



# Islamabad POST

Friday, November 22, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Detailed News On Page-08

**US charges Gautam Adani with fraud**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Salman Butt slams Pakistan players' fitness**

Detailed News On Page-06

## Amid sectarian clashes

# 39 massacred in attack on vans in KP's Kurram

Police say the convoy travelling from Parachinar to Peshawar targeted in attack

SHAMIM SHAHID

KURRAM: In a fresh violent incident, at least 39 people including a woman and a child were killed on Thursday after assailants opened fire on passenger vehicles in Ochat area of Kurram district, police told. Police said the convoy travelling from Parachinar to Peshawar was targeted in the attack, which has left multiple people injured including three women, in addition to the killings. They added that wounded persons were shifted to different hospitals, including some of them are receiving treatment at THQ Hospital Alizai. The convoy of vehicles were attacked in Char Khel and Mandori areas of the district where unidentified gunmen kept firing at the vehicles for almost an hour, leaving several passengers dead and wounded. President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the incident of firing took place in Kurram district targeting the passengers vehicles. The president, in a statement, expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the incident and called it a coward and inhumane act. He instructed the authorities concerned to take perpetrators of the attack on innocent citizens to the task. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the convoy of innocent civilians including women and children in district Kurram. He directed to provide best medical care to those injured in the incident. In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister ordered to bring those involved in the attack to justice. Condemning the Kurram incident in a press conference in Islamabad, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi confirmed that 39 persons were martyred in the fierce gun attack. Following the incident, Naqvi telephoned KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and expressed concerns over the terrorist attacks in the province.

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## Pakistan urges Afghanistan to take action against terrorists

Islamabad has on several occasions shared concrete evidence regarding terror groups in Afghanistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday urged Afghanistan to take action against terror groups operating from its soil and the world to take notice of Indian atrocities on Kashmiri children as the world is marking Children's Day. Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said during weekly press briefing that Islamabad has on several occasions shared concrete evidence regarding the terror groups in Afghanistan. She expressed the hope that the Afghan authorities would consider terrorism as a serious threat not just to the region but to their own security and fulfill their obligations under various international agreements including Doha agreement. She said in its meeting the other day, the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, had also expressed its concern about the support received by the terror groups from the hostile elements.

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ISLAMABAD: In recognition of his services in identifying Sales Tax fraud, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting a shield to FBR Officer Aijaz Hussain. - DNA

## Belarus President to pay 3-day visit to Pak

Several Agreements and MoUs will also be signed during the visit



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko will undertake an official visit to Pakistan from 25-27 November 2024. President Lukashenko will hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discuss areas of bilateral cooperation and engagement.

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## In return for relief

# Imran confirms receiving offer to postpone protest

PTI founder says he was told that "everything will be alright" if he accepted offer

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has confirmed that he received an "offer" via top party leaders to postpone his much-hyped Islamabad protest, slated for November 24. Speaking to the reporters in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, the PTI founder said he was told that "everything will be alright" if he accepted the offer. Imran's lawyer Khalid Yousaf Chaudhry and sister Aleema Khan, on Nov 19, said that the former premier has given a go-ahead to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to hold talks but only with the

Continued on Page 06

## No negotiations taking place with PTI, says Naqvi

"No talks are taking place as negotiations are not held under threats," says interior minister

DNA

Islamabad: Shortly after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan confirmed receiving an offer from the government to postpone

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## Briefs

### Imran's physical remand approved

Former prime minister to be presented before court on November 26

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday approved a five-day physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in a vandalism case. The development came during the hearing of a case held at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail where the former prime minister has been incarcerated for more than a year now. Khan was arrested in the said case on Wednesday hours after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday approved his bail in the new Toshakhana case involving the alleged illegal sale of state gifts.

### ECP disqualifies MNA Adil Bazai

Bazai had failed to cast his vote on the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Thursday disqualified Adil Bazai, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Member of the National Assembly (MNA) from Quetta, under Article 63A of the Constitution. The decision came after the ECP upheld a reference submitted by the NA Speaker at the request of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, seeking Bazai's disqualification for violating party policy. The ECP stated that Bazai failed to cast his vote on the 26th Constitutional Amendment Bill.

## Big blow to PTI

# IHC rules no protest allowed on Nov 24

The court ordered that the committee should also include the Islamabad chief commissioner and any other person who Naqvi deemed appropriate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The PTI suffered a big blow on Thursday ahead of its power show planned for November 24 as the Islamabad High Court ruled that no protest or rally in violation of a recent law regulating public gatherings in the capital would be allowed over the weekend amid the Belarusian president's visit. PTI founder and ex-premier Imran Khan issued a "final call" for the Sunday protest last week, denouncing what he described as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people, and the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime". Since Imran's arrest in August 2023 on several counts, his party has been holding protests across the country for his release and against the alleged rigging of the Feb 8 elections. Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq presided over the hearing for a petition by an Islamabad local that requested that the protest call be

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## PTI trying to get safe exit from protest call: Asif

He was talking to journalists on Thursday in the Parliament House

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif says it is not possible for PTI founder Imran Khan to get relief at this time. He was talking to journalists in the Parliament House on Thursday. "The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is trying hard to get a safe exit from its Nov 24 protest call," senior PML-N leader said. He added that political and

Continued on Page 06

## PSX tops 97,000, shrugging off political jitters

Market resumed momentum, led by rallying small and mid-cap stocks, analyst says

MONITORING DESK

KARACHI: The capital market on Thursday pulled off a massive rebound, crossing the 97,000 mark for the first time, shrugging off political uncertainty

Continued on Page 06

# CJCS praises Pakistan's innovative defence equipment

The Chairman JCSC emphasized that Pakistan's defence industry is the force behind equipping the battle-hardened Armed Forces of Pakistan

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar-24 (IDEAS-24) was organised at Expo Center Karachi from 19 to 22 November 2024 under the auspices of the Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO). General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee visited the event and held wide-ranging talks on the sidelines. The CJCS held separate meetings with numerous officials including Defence Ministers, Commanders of Armed Forces and other important officials from different countries, including Turkiye, Azerbaijan, South Africa, Argentina, Malaysia, UAE, Cambodia, Kingdom of Eswatini, Gambia, Brunei, Maldives and Malawi. During the aforementioned meetings, key aspects of the defense and security relationship were discussed. All parties reflected on various areas of bilateral security and cooperation, especially in defense production. The dignitaries expressed a strong interest in deepening their engagement with Pakistan's defense sector. Chairman JCSC also gave a keynote speech at a seminar, titled "Pakistan's Defence Production and Potential: Challenges and Way forward". The Chairman JCSC emphasized that Pakistan's defence industry is

Continued on Page 06

## Air chief visits IDEAS at Karachi Expo Centre

DNA

KARACHI: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, made a comprehensive visit to the 12th edition of the International Defence Exhibition IDEAS-2024 at Karachi Expo Centre. This event showcases latest advancements in defence and aerospace technology, attracting both diverse array National and International audience. The Visit of Chief of the Air Staff underscores the importance of technological collaboration and innovation in enhancing National Defence Capabilities. During the visit, Air Chief visited various stalls within the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park pavilion, which is prominently showcasing cutting-edge technologies in Space, Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, Aerospace Designing, Sensors and Simulators domains, engaging in detailed

Continued on Page 06

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# Increased PQI instant solution to eco challenges: Ahsan

“Competitiveness is not what you do with what you have inherited; competitiveness is all about what you are capable of creating,” Ahsan Iqbal quoted Michael E. Porter, considered the Father of Competitive Strategy

DNA

ISLAMABAD Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday mentioned increased productivity, quality and innovation (PQI) as the ‘instant solution’ to the economic difficulties faced by the country in the absence of the required investment volume. “These [PQI] are the basic pillars on which the national competitiveness of any country depends,” he said while addressing the inauguration session of the two-day National Productivity, Quality and Innovation (PQI) Summit-2024. The summit, titled “Driving Growth Through Excellence in Productivity, Quality, and Innovation,” has been organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, with PQI identified as key drivers for achieving sustainable economic growth and enhancing Pakistan’s global competitiveness. Narrating success stories of developed countries that attained economic prosperity, the Planning minister said they first adopted key drivers of progress: productivity in the 1970s, quality in the 1980s and innovation in the 1990s, all triggered by the ‘knowledge explosion.’ “Competitiveness is not what you do with what you have inherited; competitiveness is all about what you are capable of creating,” Ahsan Iqbal quoted Michael E. Porter, considered the Father of Competitive Strategy. He regretted that Pakistan was ranked 110th in the National Competitiveness Index out

of 140 countries, as reported by the World Economic Forum, adding, “Unfortunately, we stand nowhere.” The Planning minister stressed the need to improve capabilities and follow international trends and principles “if we want to be included in the leading economies of the world.” He urged the summit participants to explore ways for all sectors including public, private, industry, agriculture and services to move forward in line with the principles of enhanced PQI. “The key to tackling the economic challenges is export-led economic growth, which can open the door to success for Pakistan by increasing exports from the current \$30 billion to \$100 billion,” he remarked. Ahsan Iqbal informed the audience that friendly countries, especially Gulf States including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar had an overall investment portfolio of \$29 billion in diverse fields in Pakistan. He said Pakistan was turning around due to the difficult decisions taken by the current government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), at the cost of its ‘political capital.’ He mentioned the decrease in inflation, increased economic growth, a record-breaking surge in the Pakistan Stock Exchange, international recognition by rating agencies and the initiation of CPEC Phase-2. “Opportunities are knocking at the door, and now Pakistan cannot afford any political uncertainty and instability, which have hindered progress and prosperity in the past,” he cautioned. The Planning minister expressed the desire to fulfill the

dream of the Founders of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal to make the country a developed and prosperous state by 2047, when it would mark 100 years of independence. The two-day summit gathered renowned scholars from academia and industry, CEOs of leading brands, leaders from chambers of commerce and industry, and corporate leaders from across the country. The participants engaged in comprehensive discussions and collaborative efforts to enhance productivity, elevate quality standards, and foster innovation in various sectors of the economy. During the summit, breakout sessions were held on Productivity, Quality, and Innovation, attended by research scholars, think tanks, academia, and industry representatives. These sessions focused on improving productivity for sustainable growth, raising quality standards to meet international benchmarks, and promoting innovation to build a competitive economy. The summit is set to serve as a milestone in achieving the goal of increasing exports, ensuring economic stability, and ultimately maintaining Pakistan as a trillion-dollar economy by 2035 and a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047, under the Ministry’s development framework based on the 5Es: Exports, Energy, E-Pakistan, Environment and Climate Change, Food Security, and Equity. The framework emphasizes providing equal opportunities for all, with a special focus on empowering youth, women, and minorities, as well as developing the less developed areas of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Construction work on Jinnah Avenue flyover and underpass simultaneously kicked off in the Federal Capital.

