identify challenges, and recalibrate strategies. The Embassy of France and the AgenceFrançaise de Développement (AFD) are proud to support the global effort to eradicate polio. While the current polio outbreak in Pakistan poses significant challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the program. This includes the \$55 million concessional loan, which comprises a \$20 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This funding, announced by the AFD in 2023 and finalized in July 2024, was made possible through a partnership with the Government of Pakistan and

Continued on Page 06





#### **KP judicial** academy holds workshop on genderresponsive HRM

PESHAWAR:The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy (KPJA), in collaboration with ROZAN Pakistan, organized a two-day training workshop on "Gender-Responsive Human Resource Management" for D&SIs/ Zilla Qazis, Senior Civil Judges/A'ala Ilaqa Qazis. Twenty-three (23) Judges/ Qazis of various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa participated in the training workshop. The workshop was designed to arm the Judges/Qazis with essential skills and knowledge for promoting gender-responsive practices. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Barrister Ikhtiar Khan, worthy Registrar, Peshawar High Court, as the chief guest. Mr. Jehanzeb Shinwari, Director General KPJA, Mr. Zia Ur Rahman, Dean Faculty, Dr. Qazi Ataullah, Senior Director Research & Publication, Director Instructions, and other directors and officers of the Academy, and Representatives of ROZAN Pakistan, also attended the ceremony. Mr. Jehanzeb Shinwari, DG, KPJA, in his inaugural speech, welcomed the chief guest and thanked him for sparing time to grace the occasion. He also appreciated the role of ROZAN Pakistan in arranging this specialized 02-day training workshop Gender-Responsive Human Resource Manage-

#### DC for accelerated work on uplift projects

KOHAT :Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram has directed the authorities concerned to accelerate work on uplift projects in the merged Tehsil Dara Adam Khel, adjacent to District Kohat and ensure completion of work within the given time lines. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of the Provincial Task Force formed for the merged districts held at the district level here on Wednesday. The meeting, beside others, was also attended by the authorities concerned of the district administration, Kohat Police, Pak Army, Education, Health, C&W and relevant departments and institutions. The meeting discussed in detail the new, ongoing and proposed developmental projects of the merged Tehsil Darra Adam Khel, adjacent to Koha district, as well as the future action plan. Deputy Commissioner Kohat gave clear directions that each department and institution should prepare and submit its report and future action plan according to the timeline.—APP

## Korangi's Traders, Industrialists keen to explore Ethiopian market

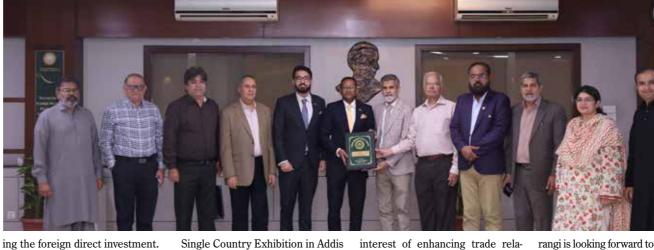
Ambassador Dr. Jemal said the Government of Ethiopia has undertaken the Home Grown Economic Reforms which had shown promising results, addressing macro-economic imbalances, increasing productivity, creating ease of doing business and providing a conducive environment for attracting the foreign direct investment

#### **DNA**

KARACHI: The Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) on Wednesday shown keen interest in visiting the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to explore business, trade and investment opportunities in diverse sectors of its growing economy.

The trade and industrials from KATI expressed their interest for that matter during a meeting with H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who highlighted extraordinary business, trade and investment opportunities in five major economic sectors including agriculture & agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT.

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal said the Government of Ethiopia has undertaken the Home Grown Economic Reforms which had shown promising results, addressing macro-economic imbalances, increasing productivity, creating ease of doing business and providing a conducive environment for attract-



He said the capital city of Ethiopia-Addis Ababa is a third diplomatic hub hosting a number of international conferences every year including the African Union Summit. "This shows the strategic importance of Ethiopia and safe and secure environment for the global citizens." The Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for hosting the

Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa in May 2025, which would eventually give a major boost to the bilateral trade between the two countries. He said Ethiopia offered a comparative advantage to the Pakistani investors in terms of strategic location, cheap, clean and green energy, skilled labour, and on top of that full fledge support from the Government, "Let us work together to achieve common

interest of enhancing trade relations between our two countries that enjoy brotherly relations for the last 66 years," he remarked. H.E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul of the FDR Ethiopia in Karachi, also addressed the business community and urged them to penetrate in the Ethiopian market which has a huge trade and investment potential. H.E. Junaid Nagi, KATI's President, said the business community of Ko-

rangi is looking forward to the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, assuring the Ambassador of leading a delegation from KATI to the event.

Later, H.E. Dr. Iemal Beker Abdula planted a sapling at KATI along with its President as a follow up to the joint tree plantation drive launched by the Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad and KATI under the Green Legacy Initiative of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

### New climate change education programme launched in Pakistan

Education is recognised as a major strategy to mitigate climate change because it plays a crucial role in equipping current and future generations with the holistic knowledge and skills to address climate-related challenges at local, national, and global levels

ISLAMABAD: The International Education group of Cambridge University Press & Assessment (Cambridge) Wednesday the announced launch of a new climate literacy programme in Pakistan designed to help students develop climate awareness and become engaged in climate and sustainability issues.Pakistan's cuisine Education is recognised as a major strategy to mitigate climate change because it

ping current and future generations with the holistic knowledge and skills to address climate-related challenges at local, national, and global levels. Called Cambridge Climate

Quest, the programme is a two-and-a-half-hour free online course that will be available to all learners enrolled in all educational boards across Pakistan. The programme is tailored to Pakistan and students will learn about local climate

such as the floods of 2010, the heatwave in 2017 and the current high levels of air pollution in Lahore. Students will also be able to explore some of the country's national plans and policies for climate control, such as national flood protection plans. Uzma Yousuf, Country Director, Pakistan, Cambridge University Press & Assessment is the Climate Quest Ambassador for Pakistan and will spearhead the Cambridge Climate

said: "Climate change education is more vital now than ever considering the challenges Pakistan and the world is facing as a result of changing climate, and weather uncertainties. This programme will play an important role in allowing students to understand climate change from both a local and global perspective and equip them with the tools to think about solutions for a greener and healthier planet through

#### **HEC** holds English faculty development training program

ISLAMABAD: National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) which is the national hub for the capacity building and continuous professional development of teaching faculty and management of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across Pakistan organized a much desired and long-awaited ELT Training endeavour with the collaboration of the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the U.S. Embassy on Wednesday at HEC Islamabad. Pakistan's cuisine RELO and HEC have a long history of collaboration in terms of faculty development by providing fully funded International Resource Persons from US to Pakistan to facilitate and professionally develop and orient faculty from English departments of HEIs and affiliated Colleges with the best learning techniques and practices. RELO is part of the Public Diplomacy Section of the United States Embassy in Pakistan. RELO Pakistan supports public diplomacy outreach through professional development and English language learning opportunities for English language teachers and learners throughout Pakistan. In this regard HEC and RELO jointly organized and inaugurated the English Faculty Development Training Program at NAHE HEC Islamabad. This highly anticipated event, scheduled from 20th to 22nd November 2024, brings together English language educators from across Pakistan, particularly from Islamabad and Rawalpindi, to enhance their teaching expertise. The program focuses on three key themes aimed at addressing modern challenges and opportunities in English language education. It includes Teaching Language through Literature, Exploring Culture in the Language Classroom, and Redesigning Assignments in the Age of AI. The opening ceremony was chaired by Managing Director of NAHE, Noor Amna Malik. Addressing the audience, Malik emphasized the importance of continuous professional development for educators, stating, that empowering teachers through such training programs is a cornerstone for advancing the quality of higher education in Pakistan.-APP

#### Chairman CDA reviews ongoing initiatives

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, chaired a meeting to review progress on various ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing Islamabad's infrastructure, services, and urban development. The CDA Members along with relevant senior officers attended the session. During the meeting, Chairman CDA received a detailed briefing on integrated solid waste management for the capital city. It was highlighted that the study on solid waste management has been thoroughly reviewed. and bidding documents for outsourcing the services are finalized and undergoing review. The incorporation of a specialized solid waste management company with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is actively being pursued. he meeting was also briefed about the way forward for unsolicited proposals received by CDA. The preliminary assessments of unsolicited proposals for waste management were also discussed. The Chairman directed further evaluation of these proposals to ensure viability and efficiency of the proposals received so far. he meeting also discussed

utilizing hotel plots in Islamabad. It was noted that two luxury hotel plots have already been offered for international auction by 17th December, 2024 targeting overseas Pakistanis and companies. Chairman CDA Muham-

best possible options for

mad Ali Randhawa was also briefed on IT initiatives to digitize and modernize the city's infrastructure. The recently introduced digital parking system is one of many measures aimed at enhancing service delivery for Islamabad's residents through advanced technological solutions. The meeting focused projects specifically designed for overseas Pakistanis, offering lucrative investment opportunities in Islamabad's thriving real estate sector. These projects aim to attract investments and foster economic growth while providing a platform for overseas Pakistanis to contribute to their homeland's development. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the importance of transparency, innovation, and citizen-centric planning and efficient public service delivery in all CDA initiatives. He reaffirmed CDA's commitment to making Islamabad a model city by implementing sustainable, forward-looking, and inclusive development initiatives and projects.

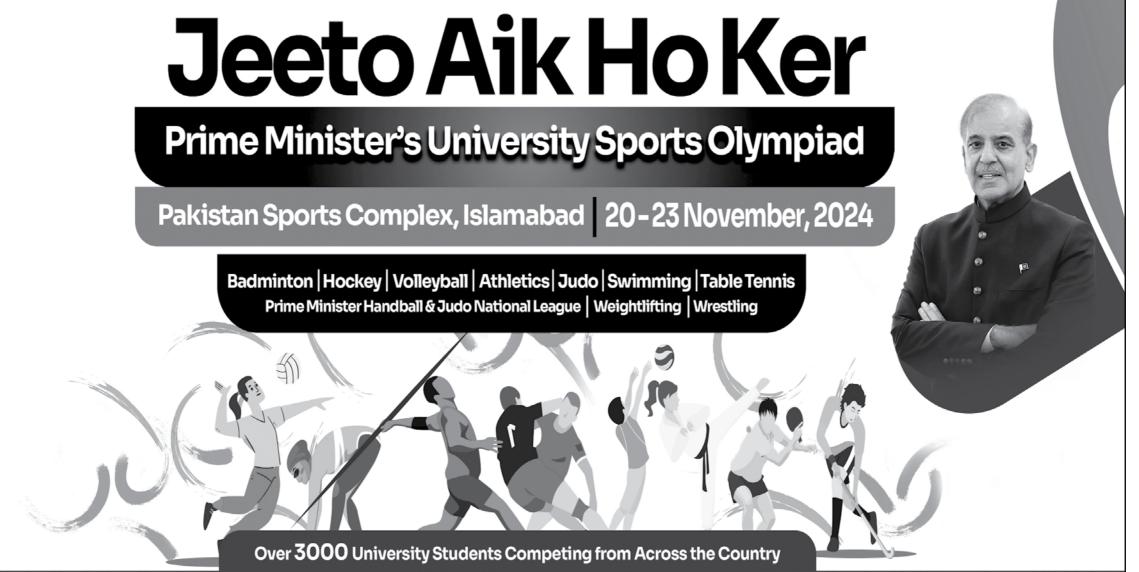
#### **Naval Chief** inaugurated **Pakistan** maritime science and technology park

KARACHI: The groundbreaking ceremony of Pakistan's first Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) was held at EXPO Centre during IDE-AS-2024. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the event as the Chief Guest. While addressing the ceremony, the Naval Chief highlighted historic significance of the project, stating that PMSTP will pave the way for much-needed growth in maritime sciences, technologies, businesses, and industries. He emphasized that this initiative will open new avenues for enhancing Pakistan's GDP and advancing the maritime sector. The Naval Chief further underscored that the success of PMSTP reflects strong partnerships cultivated with visionary individuals and organizations, PMSTP is the country's first dedicated maritime science park, integrating academia, industry, and government in a unique collaboration to foster growth across Pakistan's maritime sectors. The park's initiatives will target diverse fields, including Naval Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Ocean Renewable Energy, Seafood Processing, Shipbuilding, and Coastal Tourism. PMSTP is envisioned as a transformative hub for innovation and advancement, focusing on maritime science and technology to bolster Pakistan's blue economy. The project represents a significant step toward addressing Pakistan's economic challenges, with plans for expansion beyond Karachi to Islama-

#### Preventive steps during rains. snowfall discussed

bad, Lahore, and Gwadar.

