



Islamabad POST

Thursday, November 28, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Hague appointed Oxford's university new chancellor

Detailed News On Page-08

Siddiqui stresses dialogue

Detailed News On Page-08

City's boss Guardiola backs players

Detailed News On Page-06

'Tough decisions' needed: PM

Decide whether to save Pakistan or allow sit-ins

"We have to decide whether we save Pakistan or allow sit-ins to take place," says premier

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: After the law enforcers drove the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters out of Islamabad, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged the need for taking tough decisions to rid the country of politics of agitation and ensure stability. "We have to decide whether we save Pakistan or allow sit-ins to take place," the prime minister said while addressing the federal cabinet meeting on Wednesday. PM Shehbaz's remarks come after PTI's much-hyped "do-or-die" protest, which saw clashes between the supporters of the party and the law enforcers, closure of roads and educational institutions, was postponed in the wee hours of Wednesday following crackdown. Earlier, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also asserted that life has returned to normal across Pakistan with roads cleared and mobile and internet services restored. The latest protest episode was part of the PTI's months-long efforts to secure Imran Khan's release who has been behind bars in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail in various cases for more than a year now. The premier said that there was no one even imagined to launch a "onslaught" of Islamabad before, stressing that tough decisions will have to be taken now through mutual consultation. "We have two paths which we can take and it is obvious that we have to take the path of development and prosperity," said PM Shehbaz. Speaking about the economic losses faced by

Continued on Page 06

US lawmakers, Amnesty decry govt crackdown

Rights watchdog urges immediate release of those detained solely for exercising their right to "peaceful assembly"

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: A number of United States' lawmakers along with Amnesty International have voiced support for demonstrators who participated in the violence-marred protest by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers in Islamabad for the release of party founder-chairman Imran Khan. "The brutal repression of protesters in Pakistan and growing political violence is an attempt to suppress democracy and human rights [...] I stand with the brave Pakistanis who are rising up and protesting for change,"

Continued on Page 06

Belarus President meets army chief

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The President of the Republic of Belarus, His Excellency Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), in Islamabad today. The discussion encompassed matters of mutual interest, prospects for defense cooperation, and regional security dynamics. The COAS emphasized Pakistan's appreciation for Belarus's contributions to global and regional affairs, expressing a desire to strengthen and expand bilateral ties.

Continued on Page 06

Nov inflation projected to drop 5.8-6.8%

Inflation expected to further recede to 5.6-6.5% by December 2024, as per monthly economic outlook

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Inflation is projected to slow to 5.8%-6.8% in November, and then further to 5.6%-6.5% in December, the finance ministry said in its monthly economic report on Wednesday. "Inflation is expected ... [to] further recede to 5.6% - 6.5% by December 2024," said the Finance Division in its Monthly Economic Update and Outlook. The central bank slashed interest rates by 250 basis points

Continued on Page 06

24,266 Hajj applications received

The collection of Hajj applications will continue till December 3

DNA

LAHORE: The number of Hajj applications under the government scheme have reached 24,266. Punjab Religious Affairs Department sources told APP that the collection of Hajj applications under the government scheme has accelerated, Hajj applications are

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: The President of the Republic of Belarus, His Excellency Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), in Islamabad. - DNA

After PTI-police clashes

Afghan nationals can't live in capital after Dec 3: Naqvi

Interior minister dares PTI to reveal names of those allegedly killed in clashes with law enforcers

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Following fierce clashes between PTI protesters and law enforcers in the capital, the federal government has decided that Afghan nationals will not be allowed to stay in Islamabad without permission after December 31. The development came after 37 Afghan nationals, who were reportedly part of the PTI's "do-or-die" protest, were arrested in Islamabad. In addition to this, a number of Afghan citizens were taken into custody in Punjab during the PTI protest. As part of its precautionary measures, the interior ministry had started geofencing of Afghan refugee camps in Islamabad and other cities earlier this month to take strict action against those involved in "wrongdoing". During his interaction with journalists in the capital, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said: "Afghan nationals will not be allowed to stay in Islamabad without permission after the end of the next month." Afghan citizen, who intends to stay in the federal capital post December this year, will have to obtain a no objection certificate (NOC) from the deputy commissioner office, he added.

Continued on Page 06

Kurram clashes rage as death toll surges past 100

Two more lost their lives in overnight firing incident, taking the toll to 102 deaths as violence escalates

SHAMIM SHAHID / AGENCIES

PESHAWAR: The recent clashes between the two warring sides in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district continued for the seventh consecutive day as the death toll in the violence-hit territory passed 100, with three people losing their lives overnight. The police said one of the injured from a firing incident on vehicles carrying passengers from Peshawar to Parachinar in a convoy succumbed to his injuries. Meanwhile, two others lost their lives and six others sustained injuries in the latest firing incidents. Over the past seven days, a total of 102 people have been killed,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Present situation is due to Feb 8 polls

Maulana Fazlur Rehman also condemns violent incidents in Islamabad

DNA

LARKANA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed that the present political situation of the country is due to the Feb 8 elections. Talking to the media, the JUI chief said the real basis of the problem is vote theft as elections should be held in accordance with the constitution. Maulana Fazlur Rehman said there's no doubt that a worker is sincere with the leadership and giving the workers the right line is the job of the leadership. "I don't not want to bring the internal affairs of any party into discussion," he said. "I condemn the violent incidents in Islamabad," he remarked.

Azma takes jibe at PTI leadership

Says, people of Punjab didn't participate

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Wednesday took a jibe at PTI leadership for fleeing from the protest in Islamabad's D-Chowk. He was addressing a press conference in Lahore on Wednesday. "PTI gave the protest call five times and always failed miserably," said Azma Bokhari. According to provincial minister, not a single revolution fizzled out so early the way PTI leadership left its leadership at D-Chowk. She added that the people of Punjab didn't participate in the protest. "Bushra Bibi fled from the scene and KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur also faced the wrath of party workers," said the provincial minister. According to Azma Bokhari, as many as 22 vehicles of Punjab Police were damaged during the protest of PTI.

Only Imran has authority

PTI 'dharna' still continuing: CM KP

"I was personally targeted and there was an attempt to abduct me," says KP CM Gandapur

STAFF REPORT

MANSEHRA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest is still on and that only party founder Imran Khan has the authority to call it off. In a press conference in Mansehra on Wednesday, Gandapur alleged that the party has been subjected to severe oppression, with baseless cases being registered against its members. "Our party has faced coercion. Our leader [Imran Khan] is in jail, and even his wife [Bushra Bibi] was imprisoned," he said. He reiterated that PTI is a peaceful party and has consistently advocated for the supremacy of the Constitution. In the early hours of Wednesday, the Imran Khan-founded party announced a "temporary suspension" of its "do-or-die" protest following

Continued on Page 06

SC rejects plea seeking suo motu notice

KP AAG had requested apex court's constitutional bench to take suo motu notice of issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a verbal plea to take suo motu notice of the deaths that occurred during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest in the federal capital. "Yesterday, there were deaths on both sides, the constitutional bench should take

Continued on Page 06

Of disjointed and 'compromised' PTI leadership

COMMENT

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI



THERE is a saying that behind every successful man, there is a woman. However, in the case of Imran Khan, it appears the opposite might be true. It is widely believed that during his three and half year tenure as Prime Minister, his wife, Bushra Bibi, played a significant role in decision-making. Allegedly, under her influence, close associates such as Farah Gogi and others benefited immensely through questionable practices involving transfers, postings, land acquisitions, housing schemes, and more. One prominent controversy linked to this dynamic is the Toshakhana case, which has landed the PTI founder in jail. Reports suggest that it was Bushra Bibi who insisted on retaining valuable gifts, including the high-profile watch gifted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and later suggested selling it. This decision not only tarnished Imran Khan's reputation but also provided the government with a strong basis to initiate legal action against the former prime minister. The recent D-Chowk debacle is closely tied to Bushra's intransigent stance. Despite clear instructions from Imran Khan to avoid the location, she insisted

on marching towards D-Chowk. PTI leaders claim that Imran Khan had agreed to hold a sit-in at Sangiani, but Bushra reportedly compelled Ali Amin Gandapur to head to D-Chowk at all costs. What unfolded at D-Chowk is now part of history—tragically, numerous lives were lost on both sides, and many others suffered serious injuries. Notably, both Bushra and Gandapur managed to make a safe exit from the scene, leaving others to bear the consequences. The statement highlights allegations and perceptions within Pakistan's political landscape, particularly regarding the internal dynamics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). It reflects a growing belief among certain PTI circles and political opponents that key figures such as Bushra Bibi, the wife of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, and Ali Amin Gandapur, a prominent party leader, are not independently influencing party decisions. Instead, they are accused of taking cues from entities or individuals outside the party's formal hierarchy. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi explicitly alleged that these figures are acting under the direction of so-called "hidden hands"—a term often used in Pakistan's political lexicon to refer to unseen forces, frequently implying elements of the establishment or other influential actors operating behind the scenes. This rhetoric suggests a deep mistrust in PTI's leadership autonomy, insinuating that the party is being manipulated to serve external agendas. Naqvi's remarks further frame Bushra and Gandapur as symbolic rather than substantive leaders, portraying them as "puppets"