## Free insulin for diabetic children revolutionary step

LAHORE :Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir has termed the free insulin supply programme for diabetic children as a groundbreaking initiative. He expressed this during his visit to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital, Kahna, on Thursday, marking the second day of Health Week in Punjab. The minister inaugurated the Health Week camp at the hospital. Speaking on the occasion, Khawaja Imran Nazir said blood screening was being conducted at health camps in all hospitals across the province. “This screening will help compile data on various diseases, enabling better healthcare planning,” he added. The minister emphasized that children diagnosed with diabetes would receive free glucometers, strips, and insulin, describing this program as a revolutionary step in healthcare. He also highlighted that government health facilities were being equipped with modern medical and biomedical tools on a priority basis to enhance service delivery. During his visit, the minister inspected various counters at the Health Week camp, including those for blood screening, TB, diabetes, and pregnant women, and interacted with patients to ensure they were receiving proper medical care. He also visited the vaccination and counseling counters to assess the ongoing services. CEO Health Dr Zohaib Hassan and MS Kahna Hospital Dr Faiz-ul-Hassan accompanied the minister during the visit.—APP

## Kundi concerned over deteriorating security situation in KP

PESHAWAR :Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday expressed grave concern over the deteriorating security situation in the province and announced to convene All-Parties Conference (APC) in early December to address security and governance issues in the province. In a video message released here by the Governor Secretariat, he criticized the provincial government over its negligence in addressing the issues. The Governor recalled that he repeatedly took up the KP’s issues with the Prime Minister and the President but unfortunately the provincial government had failed to take meaningful steps to ensure the safety of its citizens. “They are busy in organizing protests in Islamabad or seeking the release of their party’s founder, while the province is left at the mercy of terrorists. The gov-

ernment has completely failed to protect the lives and property of the people,” he said. He said the APC would bring together all political parties in the province to discuss solutions for security challenges, resource allocation, and KP’s issues with the federal government. The Governor emphasized the need for unity among political forces to address these crises. “We will present KP’s case to the federal government with reason and evidence,” he said, calling on all provincial party leaders, including the Chief Minister, to participate in the meeting. Kundi also pointed to the alarming increase in violence, with daily reports of attacks on soldiers, FC personnel, and civilians. “The silence of the provincial government on this unrest is criminal. No cabinet meetings have been held, nor has the provincial assembly been convened to

address the issue,” he remarked. The Governor criticized KP CM Ali Ameen Gandapur for contradictory statements, noting that, while earlier demanding the withdrawal of the military from KP, the same leadership now speaks of negotiating with Afghanistan. “If the military withdraws from our province, we cannot counter terrorism. Our police are brave, but they lack the resources that the military possesses,” he noted. Comparing KP to other provinces, the Governor highlighted how Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab are progressing with development projects, while KP struggles with protests, state opposition, and poor governance. Governor urged the federal government to take a firm stance and enforce the law if the provincial government continues to misuse resources or undermine state institutions.—APP

## Organ laser pascal machine inaugurated

PESHAWAR: The Ophthalmology Department at Prime Teaching Hospital, Peshawar, has been equipped with a state-of-the-art Organ Laser Pascal Machine, inaugurated during a prestigious ceremony attended by notable dignitaries. Hospital’s spokesman said, the Patron of Prime Foundation, Prof. Dr. Najeeb ul Haq, formally inaugurated the advanced equipment in the presence of distinguished faculty and staff. The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman (Dean, Peshawar Medical College), Prof. Dr. Mohammed Aman Khan (Principal, PMC), Prof. Dr. Ayesha Abdullah (Vice Dean, PMC), Prof. Dr. Amir Ali Shah (Head of the Ophthalmology Department), Dr. Faisal Nawaz, and Prof. Dr. Sardar Mohammad (Medical Superintendent, Prime Teaching Hospital), along with other faculty members. The addition of the Organ Laser Pascal Machine represents a significant advancement in the department’s capabilities, offering precision-based treatment for a variety of ophthalmic conditions. This innovative technology is expected to enhance the quality of care provided to patients, improve accuracy and save time, reaffirming the Prime Foundation’s commitment to integrating cutting-edge medical advancements into its services. During the event, Dr. Faisal Nawaz delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the department’s performance, available facilities, and future plans to further elevate patient care and treatment outcomes.—APP

## Potential coop in industrial,agri sectors discussed



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bek Bakayev called on Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain. ISLAMABAD:Kazakhstan Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bek Bakayev on Thursday met with

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain. During the meeting, they discussed potential cooperation in industrial and agricultural sectors, said a news release. Rana Tanveer reaffirmed the friendly ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in these sectors. Additionally, Kazakhstan Minister expressed Kazakhstan’s keen interest in learning from Pakistan’s agricultural expertise. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the momentum in bilateral cooperation, and to collaborate closely in agriculture and industrial sector.

## Education varsity, Birmingham varsity collaborate for teachers’ training

LAHORE:The University of Education (UoE), in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, UK, concluded its Continuous Professional Development Programme (CPD) on ‘Cultivating Global Citizenship: Empowering Teachers to Become Change Agents in Pakistan’. The project, funded by the Birmingham Institutional Impact Fund, has been carried out in collaboration with the community partners: the Academic Leadership Innovation Firm (ALIF), the School Education Department, Punjab, and the Ali Institute of Education (AIE), and The Knowledge of the Art Academy, Lahore. The project was led by Dr. Meng Tian, Associate Professor in Educational Leadership, Director Global Engagement, Colleges of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK, and Co-led by Dr. Naima Qureshi Assistant Professor in Education from University of Education, Lahore. Under the programme, 65 pre-service and in-service teachers are trained from 18 different schools and universities across Lahore, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and pedagogical approaches needed to deliver global citizenship education. These teachers have since become agents of change, co-designing and delivering global citizenship projects and lesson plans to students in local schools and communities. During 2024, around 9,750 students enhanced their global competencies as the result of this project. We estimate that over 12,000 students will benefit from this project annually in the future. In the message of appreciation, Dr. Meng Tian and Dr. Naima Qureshi expressed their acknowledgement and admiration for teachers’ efforts and thanked all the participants teachers and organizers who made this event a resounding success. Vice Chancellor University of Education Prof. Dr. Aqif Anwar Chaudhry also thanked Dr. Meng Tian and all the community partners for their contributions. Prof. Dr. Uzma Qureshi, Vice Chancellor Lahore College for Women University, appreciated the project team and highlighted the significance of these kind of projects for teacher education in Pakistan.—DNA

## Bahria University organizes 6th Iqbal conference

This year’s theme, “Har fard hai millat ke muqaddar ka sitara” (Every Individual Shapes the Nation’s Destiny) highlights Iqbal’s belief in the power of individual responsibility for collective progress

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Bahria University organized the 6th Iqbal Conference, across its Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi campuses. The Chief Executive Officer Qarshi Knowledge City Pakistan, Ex Member Higher Education Commission Pakistan & Rector National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Pakistan, Lt Gen (R) Muhammad Asghar HI(M) was the Chief Guest of the Opening Ceremony held at Bahria University Islamabad Campus (BUIC). This year’s theme, “Har fard hai millat ke muqaddar ka sitara” (Every Individual Shapes the Nation’s Destiny) highlights Iqbal’s belief in the power

of individual responsibility for collective progress. More than one 120 research abstracts and around 90 research papers were presented during the conference in the 5 campuses of Bahria University in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore. Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral (Retd) Asif Khaliq, inaugurated the conference

by highlighting the relevance of Allama Iqbal’s philosophy in shaping the youth’s character, resilience, purpose, and national responsibility. He stated that Bahria University has the distinction of blending modern knowledge with ethical values inspired by Iqbal, including Quranic and Islamic teachings, to tackle contemporary chal-

lenges. The Rector also expressed gratitude to Chief Guest Lieutenant General (R) Muhammad Asghar, whose presence greatly enriched the event’s spirit. Lt Gen (R) Muhammad Asghar HI(M), as the Chief Guest, emphasized that Allama Iqbal’s philosophy provides a timeless guide for individual and collective progress,

especially during times of socio-political and spiritual challenges. He highlighted Iqbal’s concept of “Khudi” (selfhood), which promotes self-awareness, discipline, and empowerment, enabling individuals to realize their potential in alignment with divine purpose. Lt Gen Asghar underscored the relevance of Iqbal’s teachings in today’s globalized world, where adaptability, innovation, and ethical leadership are key. By integrating these principles into education and organizational culture, future leaders can achieve personal excellence while contributing to societal progress. Earlier, Dr. Saima Kalsoom, Conference Director, welcomed the guests.



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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### NOVEMBER

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

## Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051-2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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



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WASA Rawalpindi.5555489  
CAA.....9281092



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Nasir commends Tariq as chairman Founder Group

Highlighting the significance of Sadiq's unanimous election, he emphasized it as a testament to his dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to excellence. The ICCI looks forward to collaborating with him to foster entrepreneurship and drive economic growth in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has extended heartfelt congratulations to Tariq Sadiq on his unanimous election as Chairman of the Founder Group. In his congratulatory message, President Qureshi lauded Tariq Sadiq's exemplary standing in Islamabad's business community and across the nation. "Tariq Sadiq is widely acclaimed for his invaluable contributions to the business sector, earning him respect and recognition nationwide," he stated. Qureshi expressed confidence that Sadiq's extensive experience and visionary leadership would enable him to advance the Founder Group's objectives and bring significant benefits to the business community. "Tariq Sadiq's leadership will undoubtedly elevate the Founder Group's prominence and create new opportunities for the business community at large," Qureshi added. Highlighting the significance of



Sadiq's unanimous election, he emphasized it as a testament to his dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to excellence. The ICCI looks forward to collaborating with him to foster entrepreneurship and drive economic growth in Islamabad. Tariq Sadiq's election as Chairman was formalized during a meeting of the Founder Group's Central Council, attended by key figures such as FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, and several

former presidents of FPCCI and ICCI. The election gathering was graced by notable dignitaries, including Abdur Rauf Allam, Zubair Ahmed Malik, M. Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Akram Farid, Khalid Javaid, Shaikh Amer Waheed, and Secretary General UBG Za-

far Bakhtawari. With unanimous support, Tariq Sadiq is poised to assume his new responsibilities next week, marking a pivotal moment for the Founder Group and its ongoing contributions to the region's economic and entrepreneurial landscape.

# Minister urges parents to prioritize polio vaccination

Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique announced that despite only one reported case of polio in the province, the situation remains under control thanks to the government's proactive measures

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministers on Thursday appealed the parents to safeguard their children against polio through vaccination, as misinformation about polio vaccines spreads rapidly. They emphasized the critical role of standardized polio awareness drives in remote areas and routine immunization in controlling the disease. Ministers from three provinces while talking to news channel have joined forces to stress the importance of collective action in eradicating polio. They urged parents to safeguard their children against this debilitating disease through vaccination, amidst the alarming spread of misinformation about polio vaccines Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman

Rafique announced that despite only one reported case of polio in the province, the situation remains under control thanks to the government's proactive measures. To further combat the disease, the government is taking all necessary steps to enhance Expanded Programme (EP) coverage and launch standardized awareness drives. Punjab Minister also emphasized the importance of taking polio drops seriously and urged parents not to compromise on their children's health. Bakht Muhammad Kakar, the Provincial Minister of Health in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa further emphasized the importance of collective action to combat polio in the region. He urged Ulema, politicians and social workers to join forces and educate the public, particularly in remote areas where low literacy levels contribute to a lack of awareness about the dis-

ease. This collaborative effort aims to minimize polio cases in the future, he assured. Dr. Shumaila Rasool, a member of the EOC Core Team from Sindh also emphasized the government's proactive approach to combat polio misinformation. She explained for establishing community-based committees to engage with parents and address concerns, as well as organizing school-based polio awareness drives to educate the public. These initiatives aim to counter misinformation and promote vaccination awareness, particularly in regions with low immunization rates, she added. By taking these steps, the government hopes to increase vaccination rates and ultimately eradicate polio in Pakistan, which remains one of the two countries where the disease is still endemic, she added.