DIR LOWER:A meeting under the chairmanship of Commissioner Malakand Division Amjad Ali Khan on Wednesday discussed preventive measures to avoid possible losses from rains and snowfall during the winter season. All additional deputy commissioners (Relief) and Secretary to Commissioner Malakand attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed necessary measures in detail in view of possible losses due to rains and snowfall. Commissioner Malakand directed the district administration to ensure provision of heavy machinery to all departments and stakeholders during rains and snowfall. He said that all the institutions concerned should complete preventive measures timely to avoid losses in the wake of heavy rains and snowfall.-APP



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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Government of Pakistan







**#SPORTSFORYOUTH** 

#### **National** Days and Armed Forces Days

#### **NOVEMBER**

Nov 01/Algeria National Day Nov 04/Italy **Armed Forces Day** 

Nov 07/Russian Feder-**Socialist Revolution** 

Nov 09/Cambodia **National Day** Nov 11/Poland **Independence Day** 

Nov 14/Jordan Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium

**Kings Day** Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus **National Day** 

> Nov 18/Oman **National Day** Nov 18/Morocco

**Independence Day** Nov 21/Bangladesh

**Armed Forces Day** Nov 22/Lebanon **Independence Day** Nov 25/Suriname **National Day** 

Nov 28/Mauritania **National Day** Nov 28/Albania Flags Day

#### **Hotels &** Restaurants



Serena Hotel....111 133 133 Marriott......051-2826121



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



#### **Emergency** Rescue (Police).....15

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



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



#### Hospitals

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internatio	nal 4603666



nehai riileiira		
CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment Be	oard 9270151-3	

#### **Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

## ICT 4 govt schools selected for Cambridge qualifications

The selected schools included Islamabad Model College for Girls, F-6/2, Islamabad, Islamabad Model College for Boys, G-6/3, Islamabad, Islamabad Model College for Boys, F-8/3, Islamabad, Islamabad Model College for Girls, F-8/1, Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal **Education and Professional Train**ing and International Education for Cambridge University Press and Assessment on Wednesday agreed to offer Cambridge qualifications in four selected federal government schools in Islamabad. In that regard, a delegation led by Mr. Rod Smith, Group Managing Director, International Education for Cambridge University Press and Assessment visited the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and met with Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui to sign an MoU. Talking to the delegates, Dr. Khalid said that Cambridge is playing a positive role in imparting quality education to the youth of Pakistan. He stressed that Cambridge needs to expand the horizon of their role in Pakistan.

He especially emphasised its role in creating enhance assessment capabilities of the local education boards. He said that transparency in assessment and enhanced engagement is the need of the hour. Federal Minister was briefed by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani that the MOU sets forth the understanding and cooperative framework between Cambridge and The Ministry to offer Cambridge qualifications in four selected federal government schools in Islamabad. He said the initiative aims to enhance educational standards and provide international qualification pathways for students in these schools. The selected



schools included Islamabad Model College for Girls, F-6/2, Islamabad, Islamabad Model College for Boys, G-6/3, Islamabad, Islamabad Model College for Boys, F-8/3, Islamabad, Islamabad Model College for

Girls, F-8/1, Islamabad. Wani said that this MoU will introduce Cambridge Lower Secondary, IGCSE and A-Level qualifications in four designated federal government schools in Islamabad in order

to improve the quality of education by providing students with access to internationally recognized qualifications and fostering a learner-centred approach. Furthermore, he said that it will build

capacity among teaching staff to effectively deliver the Cambridge curriculum while support students in accessing diverse global opportunities for higher education and career development.

#### **Planning** minister directs sites' identification. concept paper preparation for M-SEZS

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday directed the officials concerned to identify suitable sites for the establishment of Model Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and prepare a comprehensive concept paper for the purpose. He passed these directives while chairing a meeting on Model-SEZs and the policy framework for the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan, following a detailed briefing by officials from the Board of Investment (BOI). Stressing the need to enhance G2G (government-to-government) joint cooperation with China, he said Pakistan would provide land to Chinese industries, while they would manage the infrastructure and market these zones themselves. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the importance of industrial zones and said that a one-window facility would be provided to these zones so that investors do not face any difficulties. He also mentioned that no negligence would be tolerated in the construction of the zones or the provision of facilities there. The planning minister further said there would be regular meetings with Chinese companies every month to address their problems promptly, if any arose. He termed the security of Chinese citizens as the 'top priority' of the government and vowed that the enemies of Pakistan and development would not be allowed to cause any dent to Pakistan-China re-

## Harimau Markhor ceremony concludes successfully

The two-week joint exercise, which ran from 4 to 15 November 2024, focused on Counter-Terrorism Operations in jungle environments

ISLAMABAD :The closing ceremony of exercise HarimauMarkhor Series 2/2024 was successfully held at the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) here on Wednesday. Pakistan has significantly strengthened the military-to-military cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan. The event was attended by Malaysia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, who highlighted the exercise's success in fostering closer defence ties between Malaysia and Pakistan. The ceremony was officiated jointly by the Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division Malaysia (2 Div), Major General Dato' Hj Fazal Hj Abdul Rahman, and the Commander of the 23rdDivision of the Pakistan Army, Major General Muhammad Intikhab Alam, said a press release issued by Malaysian High Commission in Islamabad. The two-week joint exercise, which ran from 4 to 15 November 2024, focused on Counter-Terrorism Operations in jungle environments. It facilitated the exchange of tactics, techniques, and procedures, along with valuable insights into Pakistan's diverse and challenging terrain. The 2nd HarimauMarkhor exercise has significantly strengthened the military-to-military relationship between Malaysia and Pakistan and developed greater understanding through the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and operational skills. The exercise involved five (5) officers and 13 personnel from the 5th Battalion of the Royal Ranger Regiment (5RRD), along with a Doctrine Evaluation Officer from the Headquarters of Army Training and Doctrine Command (MK PLDTD). The Pakistan Army was also represented by five (5) officers and 28 personnel from the 4thLight Commando Battalion (LCB). As part of the closing ceremony, attendees witnessed a Clearance of Stronghold demonstration, followed by a formal Closing Parade. During the visit, the Malaysian delegation, led by the Commander of 2 Div, conducted courtesy calls on the Commander of the 23rd Division of the Pakistan Army and the Commandant of the NCTC. The event was also attended by key dignitaries, including Malaysia's Defense Adviser in Islamabad, Colonel Noraripin Othman, the Staff Officer 1 (Operations) of 2 Div HQ, Lt Colonel Ku Syairi Ahmad, the Commanding Officer of 5 RRD, Lt Colonel Chai Kean Seng and the First Secretary of the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad, Mr. Muhammad Zulasri bin Rosdi.—DNA

#### Commerce Minister, Turkish business leader discuss trade ties

The discussion also emphasized sustainable practices in steel production and fostering innovation to meet global environmental standards. Prof. Dr. Ismail Demir expressed Turkey's commitment to strengthening economic ties and thanked the Minister for the warm hospitality

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday met with the Turkish industry leader to strengthen bilateral economic trade relations and the future plan of action for increasing busi-

ness to business ties. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan hosted Prof. Dr. Ismail Demir, Chairman of the Board of KAR-DEMIR (Karabuk Iron and Steel Works), Turkey, during a sideline meeting of IDEAS 2024. said a press release issued on Wednesday. The two leaders discussed

matters of mutual interest, focusing on enhancing trade, investment, and collaboration in the steel and manufacturing sectors. Minister Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the exemplary historical, political, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkey. He praised Turkey's significant advancements in defense, aerospace, and manufacturing, noting their contribution to Pakistan's industrial and defense sectors. "Our partnership with Turkey has fostered self-reliance in key industries, and there is vast potential to expand trade and investment", he said. The discussion also emphasized sustainable practices in steel produc-

tion and fostering innovation to meet global environmental standards. Prof. Dr. Ismail Demir expressed Turkey's commitment to strengthening economic ties and thanked the Minister for the warm hospitality. He presented a souvenir to the Minister as a token of goodwill. The meeting underscored the need for deeper collaboration in technology and infrastructure, with a shared vision to enhance trade opportunities and establish sustainable linkages between the steel industries of both nations. The leaders agreed on pursuing initiatives to further expand economic cooperation, benefiting both countries.

#### Shaza urges TikTok to use for education

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday urged TikTok to use its platform for educational purposes. "Various skills and basic education can be imparted through TikTok, and the Ministry of IT will fully support TikTok in achieving this objective, she said during a meeting with a TikTok delegation led by its Director of Public Policy, Mr. Emir Gelen. According to a news release, the meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, including the availability of quality and productive content on social media platforms. Secretary IT, Zarrar Hasham Khan, was also present during the discussion. The TikTok delegation briefed the Minister on the platform's initiatives in Pakistan and outlined upcoming programs. Shaza Fatima emphasized the importance of ensuring that quality content is accessible, noting that Tik-Tok has a vast user base in Pakistan. The delegation assured the Minister that TikTok would prioritize meaningful and educational content.-APP

#### PTI's final call for protest deemed failure

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam, Wednesday dismissed PTI's November 24 protest call as a 'flop show,' claiming it would yield no significant results. Engr Amir Muqam, the PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President, has described Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) "Final Call" for protests at D-Chowk on November 24 as nothing more than a 'miscall.' He accused the party of attempting to provoke unrest and violence. Mugam stated that Pakistan remains committed to combating terrorism in politics, warning that those who bring terrorism into politics will face the same consequences as terrorists. He emphasized this stance as a reflection of Pakistan's dedication to eradicating extremism and promoting peace. Engr Amir Muqam claims PTI leaders are using the protest call as leverage for a deal, while simultaneously seeking behind-the-scenes apologies and concessions. Muqam stated that the PTI founder's refusal to engage with other political parties raises concerns about his political judgment and commitment to democracy. He added that by avoiding discussions, Khan appears to lack trust in the democratic process, sparking worries about his unwillingness to consider opposing viewpoints or find common ground. Federal Minister stated that Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin, should not act as the PTI founder's suicide bomber. He warned that if the law is taken into one's hands, it will intervene. Muqam also pointed out that Imran Khan has instigated a revolution by handing over the party to his wife and sister. He urged Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin to focus on addressing the rising terrorism in his province rather than expending energy on federal conflicts. Imran Khan's actions have drawn criticism, with many accusing him of hypocrisy. His involvement in violent riots after his arrest on May 9, 2023, has raised doubts about his commitment to peaceful protest and democracy.-DNA



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POL imports

up by 1.68% to \$5.11 bln

in 4 months

ISLAMABAD, Nov 20 (AP-P):The petroleum group imports increased by 1.68

percent during the first four

months of the current fiscal

year as compared to the im-

ports of the same months

of last year, the Pakistan

Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

reported. The imports of

overall petroleum group

during July-October (2024-

25) stood at \$5,113.616

million as against the im-

ports of \$5,029.009 mil-

lion during July-October

(2023-24), according to

PBS data. Among petrole-

um commodities, the im-

port of petroleum products

declined by 18.89 percent,

from \$ 2,161.831 million

last year to \$1,753.458 mil-

lion during the time period

under review. However, the

imports of petroleum crude

increased by 16.80 percent,

from \$1,486.957 million to

\$1,736.712 million; natural

gas liquefied by 10.97 per-

cent, from \$1,176.718 mil-

lion to \$1,305.831 whereas

the imports of petroleum

gas liquefied went up by

56.03 percent and reached

to \$203.463 million as com-

pared to \$317.472 million

last year. The imports of

all other petroleum group

products also increased by

257.50 percent and went up to \$0.004 million from \$0.0143 million. Mean-

while, on a year-on-year basis, the petroleum group

imports witnessed decrease

of 30.55 percent during the month of October

2024 as compared to the

same month of last year.