whose actions are controlled by these unseen forces. This perspective not only undermines the credibility of PTI's internal decision-making but also casts doubts on the role of Imran Khan as the central figure of the party. It implies a dilution of his authority, raising questions about who truly holds power within the party and the motivations of those allegedly pulling the strings. The broader implication of this narrative is the perception of political maneuvering by shadowy entities to destabilize or redirect PTI's trajectory, potentially to align with their strategic interests. Such allegations, if unsubstantiated, may be viewed as politically motivated rhetoric aimed at discrediting PTI leadership during a period of heightened political tension. However, for PTI supporters, such claims are likely to be dismissed as part of a broader campaign to weaken the party's position and its influence over its voter base. The noticeable absence of PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar and Secretary General Salman Akram Raja from key protests, including the recent D-Chowk episode, raises questions about the leadership's commitment to leading from the front during pivotal moments. Their absence is not just a matter of optics but one that directly impacts the morale and enthusiasm of party workers and supporters on the ground. In any political movement, especially one reliant on mass mobilization, the visible presence of the top leadership is crucial. It not only energizes the participants but also sends a strong message of unity and resolve to opponents and onlookers. Without the leadership at the helm during such critical junctures,

the movement risks appearing disorganized or lacking resolve. The situation in Punjab further compounds these challenges. The provincial leadership, instead of effectively mobilizing supporters or presenting a robust challenge, opted to get arrested—a move that, while symbolically significant, failed to sustain the momentum or advance the party's objectives. Arrests can serve as a political statement, but without strategic follow-through or visible leaders directing the narrative, they lose their impact and leave the movement floundering. The government's handling of the PTI protests has drawn widespread criticism, with many condemning the excessive use of force employed to suppress the dissent. This approach not only resulted in the tragic loss of numerous lives but also severely damaged the reputation of the country's security forces, both domestically and on the global stage. The brutality witnessed during the crackdown on protesters has reinforced the narrative that coercive measures fail to address underlying political or social grievances, often exacerbating tensions instead of resolving them. This situation raises a critical question: will the PTI step back and accept this suppression, or will the movement gain renewed momentum? Historical and cultural dynamics suggest that such repression is unlikely to subdue dissent entirely. In fact, it may fuel further resistance, particularly given the cultural ethos of Pashtoons, who have a deep-seated tradition of standing up against perceived injustices and "settling scores" when wronged. This could lead to an esca-

lation in confrontations, making the political landscape increasingly volatile in the days ahead. It is imperative for the government to reconsider its approach and prioritize dialogue and reconciliation over force. A failure to address the root causes of discontent risks deepening the divide, potentially pushing the country into further turmoil. Whether one likes it or not, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has established itself as a dominant political force with substantial support both domestically and internationally. Despite the challenges and controversies surrounding the party, recent events have seemingly bolstered its political standing and enhanced its public appeal. PTI's ability to galvanize massive public support, even in difficult times, reflects its deep-rooted influence and connection with the masses. Excluding PTI from the political landscape or decision-making process poses significant challenges for governance and policy implementation. The party's influence is such that neglecting its role in national politics may lead to instability or difficulty in managing day-to-day state affairs effectively. It is in the best interest of the country for the decision-makers and the "powers-that-be" to acknowledge and engage with PTI constructively. A collaborative approach that includes PTI in the political framework would likely foster greater national harmony, ensuring political stability and progress. The sooner this reality is embraced, the better it will be for the country's overall wellbeing and democratic health. - The writer is the newspaper editor

Kundi to lead efforts for peace in Kurram

Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invited the Chief Minister to join him in Kurram to play a role in controlling the situation. "When the political leadership unites, the way forward becomes clear," he added

PESHAWAR: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday expressed concerns over the deteriorating security situations in the province especially in Kurram district and announced to visit Parachinar to look into the matter. Addressing the press conference here at Governor House, soon after performing Umrah, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said, "The current major issue in KP is law and order that destabilized the whole system." "The deteriorating security situation in Kurram District, where around 150 people have lost their lives and more than 200 have been injured due to ongoing violence since October," Governor Kundi highlighted. He expressed concerns over the lack of attention from the Chief Minister of KP, saying, "While the Chief Executive is preoccupied with issues in Islamabad, the situation in Kurram remains dire. He said, "I will personally visit Kurram to assess the situation and work towards restoring peace there." Kundi also called for unity among the province's political leadership, stressing that when they come together, solutions to issues could be found. He invited the Chief Minister to join him in Kurram to play a role in controlling the situation. "When the political leadership unites, the way forward becomes clear," he added. In an effort to address the ongoing crisis, the Governor announced plans to hold an All-Party Conference at the Governor House in the first week of December. He extended an invitation to the Chief Minister, as well as to all political parties, to participate in this conference, which he believed could help find a

resolution to the security challenges in the province. Governor Kundi also discussed humanitarian efforts in Kurram. "Red Crescent is actively assisting the victims of the violence. However, he expressed disappointment with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), which had requested assistance but claimed to have no resources to offer," he mentioned. The Governor emphasized the need for full implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to address security concerns nationwide. This press conference highlighted the urgency of addressing security and humanitarian needs in Kurram, with the Governor emphasizing collaboration, both at the political and governmental levels, to resolve these critical issues.—APP



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers cleaning Jinnah Avenue after the end of PTI protests in Federal Capital.

Role of youth stressed to mitigate climate change impacts

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) State Branch, in collaboration with University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UJAK), on Wednesday organized a seminar on "Climate Change and the Role of Youth in addressing it's impacts" at University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Jehlum Valley Campus Hattian. The event was aimed to emphasise the critical need for youth-led climate action and fostering community resilience in AJK. Over two hundred students including male and female from different faculties of the University attended the seminar. Commissioner Muzaffarabad Masood Ur Rehman honoured the seminar as the chief guest. Besides, Director Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Dr. Shafiq Abbasi, Deputy Commissioner Jehlum Valley Ishfaq Gillani, Director Operations State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Saeed Ur Rehman Qureshi, Director University of AJK Imtiaz Awan, Superintendent of Police Mirza Zahid, Assistant Commissioner Jehlum Valley also attended the seminar. While addressing the seminar, the Commissioner said that the PRCS AJK State Branch has always played pivotal role during disaster and emergencies. Applauding the humanitarian efforts of PRCS AJK Mr. Rehman further said that PRCS has taken a great initiative to engage youth through different events and training programs.—APP

Punjab CM thanks people for rejecting mischief-makers

Reflecting on the hardship caused to the public by the ongoing disruptions, Maryam Nawaz expressed deep concern over the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens

DNA

LAHORE :Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed her gratitude to the people of Punjab for not supporting the mischief-makers and disruptor, thanking them for their continued resilience and unity. In a message issued here on Wednesday, she acknowledged the sacrifices made by the people of Punjab, who remained steadfast despite the challenges posed by elements seeking to create unrest. The CM issued instructions to open the roads across the province, ensuring smooth transportation and public mobility. She emphasized the importance of facilitating the daily routines of the citizens, who had been facing significant disruptions. CM Maryam Nawaz took decisive steps to stabilize the supply of essential goods. She directed the administration to ensure the uninterrupted availability of food

and other necessities. She directed the strict monitoring and control of prices for essential items, stressing that no one should exploit the situation for personal gain. Reflecting on the hardship caused to the public by the ongoing disruptions, Maryam Nawaz expressed deep concern over the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens. She conveyed her sincere apologies for the inconvenience, stating, "I am truly saddened by the suffering the people have had to endure due to these disturbances."

fast despite the challenges posed by elements seeking to create unrest. The CM issued instructions to open the roads across the province, ensuring smooth transportation and public mobility. She emphasized the importance of facilitating the daily routines of the citizens, who had been facing significant disruptions. CM Maryam Nawaz took decisive steps to stabilize the supply of essential goods. She directed the administration to ensure the uninterrupted availability of food

Balochistan govt to introduce Pink Scooty scheme

QUEETA: Chief Minister (CM) of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday said that a policy regarding the Pink Scooty scheme would be formulated soon to award scooty to working women and students in order to make them empowered. He said the provincial government has initiated multiple measures to empower women as decided to award pink scooty to working women and students. CM Balochistan has gifted Pink scooty to FG Girls Degree College student Tahira Arif and lady police officer. He revealed that the students of universities, colleges and secondary schools will be awarded scooty aimed that to make women and students empowered and self-reliant. CM said that the incumbent government is determined to provide ample opportunities for development in every sphere of life to the women of Balochistan. He said that presently, 5 women Deputy Commissioners are appointed in Balochistan and they are performing the best administrative work.—APP

Fashion studios inaugurated

DNA

SUKKUR: Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah inaugurated the state-of-the-art Fashion Design Studios, marking a significant milestone in the Aror University of Arts, Fashion and Design Sukkur, said a release on Wednesday. Addressing the event MNA Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah praising university's efforts in promoting education and creativity in the region. He emphasized the importance of such institutions in empowering the youth of Sindh and beyond. The Vice Chancellor of Aror University, Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand, in his address focused on the importance of such initiatives for the community, fostering talent and promoting entrepreneurship, particularly in the field of Fashion Design & Arts. The Distribution of Scholarship Cheques and Research Awards took place, recognizing outstanding students and faculty for their academic achievements and contributions. This gesture further reinforces Aror University's mission to support and motivate its students, helping them reach new heights. Later, souvenirs were presented to the MNA as a gesture of respect for his unwavering support in uplifting Aror University to the status of a state-of-the-art institution. The event wrapped up with a delightful dinner accompanied by live music, providing guests with an opportunity to celebrate the occasion and network in an informal setting.