# Efforts afoot to create awareness about plantation

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), Rawalpindi is making efforts to create awareness about plantation, said Director General (DG), PHA, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha. The DG during a visit to PHA Gorakhpur Nursery said that the nursery which covers an area of 1000 kanals land near Adiala Road is producing a large number of plants and playing a key role in keeping Rawalpindi city green. The nursery is providing seasonal flowers and plants to the parks, green belts and the citizens. The DG said that Gorakhpur Nursery is playing an important role in keeping the city green by producing a large number of plants. He said that the objectives of plantation are also being fulfilled from Gorakhpur nursery. The flowers and plants raised in this nursery are available for the government and private sectors to keep the city green, said Ahmed Hassan Ranjha. The DG said that awareness campaign is also being run to achieve the target of enhanced plantation in the city and home gardening and through this initiative of the authority, horticulture is growing rapidly in Rawalpindi city. Gorakhpur Nursery is one of the largest nurseries in Punjab which covers an area of 1000 kanals and continues to play an important and key role in maintaining the beauty of Rawalpindi city. Ahmad Hassan Ranjha said that Gorakhpur Nursery is helping the authority to achieve the goals of plantation drive in Rawalpindi Division and playing a significant role for creating a healthy environment. The DG said that on the directives of the CM Punjab, all possible steps were being taken to provide green, clean and healthy environment to the people. "PHA will spare no effort in spreading awareness about the importance of trees and plantation campaigns," he said. He urged the citizens to come forward and play their part to make the city clean and green and ensure a healthy and pollution-free environment.—DNA

# EFP head Farid graces LUMS annual dinner

ISLAMABAD: Renowned businessman, Head of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) Central Region, Convener, FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Skill Development and NAVTTC, and former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) Mian Akram Farid, was invited as the guest of honor at the LUMS Annual Dinner, 2024. The event was also graced by the presence of distinguished guest Mr. Dinesh Shiwakoti, Unit Head, Project Administration, Pakistan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank. A large number of Government, private sectors experts, business community members, alumni, and business faculty students attended the event. During his address, Mr. Farid lauded LUMS's significant contributions to professional education and its technical programs, which are empowering youth, especially female students and entrepreneurs. Mr. Farid also shared insights into his work as Chairman of the Skill Development Council and Convener of the FPCCI Central Standing Committee on TVET, Skill Development, and NAVTTC. He highlighted the organization's efforts in providing international-standard training and certification in technical education, enabling students to secure employment opportunities in both domestic and international markets. In a discussion with Mr. Dinesh Shiwakoti, Mr. Farid explored Pakistan's current economic challenges and the initiatives undertaken by the business community through platforms like FPCCI and ICCI to stimulate job creation and revenue generation. Both individuals expressed their commitment to strengthening ties between Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank to address economic and technical issues. Dr. Ali Cheema, Vice Chancellor of LUMS, extended his gratitude to Mr. Farid for attending the event and acknowledged his invaluable contributions to the field of Technical and Vocational Education.—DNA

# PTDC actively working on multiple initiatives

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), under Federal Government's directives, is actively working to project and promote Pakistan's soft image at global level, in addition to dispatch tourism delegations to international markets for highlighting the major tourist spots of country. "Recently, Pakistani delegations participated in the International Mart in London. In the upcoming months, they will also visit Turkey, Germany, and New York to further enhance Pakistan's visibility in the global tourism market," said Managing Director PTDC Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana on Thursday. In an exclusive talk with media, he said the PTDC by sending these delegations, remained committed to position Pakistan as a leading tourism destination, thus showcasing the nation's cultural heritage and natural beauty to the world. Welcoming the new visa policy, Aftab Rana highlighted its efficiency and

accessibility, stating that "The new visa policy allows tourists from 126 countries to obtain visas within 24 hours easily via an online system, completely free of any charge.". This initiative was aimed at enhancing Pakistan's global image and boost foreign tourism, he added. He expressed the optimism that the new visa policy will attract a significant number of foreign tourists to Pakistan and said there was definitely a potential for further improvements. He emphasized that Sikh pilgrims, in particular, were benefiting from the relaxed visa rules, enabling them to visit Pakistan without delays or fees. Aftab Rana also underlined the broader benefits of enhanced tourism, including fostering people-to-people connections and creating a positive global perception of the country. "Tourism development helps show-

case Pakistan's rich culture, historical sites, religious landmarks, and picturesque valleys, projecting country's soft image globally," he noted. He further highlighted the potential for Pakistan to emerge as a hub of international tourism by expanding facilities and promoting the it's diverse attractions. Referring to direct flights from neighboring countries such as Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan, he stated that these connections will curtail travel expenses, save time, and make Pakistan more accessible to international tourists. He said that Tajikistan had recently commenced direct flights to Pakistan, while Uzbekistan was expected to start flights later this month. Additionally, direct flights from Azerbaijan have already begun, further facilitating international travel to Pakistan, he added.—DNA

# ANF recovers over 1.3 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in an operation managed to recover over 1.3 kg drugs worth more than Rs 13.9 million, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Thursday. He informed that in an operation at Jinnah International Airport Karachi, 1396 grams cocaine was recovered from a Brazilian woman, arrived at Karachi Airport from Brazil on a foreign flight. Upon search, cocaine was recovered from the woman's undergarments. The accused had put the drugs in liquid form in plastic bags and hidden them in her undergarments. A case has been registered against the accused under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigation has been initiated.—APP

# Gold import increases by 19.82 % to \$10.6m

ISLAMABAD: The imports of gold increased by 19.82 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The gold imports during the July-October (2024-25) were recorded at \$10.644 million as compared to the imports of \$8.883 million during July-October (2022-23), according to PBS data. In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 148 kilograms of gold during the period under review as compared to the imports of 138 kilograms last year, showing increase of 6.94 percent. On year-on-year basis, the gold imports increased by 32.32 percent in October as compared to the same month of last year. The gold imports during October 2024 were recorded at \$2.096 million compared to imports of \$1.584 million in October 2023. In terms of quantity, the gold imports declined by 9.29 percent to 24 kilograms in October 2024 as compared to the imports of 26 kilogram during October 2023. On month-on-month basis, the gold imports during October 2024 decreased by 54.63 percent when compared to the imports of \$4.610 million in September 2024. In terms of quantity, the gold imports declined by 64.80 percent when compared to the imports of 67 kilogram during September 2024.—APP



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## Briefs

## ED HEC for enhancing Pak's int'l reputation in education

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum has emphasized the importance of sustained efforts to enhance Pakistan's international reputation in health and education sectors. While acknowledging the challenges in ensuring quality at all levels, he has emphasized that higher education is crucial for socio-economic development. He made these remarks during a ceremony organized here yesterday by Quality Enhancement Cell of Khyber Medical University (KMU) to strengthen quality assurance mechanisms in its affiliated and constituent institutions. The event aimed to expand KMU's quality enhancement measures, originally implemented in line with HEC Quality Assurance Agency guidelines, to its medical, dental, nursing, and allied health sciences institutions. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum urged stakeholders to view quality assurance as a shared responsibility rather than an obligation imposed by HEC. He also highlighted the unique role of medical institutions, stating that healing others is a perpetual act of charity and that KMU graduates should set an example for others. He also stressed the implementation of the Quality Assurance 2023 Policy and called on affiliated.—APP

## Photographic competition to mark Int'l Mountain Day announced

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has announced a photographic competition to commemorate International Mountain Day 2024, to be observed on December 11. According to an official source, this day will be marked under this year's theme, "Mountain Solutions for a Sustainable Future-Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth," which highlights the importance of preserving mountainous landscapes and promoting sustainable development. This initiative aims at engaging youth, inspire innovation, and raise awareness about the role of mountains in fostering a sustainable future. The event is part of ongoing efforts to celebrate Pakistan's natural heritage and encourage responsible tourism. The photographers and nature enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in this unique opportunity to showcase their talent while supporting a meaningful cause. The competition invites both amateur and professional photographers to capture the beauty of mountains while reflecting the spirit of sustainability. In the amateur category, the top three prizes are Rs. 30,000, Rs. 15,000, and Rs. 10,000, respectively. Meanwhile, the professional category offers prizes of Rs. 50,000, Rs. 30,000, and Rs. 20,000 for first, second, and third place winners. The entries must be submitted by December 02 through the provided online portal.—APP

## Pak, China joint academy to advance vocational education

The launch marked a significant step in China-Pakistan collaboration, with representatives from the Pakistan-China Vocational and Technical College, the Gwadar Port Authority, and China Overseas Ports Holding (Pakistan) Co., Ltd. signing a memorandum of cooperation to establish the academy

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Ban Mo Academy, a joint initiative to advance vocational education, was inaugurated with simultaneous ceremonies at Gwadar Port, Pakistan, and Jinan, China. The launch marked a significant step in China-Pakistan collaboration, with representatives from the Pakistan-China Vocational and Technical College, the Gwadar Port Authority, and China Overseas Ports Holding (Pakistan) Co., Ltd. signing a memorandum of cooperation to establish the academy. Zhang Zhidong, Shandong Business Vocational College, outlined plans to adopt innovative vocational training models under the Vocational Education Going Global 2.0 initiative and a global brand for vocational excel-



lence. Ahmed Manzoor, principal of the vocational college in Gwadar, noted the academy's role in addressing local skills gaps. He revealed that over 60 graduates had secured jobs in businesses and government sectors and an-

nounced new enrollment for degree programs in e-commerce, software technology, and port management. Yu Bo, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding (Pakistan), affirmed his company's support for the academy and

called for closer collaboration between educational institutions and businesses to boost regional economic growth and strengthen China-Pakistan ties. Pasand Khan Buledi, Chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority, With 60% of local

youth needing vocational training, Buledi pledged full support for the Ban Mo Academy and expressed gratitude for China's ongoing contributions to Gwadar's development. Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

## Missing children case

## SC summones IGPs, Home Secretaries

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has expressed serious displeasure over the reports on the state of missing children and directed all provinces to submit a detailed report that how many children have been abducted and how many are being recovered. The Court summoned Inspectors General of Police and Home Secretaries of all the four provinces for next hearing to be held on 28 this month. The six member Constitutional Bench of the SCP, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan was hearing a petition regarding missing children in Pakistan. The petitioner informed the Court that the Committee for missing children constituted by the SCP has done nothing yet. Justice Jamal Mandokhail, while referring to the abduction of a 10 years old kid Muhammad Mussawir in Quetta a week ago, expressed disappointment over the failure of the law enforcement agencies despite continued protests in the city. Justice Musarrat Hilali questioned the report submitted by the government of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and remarked that open borders cannot be an excuse and law enforcement must be ensured at any cost. Justice Hasan Azhar pointed out children begging on traffic signals while Justice Amin regretted travelling of Pakistani citizens abroad for begging. The petition of missing children was pending in the supreme court since 2018, however some called today's proceedings and summoning of the IGPs and Home Secretaries of the four provinces the first suo motu of the Constitutional bench.—APP

## Naqvi, UK's Hamish Falconer discuss Pak-UK ties

Naqvi underscored Pakistan's dedication to ensuring the rights and safety of minority communities, calling their protection a top priority

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday met with Hamish Falconer, the UK's Deputy Foreign Minister for Pakistan and Afghanistan, to discuss enhancing bilateral ties and areas of mutual interest. The meeting, held in Islamabad, was attended by British High Commissioner Jane

Marriott and Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK, Dr. Muhammad Faisal. Discussions centered on fostering closer collaboration and implementing joint measures to bolster Pak-UK relations. Minister Naqvi expressed warm wishes to Falconer and reaffirmed his commitment to further solidifying the historic friendship between the two nations. He emphasized

the importance of transitioning from mutual cooperation to a sustainable economic partnership, citing the UK as a "strong and excellent friend of Pakistan." The leaders highlighted the need for greater bilateral and regional synergy while addressing contemporary challenges. Naqvi underscored Pakistan's dedication to ensuring the rights

and safety of minority communities, calling their protection a top priority. He also stressed the necessity of coordinated efforts to counter baseless rumors and propaganda on social media platforms. Falconer's visit is expected to infuse new warmth into Pak-UK relations and pave the way for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.



## TikTok, PTA host Youth safety summit to promote digital literacy

There were several insightful sessions, including one that highlighted the 'Digital Hifazat' initiative, a collaborative effort between TikTok and the PTA to promote online safety and digital literacy among Pakistani youth

ISLAMABAD: TikTok, in partnership with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) here on Thursday hosted the Youth Safety Summit Pakistan to raise awareness about online safety, promote digital literacy, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to protect Pakistani youth online. This summit served as a key platform to bring together stakeholders working in youth, minor safety, including government representatives, law enforcement partners, educators, parents and children, child protection NGOs, and industry experts. There were several insightful sessions, including one that highlighted the 'Digital Hifazat' initiative, a collaborative effort between TikTok and the PTA to promote online safety and digital literacy among Pakistani youth. PTA also delivered a presentation on its ongoing efforts to ensure child online protection,

emphasizing initiatives aimed at creating a safer digital environment for young users. Another session highlighted TikTok's commitment to ensuring child safety with a focus on the safety features the platform offers to safeguard young users, including the Family Pairing safety feature, its Community Guidelines, and the Youth Safety Portal—tools designed to empower parents, educators, and young users themselves in creating a safer online environment. A panel discussion on 'Enhancing Child Online Safety' was hosted reflecting TikTok's commitment to creating a safe environment for young users. Representatives from PTA, CERT, UNICEF Pakistan and SAHIL joined the panel as subject matter experts offering diverse perspectives on child protection. While addressing the summit, Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Hafeezur Rehman, high-

lighted the authority's unwavering commitment to creating a safer online ecosystem. He remarked, "This summit marks a significant step in our mission to secure a safe and inclusive digital environment for Pakistan's youth. PTA remains steadfast in its efforts to implement innovative measures that protect children online and promote a digitally responsible society." Emir Gelen, Director Government Relations and Public Policy at TikTok Middle East, Turkey, Africa, Pakistan and South Asia, said, "At TikTok, we are committed to ensuring the online safety and well-being of our users, particularly children and youth. We believe that this summit marks an important step towards creating a safer online environment in Pakistan. We're dedicated to promoting digital literacy and online safety through our initiatives, and we look forward to continuing our collab-

oration with the PTA to achieve this goal." The summit concluded with the exciting announcement of the #DigitalHifazat Contest winners. The #DigitalHifazat Contest, launched by TikTok and PTA, aimed to promote digital safety awareness among Pakistani youth. The contest invited creators to produce short videos highlighting six key areas: responsible social media usage, combating online harassment, preventing online fraud, ensuring youth safety and well-being, understanding TikTok's safety tools and addressing misinformation. The competition received 11,000 entries and 3 received the winning prizes, recognized for exceptional creativity in promoting digital safety among Pakistani youth. The winner of the competition was Bilal Shahzad while Ch Danish and Muhammad Usama Kiyani were first and second runners up respectively.—DNA

## ICT police arrested 26 outlaws

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 26 outlaws involved in different criminal activities including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons recovered heroin and weapons with ammunition from their possession on Thursday.