The petroleum imports

during October 2024 were

recorded at \$1,060.601

million against the imports

the corresponding months

of last year. Exports during

July-October (2024-25) were

recorded at \$10.880 billion

against \$9.590 billion during

July-October (2023-24), ac-

cording to PBS data.-APP

#### **Briefs**

#### 08 held for possessing illegal arms

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi Police have arrested eight illegal arm holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Wednesday. According to a police spokesman, Bani police held Karman and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his possession and 01 pistol 30 bore was also recovered from Najaf. Similarly, New Town police nabbed Zain and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his custody.

While, Cantt police arrested Ibrahim and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from him. Additionally, Mandra police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Sajid. Following operation, Jatlai police recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from Bashir Ahmed. Dhamyal police recovered 01 rifle 12 bore from Mudassar and 01 pistol 30 bore was seized from Ghulam Abbas. Police have registered s arate cases against the accused and further investigation has been started. Divisional SPs commended police teams said that strict action will be continued against those carrying illegal weapons.-APP

#### Nagyi pays tribute to martyred soldiers

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a security forces checkpoint in the Bannu region. In a statement, Naqvi expressed his profound sorrow over the loss of 12 soldiers who embraced martyrdom while valiantly defending the nation. Paying tribute to the martyrs, Naqvi stated, "The brave sons of our home-land sacrificed their lives to thwart the nefarious designs of terrorists. They are the true heroes of our nation." He extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, assuring them of unwavering support. "We stand with the families of the martyrs and will always support them, Naqvi said.—APP

#### Housemaid, nephew arrested for jewellery theft

RAWALPINDI: The Morgah Police have arrested a housemaid and her nephew for stealing jewellery from the house of her owner and recovered its sale proceeds of Rs 3.4 million from them.

Accused Mansab Mai had stolen jewellery from the house, which was sold by her nephew Abdul Waheed, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Naseerabad Police nabbed an accused Abbas for killing Shahi Gul over a business dispute and also recovered the weapon used in the murder. One of his accomplices was already in custody while the police were conducting raids to arrest the rest, the spokesman said. The Naseerabad Police had registered a case against the accused on the complaint of the deceased's brother, he added.-APP

#### PTA, NERA sign an agreement for next-gen broadband services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication consultancy acquired of National services Economic Research Associates Inc (NERA) for 'Release of IMT Spectrum for Improvement of Next Generation Mobile Broadband Services in Pakistan. According to news release the contract was signed on November,5 2024, accordingly. Stakeholder consultation has been initiated, consultant will recommend to government on salient features of upcoming spectrum release process including proposed reforms, spectrum valuation and auction design. The process will most likely be completed by April 2025.-APP

## Ahsan proposes GSP-Plus to get export-led economic growth

Addressing the gathering, Ahsan Iqbal called for seizing the opportunity to strengthen governance and build resilience and position Pakistan as a globally competitive economy

#### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday proposed a multi-pronged strategy, aligning the GSP-Plus programme with the 5Es framework to get export-led economic growth secure a prosperous future for Pakistan. "The GSP-plus programme represents more than just trade preferences. It is a roadmap for sustainable development and good governance. By aligning it with the 5Es framework, we can unlock the true potential of export-led growth, empower our citizens and secure a prosperous future for Pakistan." he said. The minister was speaking as the guest speaker at a conference titled "Promoting Good Governance through Trade - Leveraging through GSP+," organized by Fredrick Naumann Foundation. Addressing the gathering, Ahsan Iqbal called for seizing the opportunity to strengthen governance and build resilience and position Pakistan as a globally compet-

itive economy. "Together we can ensure that trade becomes not only a driver of economic prosperity but also a catalyst for equity, transparency and sustainability," he added. Despite the successes, he said challenges remained, adding weak enforcement of laws, low diversification of exports and environmental vulnerabilities needed immediate attention to maximize the benefits of GSP-Plus and align with 5Es framework - Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment and Climate Change, Energy and Infrastructure, Equity and Empowerment. Elaborating his proposed strategy, the minister suggested establishing export diversification centers with incentives for green technologies and high-value products. He asked for setting up a National Compliance Task Force to oversee GSP-plus implementation and address gaps in governance on permanent/ quarterly basis. "I hope this task force will be set up soon and with this we can have a permanent institutional mechanism", he added. Besides, the minister called for strengthening public-private partnership to modernize industries, enhance skills and adopt innovation. He proposed investing in export-oriented energy projects to ensure affordable and reliable energy for exporters and leveraging digitization for enhanced transparency in trade practices and reduce inefficiencies. The planning minister said trade and governance were deeply interconnected; and through deliberated efforts. "We can harness this relationship to derive sustainable development and enhance transparency and uplift lives of millions of Pakistanis", he said. The GSP+ programme introduced in 2014, he said, had been a cornerstone of Pakistan's export strategy, enabling duty free or reduced tariff and access to European Union, a market of over 500 million consumers. Over the past decade, he said Pakistan's exports to EU had grown by more than 100 per cent reaching almost up to \$10 billion with trade volume of textile and apparel sectors. "GSP-plus is a very important mechanism for Pakistan because it helps Pakistan mitigate its climate change vulnerability. Instruments like this have really helped Pakistan to mitigate the effects of climate disaster we faced in 2022 and feared in future," he said This preferential access was more than an economic boost, Ahsan Iqbal said, as it reflected a partnership based on shared values, human rights, labour standards, environmental protection and good governance. By demonstrating our commitment to the 27 international conventions under the GSP-plus framework, Pakistan has positioned itself as a responsible and competitive global partner", he said. At the heart of Pakistan's development vision, he said, was the 5Es framework, Exports, E-Pakistan, Environment and Climate Change, Energy and Infrastructure, Equity and Empowerment. "Among these pillars, export-led growth is our top priority and the GSP-plus schemes serve as vital drivers of this strategy", he maintained. The Planning minister said the GSP-plus had enabled Pakistan to diversify its trade portfolio and enter new markets. "For exports to the EU accounted

for nearly 33% our total exports in 2023 and this access has directly created millions of jobs, particularly in text, leather and agro-in-dustries", he added. However, he said the potential was even greater to achieve the export-led growth target of \$60 billion by 2030, adding "We must capitalize on GSP plus by moving up the value chains, producing highend garments, sustainable goods and technology-driven products." "The GSP-s aligns with our digital vision where smart supply chains, e-commerce platforms and digital compliance mechanisms enable faster, transparent and more competitive exports," he highlighted. Ahsan Iqbal said environmental sustainability was a core focus of the GSP-plus conventions, from reducing industrial emissions to investing in green technologies. "Compliance with these standards enhances our global reputation and aligns with our broader commitment to combat climate change under our future Pakistan Vision 2047, which is under development," he remarked.

#### Pak needs political stability: Nusrat

In response to a question, Nusrat Khan said that we must understand that Pakistan has changed

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

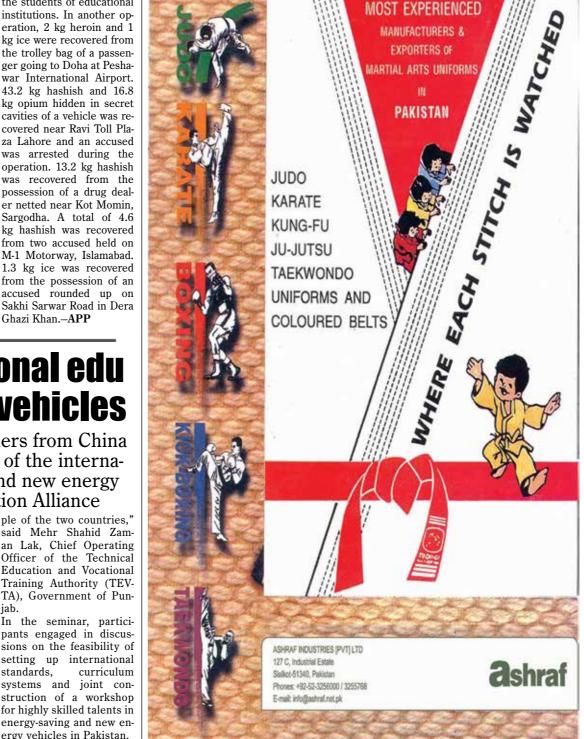


we must understand that Pakistan has changed. Today, from Khyber to Karachi, the common Pakistani is well aware of the underlying causes of our problems. neretore, it is essential to comprehend the rapidly changing circumstances instead of using outdated tactics from the past. Otherwise, the harsh realities of the situation could easily consign those imposing their will upon us to the dustbin of history.—DNA

of \$1,527.147 million during October 2023. On a month-on-month basis, the petroleum imports into the country, decreased by 23.61 percent during October 2024, as compared to the imports of \$1,388,420 million in September 2024, according to the data. It is pertinent to mention here that the merchandise exports from the country increased by 13.45 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to

#### WHO Regional Director for Europe hails excellent organization of COP29

ISLAMABAD :Teymur Musayev, Azerbaijan's Minister of Health, met with Hans Henri Kluge, the WHO Regional Director for Europe, on the margins of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Minister Musayev emphasized Azerbaijan's strong commitment to cooperation with esteemed health institutions, including the WHO, according to Azerbaijan news agency Azertac. Highlighting the significance of the Global Climate Conference in Baku, he also noted that Azerbaijan has officially joined the ATACH and will serve as a co-organizer of the Alliance from 2024 to 2026.-APP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

#### OGDCL accelerates tight gas exploration with strategic initiative

To support this ambitious initiative, OGDCL announced an international tender on March 7, 2024, for an Integrated Study of Tight Gas **Prospectivity Evaluation** 

ISLAMABAD: Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan's industry leader in exploration and production (E&P), is making significant strides in the development of the country's unconventional hydrocarbon resources. This follows incentives introduced by government under the new tight gas policy in 2024, which offers a 40% premium over the 2012 policy price to promote the exploration and commercial exploitation of tight gas, said a news release. OGDCL has already made notable progress in this area, with the successful production of its first tight gas well, Nur West-1, followed by additional wells to be fracked through in-house expertise. As part of its ongoing efforts to unlock the full potential of Pakistan's tight gas resources, OGDCL has launched a comprehensive study to assess tight gas prospectivity across key areas in the Lower Indus

Basin, Sindh. To support this ambitious initiative, OGDCL announced an international tender on March 7, 2024, for an Integrated Study of Tight Gas Prospectivity Evaluation. After a rigorous two-stage evaluation process involving 11 international bidders and 7 shortlisted companies, Schlumberger (M/s SLB) was selected as the preferred contractor. The selection was based on Schlumberger's proven technical capabilities and competitiveness. The study, which will identify the most promising tight gas areas and wells, will play a crucial role in shaping OGDCL's future drilling and production strategies. Upon completion, the study will pinpoint optimal locations for new wells, as well as re-entry opportunities for existing wells, to conduct hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and unlock gas from tight reservoirs. This will help OGDCL to commercialize tight gas

resources on a fast-track basis, helping to meet Pakistan's growing energy needs. OGDCL's partnership with Schlumberger is a key milestone in its ongoing efforts to leverage advanced technologies and best practices in unconventional resource development. This collaboration is expected to bring valuable expertise and innovation to Pakistan's tight gas sector, ensuring the sustainable and efficient exploitation of the country's hydrocarbon resources. Based on regional studies and using preliminary data, it is estimated the total prospective resource of Pakistan's tight gas is 25.2 TCF. On its part, OGDCL plans to execute 25 wells, with an initial production potential of 60-75 MMSCFD and an estimated reserve of 75-90 BCF over the next 5 years. Through this strategic initiative, OGDCL reaffirms its commitment to driving Pakistan's energy security and contributing.—APP

#### ducting six operations managed to recover over 83 kg drugs worth Rs 10 million and arrested 7 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Wednesday. He informed that 1.2 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested on KKH Road in Haripur. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In another operation, 2 kg heroin and 1 kg ice were recovered from the trolley bag of a passenger going to Doha at Peshawar International Airport. 43.2 kg hashish and 16.8 kg opium hidden in secret cavities of a vehicle was recovered near Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore and an accused was arrested during the operation. 13.2 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of a drug dealer netted near Kot Momin, Sargodha. A total of 4.6 kg hashish was recovered from two accused held on M-1 Motorway, Islamabad. 1.3 kg ice was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up on

Ghazi Khan.-APP

**ANF seizes** 

over 83 kg

drugs; arrests

7 suspects

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcot-

ics Force (ANF) while con-

### China, Pakistan boost vocational edu collaboration in new energy vehicles

Nearly 100 government officials and enterprise leaders from China and Pakistan witnessed the official commencement of the international teaching resource project in energy-saving and new energy vehicles under the China-Pakistan Digital Education Alliance

**DNA** 

BEIJING: China and Pakistan will boost vocational education collaboration in new energy vehicles, according to China Economic Net (CEN). A seminar on Developing International Teaching Resources in Energy-saving and New Energy Vehicles was held in Hunan Automotive Engineering Vocational University recently. Nearly 100 government officials and en-

terprise leaders from China and Pakistan witnessed the official commencement of the international teaching resource project in energy-saving and new energy vehicles under the China-Pakistan Digital Education Alliance.