Rs. 30b allocated for CM Green Tractor scheme

LAHORE: The Punjab government has allocated an unprecedented Rs. 30 billion for the Chief Minister Green Tractor scheme, providing subsidies on tractors at a high scale previously unseen. Under the programme, subsidies of Rs. 1 million per tractor have been extended to 9,500 farmers through a transparent balloting system. These views were expressed by Agriculture & Livestock Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani while attending the signing ceremony between tractor manufacturing industry and the Agriculture Department. While addressing the ceremony, Minister Ashiq Hussain Kirmani highlighted that the initiative would

strengthen agricultural mechanisation, enhance the trust of farmers in the local tractor industry. He stressed the need to focus on the local manufacturing of rice transplanters and harvesters and boost the production of tractors over 85HP locally to save foreign exchange spent on imports. He further added that under the scheme, owners of 1 to 50 acres of agricultural land will have the option to choose 50-85HP tractors of their preference. The entire delivery process is digitized and ensuring transparency, he said and added that the quality of the Green Tractors will not be compromised, and international standards (SOPs) must be adhered

to during manufacturing. Additionally, 1,000 tractors will be provided to wheat farmers under the 'Grow More Wheat' campaign. Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Iftekhar Ali Sahoo, said that 9,400 allotment letters have already been issued, and the first phase of the Green Tractor Scheme will conclude by March 31, 2025. The scheme benefits not only farmers but also the tractor industry, which is expected to adhere to strict delivery timelines, he added. The CEOs of the tractor manufacturing companies expressed their full support for the Chief Minister Punjab Green Tractor Scheme, acknowledging its positive impact on the local industry.—APP

DOSTI festival hosts event for developing female environmentalists

PESHAWAR: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) on Wednesday successfully hosted a remarkable program as part of the Developing Next generation of Female Environmentalists (DNGFE) initiative in the second edition of the Dosti Women Literature Festival. The event highlighted the University's unwavering commitment to empowering women, promoting environmental awareness and celebrating intellectual and artistic achievements, said a press release issued here. Dr Hamida, the chief organizer emphasized the role of women as leaders in environmental advocacy and literary expression. This was followed by a detailed presentation by Dr Sadaf Bashir, the Project Coordinator, outlining the achievements and objectives of the DNGFE initiative. One of the key highlights of the event was the launching of the directory of 100 female environmentalists, a testament to the contributions of women in environmental stewardship. Adding to the intellectual discourse, Prof Dr Hussain Shaheed Soharwardi, Chairman, Department of International Relations University of Peshawar, launched his book titled "A Divergent Foreign Policy Alliance." The festival also showcased creative talent with a Painting Display by Sania Siraj, themed "Creative Nature," demonstrating the powerful intersection of art and environmental consciousness. Additionally, a vibrant exhibit by students from the Departments of Microbiology and Zoology presented outstanding models that raised awareness about environmental challenges. Notably, students from the Microbiology Department secured the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions in the Model Exhibition, showcasing their innovative approach to environmental issues. Students from Women University, Mardan, added to the program's richness with their impressive exhibition of recycled products, emphasizing sustainability. This exceptional event was masterfully organized by Dr Hamida, Chief Organizer, alongside the dedicated efforts of the Core Committee Members, including Tashfeen Zia, Dr Zarmina Baloch, Dr Sumaira Gul, and Sania Siraj. Their collaborative efforts were pivotal in ensuring the program's success. Concluding the program, Dr Wilayat Bibi delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, extending gratitude to all contributors. A group photo captured the spirit of unity and collaboration, bringing the successful event to a close.

PNS Zulfiqar conducts exercise with Korean Navy ship in Arabian Sea

The exercise included tactical maneuvers and communication drills, aimed at enhancing operational interoperability and fostering professional ties between the two navies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship PNS Zulfiqar conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Republic of Korea Navy Ship WANG GEON in the North Arabian Sea. Pakistan's cuisine Both ships operated under the task forces of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), CTF-150 and CTF-151, respectively, said a press release issued on Wednesday by Directorate General Public Relations (Navy). The exercise included tactical maneuvers and



communication drills, aimed at enhancing operational interoperability and fostering profes-

sional ties between the two navies. CTF-150 and CTF-151 focus on deterring illicit maritime

activities such as drug trafficking and piracy, which threaten security in international waters.

The successful conduct of this joint exercise underscores the commitment of both navies and their respective Task Forces to upholding maritime security, supporting lawful activities at sea, and promoting stability and cooperation in this strategically vital region. Pakistan and the Republic of Korea consistently contribute ships and aircraft to maritime security efforts under the CMF banner. This collaboration is particularly valuable for building mutual understanding and operational synergy.

NOW IN PAKISTAN

Invisible Braces
Dental Implants

Dr. Abrar & Associates
DENTAL SURGEONS

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeen Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.
e-mail: abrar_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 / +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Normalcy returns to twin cities after PTI protest

Roads, shops reopen after PTI ends protest

DNA

ISLAMABAD :Following a large-scale operation against protesters, normalcy is gradually returning to the federal capital on Wednesday with business activities resuming and educational institutions expected to reopen tomorrow. The district administration's cleanup efforts are underway, and containers blocking various roads in the city have been removed. The roads that had been closed due to the protests are now accessible again, said an official. The cleanup operations, including the removal of containers from key

locations such as the Red Zone, are ongoing under the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Memon, who has instructed assistant commissioners to clear their respective areas. He emphasized that all available resources are being utilized to clear the roads swiftly, aiming to have them open for citizens by morning. He has also directed that cleanup efforts on all city roads be completed by then. "We aim to reopen the roads for citizens at earliest," DC Memon stated, underscoring the administration's commitment to resolving the issue swiftly. The deputy commissioner also directed his

team to ensure cleanliness across all major highways following the removal of obstacles, ensuring that the roads remain safe and accessible for the public. Murree road clearance continues simultaneously, the removal of containers from Murree Road, which was sealed off for three days due to the protests, is in progress. In another development, following PTI called off its protests, all motorways have reopened for traffic. The routes between Islamabad and Lahore are also restored. Later, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauded the collective efforts of the Rangers,

Islamabad Police, Punjab Police, Sindh Police, FC, and the Pakistan Army for successfully clearing the area of miscreants. He expressed gratitude for their role in maintaining peace and ensuring the safety of the capital city. Naqvi also inspected the damage caused to buildings and installations during the disturbances and directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to immediately begin cleanup operations. Motorway police confirmed that Motorway M-2 has reopened for traffic between Lahore and Islamabad, and Motorway M-11 is now open for Lahore

Sialkot traffic. Additionally, Motorways M-4, M-14, and M-3 have also resumed operations. According to Motorway police Northzone spokesman, Muhammad Saqib, all motorways which fall under the jurisdiction of NHMP including the M-2: Islamabad to Lahore, M-3: Lahore to Abdul Hakeem, M-4: Pindi Bhattian to Multan, M-14: Dera Ismail Khan to Hakla and others were fully operational for commuters. NHMP asked the people to contact helpline 130 or visit NHMP's official social media platforms for any further information on traffic conditions.



ISLAMABAD: PTI's burned container at Jinnah Avenue in the Federal Capital.

Somalia to have National Coordination Office for COMSTECH

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim have agreed to expand their collaborative efforts with the establishment of a National Coordination Office for COMSTECH in Somalia. COMSTECH will monitor and coordinate education, science and technology programs in the country, they agreed during a meeting held here Wednesday. COMSTECH will send an officer to Somalia for three months each year, while Somalia will also deploy an official on deputation to the COMSTECH Secretariat to work on bilateral programs. The two sides discussed future initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation between Somalia and COMSTECH in the fields of science, technology, health, and education COMSTECH also plans to organize another eye surgery camp in Somalia in 2025, as part of its continued commitment to improving healthcare in the region. Additionally, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation between universities in Pakistan and Somalia, focusing on areas such as higher education, agricultural technologies, and ENT (ear, nose, and throat) training. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Choudhary expressed his unwavering commitment to supporting Somalia in its efforts to advance in science, technology, health, and education. Ambassador Ibrahim thanked Dr. Choudhary and COMSTECH for their ongoing cooperation and support for Somalia's development in Science and Technology. During the meeting, Ambassador Ibrahim congratulated Dr. Choudhary on his reappointment as Coordinator General of COMSTECH and expressed appreciation for the ongoing collaboration between Somalia and COMSTECH. COMSTECH has already carried out several impactful programs in Somalia, including a free cataract eye surgery camp in Mogadishu last year, where 400 individuals benefited from the camp. Additionally, COMSTECH organized a specialized training course in Histopathology in Somalia, providing valuable knowledge and skills to medical professionals in the country. Many Somali students and doctors have also received COMSTECH Fellowships and are currently studying at various institutions in Pakistan and other OIC universities.

Project launched for capacity building training of QEC

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC), via its flagship World Bank supported project Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP), has focused on improving the quality of teaching and learning in decentralized higher education institutions i.e. Affiliated Colleges (AC) and Affiliating Universities (AUs) by establishing quality enhancement units. These tertiary level institutions are often resource starved and need continuous support. The Quality Enhancement Cells in Affiliated Colleges (QECACs) within the Quality Enhancement Cells (QEC) in affiliating universities aim at supporting the colleges affiliated with them. The QECACs oversee various aspects of the quality of education imparted at affiliated colleges e.g., faculty, evaluation system and curriculum etc. It is the responsibility of these universities to ensure the quality of the education of the programs authorized in their affiliated colleges, said a press release issued here Wednesday. The QECACs also periodically assess all academic activities being undertaken by colleges and develop self-assessment reports. The reports include assessment of the program offered in terms of the program objectives, learning outcomes, availability of faculty, requisite content relevance and resources needed. The HEDP has established 45 functional units (QECACs) across Pakistan within QECs of affiliating universities. HEDP supported these by providing technical and financial support to the universities for QECACs. Likewise, Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs), the existing structures in the universities that were established by HEC, were also revamped by the HEDP to comply with the recently approved Quality Assurance framework of HEC. These QECs are envisioned to be strategic organs facilitating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to fulfil their mission and subsequent goals having prime responsibility of quality in HEIs as well as in their constituent units and affiliated colleges. Recently, the HEC revised 'QEC Terms of Reference / Functions', for the Quality Enhancement Cells, established in both private and public sector across the country via its Quality Assurance Agency. The HEDP project facilitated the reorganization and development of 45 QECs as per new framework, which were also duly verified by the third-party validation firm. In this regard, a series of trainings are planned, and the first cohort of training was held at the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), Islamabad. More than 40 representatives from HEIs of Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended. The sessions focused on capacity-building of both QECs and the newly established QECACs across Pakistan. In addition to expert trainers, HEC team including Agha Muhammad Raza, Deputy Director, Quality Assurance Agency HEC, Mr. Shoab Irshad, Deputy Director, Coordination Division HEC and Dr. Arshad Bashir, Consultant HEDP, led various sessions.—DNA