A public relation officer told APP that the ICT Police Lohi Bher, Shams Colony and Sabzi Mandi police stations teams took legal action against accused involved in possessing illegal weapons and drug peddling.

He said the police team arrested accused's namely Bilal Khan, Muhammad Ali Raza, Muhammad Sohail and Babar Shah and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition, one Knife and 362 gram heroin from their possession. Moreover 22 absconders were also arrested from various areas of the city during the last 24 hours. SSP Operations/Investigations Muhammad Arslan Shah Zaib said that the ICT Police is actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace. Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is the Islamabad Police's top priority. Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station, emergency helpline "Pukar-15" to help make the city crime-free through cooperation between the police and the public. The use of modern and innovative methods for drug smuggling is no less than a challenge for ANF. Despite this, ANF is determined to fight drug smuggling. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers, illegal weapon holders and other lawbreakers here on Thursday arrested 13 accused besides recovering 1120 grams charras, 39 liters liquor, three 30 bore pistols and other items from their possession, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that Jatli, Kalar Syedan, Waris Khan, Sadigabab and Wah Cantt police held eight drug peddlers and bootleggers namely Zaki Haider, Khalil, Saad, Danial, Jabran, Babar, Aftab and Khalid and recovered 1120 grams charras and 39 liters liquor from their possession. Similarly, Pirwadhai and Mandra police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up three accused namely Umar, Gul and Masood and recovered three 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. Wah Cantt police in an operation managed to bust a bike lifter and street criminal gang and arrested two accused, Waheed and Ubaidullah on recovery of six stolen motorcycles and other items.—APP

Pakistan's economic situation improved: Movlamov  
Turkmenistan's envoy credits PM shahbaz and his team for economic uplift

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov called on Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik here Wednesday. Both sides exchanged pleasantries. H.E the ambassador invited the federal minister for Petroleum to visit Turkmenistan to which Minister expressed his gratitude. Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik expressed appreciation for the Turkmenistan's commitment to the TAPI project. The project is important for energy needs of the country. The Ambassador commended the Government's of Pakistan's for its recent economic strides, noting improvements in economic situation. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to continue fostering bilateral ties and exploring avenues for collaboration in energy, trade, and investment.—DNA

## Police organizes walk to strengthen peace in capital

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police organized a significant walk to promote peace and security in the city, with senior officers, traffic police, Dolphin Squad, and officers from all districts participating. A public relation officer told APP that, the main objective of the walk was not only to improve the law and order situation in the city but also to express the police's commitment to fostering unity and solidarity. The walk started from D-Chowk and ended at China Chowk, where police officers interacted with citizens to raise awareness about the importance of peace. The ICT Police hopes that the city's peace-loving citizens will support these efforts and contribute to ensuring safety and security in the city. IG Ali Nasir Rizvi stated, "Our aim is to not only make Islamabad the safest city in Pakistan but also to promote a sense of unity among its residents."—APP

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## China and Brazil coop

ON Tuesday afternoon local time, President Xi Jinping arrived in Brasilia and began his state visit to Brazil. Following two important multilateral meetings - the APEC meeting and the G20 Summit, the interactions between China and Brazil have also attracted great attention from the international media. According to reports, China and Brazil are expected to promote trade and cooperation in various fields including agriculture, infrastructure, energy and aerospace, strengthen the alignment of the two countries' development strategies, consolidate political mutual trust between the two sides, and enhance the strategic, innovative and leading nature of their bilateral relations. China and Brazil are two major developing countries in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Both are vast and populous countries, and they are also BRICS members. Naturally, China and Brazil share many common themes in terms of national development and the progress of their people's livelihood, among other aspects. The most representative one is the commitment of both leaders to poverty alleviation as one of their most urgent tasks. President Xi described poverty alleviation work as "a major task I am determined to deliver," while Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva referred to solving hunger as "fulfilling the mission of life." This reflects the reality that although developing countries have their own realities, all countries have a common desire to pursue development and a better life. Under the current international landscape, is it possible for developing countries to fully leverage their late-mover advantages through equal cooperation and mutual assistance, thereby forging a new path of shared development? China and Brazil have demonstrated through practice that this path is not only feasible but also holds tremendous promise for the future. As President Xi said, a weaker bird can start early and fly high. As influential developing nations, China and Brazil have opened a new avenue of cooperation that embodies mutual benefit and shared destiny, serving as a powerful inspiration for "Global South" countries striving for modernization. In this context, the enhanced and upgraded cooperation between the two countries carries profound significance beyond the bilateral level. The mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Brazil is highly convincing. For 15 consecutive years, China has been Brazil's largest trading partner and one of its primary sources of foreign investment. According to Chinese statistics, China's annual imports from Brazil have exceeded \$100 billion over the past three years. The scope of their shared interests continues to expand, with notable highlights in agriculture, infrastructure, green development, and technological innovation. Despite being approximately 18,800 kilometers apart, making them "the most distant countries," their relationship has transcended hemispheric and civilizational divides, achieving mutual learning and shared prosperity. They have also become a model for cooperation and win-win outcomes on the path to modernization between two developing countries and two "Global South" nations. More importantly, China-Brazil cooperation is guided by lofty aspirations. Take poverty reduction as an example - both nations are determined to tackle challenges that even developed countries have struggled to address and are willing to share their solutions with others.

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 295

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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## US' LatAm policy

ON Sunday, US President Joe Biden became the first sitting US president to visit the Amazon rainforest. He sought to highlight his commitment to the preservation of the region. It can be said that Biden's visit to the Amazon region at the end of his term not only has multiple purposes, but also reveals some new trends in US policy toward Latin America. First, Biden's visit reflects that the US is paying attention to the concerns of Latin American countries, and tries to bring the US-Latin America relationship closer. Environment deterioration and climate change have become an important concern of regional countries. The Biden administration wants to demonstrate that it values the concerns of Latin American countries on environmental and climate change issues. In 2023, it promised to make a contribution of \$500 million to the Amazon Fund. An additional \$50 million contribution was announced on Sunday. The US president also launched a finance coalition seeking to spur at least \$10 billion in public and private investment for land restoration and eco-friendly economic projects by 2030, making a grand promise to Latin American countries. Second, Biden's visit to the Amazon is also a response to the environmental and climate demands of Latin American countries. In recent years, these issues have gained significant traction within the region, becoming central to the agendas of many governments. Take Brazil as an example. The country has prioritized tackling climate change, committing to a new model of global governance on climate issues and urging developed nations to fulfill financial commitments to support developing countries in their climate initiatives. Biden's Amazon visit is aimed at shaping the image of the US as a global leader in the fight against the environmental degradation and climate change. Third, a fundamental purpose of Biden's trip to the Amazon is to maintain and enhance US influence in Latin America. Historically viewed as a traditional sphere of influence, the region has been a focal point of US foreign policy for many years. To maintain its hegemonic position and fundamental interests in Latin America, the US has constantly put forward new policies toward Latin America and tried its best to suppress the influence of other global powers in the region. Through Biden's visit to the Amazon rainforest, Washington aims to demonstrate to Latin American countries that the US will continue to increase its strategic investment in the region and promote cooperation in various areas, including addressing the environmental and climate change issues. Meanwhile, the US seeks to maintain and enhance its influence in the region. However, in terms of actual impact, Biden's visit resembles more of a "show." He visited the Amazon at the end of his term, resulting in limited concrete outcomes and practical effects. He made various commitments that are difficult to implement, which Latin American countries are also well aware of. Once the next US government comes to power, Washington's climate and environmental policy is likely to take a sharp turn. If that happens, Biden's promises will become nothing more than a "bad check." No matter how US policies toward Latin America change, they will struggle to dissolve the deep-seated contradictions in bilateral relations. The US has put forward various plans and proposals to deepen cooperation with Latin America, which can alleviate regional countries' dissatisfaction with US intervention in their affairs and may even enhance their hope and enthusiasm for cooperating with Washington.

# Elon Musk aimed at bending the universe

Qamar Bashir



In another video, Musk described a hypothetical scenario involving a spaceship that could take you to distant stars in the blink of an eye. This concept, known as the "warp drive," involves a revolutionary way of thinking about travel. Instead of zooming through space, a warp drive would work by stretching space in front of the ship and compressing it behind. Musk illustrated this concept by likening space to a giant rubber sheet. Imagine pulling a distant star closer to you instantly

THE secret of Mr. Trump's admiration for Elon Musk became clear to me during an interview where Trump narrated a fascinating story about a space rocket. Trump described how, after traveling back to Earth, instead of landing in a desert, sea, lake, or some other desolate place, the rocket executed a controlled descent. Swinging and turning wildly with a large flame roaring from its exhaust, it slowed down and gently positioned itself to land precisely on the same launcher from which it was fired. Astonished by this incredible feat of science, human ingenuity, and innovation, Trump said he immediately called Elon Musk to confirm: "Was it you?" When Musk replied affirmatively, Trump remarked, "No country on the face of the Earth could do it, not even the USA, but you did it." This inspired me to dig deeper into Elon Musk's wild dreams of space exploration and peek into his visionary mind. After some research, I was left reeling with amazement. Musk's mind, it seems, is one that might have been born many years into the future.

In one of his interviews, Musk mentioned the possibility of mankind traveling at twice the speed of light—not by burning any fuel but by bending time and space. He explained that by "squeezing space," which behaves like a giant plastic sheet, we could bring distant areas of the universe closer to us without traveling any actual distance. This radical idea is rooted in Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Musk referred to the concept of creating a "warp bubble" that contracts space in front of a spacecraft and expands it behind, effectively allowing the craft to traverse vast distances without exceeding the speed of light within its local frame. This concept, known as the Alcubierre Drive, was proposed by physicist Miguel Alcubierre in 1994. It suggests that by warping spacetime, a spacecraft could achieve effective Faster-Than-Light (FTL) travel without violating the laws of physics. Elon Musk is captivated by this theoretically possible feat and is actively working on advanced propulsion technologies and leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to solve complex challenges. Reports suggest that Musk has created an AI supercomputer, known as "Colossus," located in Memphis, Tennessee. It is equipped with 100,000 of the latest Nvidia GPUs, liquid-cooled with massive water systems, and powered by Tesla Megapack batter-

ies. According to Musk, Colossus is not merely a machine but a gateway—designed to fuel "Grok," an AI model capable of propelling humanity beyond the boundaries of human understanding. Musk envisions Grok solving some of humanity's greatest mysteries, such as the enigma of black holes, dark matter, and dark energy. He believes we are on the verge of unlocking the secrets of the cosmos—or perhaps discovering something even more unimaginable waiting for us on the other side.