According to Yin Wanjian, President of Hunan Automotive Engineering Vocational University, they will introduce Chinese new energy vehicle technologies and cases in keeping with the current status and development goals of Pakistan's new energy industry into the international teaching resource project. "China-Pakistan cooperation in vocational education holds great sig-nificance. We hope that through the international teaching resource project in energy-saving and new energy vehicles, Pakistani youth can benefit from the latest technological progress in China to further enrich their knowledge and enhance their skills, thereby contributing to the well-being of the peo-

said Mehr Shahid Zaman Lak, Chief Operating Officer of the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEV-TA), Government of Pun-In the seminar, partici-

pants engaged in discussions on the feasibility of setting up international standards, curriculum systems and joint construction of a workshop for highly skilled talents in energy-saving and new energy vehicles in Pakistan.

S world leaders gather in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the UN climate change conference Cop29, an opportunity has arisen to align climate action with

economic initiatives, in particular the Belt and Road Initiative. One of the

largest infrastructure programmes in history, the Chinese initiative was launched

in 2013 to enhance global connectivity and economic integration across Asia, Europe and Africa. Recognising the environmental challenges, China is focusing on a

green transformation of the Belt and Road Initiative. With participation from over

#### Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily COP29 and BRI

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#### Multilateral institutions

N less than a month, the world has been swept up in a whirlwind of diplomatic activities, with the BRICS summit, APEC 2024, and the G20 summit all taking place in quick succession. These multilateral institutions are indicative of the shifting sands of global aspirations and priorities among members. The aspirations of the global majority - sometimes euphemistically called the Global South - have featured strongly in all these meetings. Ongoing cross-border economic collaboration by way of intensified trade and investment flows is a common theme among the global majority. The ability to pursue such relationships, without fear of being sanctioned or punished by historically dominant Western powers, featured strongly at the BRICS meeting in Kazan. There, participants agreed to strengthen trade and financial settlement in local currencies, study feasibility of an independent cross-border settlement and depositary infrastructure. BRICS nations seek mechanisms to pursue national economic development free from the pernicious financial architecture of the post-World War II Bretton Woods institutional set-up. In particular, the focus on the use of local currencies in financial transactions between BRICS countries and their trading partners, as well as the feasibility of establishment of an independent cross-border settlement are central to this focus. The recently concluded APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima reinforced a widespread commitment from participants to open trade as a foundation of economic development among nations. This has been a cornerstone of APEC from its very beginning, and most participants remain committed to the pursuit of open trade. "We acknowledge the importance of, and will continue to work to deliver a free, open, fair, nondiscriminatory, transparent, inclusive and predictable trade and investment environment," the leaders of the 21-member APEC said in a statement adopted at the end of their two-day summit in Lima, Peru. Americans have signalled a reluctance on this front. As nations of the global majority are seeking expanded trade and non-discriminatory interconnectedness, the US appears to be drawing away from such commitments. Over the years, the US has systematically blocked the appointment of new Appellate Body members and judges and de facto impeded the work of the WTO appeal mechanism. The weaponization of the US dollar and SWIFT messaging system has further undermined the dependability of post-World War II cross-border institutions. The threat of the expansion of tariffs raises further questions about the extent to which the US is committed to open multilateralism. As for the G20, the host nation, Brazil, has long declared a three-point agenda, namely combating hunger, poverty and inequality; focusing on three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental); and the reform of global governance. These topics have been chosen keeping the objective of reducing inequalities at the heart of the reform effort as is reflected in the motto of the Brazilian presidency, "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet." In their own ways, developing countries in BRICS, APEC and G20 are making it clear that the majority of nations seek institutions and approaches that can facilitate greater collaboration and coordination in the name of economic development and shared prosperity. They also recognise that many of the challenges today transcend national boundaries, and require collective action.

## Settler monster is stealing Jerusalem's authentic tale

#### **Daoud Kuttab**

This decision came after the General Custodian saw an opportunity to evict Castro because he was carrying out renovation work. With time and general weather conditions, the cafe's walls had become dilapidated. Without realizing he needed to get a permit to fix the wall, Castro fell afoul of a legal loophole. Him carrying out renovation work without permission was considered sufficient justification to request his eviction. After several legal battles, the Israeli High Court approved the eviction decision and, on Sunday, Israeli police came to the small cafe and took away all its contents in trucks. It is unclear who will take over the location, but the likely new tenant will be a settler, causing yet another point of provocation for all the other shops in the area

are trying to bring a ceasefire to Lebanon and possibly then to Gaza, the right-wing Israeli government is using this preoccupation with the north and the south to strengthen itself in the center. Jerusalem, the jewel in the crown for the Palestinians, is witnessing an unprecedented and largely unreported campaign to make the Old City and the nearby surroundings more Israeli. While Israeli religious fanatics are looking to set foot in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound (possibly by taking over the Bab Al-Rahma Mosque area), the bigger campaigns are happening in Silwan and Musrara. Silwan, which is the closest highly populated Palestinian housing area to Al-Aqsa, has been a target of the settler movement for years. Palestinian homes and centers are being demolished and replaced by Jewish settlers and institutions. Naturally, with every house taken over by the settlers, an army of guards, cameras and fences are created, taking over even more property. In Silwan, Israel has delineated the nearest built-up area to the Old City of Jerusalem, Al-Bustan, and marked it for takeover using a variety of legal and administrative means. Among the homes and centers that the Israelis have demolished using a different legal justification was a cultural center that the French government had been supporting for years. Last week's destruction of the center brought a quick and strong French response. French Foreign Ministry spokesperson Christophe Lemoine expressed concerns over the action, calling it "part of the Israeli colonization policy which is illegal under international law and threatens the two-state solution and the status of Jerusalem."

Another location that has been the target of Israeli settler activity is the Musrara shopping area just outside the Damascus Israeli authorities evicted a small coffee shop that had been operating in the same location for decades.

Castro Cafe in the Musrara neighborhood might not have been known to many Jerusalemites, although they must have passed by it on their way to or from the Old City. This modest cafe catered to customers who were either passing workers or people waiting for someone to call them to do a quick job. However, for many, it has now become symbolic of the Palestinians' struggle for the city's identity and its tolerant, pluralistic character, as opposed to the monolithic, intolerant character that dominates.

Mohammed Awda Castro had owned the small business in the Musrara neighborhood since 1954, when he rented it from the Jordanian government, which ruled East Jerusalem at the time. Castro says that, in 2010, an eviction order was issued by the Israeli authorities. After he appealed the eviction, the Israeli Central Court issued an order allowing him to remain, while denying him the tenant protection rights that apply to Jerusalem. But settlers, along with the Israeli authorities, continued to go to court to evict him from the cafe and they finally got what they wanted when the Supreme Court issued a decision to evict him.

This decision came after the General Custodian saw an opportunity to evict Castro because he was carrying out renovation work. With time and general weather conditions, the cafe's walls had become dilapidated. Without realizing he needed to get a permit to fix the wall, Castro fell afoul of a legal loophole. Him carrying out renovation work without permission was considered sufficient justification to request his eviction. After several legal battles, the Israeli High Court approved the eviction decision

S diplomatic envoys and politicians Gate. This area received a jolt when the and, on Sunday, Israeli police came to the small cafe and took away all its contents in trucks. It is unclear who will take over the location, but the likely new tenant will be a settler, causing yet another point of provocation for all the other shops in the area. It is known that Musrara, which is considered the first entrance to the Old City, is a historical neighborhood. It is considered to be one of the first neighborhoods built outside the walls of the Old City after the Ottoman Empire allowed it in 1830. So, its buildings are characterized by the Ottoman architectural style, like in other neighborhoods that were built outside the Old City, such as Katamon and Sheikh Jarrah. In the Roman era, the area was used as a slave market. It was also called the Aqbat Al-Manzel Road in the Ottoman period, as it connected Jerusalem and Hebron. The Castro Cafe will not be the last of the shops, homes and centers to disappear from the areas outside the city walls. Israel is replacing an entire Jerusalemite Palestinian neighborhood with Jewish settlers. Along with the campaign against Silwan, the Israelis are rushing through their actions while the world is busy with the ceasefire talks in Lebanon and the war on Gaza. With these actions, it is not only physical buildings that will disappear, but also the story of a city struggling over its narrative. Jerusalem will lose its authentic tale in the face of this monster coming toward it with the clear aim of changing it, literally under Palestinian feet and in front of their own eyes. The overarching Israeli goals are completely divorced from the natural development that most cities witness. The lesson is primarily aimed at the Palestinian people of Jerusalem – namely that the city they would like to see as their capital will never be theirs. • Daoud Kuttab is an award-winning

Palestinian journalist

## The West can't have it both ways on overcapacity

**Boris Babicand Herman Cappelen** 

The overcapacity argument is often reinforced by the claim that this manufacturing ability has been achieved unfairly through government support of China's clean energy expertise and manufacturing. Yet upon closer inspection, the claim is equally hypocritical. Many important industries would not have come to fruition absent significant government support. This July, the US announced US\$160 million in grants for the clean manufacturing of steel and other construction materials. This follows a long tradition of US...

OLITICAL hypocrisy is a contradiction between a state's professed ideals and actual practices – an inconsistency that undermines the coherence of its professed moral and political views. As philosophers, we would say that, at its core, hypocrisy violates the principle of non-contradiction: if you simultaneously hold and act against a particular value, you engage in a form of self-defeating reasoning. The hypocritical agent is thereby legitimately seen as immoral, deceptive and lacking in seriousness. At any rate, the agent loses credibility and undermines the integrity of their political relationships with their counterparts. In academia, we are interested in how hypocrisy affects multilateral relationships and political trust. At the moment, we have a particularly glaring case of hypocrisy - the destructive tariffs against Chinese electric vehicles (EVs). The ongoing debate over electric vehicles provides a vivid illustration of political hypocrisy and its damaging consequences. Major Western nations have been scrambling to impose extraordinary tariffs on electric vehicles made in China, as well as photovoltaic solar cells and lithium-ion batteries. In May, the United States announced it would increase its tariffs on electric vehicles made in China to 100 per cent. The changes were implemented in September. Canada soon followed suit, also announcing a 100 per cent tariff. Then, in October, the European Union decided via a contentious qualified majority vote to impose its own tariffs of up to 45 per cent. Given the extraordinary size of these duties, it seems more appropriate to see them almost as import bans. The pressure to impose such bans will only increase with the re-election of Donald Trump as the president of the United States. The arguments for these near import bans are at their core hypocritical along three dimensions: overcapacity, state support and public international law. Overcapacity has been a trendy term

against Chinese manufacturing of electric vehicles, namely, that China is somehow engaging in unethical trading behaviour. But it is a strange accusation because it is far from clear why overcapacity is bad. The World Trade Organization, just like its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, allows for measures against state-supported dumping practices. Dumping was understood to consist of exporting a product at a lower price than what it would be sold for inside one's own country. Dumping is the mirror image of a tariff – tariffs make other countries' products more expensive in one's own country while dumping makes your product cheaper in other countries. But overcapacity is not dumping. Rather, overcapacity entails constructing larger manufacturing capability than the current demand calls for. On its own, this is nothing to fear. Indeed, absent growing demand it will ultimately hurt the manufacturer. Moreover, Western nations have pervasively engaged in similar overcapacity in strategic sectors. For example, American soybean manufacturers are ramping up their manufacturing and planning to increase their output by 23 per cent in the next three years, according to a report by CoBank, to gain an edge in renewable fuel material manufacturing. The overcapacity argument is often reinforced by the claim that this manufacturing ability has been achieved unfairly - through government support of China's clean energy expertise and manufacturing. Yet upon closer inspection, the claim is equally hypocritical. Many important industries would not have come to fruition absent significant government support. This July, the US announced US\$160 million in grants for the clean manufacturing of steel and other construction materials. This follows a long tradition of US government support for the steel industry. Interestingly, the Truman administration pushed heavily for capacity expansion in steel, precisely in part so vantage in the international steel trade. Meanwhile, Canada has supported its softwood lumber manufacturers at every level of government for decades. Most glaringly, the countries imposing tariffs on EVs made in China have their own subsidies and tax breaks for EVs, such as the US' clean vehicle tax credits and Canada's Incentives for Zero-Emissions Vehicles programme. If we are correct above - and the charges of overcapacity are just hypocrisy in disguise – how can these tariffs possibly survive review by the WTO? Ordinarily, the most-favoured-nation and national treatment principles would require treating EVs made in China on par with the most favourably treated foreign manufacturers or domestic manufacturers. This is especially curious given that even modest tariffs would historically have been held up in mediation and arbitration for years, as was the case in the US-Canada softwood lumber dispute, which passed through the North American Free Trade Agreement, the WTO and bilateral rounds of negotiation. However, the Trump administration blocked appointments to the WTO's Appellate Body, causing it to lose quorum and become irrelevant since 2019. The Joe Biden administration has maintained the Trump policy and has not permitted appointments to the WTO's dispute-resolution body, exacerbating what is referred to as the Appellate Body crisis. As a result, public international law governing trade has become crippled.