Call for ensuring safe, harassment-free workplaces for women

ISLAMABAD: The Office of the Auditor-General of Pakistan organized an awareness seminar on the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010, aimed at fostering safe, inclusive, and respectful work environments for women. The event was organized in collaboration with UN Women and brought together key stakeholders from various sectors, according to a press release issued by the office of AGP on Wednesday. In his keynote address, Chief Guest Auditor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ajmal Gondal emphasized the importance of fostering an environment where all employees—especially women—feel valued, respected, and safe. He stressed that true organizational success stems from the relationships cultivated within the workplace. "For an organization to truly succeed, it is essential that all employees feel safe, valued, and respected, and that their voices are heard," Mr. Gondal stated. He further committed to building a workplace where harassment of any form is completely intolerable, and swift, effective action is taken when issues arise. Dr. Iram A. Khan, Additional Auditor-General (HQs) and Chair of the Seminar, shared the Auditor-General Office's initiatives for the well-being of female employees. She highlighted the establishment of inquiry committees at both the head office and field offices to address harassment complaints. Dr. Khan also spoke about the creation of a daycare center at the head office, ensuring the comfort and safety of working women. She reiterated the Department's commitment to a safe and inclusive environment, setting an example for other organizations in the country. Fauzia Viqar, the Federal Ombudsperson for FOSPAH, highlighted the significant progress made by her office in tackling workplace harassment across Pakistan, providing valuable insights into the legal framework and support systems in place. Louise Nylin, Country Representative for UN Women, applauded the collaboration between the Auditor-General's office and her organization, underscoring the importance of partnerships in achieving gender equality and protecting women's rights in the workplace. The seminar featured a presentation on workplace harassment laws by Meh Jany from FOSPAH and an engaging session on gender and social norms by Dr. Zahra Kamal. Muhammad Younas Khalid of UN Women led a thought-provoking discussion on international best practices for creating respectful workplaces, with particular focus on the situation in Pakistan. Concluding the event, Ghufan Memon, Additional Auditor-General (Operations), reinforced the seminar's key message: preventing harassment requires more than just policies; it demands a cultural shift. He called for unwavering commitment from every individual in the organization, from leaders to employees, to uphold values of respect, equality, and accountability. "It requires creating environments where everyone feels safe speaking up when they witness or experience inappropriate behavior," he emphasized.

Over 50% work on stage 1 of K-IV project completed

ISLAMABAD: As many as over 50 per cent physical work on Stage-1 of the Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) has been completed. Official sources told media here Wednesday that the Stage-I of K-IV is likely to be completed by June 2026 which will supply 260 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to the port city. The K-IV is being executed by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) at Rs 126 billion, the sources said. They said a sum of over Rs 56.44 billion has been spent on the project, so far. Rapid construction work on various sites of the project, including intake works, pumping stations, pressurized pipeline, access road, project offices, and project colony was being carried out, the sources said. K-IV Project envisages providing 650 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to Karachi from Keenjhar Lake. The project is planned to be completed in two phases. At present, WAPDA is constructing Phase-I of the project to supply 260 MGD water to Karachi. Phase II, when implemented, will also augment another 390 MGD of water to the system for Karachi. It is pertinent to mention here that the K-IV project was approved in 2014 by the then government of Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) and an amount of Rs 849 million had been specified for the project in the budget 2014-15.—APP

UAJK committed for varsity's integrity

ISLAMABAD: An emergency meeting of the Officers' Welfare Association of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) was held on Wednesday at the Chehla Campus. The meeting presided over by President of the Association Sardar Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, was attended by a large number of the University's staff. During the meeting, a unanimous resolution was adopted, strongly condemning the continuous filing of baseless and fabricated complaints by a few retired employees and a convicted individual against the University in the Accountability Bureau. The resolution highlighted that these complaints, aimed at blackmailing and achieving personal objectives, continue despite the university's satisfactory responses to each one, said a press release. The resolution emphasized that UAJK has a robust system of checks and balances in place. If any current or retired employee feels aggrieved, they are encouraged to seek redress through appropriate forums, including the university syndicate, the Chancellor and President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.—APP

Daniyal stresses no weapons used during D-Chowk operation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry on Wednesday refuted PTI's allegations for widespread killings at D-Chowk last night, stressing that the operation was unarmed and intended to prevent casualties. In a press conference, Daniyal accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of attempting to incite deaths to disrupt the visits of foreign dignitaries. "PTI is spreading misleading propaganda regarding the deaths of its workers," he claimed. He categorically said that no protesters were killed by gunfire. Instead of making them responsible for the deaths that occurred while fleeing in a hurry, PTI sought to politicize deaths but was peacefully managed by the interior minister. "The call for this violent protest has proven to be the final nail in the coffin of PTI's violent politics," the minister said. PTI spread fake news, accusing the government of the killings, and shared it on social media to deceive the international community. A video was made after going to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital.—APP

NOVEMBER 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Briefs

Shopkeepers speak in codes to outsmart buyers

ISLAMABAD :If you're a regular customer in the markets of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, you've probably overheard covert phrases being spoken by salesmen among themselves and most common echoed word is "Bulla". It's a term that, at first glance, seems out of place but to the seasoned salesmen it is a code for any buyer. It's the gateway to a world of coded language and hidden tactics. The sales representatives, masters of their craft, speak in ciphers that seem like everyday chatter but are actually subtle signals meant to outwit buyers. "Bulla Chokas hai" "Bulla Sohl or Kasso Kahr ha" and countless others, these phrases create a hidden mode of communication that keeps buyers unaware of the true game being played. So, who created this market lingo? Where did it come from? According to many elderly shopkeepers, the origins are unclear. "It comes from our forefathers," says one elderly Pindi salesman. "We call it 'Batori,' a collection of self-created phrases from nowhere that no one outside the market understands," most shopkeepers responded similarly to APP when asked whereabouts of these mysterious technical terms. Though there's no official record of "Batori" in trade talk history, yet it continues to thrive in the streets of the twin cities and beyond.

Muhammad Afzal, a salesman with over 30 years of experience in Pindi, Islamabad's markets, who assisted APP in decoding these words, shares his insights with a grin. "This secretive set of slangs is passed down like a sacred trade secret. Every newcomer to the market is taught as an initiation ritual."—APP

Police arrest over 400 miscreants

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police while conducting grand operation against miscreants involved in arson managed to arrest over 400 on Tuesday night. According to a Police spokesman, a large quantity of arms, ammunition, wireless communication equipment and other items were recovered from their possession. Rifles and ball bearings were also recovered from the arrested accused. The accused were involved in attacking police, vandalism and arson at various places, he informed. He further said that around 800 miscreants were rounded up across Punjab. Malfeasance is not acceptable under any circumstances and such elements would be arrested and brought to justice, the spokesman said. The authorities concerned had been directed that there should be no compromise on the rule of law, law and order and protection of lives and property of citizens, he added. He informed that City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani during a visit to various areas of the city reviewed security arrangements to ensure law and order.—APP

Pak, China to promote animal feed, fruit processing industries

According to Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan, Pakistan's competitive advantages in tariffs, labor costs, and raw materials could increase profit margins for businesses by up to 4.6% in fruit and vegetable processing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Pakistan in China here hosted a China-Pakistan B2B Conference focusing on animal feed, fruit and vegetable processing industries, aiming to enhance economic cooperation and investment ties between the two countries.

With the participation of over 200 representatives from business groups in Weifang, Qingdao, Karachi, and other cities in China and Pakistan, the meeting witnessed the signing of 13 MoUs worth RMB 250 million, ranging from importing citrus, seafood, animal feed from Pakistan to China, to establishing joint ventures in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. Pakistani representatives provided detailed insights into the investment potential of Pakistan's animal feed and fruit and vegetable processing industries. Several incentives for foreign investors were highlighted, including 100% foreign ownership, unrestricted profit and dividend repatriation, and zero import tariffs on factory equipment and machinery. According to Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan, Pakistan's competitive advantages in tariffs, labor costs, and raw materials could increase profit margins for businesses by up to 4.6% in fruit and vegetable processing. In the animal feed sector,



particularly in the production of additives and supplements, profit margins could rise by as much as 3.6%. He emphasized that the Pakistani government is committed to creating a more business-friendly environment and has already addressed issues such as remittance challenges faced by Chinese companies. Mian Saeed Ahmed Fareed from Legend International Pvt. Ltd., a Karachi-based seafood exporter to China, told CEN report-

er he is delighted to reach an agreement with an importer in Tianjin, China to export aquatic products to China. "After covid, our volume of export to China has been going up to about 700-800 metric tons of seafood annually including cuttle fish, squid, ribbon fish, croker, etc. In recent several years, the demand for seafood in this vast market is increasingly diversified," he said. A representative from a fodder company based in Weifang, an agricul-

tural hub of China, highlights the potential in bilateral markets, technology transfer, and raw material trade. "The low labor and machinery cost in Pakistan provides us with opportunities for cooperation," he said. Ms. Tang Yaping, Director of the Tea Industry International Department, China Association for the Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation revealed that her association is planning to bring a delegation of Chinese tea companies to visit Pakistan for the establishment of joint

processing plants and warehouses. Zhu Qianqiu, President of Cross-Border Trade Development Committee, China told CEN that his Committee is pushing for the establishment of a zero-tariff zone in Pakistan for the trade of bilateral commodities. It is learned this is the third sectorwise Pakistan-China B2B meeting this year, with the first held in Qingdao for fishery companies, the second in Guangzhou in footwear, and the fourth to take place in Suzhou in December.