In another video, Elon Musk shared an idea that showcased his deep understanding of cosmology, explaining it in simple terms rather than relying on complex mathematical calculations or difficult-to-comprehend concepts. He stated that, while technically traveling faster than the speed of light might be theoretically possible, it remains a difficult feat to achieve at this point in time. He explained this by highlighting how space itself can play tricks on us. While we cannot travel faster than the speed of light, the fabric of space is moving at speeds faster than light.

In another video, Musk described a hypothetical scenario involving a spaceship that could take you to distant stars in the blink of an eye. This concept, known as the "warp drive," involves a revolutionary way of thinking about travel. Instead of zooming through space, a warp drive would work by stretching space in front of the ship and compressing it behind. Musk illustrated this concept by likening space to a giant rubber sheet. Imagine pulling a distant star closer to you instantly. By pulling the space in front of you closer and pushing the space behind you away, you could move forward without physically moving. This means it would be possible to travel to other planets and even distant stars faster than light, all without breaking the laws of physics. Reaching this point of understanding and innovation has not been easy for Elon Musk. When he first introduced the concept of commercial space exploration, the entire world seemed to turn against him. During a Congressional Senate hearing in 2010, many veteran space legends, including Neil Armstrong, publicly opposed the idea of commercial space exploration. Musk later revealed that this opposition brought him to tears. However, this criticism did not deter him. Today, SpaceX is approaching a \$250 billion valuation and has conducted more than 400 launches over the past 14

years, including 15 crewed missions. Of these, ten were under contract with NASA to transport astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

Under President elect Trump, a major shake-up in U.S. space policy began to take shape. There are discussions about potentially canceling future iterations of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) or even abandoning it altogether. Plans for Gateway, a proposed space station in lunar orbit, were also reconsidered in favor of expanding commercial contracts with companies like SpaceX. This shift aimed to accelerate efforts to send humans to Mars, a vision Musk has championed for years. Musk's ultimate goal is to colonize Mars. His vision includes building up to 1,000 Starships a year to transport people between Earth and the red planet. As in the past, this ambitious idea is not without controversy. Many conventional scientists caution that it will require years of further research and development, as the technologies necessary to sustain life on Mars do not yet exist. However, just as Neil Armstrong and others once doubted the feasibility of commercial space exploration, these conventional scientists may not be able to deter Elon Musk from venturing into this arena. Musk has a track record of defying skepticism, as demonstrated when many believed rockets could not and would not land back on their launch pads. Musk proved them wrong by stating that if a rocket can ascend along a specific trajectory, it can also descend along the same path to return to its launcher. Once again, Musk's determination may turn the improbable into reality.

The democrats like Obama and Joe Biden had assumed Elon Musk a biggest adversary and did whatever they could to deter him for visualizing his wild dreams. But they could not dampened his innovation and creativity and now with Donald Trump in power, and Musk himself in the driving seat to cut down on bureaucracy and and eliminate overregulations which according to him stifle entrepreneurship, cuttle creativity and slow down economic growth, the world should keep its figure cross and await for many more mind boggling innovations by many innovators like Elon Musk which might multiply by the enabling environment under Donald Trump.

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

# 'Most oppressed Muslim woman in the world' now denied religious solace

Clive Stafford, Omar Suleiman

This article is not the forum in which to contest her guilt – whatever our well-founded doubts – so let us pretend she really did try to kill an American soldier, even though she was the only person to be shot. Regardless, it is a common thread in most faiths that we should remember those in distress, and that's part of what brings the two of us together in this struggle for Aafia. In the Quran we are told, "And they give food from their sustenance, in spite of their love for it, to the needy, the orphan, and the captive..."

WE have recently – imam and lawyer – joined forces, along with so many unsung heroes, to demand respect for the humanity of Dr Aafia Siddiqui. She is often called the "Most Oppressed Muslim Woman in the World" – and with good cause. There is no other woman who went through the full US Rendition to Torture program. There is no other example of a case where a woman was abducted by the CIA and their Pakistani co-conspirators along with her three small children. And is there a parent in the world who does not tremble at the fate that befell those kids? Suleiman, aged 6 months, was apparently killed when he was dropped on his head during the abduction. The CIA has never let Aafia know, but this happened on March 30, 2003, in Karachi, so it seems unlikely that the child is still alive. Yet which fate would be worse for the mother – to know the infant who was so recently a part of your body is dead? Or to hold out a faint hope two decades later that he lives? It might seem obvious that Suleiman did die once you hear what our government – the US – did to the other two. Mariam, aged 3, was taken all the way to Afghanistan, a war zone, where her name was changed to Fatima and she was involuntarily put in a family of white Christian Americans for seven years. She would still be there but for former President Hamid Karzai, who later helped get her home. Then there is Ahmed, who was taken to Kabul and put in prison, at the age of six! He was told his name henceforth was to be Ihsan Ali and that he would be killed if he said it was anything else. Ahmed and Mariam are both US citizens, and it is mind-boggling that the CIA, sworn to uphold the US Constitution, would do this to two chil-

dren from anywhere, let alone kids carrying US passports. Aafia was herself taken to Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan where she endured five years of torture. Eventually, through an agonizing path, she ended up in FMC Carswell, a federal women's prison in Fort Worth, Texas, serving what is essentially a life sentence. This article is not the forum in which to contest her guilt – whatever our well-founded doubts – so let us pretend she really did try to kill an American soldier, even though she was the only person to be shot. Regardless, it is a common thread in most faiths that we should remember those in distress, and that's part of what brings the two of us together in this struggle for Aafia. In the Quran we are told, "And they give food from their sustenance, in spite of their love for it, to the needy, the orphan, and the captive..." (Insaan "The Human" 76:8). The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) famously taught that "no one of you believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself" (Bukhari). In the Bible, a verse reads that we should "continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering". (Hebrews 13:3) Empathy is a pronounced value in our traditions, and if ever there was someone who needs religious solace right now, it is Aafia Siddiqui. So when she told her volunteer lawyer (Clive Stafford Smith) that she had not had an imam during her 16 years in prison, let alone the five years of torture before that, Clive reached out to Imam Omar, who immediately agreed to visit her every couple of weeks to give her spiritual assistance. This was months ago, and each time we chased up the prison authorities, they came up with

a new reason to do nothing. First, they wanted their form filled out. We did that. Then they said they needed a driver's licence and proof of being an imam. Then they said they did not have the documents they needed, and we asked what else they needed. Months went by and they requested strange documentation that demonstrated they had no intention to facilitate Aafia's request. Last month Clive's team demanded to know when this was going to get resolved. We were told nothing. Then this week we were told that they had denied Omar's right to help Aafia: "This memorandum is to advise of the denial of visiting for Imam Suleiman." The memorandum is dated September 26 – meaning it was written two months ago, but they had not bothered to tell us until now. No reason is given. The Biden administration has laboured long and hard to alienate Muslim Americans in its blinkered support for Israel's war crimes in Gaza, but it is difficult to understand why this request would be denied. Is it because of other human rights advocacy? Could it be precipitated by previous tweets and protests demanding that there should be justice for Aafia? Or could it be that demanding an end to the atrocities against the Palestinian people has once again alienated us from yet another basic space in which to function? Today Clive and his colleagues have filed a suit in federal court to force the issue, yet it should not take a lawsuit for the Carswell authorities to respect fundamental religious rights – they could just read the Bible, the Quran or maybe even just the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

— Clive Stafford Smith is a human rights lawyer and director of the UK charity 3DC, 3dc.org.uk. Imam Omar Suleiman is an American Muslim scholar.



## Briefs

39 massacred  
in attack on  
vans in KP's...

FROM PAGE 01  
Both leaders agreed on joint efforts to eliminate the menace of terrorism. CM Gandapur stressed for enhancing contacts and cooperation on security issues. CM Gandapur, condemning the gun attack, ordered the provincial law minister, lawmakers concerned, and chief secretary to visit Kurram. He instructed the delegation to thoroughly monitor the developments and present a report besides ordering to activate Jirga to improve law and order situation in Kurram. The KP chief executive also announced financial assistance for the heirs of the martyred persons in the attack. It has been several months since the district is marred with clashes between various tribes and parties. The clashes have claimed dozens of lives. The violence has led to frequent closure of main and link roads as well as border with Afghanistan, causing immense troubles for the local residents. The area elders have said that continuous closure of main and link roads would lead to massive humanitarian crises due to acute shortage of edibles, medicines, petrol and diesel reserves in District Kurram.

Pak urges  
Afghanistan  
to take...

FROM PAGE 01  
Asked about the progress in repatriation of illegal foreign nationals, the spokesperson said that the process continued as around 757,008 people had been repatriated till the end of October this year. Speaking on Palestine issue, she regretted the United States veto of a resolution in UN Security Council calling for ceasefire in Gaza war. She reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, unhindered access to humanitarian assistance and full support to UN Relief and Works Agency and its mandated humanitarian activities. She welcomed the latest report of the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, released last week describing Israel's warfare practices in the occupied territories as acts of genocide.

Air chief  
visits IDEAS  
at Karachi...

FROM PAGE 01  
discussions with national partners on the crucial role of technological collaboration. Emphasizing the transformation of promising start-ups into Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs), he underscored the need for fostering a robust ecosystem that encourages venture capitalism to drive innovation and growth in the aerospace sector. Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the importance of exploring opportunities for nurturing emerging talent and enhancing the capabilities of local industries through National Incubation Center for Aerospace Technology (NICAT). The Air Chief also interacted with foreign delegates, where discussions were focused on exploring avenues for the sale and purchase of indigenously developed aerospace equipment, promoting a self-reliant defence industry.

IHC rules  
no protest...

FROM PAGE 01  
declared illegal and the respondents – federal government, Islamabad chief commissioner, Islamabad district magistrate and the Islamabad police – be directed to restrain the PTI from holding the protest and to maintain peace in the federal capital. The court order said that the recently enacted Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, 2024, outlined that if anyone wished to hold an assembly in Islamabad, they must submit an application in writing to the district magistrate not later than seven days of the intended event's date. The referred application is to be processed and an appropriate order is to be given regarding permission for the assembly, the order added.

Italy clinch BJK Cup title  
with win over Slovakia

"Playing in the past, was maybe nervous," Errani said, making a point to thank Captain Tathiana Garbin for selecting her to the team. "This time, I was not that much nervous. Was very special to win this title with them"

SPORTS DESK

MALAGA: The 2024 Billie Jean King Cup title by Gainbridge was clinched by Italy, 2-0, on Wednesday after Jasmine Paolini out-classed Slovakia's Rebecca Sramkova, 6-2 6-1, leading her team to its first victory in over a decade, since the country's last championship win in 2013. Unbelievable, a crazy year. To finish like this, a title at Billie Jean King Cup, it's amazing. I don't have words to describe it. I'm trying just to enjoy every moment. It's important to understand where you are, I feel lucky to be in this position, in this team. I think we played unbelievable this week. Italy became the 6th nation to lift the trophy on 5 or more occasions after capping a brilliant week in Malaga, having completed a come-back to defeat Japan 2-1 in the quarter-finals on Saturday, and then narrowly beating Poland in a tight semi-final, again 2-1, on Monday, before triumphing in the final.

In fact, the key moment of Italy's title run came in the first set of the doubles match against Poland, when World No 2 Iga Swiatek&Katarzyna Kawa held 3 set points, but Sara Errani's inspired net play helped erase them all. Italy eventually took the first set 7-5 and, after winning the last 6 games of the match, the second by the same score. "Playing in the past, was maybe nervous," Errani said, making a point to



thank Captain Tathiana Garbin for selecting her to the team. "This time, I was not that much nervous. Was very special to win this title with them." A year ago, it was Italy that had ended Slovakia's BJK Cup hopes, and, last November, the Slovakian team cleared the first hurdle for 2024, defeating Argentina on the strength of 2 Viktoria Hrucakova singles wins, while, in April, they beat Slovenia 4-0 to advance to the Finals.