In imposing such extraordinary tariffs outside the agreed-upon legal mechanisms and sabotaging the very institutions designed to guard against this, the US and other Western economies contradict their stance as defenders of fair trade and multilateralism. Hence, political hypocrisy is not only creating an environment that is inhospitable to trade, it is eroding the very institutions that are designed to protect us from such an environment.

## World / Sports



#### **Briefs**

#### France and **AFD** highlight support for polio...

From Page 01 the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Today, this financial support helps WHO and other partners implement core components of the polio eradication program in Pakistan, including paying frontline workers and supporting monitoring and surveil-lance activities. The Polio Oversight Board consists of the heads of agencies from the leading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI): the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO, UNICEF, US CDC, Rotary International, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. During this November visit, the Board is joined by senior representatives from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which recently pledged \$500 million to the global polio initiative. The Board's delegation includes Dr. Chris Elias, Chair of the Polio Oversight Board and President of Global Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Dr. HananBalkhy, Regional Director for WHO Eastern Mediterranean; Mr. Sanjay Wijesekera, Regional Director for UNICEF South Asia; Mr. Aziz Memon, Rotary International Trustee and Chairman of the National PolioPlus Committee; and representatives from the US Centers for Disease Control and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief), along with Saudi dignitaries.

#### PTI hints at calling off Nov 24...

From Page 01 the call of its founder, who remains incarcerated in Adiala jail. PTI has time and again called for Khan's release and the return of its mandate which it alleges was stolen in the February 8 polls. For months, it has been at odds with the incumbent government and has marched onto the federal capital on multiple occasions leading to a crackdown against its leaders and workers. Punjab government has adopted a strong stance against the rival party's "final call" protest, saying that it would deal with protesters on November 24 as they do with terrorists. With the PTI refusing to back from its protest call, the government too has geared up for the demonstrations with Punjab and Islamabad police seeking additional personnel to maintain the law and order situation.

#### Imran Khan gets bail...

From Page 01 before the trial Court on each and every date of hearing unless a specific exemption is granted." The bail can be revoked if the petitioner [Imran] does not cooperate with the trial court, it added. Imran and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were arrested in the case on July 13, shortly after the husband-wife duo was acquitted by a district and sessions court of Islamabad in the iddat case - also known as the un-Islamic nikah case. Bushra Bibi was released last month from jail in the Toshakhana 2.0 case after spending around nine months behind bars.

#### Twelve security...

From Page 01

This, the ISPR said, resulted in the martyrdom of 12 brave sons of soil that included 10 soldiers of the security forces and two soldiers of Frontier Constabulary. Following the attack, the statement mentioned, a sanitisation operation was being conducted in the area and the perpetrators of this heinous act would be brought to justice. "Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve." President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to the soldiers, honouring their ultimate sacrifice for the defence of the homeland.

#### 'A kid who followed their dreams'

## Fans salute retiring Nadal after Davis Cup defeat

After the 38-year-old announced last month he was ending his playing career following the Davis Cup Final Eight, his farewell party was not what he would have hoped for as he lost his last match and Spain crashed out

#### SPORTS DESK

MALAGA: Rafael Nadal said farewell to tennis and his fans saluted their retiring hero in a bittersweet and emotional ceremony at a sold-out Malaga arena following his last professional match in Spain's 2-1 Davis Cup defeat to the Netherlands on Tuesday. Holding back tears as he tried to compose himself, Nadal gave a near 15-minute speech that stretched into the early hours of Wednesday. The 22-times Grand Slam champion had earlier lost 6-4 6-4 to the Netherlands' Botic van de Zandschulp, ending a 29-match singles winning streak in the Davis Cup and bringing the curtain down on his glittering career. "What I have tried to do is to be a good person and I hope you have perceived that," Nadal told the Malaga crowd. "I leave the tennis world having met so many friends along the way. I have so many people to thank. I leave with the peace of mind of having left a sporting and personal legacy I can be proud about.

"Thanks to all of you, the public. It's over 20 years (career), good years, bad years. I have been able to live with all of you. I have felt very fortunate to feel so much affection from all over the world, especially here in Spain.'

After the 38-year-old announced last month he was ending his playing career following the Davis Cup Final Eight, his farewell party was not what he would have hoped for as he lost his last match and Spain crashed out.

While his team mate Carlos Alcaraz levelled the tie by beating TallonGriekspoor 7-6(0) 6-3, Spain's new tennis king and Marcel Granollers were defeated in the decisive dou-



bles by Wesley Koolhof and Van de Zandschulp. Spain will face the Netherlands in their opening match on Tuesday, and Nadal could play it with Alcaraz, "It's obvious that it didn't turn out the way we wanted it to. I have given what I had. I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to spend these last days as a professional team player," Nadal said. "My body has told me it doesn't want to play tennis anymore and I have to accept that. I am privileged. I have been able to make my hobbies my profession. I am fortunate. "My family, my team, my friends. I am a person who believes in continuity, I believe in keeping the people you love and who make your life better. I have kept my family close. Without you this would not have been possible."

Crushed by a defeat in which he looked a shadow of himself, Nadal had said earlier that if he was Spain's Davis Cup captain he would not pick himself to play singles if they advanced in the tournament. The Mallorcan said he felt prepared and played the best he could but was not going to apologise for the loss. "It's not my decision (whether I play), that's why we have a captain (David Ferrer) and I'm not the captain," said Nadal. "He made a decision today... probably after watching how today went, the decision to pick me didn't work and the easy move and maybe the right move is to make a change," he told a press conference.

"For me, that's the way that I think ... If I'm the captain, probably I would make a change and not start myself. That's my feeling." Netherlands will face the winners of the match between Canada and Germany in the semi-finals. Eight nations were contesting the Davis Cup in Malaga this week, with the finals set for Sunday.

#### Babar, Rizwan, Shaheen suffer decline in Rankings

Babar and Rizwan are the only Pakistani batters in the Top 50 of the T20I Rankings

DUBAI: Pakistan's star trio of Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi suffered notable declines in the recently-updated International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20I Rankings following a gruelling 3-0 whitewash defeat against Australia. Pakistan's batters had a forgetful T20I series against Australia. In the three-match series Usman Khan remained the sole batter to score a half-century, amassing 59 runs in three innings - the most by a touring side batter. Meanwhile, Babar, who scored 47 runs in as many innings with the best score of 41, dropped one place, to fifth, while his opening partner Rizwan also dropped one spot and consequently slipped to sixth.

Besides Babar and Rizwan, no Pakistani batter is in the Top 50 of the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings. On the other hand, India's Tilak Varma, who enjoyed a dream run in the recently-concluded four-match T20I series against South Africa, climbed 69 places to secure third position in the batting rankings of the shortest format,

led by Australia's opening batter Travis Head. The significant rise also placed Varma as the top-ranked Indian batter, closely followed by skipper Suryakumar Yadav at fourth, while Sanju Samson jumped 17 spots to 22nd, courtesy of two centuries in the aforementioned series against the Proteas. On the bowling front, Pakistan's ace pacer Shaheen suffered a steep decline, slipping 10 places to 24th, while right-arm speedster Haris Rauf got the reward of his outstanding performance as he rose to 20th, jumping four spots. Meanwhile, Australia's Adam Zampa jumped five places to third, while Nathan secured 11th place after improving 15 spots. - Agencies

## Rise of racism

## Five talking points as Premier League returns

They are five points clear of Manchester City, who have lost four games in a row in all competitions something Pep Guardiola had never experienced before in his managerial career (excluding penalty shootouts)

in a row. This is the sixth occasion a

LONDON: The Premier League returns this weekend - for its first properly undisrupted run of the season. Top-level club football has had to stop for international breaks in September, October and November, but the next one is not until March now.

It coincides with the busy festive period next month. Liverpool are flying under Arne Slot and sit top of the Premier League and the Champions League table, having dropped points in just two games this season.

They are five points clear of Ma ter City, who have lost four games in a row in all competitions - something Pep Guardiola had never experienced before in his managerial career (excluding penalty shootouts).

Despite their recent run and speculation about the Spaniard's future. however. Guardiola this week agreed a new one-year deal to extend his stay at Etihad Stadium to 10 years.

It is a timely boost for City, who have another potentially tough game at home to Tottenham on Saturday (17:30 GMT) as they bid to avoid five defeats

LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) teams owners

urged the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to brief on the ar-

rangements for the tournament next year. The Indian Premier

League (IPL) and the 10th edition of the PSL is expected to

clash next year due to Champions Trophy which will be host-

ed by Pakistan in February and March. With the recent ap-

pointment of Salman Naseer as the head of PSL affairs, fran-

chises owners are optimistic about potential improvements.

Team owners expressed delight by sending a joint letter

congratulating Salman over his appointment. In their letter,

they expressed their commitment to work together to fix the

league matters. Owners urged Naseer to have a conversa-

tion with the cricket boards, specifically England and Wales

Cricket Board (ECB), as the board has hinted at restricting

its players from participating in other leagues, excluding the

IPL, during their domestic season. This has raised concerns

about players' participation in the forthcoming tournament in

Pakistan, as it could jeopardise the domestic league. - DNA

team has been five points clear after 11 games - the first five all ended up as champions. But City have won the last four Premier League titles and trailed the leaders by more than five points at one stage in each of those seasons. Liverpool and City have one Premier League game each before they meet in a potential blockbuster at Anfield on Sunday, 1 December.

Arsenal, who have been runners-up for the past two seasons, are four points back - level with Chelsea, Nottingham Forest and Brighton.