Pak export seafood worth \$16m

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned \$116.115 million by exporting 54,539 metric tonnes of fish and fish preparations during the first four months of fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

As compared to the exports of \$123.965 million during fiscal year 2023-24, the fish exports during the period under review witnessed a decline of 6.33 percent, according to PBS data. In terms of quantity, the exports of fish and fish preparations decreased by 0.04 percent during the period when compared to exports of 54,562 metric tonnes during the last fiscal year. On a year-on-year basis, the seafood exports increased by 12.78 percent to \$46.009 million in October 2024 as compared to the exports of \$40.797 million in October 2023. In terms of quantity, the exports witnessed a 27.93 percent increase by going up from 16,724 metric tonnes last October to 21,395 metric tonnes during October 2024. On a month-on-month basis, the seafood exports declined by 31.45 percent when compared to the exports of \$35.000 million in September 2024, according to the PBS data.—APP

US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first four months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-October 2024-25 were recorded at US \$2037.270 million against the exports of US \$1862.086 million during July-October 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.40 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$813.441 million against the exports of US \$952.441 million last year, showing a decrease of 14.59 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$761.393 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$690.576 million, SBP data revealed.—APP

Investment only possible with law and order

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Wednesday that local and foreign investment would become impossible in the country and efforts to revive the economy will go in vain if there is no political stability in the country. Terrorism has also become a problem which should be controlled. Otherwise, the investors will feel unsafe, he added. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the military and political leader-

ship have taken many steps to revive the economy, the results of which are coming out. Similarly, he said that the public and taxpayers have also paid a heavy price to save the country from default. However, the positive results of all these efforts will be possible only when the law and order situation is entirely satisfactory and local and foreign investors can work without fear. Shahid Rashid Butt said that, on the one hand, incidents of terrorism are increasing, while on the other hand, political temperatures are rising, which is worrying every Pakistani. He noted that the political chaos that has been going on

for many years is increasing instead of decreasing, causing a loss of billions of rupees while the country's reputation is deteriorating. Political chaos is increased when foreign personalities come to the country, which is regrettable. Shahid Rashid Butt said that according to the government, there is a threat of terrorism in Islamabad, and many attackers have crossed the Pak-Afghan border. He observed that due to the arrival of an 80-member delegation from Belarus to Pakistan, the government and the opposition could have taken the path of mutual understanding and cancelled or post-

poned the protest. Still, no wisdom was shown in this regard, which is unfortunate. He stated that internet restrictions would be counterproductive if the government's insecurities led foreign companies to withdraw and relocate their operations. This sector is prepared to collaborate with the authorities to explore strategies that prevent blanket censorship, which could adversely affect jobs, exports, and the overall economy. He stated that creating a framework that protects national security while addressing the IT sector's operational requirements is crucial for realising the new export strategy for IT services.

Baba-e-Sahafat Maulana Zafar remembered

ISLAMABAD: Renowned writer, poet, journalist and leader of the Pakistan Movement Maulana Zafar Ali Khan remembered on his 68th death anniversary on Wednesday. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan also known as Baba-e-Sahafat (father of journalism) was born in 1873 in Sialkot. He fought the freedom movement with his pen and used it as a unifier for burgeoning the required nationalism in the Muslim community which would be remembered as the father of Urdu Journalism. Later, he worked for some time as a Translator in Hyderabad Deccan, rising to the post of Secretary Home Department. He returned home on his father's death in 1909 and took over as Editor Urdu Newspaper 'Zamindar' which became one of the most influential newspapers of the sub-continent. The paper was banned and the press was confiscated because of its revolutionary policies. He participated many times in the annual sessions of the All India Muslim League. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan remained a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1945 and was re-elected to it as a Muslim League Member in 1946. Most of Maulana's life was spent in politics. He was a great poet, an orator, an essayist of exceptional merit and a Journalist. His interest in poetry began in his childhood and his poems were full of religious and political sentiments. His poetical output has been published in 'Baharistan', 'Nigaristan' and 'Chamanistail'.—DNA

Naqvi lauds security forces' bravery, dedication

The minister congratulated all security forces for their courageous role and declared it a victory for a peaceful Pakistan

ISLAMABAD :Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi conducted a visit from D-Chowk to Khyber Plaza on early Wednesday morning, where he reviewed the efforts of law enforcement agencies in restoring order. During his visit, Naqvi met with security personnel on duty at D-Chowk and praised their bravery and dedication in handling recent unrest. The minister lauded the collective efforts of the

Rangers, Islamabad Police, Punjab Police, Sindh Police, FC, and the Pakistan Army for successfully clearing the area of miscreants. He expressed gratitude for their role in maintaining peace and ensuring the safety of the capital city. Naqvi also inspected the damage caused to buildings and installations during the disturbances and directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to immediately begin cleanup

operations. He emphasized the importance of removing obstacles from roads to restore normalcy. "We thank Almighty Allah that the conspiracy to spread unrest has failed miserably," Naqvi said, adding that the valiant efforts of law enforcement had ensured a peaceful outcome. The minister congratulated all security forces for their courageous role and declared it a victory for a peaceful Pakistan.—DNA

Speakers demand end to atrocities against women in IIOJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A webinar was organized by Friends of Kashmir International on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in which various international and Kashmiri leaders participated. In the webinar, the speakers expressed serious concern over the ongoing atrocities, sexual violence, and human rights violations against women in Kashmir and demanded immediate action from the international community, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson Peace and Cultural Foundation Mashal Hussain Malik said that sexual and mental violence against women in Kashmir is an unforgivable crime. This issue is a global crisis for human rights. The

violation of the dignity, freedom and rights of women in Kashmir is a serious problem, and international organizations will have to take practical steps to protect them. He said that Kashmiri women are setting a strong example against oppression through their courage and sacrifices, but they need global support. Chairperson Friends of Kashmir Ghazala Habib (USA) said that women are being systematically subjected to oppression and oppression in Kashmir. Immediate intervention of the international community is necessary to stop these atrocities. In her speech, expert in law and international affairs Dr. Asma Khawaja said that the atrocities of the Indian forces are a clear violation of international human rights laws, and strict action must be taken against them. Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed

said that the European Union must play an effective role against the violation of women's rights in Kashmir. Vice Chairperson Friends of Kashmir Abdul Hameed Lone (Hurriyat leader) said that peace is not possible without ending the atrocities on women in Kashmir. Kashmiri women are the victims of the worst sexual harassment in the world. He mentioned Kannan and Poshpora where Indian occupation forces gang-raped more than a hundred women. Kashmiri women are still seeking justice. The Indian army is using the rape of Kashmiri women as a weapon. The international community must take immediate and practical steps to protect Kashmiri women. Journalist Muhammad Haroon Abbas mentioned a major humanitarian issue in occupied Kashmir and said that more than 2,500 wom-

en in occupied Kashmir are called "half-widows" who are living their lives waiting for their missing husbands. 95% of half-widows are suffering from severe mental stress and financial difficulties and government assistance is negligible. Every year, more than 60 half-widows approach the courts in search of missing persons. 80% of half-widows are deprived of employment despite being literate. 65% of half-widows do not have the option of getting married or starting their lives again. He said that the role of the media is important in highlighting the atrocities of Kashmiri women. We must make this voice heard everywhere. Anchorperson Naila Altaf Kayani said that the stories of Kashmiri women are proof of cruelty and barbarity, and there is an urgent need for justice for them.

MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAEKWONDO

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-52-3256000 / 3255768
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Biden's greenlighting of ATACMS

RESIDENT Joe Biden is not the President of the United States, anymore, and neither is his deputy, former Vice President, Kamala Harris. Despite suffering a resounding defeat at the hands of Donald Trump in the 2024 US elections, the former US President continues to come up with hollow, narrow, and parochial foreign policies geared at provocation instead of preventing major escalation between states. The latest example of an apparent, brazen, lack of vision and merit is Joe Biden allowing Volodymyr Zelensky's regime in Kiev to use Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) against Russia. With such adventurism now materializing, any prospect for peace has been undermined, and Biden, along with Zelensky, is solely responsible for this. Ukraine fired six supersonic, tactical, and ballistic missiles into Russian territory targeting a facility in Bryansk. Russian air defenses shot down five of the missiles, while the sixth was partially damaged. The missiles can fly close to 300km in range, meaning that Russian cities in close proximity to the border with Ukraine can easily be targeted by the Zelensky regime. Moreover, by deploying ATACMS missiles, Zelensky's regime has cemented a reputation of Ukraine being a war-obsessed country that believes in escalation instead of negotiations with Russia to end the conflict. Even the bellicose rhetoric after Joe Biden greenlighted the use of ATACMS missiles hinted at hubris and defiance: 'Ukraine has long-range drones of its own production. We now have long 'Neptune' (Ukrainian cruise missiles) and not just one. And now we have ATACMS. And we will use all of this.' - Volodymyr Zelensky. However, by using all of this arsenal, Zelensky has put Eastern European security in peril, which is not of Moscow's own doing. Recall that Russia's legitimate response of attacking Ukraine was due to the persistence on the part of Kiev and its Western allies that NATO's eastward expansion in Europe and Ukraine, becoming a member of the military alliance, is imperative for a more secure world order. Such provocations, however, prompted Putin to initiate a special operation against the Zelensky regime in Ukraine, which resulted in hostilities, trust deficits, and a prolonged Russian response to nefarious designs of expansionism. However, since the war commenced, Moscow ruled out using nuclear weapons. The latest decision to deploy ATACMS missiles by Ukraine is now slated to change that as it lowers the nuclear threshold. Note further that straight after the ballistic missile strikes, Vladimir Putin updated Russia's nuclear doctrine, where Moscow considers aggression from a non-nuclear state (such as Ukraine) with the involvement of a nuclear weapons state (such as the United States) as a joint attack on Russia. This revision in response to Ukrainian provocation and American involvement has resulted in a heightened risk of nuclearization, which is, again, of Zelensky's own doing. Also, Biden's decision to enable Ukraine to fire ballistic missiles in response to Russia's legitimate right to self-defense has resulted in the United States stepping into the conflict as a partisan backer of Ukraine not a resolver of conflicts. Giving Zelensky the license to attack Russia with impunity has meant that Washington D.C. is now a direct combatant in the war, which Biden's successor, Donald Trump, has sought to avoid.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 299