Slovakia was impressive in Spain, upsetting the United States, Australia and, in the semi-finals, Great Britain, with Sramkova winning all 3 of her singles matches, and the team arrived in the final looking for its 2nd BJK Cup title. "All my girls will be legends now," Slovakia's captain Matej Liptak said. "Even if they don't finish it tomorrow, this is a really special moment for them, and for our country. Everyone will know who was in

this team." Italy, though, went one better at the event than they did last year, when they finished runner-up to first-time champions Canada. It was also their second straight win over Slovakia, whom they ousted in the qualifying rounds last year. Lucia Bronzetti won Wednesday's opener for Italy with a 6-2 6-4 score against Hrucakova in front of a crowd that included International Tennis Hall of Famer and equal rights pioneer Billie Jean King herself. "It's really a dream come true," Captain Garbin said on court. "I have such great champions, great players, but mostly, great human beings. I'm so proud of them, they fight every day."

The opening set was fairly routine for Bronzetti, who converted 3 of her 5 break points in that frame, but Hrucakova made things closer in the second, fighting back from an early break down to lead 4-2, 40-15, only for the Italian to amp up her returns when she needed to, winning the last 4 games in a row to prevail after 81 minutes. "It was not easy, because we are in the final, so every match is tough, but I'm very happy to bring this point to Italy," Bronzetti said on court after her win. "We all want this trophy, and it is our dream, all Italians." It set the stage for World No 4 Paolini, who has risen into the top echelon of the women's game this year after reaching the Roland Garros and Wimbledon finals, winning the WTA in 1000 Dubai, and taking the Olympic gold medal in doubles with her BJK Cup teammate Errani.

Salman Butt slams  
Pakistan players' fitness

"Every single one of our players needs to do strength training," says Salman

DNA

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt on Thursday, voiced strong criticism on the national cricketer's fitness, stating that they look like 'mummies from the movies'. Pakistan's interim white-ball head coach Aqib Javed, while addressing the media here on Wednesday, shared that the left-handed opener Fakhar Zaman was dealing with an injury and will return to the national team after recovering, while addressing his absence. Meanwhile, Salman, while reacting to Javed's statement, raised concerns on the fitness of the players and emphasized

the need for strength training. "Yes, he [Aqib Javed] talked about Fakhar Zaman. We all know about his knee injury, but I think with age, Fakhar needs to work on his strength," said Butt. "I'm telling you, every single one of our players needs to do strength training to stay fit as they grow older." Salman further termed running insufficient for the players and highlighted the need to build muscles to enhance their performance in modern-day cricket. "Whether it's Fakhar or any other player, the way things are going now, they need strength training. It's as simple as that. Just running isn't going to achieve anything," he added. Salman Butt also criticised the excessive

use of the athletic tape and urged the players to wrap their bones with muscles instead. "I look at these players and I'm amazed—there's [athletic] tape on their knees, tape on their legs. They look less like athletes and more like mummies from the movies, wrapped in so many tapes," he remarked. "Instead of wrapping your bones with tape, wrap them with muscle. Don't fear gaining muscle weight—muscle is heavier than fat, but it protects your bones, and it enhances your agility, speed, power, and explosive strength. "If you want to enhance your career and compete at a higher level. Whether you're 18 or 35, this is essential for every player."

Pakistan Shaheens  
and SL 'A' settle  
for a draw

Shaheens win the  
two-match series 1-0

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Sonal Dinusha and Pavan Rathnayake scored brilliant centuries before the second four-match between Pakistan Shaheens and Sri Lanka 'A' ended in a draw here at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Dinusha and Rathnayake resumed Sri Lanka's second innings from the overnight score of 157/4 and continued to bat with command. The duo added 214 runs to their unbeaten fifth-wicket stand and had amassed centuries when skipper Pasindu Sooriyabandara called for declaration with the scoreboard reading 260/4. Dinusha returned unbeaten on 116 and Rathnayake remained 100 not out as the touring side set Shaheens a competitive target of 284 in 60 overs. None of the Shaheens' bowlers could pick up a wicket on the enthralling final day. In response, the Shaheens were 156/3 in 45 overs when bad light forced an early closure of the action. The home side had a dismal start to the pursuit as they lost both their openers Abdul Faseeh (0) and Mohammad Huraira (9) inside eight overs with just 19 runs on the board. Mohammad Suleman then joined hands with Ali Zaryab and added 48 runs for the third wicket. Zaryab contributed 31. Suleman was then involved in another crucial partnership for the Shaheens when he, alongside Haider Ali, put together an unbeaten 89-run stand for the fourth wicket. Suleman remained the top-scorer for Pakistan Shaheens with a gutsy half-century, scoring 66 off 121 balls, while Haider made 43 not out.

Leicester  
winger  
Fatawu out  
for rest

LONDON: Winger Abdul Fatawu will miss the rest of the season because of a "serious" knee injury, Leicester City manager Steve Cooper has announced. The promising 20-year-old picked up the injury playing for Ghana, external in their draw with Angola during the international break. "It's not good, it's a serious injury," said Leicester boss Steve Cooper, whose side host Chelsea in the top flight on Saturday (12:30 GMT). "He's had an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) injury that is going to rule him out for the rest of the season. "It's a real blow, first and foremost for him, being a young player and having an injury as serious as what an ACL is. "Albeit, it can be quite common in sport and in particular football, but it's still a serious injury. "For it to happen at a young age is a blow for him and a blow for us as well." – Agencies

Milan bid to Juve first  
Serie A loss of season

Milan defender Matteo Gabbia could miss out with a muscle injury, Ismael Bennacer continues his recovery from an calf issue and Alessandro Florenzi is a long-term absentee

MILAN: AC Milan will look to capitalise on a Juventus injury crisis when they meet at San Siro on Saturday or risk being left behind in the Serie A title race as they trail leaders Napoli by eight points. Although Milan have a game in hand, a loss against the only unbeaten team in the Italian top flight could cut them adrift in the title race with not even half the season played. Both sides need victory in a packed leaderboard, with two points separating Napoli at the summit from Juve in sixth. Milan are seventh, six points further back. Thiago Motta's Juve side will probably be without key striker Dusan Vlahovic who is adding to a growing injury crisis. Arkadiusz Milik, Nico Gonzalez, Juan Cabal and Gleison Bremer are all out with injuries and Douglas Luiz is doubtful. Milan defender Matteo Gabbia could miss out with a muscle injury, Ismael Bennacer continues his recovery from an calf issue and Alessandro Florenzi is a long-term absentee. Claudio Ranieri will lead AS Roma for the first time in his third spell as manager in a tough trip to Napoli on Sunday. Ranieri, the capital club's third coach this season, was appointed after Ivan Juric was sacked following four losses in the last five league matches to leave Roma languishing 12th in the standings. Napoli midfielder Scott McTominay should be fit following an injury scare on international duty with Scotland. McTominay has played a key role for Antonio Conte's side, contributing two goals and two assists in Serie A this season. Inter Milan head to Hellas Verona on Saturday lying fourth in the table, one point behind Napoli, and they have not lost to their hosts in the last 26 Serie A meetings. Inter manager Simone Inzaghi's main concerns are Hakan Calhanoglu, who is recovering from a hip injury, and Brazilian wing back Carlos Augusto who has a hamstring problem. Atalanta, second in the table on 25 points, will look to build on their 10-match unbeaten run on Saturday when they visit Parma. Third-placed Fiorentina travel to Como on Sunday with the visitors on a six-match league winning streak and level on points with Atalanta. – Agencies

## Australia, US tied at the Davis Cup quarterfinals

"Once I got going, I thought I found a really good groove," Shelton said. "I didn't exactly like how I finished the match at the end. I thought I left a little bit on the table"

WEB DESK

MALAGA: Taylor Fritz defeated Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4 to even the quarterfinal between the United States and Australia, the Davis Cup's greatest champions, on Thursday. Thanasi Kokkinakis gave Australia the first point when he emerged from a tight-as-can-be tiebreaker by saving four match points and eventually converting his seventh to get past Ben Shelton 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (14). On an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martina Carpena in southern Spain, the 77th-ranked Kokkinakis withstood 21 aces from Shelton, a big-serving left-hander who is ranked 21st and reached the U.S.

Open semifinals in 2023. That was followed by U.S. Open runner-up Fritz's far more straightforward victory over No. 9 de Minaur. Those two singles results meant the best-of-three tie would be decided by doubles, with Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram of the U.S. taking on Matt Ebden and Jordan Thompson of Australia. At the Paris Olympics in August, Ebden won a gold medal with a different partner by beating Krajicek and Ram in the final. The Americans own a record 32 Davis Cup championships but haven't reached the semifinals since 2018 and haven't claimed the title since 2007, their longest drought in the team competition. Australia, a 28-time champion, was the runner-up the past two years.



Whichever country advances will take on defending champion Italy – which is led by No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner – or Argentina on Saturday. The other semifinal, to be contested Friday, is the Netherlands against Germany. The Dutch eliminated Rafael Nadal and Spain in the quarterfinals, sending the 22-time Grand Slam champion into retirement. When Thursday's opening match finally ended, on a backhand by Shelton that landed long, Kokkinakis dopped onto his back and pounded his chest. After he rose, he threw a ball into the stands, then walked over to Australia's sideline, spiked his racket and yelled, before hugging captain Leyton Hewitt. "I don't know if I've been that pumped up

in my life. I wanted that for my team," said Kokkinakis, who won the 2022 Australian Open men's doubles title with Nick Kyrgios. "It could have gone either way, but I kept my nerve." One key stat: Shelton finished with 29 unforced errors in his Davis Cup debut, nearly twice as many as the 15 by Kokkinakis. After a strong hold at love in an opening game that included a 139 mph (224 kph) ace and a trio of service winners, Shelton lost his way completely, losing 12 of his next 16 service points and six games in a row overall. That set ended with Shelton double-faulting when he was cited for a foot fault. But he broke to open the second set and soon the match was far more competitive.

Belarus  
President  
to pay 3-day  
visit to Pak

FROM PAGE 01  
Several Agreements and MoUs will also be signed during the visit. The visit of the President of Belarus reflects the strong and growing partnership between Pakistan and Belarus.

CJCS  
praises  
Pakistan's...

FROM PAGE 01  
the force behind equipping the battle-hardened Armed Forces of Pakistan. He further said that through superior R&D and using innovative and cost-effective solutions, Pakistan's defence industries are not only fulfilling country's essential defence requirements but also exploring avenues of collaboration in the international defence market. He noted that the platform of IDEAS is an ideal opportunity for publicizing Pakistan's well-developed Defence Industrial Complex to the international community.

PTI trying  
to get safe  
exit from...

FROM PAGE 01  
military leadership were working together for the development of the country. According to defence minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur is in contact with the establishment from the day one. "CM Gandapur is in continuous contact with the establishment with the consent of Imran Khan," said the veteran politician. Khawaja Asif said that no one would be allowed to launch an attack on the federation. He added that PTI founder is an agent of Jewish lobby. The defence minister was of the view that armed forces were rendering sacrifices for our safety. Earlier, former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser outlined the PTI's strategy for the November 24 protest.

Imran  
confirms  
receiving...

FROM PAGE 01  
"powerful quarters" – a reference to the establishment. Meanwhile, a Pakistani newspaper reported that two meetings have already been held between the government and the former ruling party's representatives to discuss the possibility of initiation of dialogue process. The purpose of these interactions is to talk about the possibility of initiation of a dialogue process. In case the two sides agree to enter into a dialogue process, this would be a major breakthrough. If it happens in the next few days, it may lead to the calling off of PTI's November 24 protest march. If those presently engaged in the pre-dialogue consultation process reach a point of agreement for the initiation of formal dialogue process, they will approach their respective topmost leaderships for final approval.

No  
negotiations  
taking...

FROM PAGE 01  
Islamabad protest, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi denied holding negotiations with the former ruling party. "No talks are taking place as negotiations are not held under threats," said the interior minister while speaking to media persons on Thursday after attending a Islamabad High Court (IHC) hearing regarding the PTI protest. Naqvi said that he was in favour of talks, however, holding talks after giving threats is not possible.

PSX tops  
97,000...

FROM PAGE 01  
arising from the main opposition party's "do-or-die" protest call for November 24. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Shares Index surged by 1781.94 points, or 1.86%, to close at an all-time high of 97,328.39 after touching an intraday high of 97,437.15 points.