The Gunners and Forest meet on Saturday at 15:00 GMT at the Emirates. There will be a new face in the Premier League this weekend - new Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim. The deal was done for the Sporting manager on 1 November but his Portuguese club wanted him to wait until the international break before moving. Ruud van Nistelrooy had been in interim charge after the sacking of Erik ten Hag - but the club's former striker de-

him part of his backroom staff. Amorim takes his new team to Ipswich on Sunday (16:30 GMT) in the Premier League. He is expected to play the 3-4-3 formation he preferred in Portugal - a big change from the standard four-man defence they had under Ten Hag. However, he might only get his full squad together two days before his first game because of players being around the world for international games. United will hope Amorim's first Premier League game goes like his first Portuguese topflight match as a manager - when his Braga side won 7-1 at Belenenses in January 2020. After eight games there were four teams without any wins but, three games later, Ipswich Town, Crystal Palace, Wolves and Southampton have one victory each. Everton and Leicester, who have two wins this term, remain only three points clear of the bottom three. The Saints are only given a 5.2% of survival by Opta, despite being only four points off safetv at this stage. - Agencies

parted too as Amorim did not want

#### PSL team owners WEB DESK LONDON: The seven-game ban given to Tottenham's express concerns over clash with IPL

Rodrigo Bentancur for a racial slur about team-mate Son Heung-min has restarted the conversation about racism towards players and fans of East and South East Asian descent. Anti-racism charity Kick It Out (KIO) says there has been a rise in both incidents of racism towards East and South East Asian players - and reports of those incidents, highlighted in these statistics: There were 395 reports of "player-targeted" racist abuse in stadiums and online to KIO in the 2023-24 season - up from 277 in 2022-23. 55% of those reports of racism aimed at specific players last season was towards those from an East Asian background. Of the 937 player-specific abuse reports to KIO in the past five full seasons, 327 of them (35%) have been directed at just seven East and South East Asian players. Kick It Out chief executive Samuel Okafor said: "We are getting a lot of reports about this type of racism. "It's fans sending us a clear message they are not willing to tolerate discrimination and it's a message that football needs to listen to." The players who have being targeted regularly over the past five seasons have not been named by Kick It Out. The most high profile East or South East Asian players in the Premier League are Spurs' Son and Hwang Hee-Chan from South

## against South East Asians in football

Korea, and the Japanese quartet of Brighton winger KauroMitoma, Arsenal's TakehiroTomiyasu, Crystal Palace's Daichi Kamada and Southampton's Yukinari Sugawara. In October, Como's Marco Curto was given a 10-match ban by Fifa, five suspended, for racially abusing Wolves forward Hwang in a pre-season friendly in July. Son has been racially abused multiple times since coming to the Premier League in 2015, with the most recent case seeing a Nottingham Forest supporter banned from every ground in the country. Similar publicised incidents have occurred involving Son among the fan bases for Manchester United, Chelsea, Crystal Palace and West Ham between 2019 and 2023. Show Racism the Red Card also called out viral social media posts linking Asian players to the coronavirus outbreak in 2020. Tottenham have declined to comment any further on the ban after Bentancur was punished on Monday afternoon.

## Aryna Sabalenka eyes Serena-like dominance

Sabalenka's New York run meant she had reached at least the semi-finals at nine of her last 12 Grand Slams – form reminiscent of Serena's 10 last-four appearances MADRID: A sparkling 2024 in which Aryna she topped the tour in double faults in the

Sabalenka swept the hardcourt Grand Slams and clinched the year-end world number one ranking has left the powerful Belarusian dreaming of dominating the women's game as Serena Williams did for so long. Once best known for a propensity to lose her cool on court, Sabalenka has transformed her game to become a ruthlessly effective player capable of blowing opponents away in a style reminiscent of Serena in her prime. After her major breakthrough at last year's Australian Open, the 26-year-old retained the Melbourne title in January before adding the U.S. Open crown to her trophy cabinet in September, leapfrogging IgaSwiatek in the rankings last month. Sabalenka's New York run meant she had reached at least the semi-finals at nine of her last 12 Grand Slams - form reminiscent of Serena's 10 last-four appearances between 2014 and 2017 when the American landed six of her 23 major titles. "I always wanted to dominate the tour like Serena did, like Iga was able to do for so long," Sabalenka told Arab News ahead of the season-ending WTA Finals, where she sealed the year-end top spot despite a semi-final loss to Coco Gauff. "It's really inspiring ... but I'm trying to

focus on myself, on improving myself, to make sure that I have all of the tools to dominate the tour as they did." With a powerful serve and thunderous groundstrokes, Sabalenka always looked destined for a spot in the top 10 and she finished the 2021 season second in the world. Her error count was high, though, and the serve was a picture of inconsistency to the extent that

2020 season. Frustration at her technical shortcomings sometimes left her in tears and at the Adelaide International in early 2022 she resorted to serving underarm. A spell with a psychologist and work on her serve with biomechanics coach Gavin

MacMillan before the 2023 season laid the groundwork for her first Grand Slam title



at last year's Australian Open. Sabalenka continued her impressive form and began to thrive away from the hard courts, reaching the semi-finals on clay at the French Open and on the Wimbledon grass. The frustrations returned when she suffered a heartbreaking three-set defeat by Gauff in the final at Flushing Meadows and she destroyed her racket in what she thought was a private moment in the locker room. Her devastation at the loss was mitigated by the fact that she had risen to the top of the rankings for the first time.

Sabalenka conceded the top spot after a late surge from Swiatek at last year's WTA Finals in Cancun but she has set the standard at hardcourt tournaments this season, taking titles in Wuhan and Cincinnati to storm to the top again. A sign that Sabalenka was more at ease with the suffocating pressure at the top of the game came when she made a tradition of signing the bald head of her trainer before matches on her run to her second title in Melbourne in January. She won over American fans in her U.S. Open title clash with home hope Jessica Pegula, producing spectacular shot-making that showcased power and poise thanks to the drop shots she added to her growing arsenal. - Agencies

#### **US committed** to support Pak fight against terrorism

From Page 01 A day ago, eight soldiers were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while seven policemen were briefly kidnapped in separate attacks. Meanwhile, in a separate incident in the same province, seven police officers were kidnapped from a checkpoint. They were released Tuesday, following negotiations between a jirga - or tribal council – and the militants. "All the kidnapped policemen have been released following successful negotiations led by local elders with militants," senior police official Muhammad Zia ud-Din told AFP. The Pakistani Taliban (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attacks. In his press briefing, the US spokesperson said that as the horrific attacks against the Pakistani people continue, "we remain committed to engaging with government leaders and civilian institutions to identify opportunities to build capacity in detecting, preventing, and responding to threats posed by militant terrorist groups".

#### COAS inaugurates advanced...

From Page 01 A significant highlight of the occasion was the inauguration of the Shahpar-III, a state-of-the-art combat Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) developed by Global Industrial Defence Solutions (GIDS) Pakistan. The Shahpar-III boasts advanced capabilities, including an operational ceiling of 35,000 feet and an endurance of over 24 hours. It is equipped to carry a wide range of munitions, including bombs, missiles, and torpedoes. 12th Edition of IDEAS 2024 commenced on 19th November and will culminate on 22nd November 2024. Earlier, upon his arrival at Karachi, COAS was warmly received by Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar, Corps Commander Karachi.

#### Govt to deploy rangers...

From Page 01 police in maintaining law and order. The decision comes in response to PTI's call for a protest in the capital with authorities taking preemptive

#### Pak-China joint exercise kicks off

measures to ensure pub-

lic safety and prevent any

untoward incidents.

From Page 01 Last month a two-week

long Pakistan-Russia joint counter terrorism exercise Druzhba-VII concluded at NCTC, Pabbi. Two weeks long exercise commenced on October 13th in which Special Forces of Pakistan Army and 54 all ranks from Russian Army participated in the drill, ISPR had said. Inspector General Training & Evaluation (IG-T&E), Lieutenant General Fayyaz Hussain Shah was chief guest on the closing ceremony. Russian Ambassador, Albert P. Khorev had also witnessed the ceremony. The troops displayed highest standards of professionalism during the conduct of exercise. The exercise was aimed at refining drills, procedures and techniques, besides harnessing the historic military-to-military relations among the friendly countries.

#### No chance of Imran's...

From Page 01

granted in other cases, so his release is not possible," he articulated. Commenting on the events of May 9, Tarar accused Khan of inciting unrest. "Clear instructions were given by him, and no good can be expected from those who resorted to arson," he remarked. The minister also hinted at further legal proceedings, noting that Khan's bail could potentially be revoked if the case progresses in the trial court. It is pertinent to mention that the Islamabad High Court, earlier today, ordered Khan's release in the Toshakhana case after granting him bail.

## Business / World



#### Briefs

### **PSX loses 310** points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) around to bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 310.21 points, a negative change of 0.32 percent, closing at 95,546.46 points as compared to 95,856.67 points on the last trading day. A total of 1,138,411,946 shares were traded during the day as compared to 830,931,008 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 37.481 billion against Rs. 30.019 billion on the last trading day. As many as 456 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 156 of them recorded gains and 251 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 49 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies K-Electric Limited with 174,389,145 shares at Rs 5.22 per share, Hascol Petrol with 63,973,243 shares at Rs 11.26 per share Kohinoor Spinning with 62.996.737 shares at Rs.9.98 per share. Colgate Palmolive (Pakistan) Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.101.90 per share price, closing at Rs 1,480.88 whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 91.17 rise in its per share price to Rs 6,691.17. Pakistan Services Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 44.72 per share closing at Rs 802.67 followed by Services Industries Limited with Rs 39.48 decline to close at Rs 1,179.99.-APP

#### Rupee sheds 09 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated 09 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.04 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.95. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP). the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.60 and Rs 279.10 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 21 paisa to close at Rs 293.96 against the last day's closing of Rs 294.17, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by  $\bar{0}1$  paisa and closed at Rs 1.78, whereas an increase of 74 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 352.91 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 352.17. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 02 and 01 paisa to close at Rs 75.69 and Rs 74.05 respectively.-APP

## POL imports up by 1.68% in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The petroleum group imports increased by 1.68 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the imports of the same months of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The imports of overall petroleum group during July-October (2024-25) stood at \$5,113.616 million as against the imports of \$5,029.009 million during July-October (2023-24), according to PBS data. Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 18.89 percent, from \$ 2,161.831 million last year to \$1,753.458 million during the time period under review. However, the imports of petroleum crude increased by 16.80 percent, from \$1,486.957 million to \$1,736.712 million; natural gas liquefied by 10.97 percent, from \$1,176.718 million to \$1,305.831 whereas the imports of petroleum gas liquefied went up by 56.03 percent and reached to \$203.463 million as compared to \$317.472 million last year. The imports of all other petroleum group products also increased by 257.50 percent and went up to \$0.004 million from \$0.0143 million. Meanwhile, on a yearon-year basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed decrease of 30.55 percent during the month of October 2024 as compared to the same month of last year. The petroleum imports during October 2024 were recorded at \$1,060.601 million against the imports of \$1,527.147 million during October 2023. On a month-onmonth basis, the petroleum imports into the country, decreased by 23.61 percent during October 2024, as compared to the imports of \$1,388,420 million in September 2024, ac-

cording to the data.-APP

## Efforts afoot to tackle water quality issues with Korean govt's help

"In response, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) collaborated with UNOPS Pakistan is making all-out efforts to enhance water quality monitoring systems in Islamabad, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on pilot basis to ensure the people of these areas have access to safe drinking water

#### DNA

BAKU: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said that her ministry started a new \$4.4 million project 'Enhancing Water Quality Monitoring System to achieve SDG 6 in Islamabad, Punjab and KP' with the help of KOICA Pakistan to monitor drinking water quality in close collaboration with Punjab and KP provincial governments, PCRWR and Pak-EPA. The PM's climate aide r marked while addressing an important event 'Clean Water and Climate Resilience: Transforming Pakistan's Water and Agricultural Landscape' held here in Baku on the sidelines of COP29 Global Climate Summit at Pakistan Pavilion. She said this project will benefit over 62 million people in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab & Islamabad. The project includes significant upgrades to water-quality testing laboratories,

encompassing the procurement and installation of advanced laboratory equipment, minor infrastructure enhancements to ensure a safe working environment, capacity-building initiatives for laboratory staff and the WASH Cell of the MoCC, the introduction of a Management Information System (MIS) for improved coordination, and the provision of 8 vehicles transformed into water-quality testing laboratories for the Government of  $K\!\,P$  and 1 vehicle for PCRWR. She said climate change adversely affects water quality globally, exacerbating challenges of shrinking water availability, its contamination and affecting ecosystem health. Coping with the common water-related challenges requires collaboration and cooperation among countries. Romina said, "Global heating has increased temperatures of water bodies including lakes, rivers and oceans worldwide, reducing oxygen levels and threatening aquatic ecosystems.