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



China's centralise financial sector

IN 2017, at its highest-level financial work conference, China stressed the need for the country's financial affairs to be under centralised and unified party leadership. This was reaffirmed at the five-yearly conference last year, which spoke of strengthening party leadership over the financial sector. Since last year, China's evolving financial regulatory reform has sparked widespread debate in the international media. Critics warn that heightened centralisation and political oversight could, through interventions in capital and credit allocation, exacerbate financial instability. They argue that uniform adherence to centrally approved guidelines could lead to synchronised market behaviour, amplifying procyclical risks and inflating asset bubbles. Others contend that China's reforms represent a fundamental reorientation of its financial system, with a focus on financial institutions as utilities rather than as market-driven entities. But these critiques often fall short of fully capturing the complexity and broader context of China's regulatory approach. China's approach of "centralised and unified leadership" is deeply rooted in its governance structure, which blends political centralisation with partial fiscal decentralisation. This arrangement, often described as a "quasi-fiscal federalism", grants local governments much autonomy in economic decision-making, but without formal bankruptcy mechanisms. Many local financial institutions maintain close ties with local governments, adding complexity to the financial landscape. Beijing has worked to recalibrate the balance of power between central and local governments and to mitigate implicit guarantees that distort market behaviour. Yet, given China's size and the growing complexity of domestic and international environments, these reforms necessarily proceed gradually. At the heart of this governance model is the asymmetry in risk-sharing. In a sound corporate governance system, shareholders bear the primary risks and receive matching returns. In China, however, the central government is the de facto guarantor of financial stability. The asymmetry leaves local governments and financial institutions with insufficient incentives to prudently manage financial risks. This is the political distinctiveness of China's financial system. The principle of aligning responsibilities and rights lies at the core of China's financial reform agenda. Since China began reforms and opening up, much progress has been made in financial regulation, risk management and technological innovation. The past two decades of financial reforms have largely been modelled on Western economies but adapted to domestic realities. While China tried to balance marketisation with regulatory oversight, the regulatory framework has still revealed critical governance and regulatory gaps, especially in small and medium-sized institutions, compounded by regulatory blind spots and the failure of local governments to enforce fiscal discipline. The corruption cases, escalation in local debt and risk exposure from small financial institutions underscore the need for a more centralised regulatory framework. The emphasis on centralised and unified leadership is thus a response to these systemic challenges, and a reflection of China's efforts to strengthen financial oversight and risk management.

Throwing cash at the problem will not solve climate crisis

Mohamed Chebaro

The result is a small dent in the shape of a deal pledging \$300 billion in annual climate finance by 2035. Many developing countries said this would not be enough to help them deliver their robust national climate plans. As usual, the devil will be in the details and that is likely to come up in the discussions between countries in the run-up to next year's COP30 summit, where they will map out their next set of emissions-cutting plans. And those talks are already looking like they will be fraught, as many nations have said they will miss the February deadline to submit their updated national climate plans. Businesses have called for these plans to include projects and efforts that are "investment-ready" – and with as much specificity as possible – to help...

THE world after COP29 in Azerbaijan will be looked at as more of the same, if not worse. The bitterly negotiated climate deal, reached after two weeks of wrangling, was dismissed by poorer nations, which are at the mercy of worsening climate disasters, as too little to meet the challenges awaiting us all, rich and poor, polluters and non-polluters alike. The funding package of \$300 billion annually to help vulnerable nations by 2035 could help lessen the force of the blow, but throwing cash alone to moderate and not end climate change will not limit the hardship in poorer and richer nations alike. The climate emergency is no longer only a problem for poor, underdeveloped nations, as the recent floods in Spain and other calamities hitting various parts of the world have shown. The deteriorating weather is being felt and seen everywhere, as experts warn that 2024 will not only be the hottest year on record, but almost certainly the first in which the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming limit set in the Paris Agreement will be surpassed. With extreme heat, warmer oceans, rising sea levels and both more drought and more extreme rainfall, the danger is that dramatic tipping points will be reached and breached, such as the Amazon becoming a savanna, from which there would be no turning back. As Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary-general, warned world leaders in Baku, the planet is experiencing a "masterclass in climate destruction." The consequences are likely to further exacerbate the threats to an already-fragile natural ecosystem, reduce agricultural yields, increase prices and drive people from their homes for mere survival or a more secure future elsewhere, often toward developed nations in the Global North. Protecting our planet has clearly slipped in the world powers' list of priorities and I am afraid that the subject has increasingly become a bone of contention in advanced Western countries. It is now a tool favored by those on the far right to whip up discontent and disruption as they seek power. These forces are attempting to force governments to abandon their net-zero pledges and their commitments to transform their countries'

economies. In particular, the EU, which is the largest contributor to climate finance, has seen right-wing backlashes against its green agenda. This has further cornered the nations in the bloc that have pledged big sums of public money to transition their people and economies to a less polluting way of life. Among the biggest factors that clouded the negotiations in Baku – and will likely cloud the prospect of a better deal at COP30 in Brazil next year – was the looming return of climate skeptic Donald Trump as president of the US, the world's biggest economy, the largest historical emitter of greenhouse gases and the top producer of oil and gas. Trump, who will take office in January, has pledged to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement on climate change, as he did during his first term in the White House. The war in Ukraine and spreading conflicts in the Middle East, meanwhile, have diverted global attention to security and energy availability, with many governments facing a more uncertain future and, as a result, are tightening their purse strings. At COP29, nations struggled to reconcile long-standing divisions over how much the developed nations, which are most responsible for historic greenhouse gas emissions, should provide to the poorer countries that are least responsible but most impacted by Earth's rapid warming. After almost 30 COP summits and thousands of meetings, the conference in Baku saw yet another round of acrimonious negotiations turn into an annual show. It demonstrated the glaring divides between governments, corporations, industries, bankers, lobbyists, scientists and activists reflecting all schools of thought, from climate change deniers to doomsday promoters, all in the name of defending planet Earth.

The result is a small dent in the shape of a deal pledging \$300 billion in annual climate finance by 2035. Many developing countries said this would not be enough to help them deliver their robust national climate plans. As usual, the devil will be in the details and that is likely to come up in the discussions between countries in the run-up to next year's COP30 summit, where they will map

out their next set of emissions-cutting plans. And those talks are already looking like they will be fraught, as many nations have said they will miss the February deadline to submit their updated national climate plans. Businesses have called for these plans to include projects and efforts that are "investment-ready" – and with as much specificity as possible – to help investors gauge their long-term commitments and risks. Money will only start flowing once the shared goals agreed at events like COP29 are translated into "regulation, legislation and other policy measures." And then comes the biggest challenge: whether the commitments to implementing these policies and rules will ever see the light of day. The world has clearly wasted many opportunities to more effectively design and implement the means to protect the planet for all. Since the 2015 Paris Agreement set the parameters for steps that could limit the planet's heating, nations have repeatedly delayed and deluded themselves. At times, it was that the technology of the future would trap more of the carbon that we emit. Twenty years later, as the "age of AI" dawns, it seems like artificial intelligence is contributing more emissions instead of providing tangible solutions.

Public-private initiatives to invest in renewable energy have made important headway, but they remain short of being a silver bullet to reduce emissions across the board. Throwing cash at the problem without reconfiguring the profit-seeking, exploitative nature of global economic activities was never likely to succeed on its own. Even if you persuade people to recycle and go about their activities in a sustainable way, the public and private sector bodies responsible for managing and disposing of waste in an environmentally friendly way are often below par. This is sadly driven by models that aim to reduce costs and maximize profits. Many have already reached the conclusion that the world is limping toward a hotter future. A belief in the ability of the planet to self-correct despite human activities tipping it off balance remains the only hope, as governments and leaderships at all levels continue their squabbles for geostrategic prowess and profits.

Lame duck Biden must use US laws to rein in Israel

Ray Hanania

There is more than enough justification for Biden to do now what his administration failed to do when Israel began its war on Gaza last October. All he has to do is apply the American laws that prohibit the supplying of weapons to foreign nations that engage in the killing of civilians and genocide. There are five laws that restrict how foreign countries can use US money and weapons. However, until now, the outgoing administration has refused to enforce them. The Leahy Law prohibits the US government from using any funds to assist foreign security force units...