## Briefs

## Gold price increases by Rs.3,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased further by Rs.3,700 and was sold at Rs.278,000 on Thursday against its sale at Rs.274,300. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs.3,172 to Rs.238,340 from Rs.235,168 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.218,479 from Rs.215,570. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.200 to Rs.3,450 whereas that of ten gram silver increased by Rs.171.47 to Rs.2,957.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$37 to \$2,668 from \$2,631, the Association reported.—APP

## Rupee gains 09 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Thursday appreciated by 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.95 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.04. Pakistan's cuisine However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.50 and Rs 279.00 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by Rs 1.07 to close at Rs 292.89 against the last day's closing of Rs 293.96, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.79, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.51 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 351.40 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 352.91. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 and 01 paise to close at Rs 75.67 and Rs 74.04 respectively.—APP

## US govt calls for breakup of Google and Chrome

NEW YORK: The US government asked a judge to order the dismantling of Google by selling its widely used Chrome browser in a major antitrust crackdown on the internet giant. In a court filing, the US Department of Justice urged a shake-up of Google's business that includes banning deals for Google to be the default search engine on smartphones and preventing it from exploiting its Android mobile operating system. Antitrust officials said in the filing that Google should also be made to sell Android if the proposed remedies don't prevent the tech company from using its control of the mobile operating system to its advantage. Calling for the breakup of Google marks a profound change by the US government's regulators, which have largely left tech giants alone since failing to break up Microsoft two decades ago. Google is expected to make its recommendations in a filing next month and both sides will make their case at a hearing in April before US District Court Judge Amit Mehta. Regardless of Judge Mehta's eventual decision, Google is expected to appeal the ruling, prolonging the process for years and potentially leaving the final say to the US Supreme Court. The case could also be upended by the arrival of President-elect Donald Trump to the White House in January. His administration will likely replace the current team in charge of the DOJ's antitrust division. The newcomers could choose to carry on with the case, ask for a settlement with Google, or abandon the case altogether. Trump has blown hot and cold in how to handle Google and the dominance of big tech companies. He has accused the search engine of bias against conservative content, but has also signaled that a forced breakup of the company would be too large a demand by the US government. Determining how to address Google's wrongs is the next stage of the landmark antitrust trial that saw the company in August rule a monopoly by Judge Mehta.—APP

## Ethiopian embassy, TDAP join hands for single country exhibition

The ambassador 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

DNA

KARACHI: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Islamabad and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) on Thursday agreed to forge collaboration for holding the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the next year in a successful manner.

The crucial collaboration came under discussion during a meeting between Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and H.E. Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive of the TDAP. The meeting was also attended by Sheryar Taj, Secretary TDAP, Abdul Karim Memon DG TDAP, and H.E. Ibrahim Tawab, Honorary Consul to the FDR Ethiopia in Karachi.

During the meeting, both sides discussed strategies to sensitize the traders of both the countries about the business and trade opportunities in each other countries' major economic sectors including agriculture and agro process-



KARACHI: Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, special envoy and ambassador extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia meeting with chief executive of TDAP Zubair Motiwala.

ing, pharmaceutical, surgical items, automotive, Information Technology, leather and leather products, construction material, steel and aluminum. They agreed to launch a joint awareness campaign in all the major cities of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to mobilize

the business community for their maximum participation in the Single Country Exhibition. 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. 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." 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. The TDAP Chief Executive, during the meeting, highlighted the business and trade potential of Pakistan in different economic sectors including pharmaceutical, surgical, steel, aluminum, automotive, construction material, leather and leather products, and others. He said the Government of Pakistan is committed to the Look Africa and Engage Africa policy and has been taking significant measures to strengthen bilateral relations with all the African countries including Ethiopia. He acknowledged the growing economic relations between the two countries and assured the Ambassador that all possible steps would be taken to boost the bilateral trade between the two countries.

## Pak, Oman discuss collaboration in IT, telecom sectors

The Omani delegation invited Pakistani tech companies to participate in Comex 2025, emphasizing the event as a significant platform for showcasing Pakistan's capabilities in IT and innovation

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, held discussions with a high-level delegation from Oman on Thursday, focusing on mutual interests, collaboration in the IT and telecom sectors, and preparations for the global tech event Comex 2025, scheduled to take place in Oman next September. The Omani delegation invited Pakistani tech companies to participate in Comex 2025, emphasizing the event as a significant platform for showcasing Pakistan's capabilities in IT and innovation. Congratulating Oman on hosting the prestigious event, Shaza Fatima highlighted Pakistan's robust potential in IT and telecom. She expressed confidence that the event would foster stronger ties between the tech industries of both nations. "We aim to enhance Pakistan-Oman relations in the IT and telecom sectors," she stated, adding that collaboration in areas such as startups and cybersecurity could be mutually beneficial. The minister also underscored the importance of leveraging each other's expertise to advance innovation and growth in IT and telecom for shared progress. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan and Qatar have pledged to deepen their collaboration in information technology (IT), startups, and cybersecurity, as discussed during a meeting between Minister of IT and telecommunications, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and Qatar's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater. Khawaja pointed out the strong ties between the two nations and highlighted the potential for mutual growth in IT and telecommunications. She called for the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between institutions and encouraged joint ventures by IT companies in both countries. She further proposed exchanges of students and startups to strengthen bilateral relations and urged Qatar to facilitate Pakistani IT firms in obtaining visas and accessing Qatari markets. In response, Al-Khater assured Pakistan of Qatar's full support in IT and telecommunications, paving the way for enhanced collaboration.—DNA

## Israel, Hezbollah trade deadly blows despite ceasefire talks

JERUSALEM/BEIRUT: Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah traded deadly blows on Thursday as their war raged on despite signs of progress in US ceasefire efforts, with airstrikes pounding Beirut's southern suburbs and rockets flying into northern Israel. US mediator Amos Hochstein was in Israel for talks with Israeli officials to try to secure a ceasefire which he said was "within our grasp" during a visit to Beirut earlier this week. The diplomacy marks the most serious attempt yet to end the conflict between Israel and the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah, part of the regional spillover of the Gaza war that erupted more than a year ago. In southern Lebanon, an Israeli airstrike killed three people in the village of Chaaitiyeh, some 10 km (6 miles), from the border, the Lebanese health ministry said. In Israel, a 30-year-old man was killed when shrapnel from a rocket struck a playground in the northern town of Nahariya, Israel's MDA medical service said. "The Israeli government is not safeguarding my security, my residents or the residents of the north (of Israel). It is not possible to live in such a situation like this," Nahariya Mayor Ronen Marely told public broadcaster Kan. The Israeli military said about 10 rockets were launched from Lebanon toward Nahariya.—APP

## Pakistan wins "Best Pavilion" award at Global Sourcing Expo

ISLAMABAD: In the visionary leadership of the Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan helped Pakistan won "Best Pavilion" Award at Global Sourcing Expo. In a moment for Pakistan, the country's pavilion was awarded the prestigious "Best Pavilion" award at the Global Sourcing Expo held at the Melbourne Convention Center from November 19 to 21, 2024, said a press release issued here on Thursday. This achievement highlights leadership of Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, whose strategic directives ensured Pakistan's outstanding representation on the international stage. The Global Sourcing Expo, the largest exhibition for textiles, leather, and home textile products in the Oceania region, featured exhibitors from major exporting nations, including China, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, and South Africa. Amid fierce competition, Pakistan's pavilion stood out for its superior design, engaging displays, and the exceptional quality of its showcased products. This success is the result of Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan's forward-thinking approach. He directed Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) to prioritize the creation of world-class pavilions at international exhibitions, emphasizing the importance of promoting Pakistan's diverse and high-quality exports. His commitment to making Pakistani products competitive on the global stage has been pivotal in boosting the country's export-oriented strategy. The Pakistan pavilion, featuring 21 companies sponsored by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), focused on textiles, leather, and home textile products—key sectors contributing \$190 million of Pakistan's \$300 million annual exports to Australia. High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia, Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, inaugurated the pavilion, interacted with exhibitors, and received the "Best Pavilion" shield on behalf of TDAP during the event's Welcome Reception. Minister Jam Kamal Khan extended his congratulations to TDAP, the exhibitors, and the Pakistani diaspora in Australia for their collective efforts. Speaking about the achievement, he said, "This award reflects Pakistan's commitment to excellence and innovation in its export sectors. Our vision is to ensure that Pakistani products compete and shine in the most competitive markets worldwide." With this award, Pakistan has solidified its position as a key player in global trade, further motivating efforts to enhance export quality and market reach under the strategic guidance of leaders like Jam Kamal Khan.—DNA

## Saudi COP29 pavilion showcases latest climate solutions

Another session, "Advancing Innovative Carbon Utilization Technologies to Achieve Climate Ambitions," focused on converting carbon dioxide into valuable products. Participants highlighted technical solutions for carbon management, including the development of carbon capture and utilization technologies, and discussed the global challenges of decarbonization

BAKU: The Saudi pavilion has emerged as a hub for collaboration and innovation at the COP29 climate talks, reflecting the Kingdom's robust efforts to address climate change and drive sustainable development goals. A series of panel discussions and expert insights at the pavilion have underscored Saudi Arabia's commitment to advancing climate solutions. Energy leaders, policymakers, and professionals joined the sessions to exchange ideas and explore cutting-edge technologies. Panel discussions have explored key climate initiatives, with one of the standouts sessions, "The Role of International Standards in Addressing Climate Change," delving into how global standards can be adapted to fit national circumstances. Experts

discussed the importance of aligning international frameworks to effectively support climate action across diverse regions. Another session, "Advancing Innovative Carbon Utilization Technologies to Achieve Climate Ambitions," focused on converting carbon dioxide into valuable products. Participants highlighted technical solutions for carbon management, including the development of carbon capture and utilization technologies, and discussed the global challenges of decarbonization. The future of hydrogen as a clean energy source also took center stage, with the Kingdom reaffirming its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2060. Speaking to media, Renad Aldehbi, a carbon specialist at the Ministry of Energy, outlined the

Kingdom's efforts under the circular carbon economy program. "This program, built on the four Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle, and remove—guides us toward net-zero emissions by 2060. Our world-class carbon capture and sequestration hub will scale up to capture 44 million tons of CO2 annually by 2035," Aldehbi said. Leadership and collaboration were also on display, with the Saudi Energy Leaders Assembly playing a pivotal role, and driving discussions on policies, partnerships, and infrastructure. The assembly further amplified Saudi Arabia's voice in global energy dialogues. Nasser Al-Ghamdi, CEO of the Saudi Energy Efficiency Center, highlighted the Kingdom's advances in improving energy efficiency.