CGS delegation, Secretary Pol for

bolstering geoscientific collaboration

This meeting builds on the commitments made during the visit

of Pakistan's Prime Minister to China in June 2024, where both

leaders expressed a strong desire to deepen cooperation in various

sectors including mining and geosciences

recommendations for uplifting

the key areas of economy. One

key suggestion was to conduct

detailed integrated geoscien-

tific surveys of selected met-

allogenic blocks, supported by

the Chinese government. The

longstanding partnership be-

tween the Geological Survey

of Pakistan (GSP) and the Chi-

na Geological Survey (CGS)

Warmer waters are also more prone to algal blooms, including toxic cyanobacteria, which harm aquatic life and contaminate drinking water sources, She said, "Today, global community, particularly those living in global south are faced with rapidly deteriorating water quality but also its declining availability due to climate change-caused shifting weather patterns, depleting rainfalls, declining groundwater levels and debris-loaded floodwater runoff that turns the river water flows contaminated. Addressing these global-scale water quality challenges can be tackled only through global response."

through global response." Romina Khurshid Alam pointed out that tackling soaring levels of water quality is crucial to protect lives of the people and reduce disease burden. Because, poor water quality, when consumed directly or through food source, only increase the prevalence of waterborne diseases, which are often amplified

by extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. Heavier rainfall increases runoff, which can carry pollutants like pesticides, fertilizers, and industrial waste into freshwater sources. This contaminates drinking water supplies and promotes eutrophication in lakes and reservoirs. Besides, prolonged dry periods concentrate pollutants in shrinking water bodies, leading to higher salinity, reduced dilution of contaminants, and poor water quality, she highlighted. "Enhancing water quality reduces health risks, especially for vulnerable populations. Because, contaminated water exacerbates waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations in developing regions," she highlighted during her address and hastened to add that warmer conditions accelerate the proliferation of harmful bacteria, viruses, and

parasites, posing risks to human

health, especially in untreated or poorly managed water systems. The PM's climate aide remarked that acknowledging the fundamental right to clean and safe drinking water, the initial and vital step is monitoring its quality. Pakistan faces a significant challenge, with almost 44% of the population lacking access to safe drinking water. "In response, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOI-CA) collaborated with UNOPS Pakistan is making all-out efforts to enhance water quality monitoring systems in Islamabad, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on pilot basis to ensure the people of these areas have access to safe drinking water. This event is co-organised by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Pakistan Office and SEED Pakistan, a non-govern-

#### Zong 4G unveils LLM in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, a leader in digital innovation has developed Pakistan's first locally created Large Language Model (LLM), a breakthrough in the nation's telecom sector. As the only telecom operator in Pakistan to have developed an advanced AI-driven model in-house, Zong is set to transform digital interactions and elevate customer service standards, cementing its position as the technological leader in the industry.

Zong's proprietary LLM is meticulously designed for the unique linguistic, cultural, and contextual nuances of Pakistani users, offering an AI-driven solution tailored specifically for the local market. This landmark initiative is part of Zong's ongoing commitment to usher in worldclass digital experiences, responding to the growing demand for AI-powered solutions and empowering Pakistani customers with technology-driven interactions that are faster, more intuitive, and highly personalized. "Zong is leading the technology innovation by localizing and implementing latest technologies like AI to serve its 50 million subscribers and setting benchmarks for the industry," said Ali Waqas, Executive Director, Digital Technologies at Zong 4G.-APP

Lebanese

army says

soldier killed

by Israeli fire

BEIRUT: The Lebanese

army said Israeli fire killed

a soldier on Wednesday,

a day after it said three

other personnel died in

a strike on their position

in south Lebanon. South

Lebanon has seen intense

fighting between Israel

and Hezbollah militants

whose group holds sway

in the area. A soldier "died

of his wounds sustained

due to the Israel army

targeting of an army vehi-

cle" in south Lebanon, a

statement on X said, after

reporting two personnel

wounded in the incident

near Qlayaa in south Leb-

anon. On Tuesday, the mil-

itary said three soldiers

were killed when "the

Israeli enemy targeted an

army position in the town

of Sarafand," where the

health ministry said eight

people were wounded.

AFP images showed des

ruction at the site in Sara-

fand on the Mediterranean

coast, some 40 kilometers

(25 miles) from the south-

ern border, with a con-

crete structure destroyed

and a vehicle among the

debris.-APP

DHAKA: Bangladesh's former police chief appeared in court on Wednesday, accused of overseeing a deadly crackdown in a failed bid to suppress the August revolution that toppled the regime of Sheikh Hasina. Former police inspector general Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was flanked by serving officers as he was led into court, where prosecutors alleged he was responsible for overseeing massacres, genocide, and crimes against humanity. Eight defendants appeared in court in Dhaka, including Ziaul Ahsan, a former commander of the feared Rapid Action Battalion paramilitary force. Chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam, from Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, said the eight men had committed crimes "that even devils dare not do". Islam said the former police chief was the "commander of all atrocities carried out against the student protesters", he told reporters outside court after the hearing. Dozens of Hasina's allies have been taken into custody since her regime collapsed, accused of involvement in a police crackdown that killed more than 700 people during the unrest that led to her ouster. Islam presented a detailed list of crimes allegedly committed by Ahsan that included extrajudicial killings, the dismembering of bodies, and the surveillance of government critics. The prosecution said he was also responsible for shutting down the internet during the uprising. "I was not in charge of the secret detention centre and never surveilled people," he told the court. Former lower-ranking officers in court were accused of killing protesters and burning their corpses to destroy the evidence. One was accused of shooting Shaikh Ashabul Yamin – a student protester whose death was captured on a video shared widely on social media, showing his body being hurled from the top of a police armoured vehicle. The defendants listened to the charges but were not asked yet to give a plea, sitting in silence through most of the hearing. But one defendant, Majharul Islam, former chief of Dhaka's Gulshan Police Station, broke into tears and raised his hands in prayer above his head. "I supported the protests, please save me," he begged the court. The court gave prosecutors until December 19 to complete their investigation report, and the accused remain in custody.-APP

## Bangladesh expolice chief faces crimes against humanity charges

mental organisation.

#### UN to vote again on Gaza ceasefire, US plans unclear

made during the visit of Paki-

stan's Prime Minister to Chi-

na in June 2024, where both

leaders expressed a strong

desire to deepen cooperation

in various sectors including

mining and geosciences. Fol-

lowing this, a team of Chinese

experts visited Pakistan in

August and provided strategic

ISLAMABAD: A delegation

from the China Geological Sur-

vey (Xi'an Center), led by Dr.

Ma Zhong Ping, Secretary of

the SCO Geosciences Cooper-

ation Research Center, called

on Momin Agha, Secretary

of the Petroleum Division, to

discuss advancing geoscientif-

ic collaboration between Paki-

stan and China. This meeting

GENEVA: United Nations: The UN Security Council is expected to vote Wednesday on another draft resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza in its latest attempt to exert pressure to end the war. But the draft could be blocked by the United States, Israel's main ally. The latest draft of the resolution demands "an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire" in the war between Israel and Hamas and "the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages." The wording has angered Israel and raised fears of a US veto. Israeli ambassador to the UN Danny Danon has called the text "shameful," adding: "We cannot allow the UN to tie the hands of the State of Israel from protecting its citizens, and we will not stop fighting until we return all the kidnapped men and women home." "For us, it has to be a linkage between a ceasefire and the release of hostages," said Robert Wood, the deputy US ambassador. "It has been our principle position from the beginning and it still remains." The war was triggered by Palestinian group Hamas's assault on Israel on October 7, 2023, a stunning cross-border raid that resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the death toll from the resulting war had reached 43,972 people, the majority civilians.-APP

## Turkish indictment seeks prison for bank CEO

There are 24 complainants in the latest indictment. Erzan convinced them to invest in the fund in part by telling them that former Turkish national team coach Fatih Terim had also invested, according to that indictment

began with a Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU) in

2008, subsequently renewed

in 2013 and 2018. In 2023,

this cooperation was further

strengthened through a formal

agreement to advance fol-

low-up surveys of geochem-

ical anomalies identified

during earlier collaborative

work. -APP

ACCORDING TO THAT INDICTINENT

ISTANBUL: Turkish prosecutors have prepared an indictment seeking a prison sentence of 72 to 240 years for the chief execu-

tive of lender Denizbank for the alleged fraud of soccer stars, state-owned Anadolu news agency reported. The new indictment relates to a previously opened case on the alleged defrauding of players including Turkiye's Arda Turan and Uruguay's Fernando Muslera by a former Denizbank branch manager. Denizbank has denied any role in wrongdoing. Anadolu on Tuesday reported Denizbank CEO Hakan Ates and former assistant general manager Mehmet Aydogdu, who faces similar charges, had denied the allegations against them in the indictment, prepared by the Istanbul chief prosecutor's office. Responding to the widely reported details on the indictment, Denizbank said late on Tuesday: "We have not received any information regarding the prosecutor's investigation reflected in some press and publication outlets today." The bank said the disclosure of the indictment details violated the confidentiality of the case. Details of indictments are regularly released via Anadolu news agency. Denizbank said last week that Aydogdu had resigned. "I do not accept the allegations," CEO Ates is quoted as saving in the indictment. Aydogdu was quoted as saying: "I have no connection with or knowledge of the matter." No arrests have been made or court appearances set in relation to the new indictment. Under the case opened last year, prosecutors sought a 216-year prison term for Secil Erzan, the former branch manager charged with defrauding soccer celebrities including Turan, a former Barcelona midfielder, and Galatasaray goalkeeper Muslera. According to last year's indictment, Erzan defrauded some \$44 million from 18 individuals, promising substantial returns on their investments in a "secret special fund." There are 24 complainants in the latest indictment. Erzan convinced them to invest in the fund in part by telling them that former Turkish national team coach Fatih Terim had also invested, according to that indictment. Erzan has been jailed as the case against her continues.—DNA

## Internet Restrictions — a balanced approach should be adopted



TANVEER HUSSAIN

N today's fast-paced world, the role of education and technology is paramount. It's safe to say that progress in the 21st century is inconceivable without modern technology. Technology has bridged the gap and transforming the world into a global village. Developments

and new inventions from any corner of the globe can be accessed instantly. Technology has opened new doors of progress in every field including education, health, agriculture, commerce, and media. With the help of modern technology, tasks that used to take years can now be accomplished in months, or even days. Globally, a large number of people are involved in information technology. Students are using IT to acquire education from the world's best institutions online. The IT industry has provided vast employment opportunities. In Pakistan, where unemployment is a significant problem, IT offers a promising platform for educated youth, where they can earn online with hard work, ability and skill Although Pakistan

is very much behind from its regional counterparts in this field, millions of young people are associated with the IT sector, supporting their families and contributing to the country's foreign exchange. Currently, the IT industry generates three to four billion dollars annually for the country. If given the opportunity, it could become the second largest industry after textiles, earning Pakistan up to 15 billion rupees annually and providing employment to Unfortunately, a few months ago, a firewall system was in-

millions of educated youth. Unfortunately, a few months ago, a firewall system was installed on the internet in Pakistan, reducing internet speed from 4G to 3G. Another issue is the frequent disruption of internet services due to political and religious gatherings in

the country. Many social media sites are blocked. As a result, freelancers and call center operators have to use VPNs. However, the government's decision to register VPN companies has severely impacted the IT industry. Foreign clients or companies that outsource work to Pakistan are concerned about their data being censored or recorded through the firewall. They don't want their personal or business data to fall into the hands of a third party. Therefore, these companies are now outsourcing their work to other countries instead of Pakistan. This government action will completely cripple the IT industry in Pakistan, resulting in the unemployment of millions of young people. We are already facing the conse-

quences of unemployment in the form of street crime. National security is important to all of us, and no compromise should be made on this issue. But, if firewalls and VPN registration are necessary, then a suitable policy needs to be formulated by taking all stakeholders into confidence. It is essential to consult IT experts who understand international trade and the working methods of freelancers. Care must be taken to ensure that our policies do not alienate international companies and impact the employment and income of our people. In this regard, the experiences of friendly countries can also be benefited to create a balanced policy that can protect the interests of those working in the IT sector along with the protection of national security.