WHEN an elected American official has to worry about getting reelected, they often restrain themselves and avoid pursuing controversial policies. But when the reelection option is no longer available and they are in what is termed a lame duck period of office, the elected official can do whatever they want within their powers without worrying about voter consequences or their critics. That is the situation Joe Biden is currently in as he prepares to relinquish the powerful office of president of the United States. He is effectively more powerful today than he was on the first day of his presidency. As president, Biden can take actions that do not require approval from Congress, including major foreign policy moves. These include negotiating agreements and recognizing foreign governments. As the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, he can also take any military actions, such as ordering military operations or unit deployments, though long-term actions would require eventual congressional approval under US War Powers Act. We have already seen Biden exercise these powers with respect to the Ukraine-Russia war. Biden this month removed restrictions that had been placed on Ukraine's use of US-supplied long-range missiles, allowing them to be fired into Russia and not simply used against troops that had entered Ukrainian territory. This decision changes the war's dynamics, giving Ukraine's armed forces the ability to launch offensive assaults to counter Russia's bombings of its cities and other targets. Ukraine's other major weapons suppliers in NATO, including the UK and France, now appear to have followed suit and removed restrictions on the arms they supply or are at least considering doing so.

Why can Biden not do the same thing with Israel and stop the flow of US weaponry and funding that is fueling Tel Aviv's genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza? During the past year, the majority of people injured or killed in Gaza have been civilians. Although it is estimated that more than 44,000 Palestinians have been killed, there is no way of knowing the precise number because Israel prohibits foreign journalists from entering the Strip. There is more than enough justification for Biden to do now what his administration failed to do when Israel began its war on Gaza last October. All he has to do is apply the American laws that prohibit the supplying of weapons to foreign nations that engage in the killing of civilians and genocide. There are five laws that restrict how foreign countries can use US money and weapons. However, until now, the outgoing administration has refused to enforce them. The Leahy Law prohibits the US government from using any funds to assist foreign security force units when credible information exists that implicates that unit in the commission of gross human rights violations. The Foreign Assistance Act prohibits the allocation of financial assistance to any foreign government that "engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." The Arms Export Control Act states that foreign nations that receive US military aid can only use the weapons for legitimate self-defense and internal security. The War Crimes Act forbids breaches of the Geneva Conventions, which define the rules of warfare and prohibit the mistreatment of noncombatants and civilians, such as willful killings, torture or inhuman treatment, willfully causing great suffering or serious

injury to body or health, and unlawful deportation or transfer. These are all methods routinely used by Israel to enforce its illegal occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

And the Genocide Convention Implementation Act was enacted in 1987 and establishes genocide as a specific crime. It provides for criminal penalties for individuals who commit or incite others to commit genocide. Each of these five laws give Biden the power to take action against Israel and end the ferocity of its military assault against Gaza and Lebanon. What does Biden have to lose? The election is over. His party lost. The outgoing administration has eight weeks to make up for its grievous failure of the last 13 months and try to stop the killing of civilians. Even if this action does not end the war or if Israel continues the carnage, at least it could help to restore a moral foundation to the administration's legacy. Does it really want to be known as the administration that stood by as Israel killed more than 44,000 Palestinian civilians and thousands more Lebanese civilians? But the White House is hostage to Netanyahu, who needs the genocide to continue in order to derail the three corruption cases against him. It was these charges that pushed Netanyahu to form a coalition with the most extremist elements in Israeli society and extend his time in power. As a consequence, Netanyahu has no compelling reason to end the genocide and he will most likely continue the violence. He may even expand it to include Iran and any other regional nation that refuses to surrender to Israel's hegemony. When the details of Israel's atrocities become public – and one day they will – the US will be harshly judged for not acting. Unless it acts now.

Briefs

Decide whether to save Pak...

FROM PAGE 01
The country due to violent protests, PM Shehbaz said that the businesses were shut as life in the twin cities — Islamabad and Rawalpindi — came to a halt. "Our stock exchange, which had crossed 99,000, plunge by over 4,000 points yesterday due to the riots," he regretted. "The economy is facing a loss of Rs190 billion daily [due to the protests]." Recalling the time when the Imran Khan-founded party had staged a sit-in in 2014, PM Shehbaz said the rioters caused violence for 126 days at a time when Chinese president had to visit the country. However, he added, the high-level visit was cancelled due to the PTI's sit-in. He further highlighted that the rioters had once again tried to create chaos ahead of the SCO summit in the capital. "There was a wave of concern among our guests whether to visit Pakistan or not," he said. Shedding a light on the Belarusian president's visit to Pakistan, the prime minister said the two countries will sign agreements in January. The PM said that had the courts given strict punishment to the criminals of May 9, we would not have seen this day. "We have to decide after much deliberation and think about which direction we need to take," he added.

US lawmakers, Amnesty...

FROM PAGE 01
US Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib said in a post on X — formerly Twitter. The statement comes in the wake of the PTI's "do-or-die" protest, called off by the party following a crackdown by the law enforcement agencies (LEAs), which resulted in the martyrdom of at least four Rangers personnel along with multiple policemen. The former ruling party, too, claimed that eight of its workers were martyred during the protest. The latest protest episode was part of the PTI's months-long efforts to secure Khan's release who has been behind bars in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail in various cases for more than a year now. The party, for quite some time, has reportedly been lobbying in Washington to garner support and secure the former prime minister's release. Reacting to the latest political turmoil in Islamabad, Congressman Greg Casar condemned the violence and opined that the demonstration should be allowed to continue.

Afghan nationals can't live...

FROM PAGE 01
"No Afghan citizen will be able to live in the federal capital without having proper permission from the district administration of Islamabad," the interior minister stated. Responding to a question, the minister said the majority of roads have been reopened for the general public. "[The government's] sole priority is the resumption of normal life [in Islamabad]," he said, adding that things would get back to routine by this evening. In the wee hours of the day, the Imran Khan-founded party announced a "temporary suspension" of its "do-or-die" protest following a midnight crackdown by the law enforcers, which effectively dispersed the PTI workers.

24,266 Hajj applications received

FROM PAGE 01
being received in designated branches of 15 banks in the country. They further informed that the first installment of Hajj expenses of Rs.2 lakh will be deposited with the application, while another Rs.4 lakh will have to be deposited within 10 days of the draw. According to the sources, 4,000 applications were received only on Tuesday, bringing the total number of Hajj applications to 24,266. The collection of Hajj applications will continue till December 3, and the draw for the government Hajj scheme will be held on December 6.

Pak thrash China in Junior Hockey Asia Cup opener

The green shirts next face Bangladesh on Thursday

SPORTS DESK

MUSCAT: Sufiyan Khan and Hamza Fayaz's twin strikes led Pakistan to a commanding 7-2 victory over China in the ongoing Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2024 here on Wednesday. The league stage fixture got off to a dry start as none of the teams could open the scoring in the first quarter. Hamza, however, broke the deadlock just two minutes into the second quarter, courtesy of a field goal. The green shirts were then awarded a penalty corner, which was successfully converted by Sufiyan to double the lead. Soon after, Hamza struck again to extend Pakistan's lead to 3-0. China's Di Yanwei reduced the deficit as he pulled one back in the next minute. The green shirts, fuelled with momentum, struck one more goal through Muhammad Ahammad in the penultimate quarter and secured a commanding 4-1 lead. The fourth quarter saw a final flourish, as Rana Waleed, Sufiyan and Muhammad Mughira each netted a goal, powering Pakistan to an unassailable lead of 7-1 in the 51st minute. China, however,



managed to score a consolation goal through Yubo Wang just before the final whistle, reducing their defeat margin to 7-2. The national team next faces Bangladesh in the ongoing Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2024 on Thursday. Meanwhile, The Indian junior men's hockey team started its

title defense of the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2024 with a crushing 11-0 win over Thailand, in Muscat, Oman, on Wednesday. Braces from Arajjeet Singh Hundal, Sourabh Kushwaha, and Gurjot Singh, along with a goal each from Mukesh Toppo, Arshdeep Singh, Dilraj Singh, Rohit, and

Sharda Nand Tiwari completed the routing in what was a nearly flawless performance from P.R. Sreejesh's boys. The match started on a bright note for India, with Arajjeet Singh opening the scoring for India with a neat reverse flick on the near side, in under two minutes. In two

minutes, India then went from 1-0 to 3-0, thanks to goals from Arshdeep Singh and Sharda Nand Tiwari in the eighth and tenth minute, respectively. The goals kept on coming in the second quarter as well, as India went into half-time with a monumental 8-0 lead, confirming the match's result

Inter take Champions League lead with win over Leipzig

Inter Milan took another step towards direct qualification for the last 16 of the Champions League

SPORTS DESK

MILAN: Inter Milan took another step towards direct qualification for the last 16 of the Champions League with Tuesday's 1-0 win over Leipzig which moved the Italians top of the table. Castello Lukeba's own goal midway through the first half was enough for Inter, who are the only team yet to concede a goal, to win their fourth straight match in Europe's elite club competition. Italian champions Inter lead Barcelona and Liverpool, who host Real Madrid on Wednesday, by a point after a narrow win which should have finished with a more emphatic scoreline for the hosts. Simone Inzaghi's side return to their Serie A title defence at high-flying

Fiorentina on Sunday after a routine win at a far from full San Siro which makes a top-eight finish extremely likely with three matches remaining. "We're not certain of everything, we need to wait for tomorrow's matches. 16 points might not be enough," Inzaghi told reporters when asked if his team needed one more win to ensure a last-16 spot. "We're going really well and we need to keep on, this is no time to be making calculations." Leipzig meanwhile remain on no points after a fifth defeat in as many games in the Champions League, with even qualification for the play-offs looking tricky. Marco Rose travelled to Italy with just 17 players as an injury crisis left him with few options, and Leipzig only got into the game once Inter in-

explicitly slackened off in the second half. Leipzig's poor luck with injuries also looks to have got worse as Assan Ouedraogo had to be substituted on the hour mark after catching his foot in the turf and falling over. "It's very simple, we have three matches and nine points available, with nine points we can get to the play offs," said Rose. "Let's see how we go in the next match and then I'll be able to say more because we clearly need to win all three matches." Inter should have been ahead in the 18th minute when, during an intense spell of pressure from the home side, Lautaro Martinez scuffed a great chance to lash home from a low cross with his left foot. The hosts' main threat had been from crosses from the flanks and it was a vicious Federico Dimarco delivery which Lukeba diverted into his own net in the 27th minute. Leipzig did next to nothing in the first half and they were lucky not to be two goals down almost immediately after the restart. Denzel Dumfries went on a marauding run up the right flank and exchanged perfect passes with Martinez, but when it came to applying the final touch the Dutch wing-back could only smash his finish way over. More chances came and went for wasteful Inter who allowed Leipzig to get a foothold in the game when they should have already been out of sight. Fortunately for Inter, goalkeeper Yann Sommer was at his best to keep out Leipzig's only shot on target, a well-struck effort from Antonio Nusa from a tight angle, allowing home fans to let out a mighty roar at the final whistle.