"Since 2010, we've achieved significant efficiency gains, including a 57 percent improvement in HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning) systems and a 28 percent improvement in transportation fuel economy. By 2030, we aim to save the equivalent of 1 million barrels of oil daily," he said. Abeer Alharbi, senior project manager at the Ministry of Energy, outlined progress in renewable energy. "Saudi Arabia's National Renewable Energy Program aims to meet 50 percent of electricity demand through renewables by 2030. With 6.2 GW already operational, we're setting global benchmarks, such as achieving record-low costs for solar and wind energy," Alharbi said. Regional and global partner-

ships have also been cemented at COP29. On the sidelines of the Baku talks, Saudi Arabia signed a joint executive program with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan to enhance cooperation in renewable energy. The program focuses on interconnecting regional power grids, integrating renewable energy projects, and fostering joint investment opportunities. Agreements with ACWA Power further advance initiatives in battery energy storage and offshore wind power, particularly in the Caspian Sea region. COP29 continues to provide a platform for Saudi Arabia to share its vision and initiatives, showcasing the Kingdom's dedication to addressing one of the most pressing global challenges of our time.—Agencies

## Pakistan urges adding non-permanent members to UNSC

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan, member of the Unit for Consensus (UfC) group which opposes new permanent members in the UN Security Council, has reaffirmed its demand for adding more non-permanent seats to the 15-member body so as to make it more effective, representative and accountable. "The UfC continues to believe that its proposal for an expansion of Security Council membership to 26 or 27, with the addition of 11 or 12 new non-permanent members, offers the best basis for Security Council reform," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative to the UN, told delegates when the deadlocked Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) aimed at restructuring the Council resumed on Tuesday. The UfC's proposal to add only non-permanent members, elected periodically by the General Assembly, is "democratic and consistent" with the Charter's prescription that the Council "acts on behalf" of the entire membership, he said, adding it will also ensure "equitable representation" — the key objective of the Council reform process. Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas - the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly.—APP

## LCCI, ANF organise seminar on 'Guidelines for Precursor Control'

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), in collaboration with the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Punjab, a seminar on "Guidelines for Precursor Control", here at Lahore Chamber on Thursday. The seminar featured prominent speakers including ANF Director General Brigadier Sikandar Hayat Chaudhry, LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman, Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry and former LCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar. The ANF DG presented an overview of the agency's operations and achievements. Addressing the seminar, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad acknowledged Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir's efforts in securing borders and reviving the economy, and expressed the business community's appreciation. He called for genuine representation of traders in the ANF Board, highlighting the importance of balancing regulatory measures with business needs.—APP

## Adani Group companies lose \$27 billion in market value

NEW DELHI: Adani Group companies lost about \$27 billion in market value on Thursday after US prosecutors charged the Indian conglomerate's billionaire chairman in an alleged bribery and fraud scheme. Gautam Adani's flagship Adani Enterprises closed down 23% in its worst one-day drop since February last year. Adani Ports, Adani Total Gas, Adani Green, Adani Power, Adani Wilmar and Adani Energy Solutions, ACC, Ambuja Cements — also fell between 7% and 19%. NDTV shares closed up 0.2%. The sharp selloff had dropped the capitalization of the 10 Adani-backed companies to about \$142.6 billion by 1033 GMT, from \$169.1 billion on Tuesday. "Normally investors do not like any lapse of corporate governance and till the time there is clarification, investors will shy away from Adani Group stocks," said Saurabh Jain, a retail equity analyst at SMC Global Securities. In a statement, Adani Group dismissed the accusations as "baseless and denied", and vowed to seek "all possible legal recourse"—APP



## Briefs

### Xi calls for peace in Ukraine

BRASILIA: Chinese leader Xi Jinping urged "more voices" to end the Ukraine war and a ceasefire in Gaza, as he conducted a state visit to Brazil's capital, Chinese state media said. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva echoed those points as he met with Xi in a red-carpet welcome in Brasilia, and stressed a joint roadmap for peace in Ukraine that they are proposing. "In a world plagued by armed conflicts and political strife, China and Brazil put peace, diplomacy and dialogue first," Lula said. Xi said he wanted to see "more voices committed to peace to pave the way for a political solution to the Ukraine crisis," the Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported. He also called for "a ceasefire and an end to the war at an early date" in Gaza, the agency said. On Ukraine, the China-Brazil roadmap for mediating peace has been endorsed by Russia — which is China's ally — but rejected by Kyiv and its Western backers. The Chinese president's appeal for a halt to fighting in Gaza — where Israel is pressing an offensive against Hamas — echoed one he and the other G20 leaders made during a summit held Monday and Tuesday in Rio. That summit's joint statement called for a "comprehensive" ceasefire in both Gaza and Lebanon, where Israel is also waging an offensive against the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. On Wednesday, the UN Security Council held a vote on a resolution calling for "an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire" in Gaza, but it was vetoed by Israel's ally the United States. — Agencies

### Asad Qaiser reveals PTI's strategy

SHAMIM SHAHID  
SWABI: National Assembly former speaker Asad Qaiser has outlined the PTI's strategy for the November 24 protest. Speaking to the media in Swabi, Asad Qaiser stated that the party has formulated a strategy for the protest. Political workers from Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, and Nowshera will travel to Islamabad from Swabi, while workers from other districts will march towards Islamabad via different routes. He added that contact has been made with Ali Amin Gandapur for negotiations, and the party will decide the extent of the talks. The key point, according to Qaiser, was that former prime minister Imran Khan has authorized Ali Amin Gandapur to engage in discussions. He emphasized that the effectiveness of these negotiations depended on how seriously the government pursued this agenda. Asad Qaiser also expressed the party's belief that the country needed stability, acknowledging the current law and order challenges.

# UK launches £108M climate finance program for Pakistan

The launch event, held in Islamabad, was also attended by Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power and Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Water Resources

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Hamish Falconer, announced a new £108 million climate finance programme. This funding will encourage new climate technologies and private sector investment, benefitting both the planet and Pakistani businesses. Recognising the global threat posed by climate change, this first-of-its-kind programme will be delivered in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC). As the largest single country blended finance facility, it will invest in local businesses to help them develop the technologies and meet the significant investments needed to adapt to the threats Pakistan faces from climate change. The UK and IFC will then reinvest any profits from projects back into the facility, financing even more climate solutions. The programme will leverage the £108m the UK puts in to mobilise 5-6 times that amount of investment from the private sector. The launch event, held in Islamabad, was also attended by Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power and Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Water Resources. Announcing the new funding in Islamabad, Minister for the Middle East, Hamish Falconer said: "The UK and Pakistan have a long history of working together to tackle tomorrow's threats today.



That's why we're investing in the expertise needed and supporting local businesses, alongside the Government of Pakistan, to get ahead of the challenges that climate change poses to the Pakistani people and the world. "From my own time working as a diplomat in Pakistan to now returning as a Minister, it's clear that the UK and Pakistan's partnership continues to go from strength to strength and is essential in tackling shared global challenges." IFC Country Manager for Pakistan & Afghanistan, Zeeshan Sheikh, said: "This facility reflects IFC's commitment to supporting Pakistan's climate resilience and adaptation efforts. We are pleased to be partnering with the UK on an innovative facility that will help crowd-in much needed private investment." "As a leading global investor in climate finance, IFC aims to leverage its experience and catalyze private sector financing for climate-smart investments in Pakistan and build a sustainable climate finance ecosystem."

Today's announcement follows the launch of the British High Commission, Pakistan supported Cost of Inaction Report, which highlights the estimated cost of inaction on climate change for Pakistan is over one trillion dollars over the next 25 years. The announcement marks the conclusion of a two-day visit to Pakistan by Hamish Falconer, Minister for the Middle East. The Minister also met with Pakistan's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Ishaq Dar, and Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, to discuss shared values and address common challenges, including and regional and global security. He met with Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Tarar, to promote the importance of democracy and fundamental freedoms. Minister for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Hamish Falconer, announced a new £108 million climate finance programme. This funding will encourage new climate technologies and private sector investment, benefitting both the planet and Pakistani businesses. Recognising the global threat posed by climate change, this first-of-its-kind programme will be delivered in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC). As the largest single country blended finance facility, it will invest in local businesses to help them develop the technologies and meet the significant investments needed to adapt to the threats Pakistan faces from climate change.

### 'Consult stakeholders before constructing new canals'

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday urged the federal government to consult the stakeholders before initiating the project of new canals at Sindh river. "The project to construct new canals in Sindh will become controversial if all the stakeholders aren't consulted," said the PPP chairman in his video message. He urged the federal government to address the grievances of Sindh and Balochistan in this regard. The former foreign minister said that the project of new canals would become controversial just like the Kalabagh dam if stakeholders are not consulted. "There is a need to develop the consensus before starting the project. The politics, agriculture and economy will be affected if the project is imposed without consulting the stakeholders," said the PPP chairman. He said that the PPP would try to convince the federal government to reconsider the project of new canals. "The PPP will share the points of Green Sindh project with the federal government," he said.

### Court's authority can't be undermined: SC Judge

The court seeks a report from the federal government

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: "The court's authority cannot be undermined," Justice Jamal Mandokhail gave these remarks during the hearing of the audio leak commission case. The Supreme Court (SC) seven-member constitutional bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, heard the audio leak commission case. Justice Aminuddin inquired "is the audio leak commission a live issue?" He also remarked that the commission's chairman had retired and another member of the commission had been appointed an SC judge. Attorney general requested some time to take instructions from the federal government as to whether a new commission would be formed or not. He added that legal perspective on the audio leak matter was still available. Justice Khan noted that this case would be inadmissible in case a new commission was formed. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar mentioned that the cabinet's decision about formation of the commission was still available. Justice Mandokhail asked whether the government would consult the chief justice before nominating judges for the commission. Attorney general responded that this was a legal question and the law didn't make consultation binding. Justice Jamal Mandokhail asserted that "the court's authority will not be undermined."

## Over war crimes and genocide ICC issues arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant

Hamas says that the International Criminal Court's issuance of arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister are an "important step towards justice"

NEWS DESK

THE HAGUE: The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for the Israeli regime's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and his former minister of military affairs Yoav Gallant, over war crimes against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. The court's Pre-Trial Chamber I issued warrants of arrest for Netanyahu and Gallant "for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024, the day the Prosecution filed the applications for warrants of arrest", it confirmed in a statement Thursday. It is the first instance in the court's 22-year history it has issued arrest warrants for Western-allied senior officials. In its statement, the ICC's

Pre-Trial Chamber I, a panel of three judges, said it has rejected appeals by Israel challenging its jurisdiction. The chamber said it has decided to release the arrest warrants because "conduct similar to that addressed in the warrant of arrest appears to be ongoing", referring to Israel's ongoing onslaught on Gaza. Netanyahu and Gallant, it said, "each bear criminal responsibility" for "the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare; and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts," as well as "intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population." All 124 states that signed the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the court, are now under an obligation to arrest the wanted individuals and hand them over to the ICC in the Hague. The court relies on the cooperation of member states to arrest and surrender suspects.

### KP youth get job-ready with Japan-funded training



In a transformative step towards a resilient Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 700 young people have acquired market driven skills through vocational training supported by the Government of Japan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Supported by the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) have successfully concluded a market-driven vocational and technical skills training programme designed to empower youth from Kurram and Orakzai districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). A closing ceremony was held in Islamabad to mark its successful completion. The three-month programme equipped 700 young individuals, including 375 women, with hands-on skills such as cell phone repair, LED bulb assembly, eco-friendly packaging, jewellery making, motorcycle repair, electrician, plumbing, solar system, and UPS installation. Graduates also received certificates and customized toolkits to help them apply their skills to start small businesses or secure employment opportunities. Speaking at the occasion, chief guest Mr. Rana Mashood, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, said in his statement, "Women's empowerment is a key focus of our Prime Minister's Youth Programme. I am delighted to see that 375 women have been trained in hands-on skills under this initiative. On behalf of the people of Pakistan, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme, and SRSP for their valuable contribution to this skills training program in remote areas." As part of a broader effort to develop youth leadership, empower young women, and generate actionable strategies to build climate resilience, youth from Kurram and Orakzai also participated in a grand dialogue on "Climate Adaptation and Girls' Education" during the closing ceremony.

### Chairman PRCS highlights climate adaptation at COP29

Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari underscored PRCS's extensive humanitarian work in Pakistan, especially during the 2022 monsoon floods

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, addressed a distinguished forum at a special event hosted in the Pakistan Pavilion during the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. The event, titled "Empowering Communities: The Case for Locally Led Adaptation in Climate Resilience," emphasized the urgent need for collective action against climate change to mitigate the impacts of disasters. The event saw the participation of prominent figures including Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Ms. Samina Mumtaz Zehri, representatives from the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), National Societies, and other key humanitarian stakeholders. A thought-provoking panel discussion featured distinguished speakers including Member Managing Board Jamaican Red Cross Ms. Audrey Mullings, Ms. Ninni Ikala Nyman and Manzoor Ali from IFRC,

Head of Delegation German Red Cross in Pakistan Mr. Asif Aman and PRCS Deputy Director Climate Change Sajjad Ali, focused on the significance of locally driven adaptation strategies. Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari was the keynote speaker of this exclusive session. In his remarks, Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari underscored PRCS's extensive humanitarian work in Pakistan, especially during the 2022 monsoon floods. He detailed the organization's ongoing recovery programs and proactive measures to tackle climate challenges, reaffirming PRCS's dedication to easing the hardships of vulnerable communities. He emphasized the critical role of community-led adaptation, advocating for building local capacities and learning from grassroots experiences to enhance disaster response and recovery. Highlighting Gilgit-Baltistan as a case in point, he addressed the threats posed by glacier melting and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) in the region. A documentary showcasing PRCS's humanitarian initiatives and climate adaptation efforts provided attendees with an in-depth understanding of the organization's work.

NOVEMBER 2024

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