## 4 Syrian fighters dead in Israeli attack

BEIRUT: A war monitor said Israeli strikes on central Syria's Palmyra on Wednesday killed four pro-Iran fighters, while Syrian state media reported an unspecified number of wounded in the attack. "Four non-Syrian fighters from pro-Iran groups were killed and six others including civilians were wounded in a provisional toll of the Israeli strikes" on Palmyra, the Svrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The strikes targeted "a warehouse in the industrial area and a restaurant and buildings near the ancient city of Palmyra," the Britain-based Observatory added. State news agency SANA said an "Israeli attack... targeted residential buildings and the industrial area of the city, renowned for its ancient ruins. State television reported unspecified "wounded due to the Israeli attack that targeted the city of Palmyra." Since the civil war erupted in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria, mainly targeting the army and Iran-backed armed groups, including Hezbollah. The Israeli military has intensified its strikes since almost a year of hostilities with Hezbollah in neighboring Lebanon escalated into all-out war in late September. Israel rarely comments on individual strikes in Syria, but has repeatedly said it will not allow Iran to expand its presence there.—APP



# Islamahad POST



Naeemi

**blames** 

'typo' in CII

statement

Using social media for

blasphemy, religious hatred, extremism

is "un-Islamic",

says CII chief

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: As the feder-

al government gears up for a

crackdown on unregistered

virtual private networks

(VPNs), Council of Islamic

Ideology (CII) Chairman

DrRaghib Hussain Naeemi

clarified on Wednesday that

there was a "clerical error"

in its previous statement

which caused confusion

that the use of these en-

crypted networks is against

the shariah. "No one has

declared the VPNs against

shariah or un-Islamic," said

Naeemi in a press confer-

ence in Islamabad, adding:

"A typing error in our pre-

vious statement created

a misunderstanding after

This formal statement

came after the council's

November 15 fatwa (Islamic

decree) declaring the use

of VPNs "un-Islamic" drew

much criticism from differ-

ent quarters. He said that

the council held a session to

discuss the use of social me-

dia in the country in light

of the Islamic principles.

Elaborating on the CII's

stance on using social me-

dia platforms, Naeemi said

that these platforms are

'not' was omitted from it."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

#### Briefs

#### **Fawad Ch** seeks apology in contempt case

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry requested an apology during the hearing of the contempt case against him in the Election Commission. The hearing was conducted by a four-member commission, led by Member Sindh NisarDurrani, in which Fawad Chaudhry appeared.

Fawad Chaudhry stated before the commission that he had apologised in all three cases and had submitted an apology letter. In response, Justice Ikramullah, Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. remarked that the charge was to be framed today, to which Fawad Chaudhry pleaded for an apology.

The commission member asked if he was saying the same things outside the commission or if there was a difference. Fawad Chaudhry replied, "These days, you are not the center of attention; you forget others' matters but remember mine." The commission member noted that witnesses in the case should mark their attendance. The Election Commission then adjourned the case hearing until December 10.

#### Israel 'cannot impose conditions'

leader delivered a defiant speech on Wednesday saying Israel cannot impose its conditions for a truce, as US envoy Amos Hochstein headed from Lebanon to Israel to try to end the war. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, in a near-simultaneous statement, said any ceasefire deal must ensure Israel has the "freedom to act" against Hezbollah. Hochstein announced in Lebanon that he would head to Israel on Wednesday to try to seal a ceasefire agreement in the war in Lebanon, which escalated in late September after nearly a year of deadly exchanges of fire across Israel's northern border.

Israel expanded the focus of its operations from Gaza to Lebanon, vowing to secure the north and allow tens of thousands of people displaced by the cross-border fire to return home. - Agencies

#### 40 killed in Sudan attack

PORT SUDAN: A medic on Wednesday said 40 people were killed "by gunshot wounds" during a paramilitary attack on the Sudanese village of Wad Oshaib in the central state of Al-Jazira. Eyewitnesses in the village told AFP the Rapid Support Forces, at war with the army since April 2023, attacked the village on Tuesday evening. "The attack resumed this morning," one eyewitness said by phone Wednesday, adding that paramilitary fighters were "loot ing property." - Agencies

## Naqvi, Saudi minister agree on slew of bilateral benefits

They also talked about the exchange of paramilitary forces, joint training programmes

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Saudi Arabia's Deputy Interior Minister Dr Nasir bin Abdulaziz Al-Dawood, who was accompanied by Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malki. During the meeting, the leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, including the strengthening of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations. They also talked about the exchange of paramilitary forces and police officers, as well as joint training programmes. Minister Naqvi proposed declaring Islamabad and Riyadh twin cities, a suggestion that was agreed upon by the Saudi minister. It was decided that further necessary steps would be taken in this regard. The conversation also covered the crackdown on the mafia sending beggars from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia. Both leaders agreed to implement a prisoner exchange agreement between the two countries. Minister Naqvi mentioned that legal proceedings for the repatriation of 419 Pakistani prisoners from Saudi Arabia would be completed soon. He emphasised that Saudi Arabia was a close Islamic brotherly country, and Pakistan would offer full cooperation to promote bilateral ties.

He also shared that 4,300 beggars' names had been added to the Exit Control List (ECL), with a zero-tolerance policy towards beggars travelling to Saudi Arabia. A nationwide crackdown was underway against this mafia. Furthermore, Minister Naqvi announced that no visa would be required for Saudi citizens to visit Pakistan, allowing



them to visit at any time. Praising Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030, Minister Naqvi expressed confidence that Saudi Arabia would emerge as a global leader in economic, social, and cultural sectors by 2030 under its current leadership. On his part, Saudi Deputy Minister Al-Dawood reaffirmed the strong ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and expressed a desire to further enhance cooperation, particularly in the exchange of paramilitary forces, police, and joint training initiatives. Meanwhile, The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has launched an investigation into 25 Pakistani workers who were deported from Saudi Arabia, allegedly for begging. According to sources within the FIA claimed that these individuals were not beggars, but rather Iqama holders who had been imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for various cases, including complaints filed by their Saudi sponsors. It is worth mentioning here that the Pakistani government is tightening its grip on begging in Saudi Arabia by introducing a stringent Umrah policy. As per details, the

move aims to curb the begging mafia that has been tarnishing Pakistan's image in the holy land. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has decided to take drastic measures against beggars, including obtaining an affidavit from pilgrims before departing for Umrah, promising not to beg. Those who violate this affidavit will face strict legal action. To further prevent begging, Umrah pilgrims will only be allowed to travel in groups, not individually. This measure ensures that pilgrims are accountable for their actions and are less likely to engage in begging.

# SC judge annoyed

"I don't know where these numbers emerge from," says Justice Mandokhail during constitutional bench hearing

over judiciary's

global ranking

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail has expressed annoyance over global bodies' rankings of Pakistan's judiciary, which place it extremely low. "I do not know where these numbers emerge from. Some place our judiciary on 120 while others on 150," he said during a hearing conducted by the constitutional bench over litigants' lack of access to the apex court. World Justice Project's Rule of Law index for the year 2024 shows Pakistan's global ranking at number 129 out of a total of 142 countries assessed, which is a slight improvement from the previous year. Justice Mandokhail is part of the constitutional bench - led by Justice Aminud-Din Khan - formed under the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Apart from Justices Khan and Mandokhail, the bench includes five other members – Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Justice MusarratHilali. Multiple pleas were heard by the constitutional bench today, which included a lack of petitioners' access to SC and government employees who were not assigned duties. A petition was also heard against declaring the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) as a parliamentary party. The SC heard a petition regarding the lack of access for litigants to the country's highest court. During the proceedings, the petitioner argued that 90% of litigants are unable to approach the Supreme Court, highlighting the challenges faced by the public in seeking justice. Responding to the claim, Justice Mandokhail remarked that the petitioner's arguments were being heard directly, questioning what further access was required. Justice Mandokhail also expressed annoyance, stating that such petitions undermine the institution itself. Referring to international rankings, he noted that while some claim Pakistan's judiciary ranks 120th globally and others 150th, it remains unclear where these figures originate. After deliberation, the constitutional bench ultimately dismissed the petition. Moving on, the seven-member bench heard a petition challenging the declaration of the SIC as a parliamentary party. The petitioner argued that the petition had been submitted within the prescribed time frame; however, now, a review plea was currently pending.

#### effective mediums of public expression, however, they should not be used for blasphemy, religious hatred, extremism, and terrorism. SC removes **Iustice**

from bench The matter of military courts has been referred to **Judicial Commission** for nomination of 7th member

Ayesha

#### COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: A three-member constitutional committee of the Supreme Court has removed Justice Ayesha Malik from the seven-member constitutional bench hearing intra-court appeals regarding the May 9 military court trials. The third meeting of the constitutional committee, chaired by Justice Aminuddin Khan and attended by Justices Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Muhammad Ali Mazhar, reviewed the scheduling of cases related to civilian trials in military courts. Meeting minutes revealed that Justice Ayesha Malik had already heard the May 9 military courts case, and the pending appeal will now be heard by a reconstituted seven-member bench. The matter of military courts has been referred to the Judicial Commission for nomination of the seventh member. Key decisions included establishing a separate branch for constitutional cases, introducing "green tagging" for case categorization, and delegating responsibilities to the Registrar for procedural development.

### CNS inaugurates maritime science and technology park

PMSTP is the country's first dedicated maritime science park, integrating academia, industry, and government in a unique collaboration to foster growth across Pakistan's maritime sectors



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The groundbreaking ceremony of Pakistan's first Maritime Science and Technology Park (PMSTP) was held at EXPO Centre during IDEAS-2024. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, graced the event as the Chief Guest. While addressing the ceremony, the Naval Chief highlighted historic significance of the project, stating that PMSTP will pave the way for much-needed growth in maritime sciences, technologies, businesses, and industries. He emphasized that this initiative will open new avenues for enhancing Pakistan's GDP and advancing the maritime sector. The Naval Chief further underscored that the success of PM-

STP reflects strong partnerships cultivated with visionary individuals and organizations.

PMSTP is the country's first dedicated maritime science park, integrating academia, industry, and government in unique collaboration to foster growth across Pakistan's maritime sectors. The park's initiatives will target diverse fields, including Naval Technologies, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Ocean Renewable Energy, Seafood Processing, Shipbuilding, and Coastal Tourism.

PMSTP is envisioned as a transformative hub for innovation and advancement, focusing on maritime science and technology to bolster Pakistan's blue economy. The project represents a significant step toward addressing Pakistan's economic challenges, with plans for expansion beyond Karachi to Islamabad, Lahore, and Gwadar.

#### **US** vetoes ceasefire resolution. as Israeli strikes kill 33

"Following the arrest of 45 members of the medical and surgical staff and the denial of entry to a replacement team, we are now losing wounded patients daily

#### FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: The Security Council vote on the Gaza ceasefire resolution has ended with 14 votes for it and one vote against. Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed at least 33 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, including a rescue worker, health officials said, as troops deepened an incursion along the territory's northern edge, bombarding a hospital and blowing up homes. Medics said at least 12 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a house in the area of Jabalia in northern Gaza earlier on Wednesday, and at least 10 people remained missing as rescue operations continued. Another man was killed in tank shelling nearby, they said. Later on Wednesday, an Israeli airstrike killed seven Palestinians, including a girl, in Al-Mawasi, a humanitarian-designated area in western Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, Gaza medics said. Palestinian and UN officials say no place in the enclave is safe. Another air strike on a house in Remal neighborhood in Gaza City killed four people, while a strike killed three Palestinians and wounded at least 20 others at a school sheltering displaced fam-

ilies in central Gaza Strip, medics said Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, one of three medical facilities barely operational in the besieged northern area, said the hospital 'was bombed across all its departments without warning, as we were trying to save an injured person in the intensive care unit" on Tuesday. "Following the arrest of 45 members of the medical and surgical staff and the denial of entry to a replacement team, we are now losing wounded patients daily who could have survived if resources were available," he told Reuters in a text message. "Unfortunately, food and water are not allowed to enter, and not even a single ambulance is permitted access to the north." There were 85 injured people, including children and women, at the hospital, six in the ICU. Seventeen children had arrived with signs of malnutrition as a result of food shortages. One man died of dehydration a day ago, Abu Safiya added. Israeli operations in Gaza have focused for weeks on the northern edge of the territory, where the military has laid siege to three major towns and ordered residents to flee. Residents in the three towns - Jabalia, Beit Lahiya, and Beit Hanoun said forces had blown up dozens of houses.

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