Pak crush Nepal to reach Blind T20 WC semis

Pakistan have won four consecutive matches in the mega event

WEB DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan blind cricket team has stormed into the semi-finals of the ongoing Blind T20 World Cup 2024 after a thumping 10-wicket victory against Nepal at Ghani Institute Cricket Ground here on Wednesday. Chasing a modest 101-run target, the home side amassed the total in just 6.4 overs without losing a wicket, securing their fourth consecutive victory in the mega event, including a walkover triumph over arch-rivals India on Monday. Opening batter Nematullah scored an unbeaten 73 off 30 deliveries, while Mohammad Safdar contributed with 24 not out from 14 balls. Batting first, Nepal only managed 100/5 in 18 overs despite Bharat Thapa's gutsy knock. The opening batter remained the top-scorer for Nepal with a 46-ball 39 but lacked support from the other end. Besides him, the next-best run-getter for Nepal was fellow opener Naresh Chaudhary, who scored a run-a-ball 17. Haroon Khan was the standout bowler for the home side, returning economical figures of 2/5, while Muhammad Salman, Matiullah and Nematullah chipped in with a wicket apiece. For his all-round brilliance, Nematullah was named the player of the match. On the other hand, Sri Lanka secured their third win in the ongoing Blind T20 World Cup 2024 by defeating South Africa by 53 runs. Suranga Sampat starred with 56 off 33 balls, helping Sri Lanka post a mammoth total of 217/6. In response, South Africa only managed 164/9 as Sri Lankan captain Chandana Deshpriya and Saman Tushara dismantled their batting expedition by taking two wickets each. At Bagh-e-Jinnah Cricket Ground, Bangladesh defeated Afghanistan by eight wickets. Afghanistan, batting first, scored 149 in 18.2 overs, with captain Abbasin scoring 30. Bangladesh chased down the target in 12 overs, thanks to Arif Hussain's unbeaten 89 off 44 balls. It is pertinent to mention here that the first phase of the Blind Cricket World Cup 2024 in Lahore has come to an end. After a rest day on November 28, the second phase will commence in Multan on November 29.

Dahani, Ahmed ruled out of third ODI against Zimbabwe

The pacers will return to Pakistan today

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan's pacers Ahmed Daniyal and Shahnawaz Dahani have been ruled out of the third ODI against Zimbabwe, scheduled to take place here at Queens Sports Club on Thursday. In a statement, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) shared that Ahmed suffered a hamstring injury, while Dahani sustained an ankle injury during the national team's training session on Sunday. After undergoing scans and clinical assessments the pacers will return to Pakistan today. Details further shared that Dahani and Ahmed, upon their arrival, will report to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) here to undergo rehabilitation. "Upon their return to Lahore, both players will report to the National Cricket Academy, where they will undergo rehabilitation and follow the prescribed protocols to ensure a safe return to competitive cricket," stated PCB. As a result, the pacers have been replaced by Abbas Afridi and Jahandad Khan, who will reach Bulawayo in time to be available for selection for the series decider. Notably, Abbas and Jahandad are also a part of Pakistan's T20I squad for the subsequent three-match series against Zimbabwe, slated to run from December 1 to 5.

Guardiola backs players as Feyenoord hold City for draw

City have slipped to 15th in Champions League standings

WEB DESK

LONDON: Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola is rarely one to point the finger at his players and despite a calamitous 3-3 draw at home to Feyenoord in the Champions League on Tuesday after they threw away a three-goal lead the Spaniard stuck by his team again. City find themselves in uncharted territory, now mired in a six-game slump after they arrived at the Etihad Stadium for Tuesday's match on the heels of five straight losses, including a 4-0 rout by Tottenham Hotspur last weekend. It was another miserable night as defensive blunders saw Feyenoord strike three times inside 15 minutes and what could have been a confidence boost for City turned into any-

thing but. "It was not necessary to say anything to (the players), they know it perfectly," Guardiola said. "It is what it is, difficult to swallow now. We give away especially the first one and after we are not stable enough." A double from Erling Haaland and a goal from Ilkay Gundogan had the home fans cheering before Anis Hadji Moussa pulled one back for Feyenoord in the 75th minute when he pounced on a terrible back pass from their Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol. Another sloppy pass by the 22-year-old led to Santiago Gimenez making it 3-2 seven minutes later before David Hancko equalised for the Dutch side in the 89th minute. "He is so young, he'll learn," Guardiola said of Gvardiol, who looked distraught after Feyenoord's second goal. "... I'll be so wrong if I point

specific things at him. He's a fantastic player, fantastic boy and more than ever must be helped." At the end of the game, the crowd booed City, who dropped to 15th in the 36-team table on eight points, two points off the top eight who qualify automatically for the last 16, with the next 16 sides entering a two-leg playoff to try to join them. "They come here not to remember the success in the past, but to see the team win," Guardiola said of the shell-shocked City supporters. "Of course they are completely right to express what they feel. Of course (they are) disappointed." Feyenoord manager Brian Priske was beaming with pride after his team became the first in Champions League history to draw after trailing by three goals as late as the 75th minute.

Pakistan announce squad for Women's Asia Cup

Pakistan will start their campaign against arch-rivals India on December 15

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE: Pakistan's women's selection committee on Wednesday, announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming ACC Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup 2024, slated to be played in Kuala Lumpur from December 15 to 22. Top-order batter Zoofishan Ayyaz has been named captain with wicketkeeper batter Komal Khan serving as her deputy. According to the details, the players were shortlisted after the conclusion of a 21-day-long skills and fitness camp, featuring 32 players. Over the course of three weeks,

three intra-squad matches were also held. Pakistan, placed in Group A, will kick off their Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup campaign against arch-rivals India on December 15 before taking on Nepal on the following day. The top two teams from each group will progress to the Super-Four Stage, slated to take place on December 19 and 20, with the final scheduled on December 22. Pakistan's squad for Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup 2024 Top-order batters: Areesha Ansari (Kasur), Fizza Fiaz (Lahore), Maham Anees (Islamabad), Ravail Farhan (Lahore) and Zoofishan Ayyaz (Wah Cantt) Wicketkeeper-batters: Komal Khan (La-

hore), Wasifa Hussain (Karachi) Spinners: Aleesa Mukhtiar (Muzaffargarh), Quratulain (Sialkot), Rozina Akram (Rawalpindi) and Tayyaba Imdad (Abbottabad) Fast bowlers: Fatima Khan (Lahore), Haniah Ahmer (Karachi), Mahnoor Zeb (Mardan), Shahar Bano and (Lodhran) Player Support personnel: Aisha Jaail (manager), Mohsin Kamal (head coach), Muhammad Hanif Malik (assistant coach), Nahida Khan (fielding coach), Muhammad Usman Shahid (analyst), Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist), Muhammad Rafi Ullah (media and digital manager) Women's U19 T20 Asia Cup 2024 schedule 15 December - Sri Lanka v Malaysia

(9.30am, KL time); Pakistan v India (2pm, KL time) 16 December - Sri Lanka v Bangladesh (9.0am, KL time); Pakistan v Nepal (2pm, KL time) 17 December - Bangladesh v Malaysia (9.30am, KL time); India v Nepal (2pm, KL time) 18 December - 5th/6th position play-off (2pm, KL time) 19 December A1 v B1 (9.30am, KL time); A2 v B2 (2pm, KL time) 20 December - A1 v B2 (9.30am, KL time); A2 v B1 (2pm, KL time) 22 December - 3rd/4th position play-off (9.30am, KL time); final (2pm, KL time)

Belarus President meets army chief

FROM PAGE 01
President Aleksandr Lukashenko praised the Pakistan Armed Forces for their significant role in fostering regional peace and stability, as well as their sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

PTI 'dharna' still continuing...

FROM PAGE 01
a midnight crackdown by the law enforcers, which effectively dispersed the PTI workers. In response, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar slammed the PTI, saying: "Such a colossal failure has become their fate. This was not the final call, but merely a missed call." Tarar said that the KP CM's name should be "Ali Amin Bhagoora (deserter) instead of Ali Amin Gandapur". Meanwhile, the party says that eight of its members were killed in the stand-off with the law enforcers, while government officials say that three Rangers personnel were martyred along with two other police personnel. Expressing concerns about the abrupt end of the Islamabad protest, PTI leader Shaukat Yousafzai said that the party leadership had "disappointed" him.

Kurram clashes rage as death...

FROM PAGE 01
and 138 injured in various shooting incidents in the district. Reflecting on recent incidents in Kurram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi condemned the violence unequivocally and said over 100 people were martyred during the clashes. He noted that he would take the representatives of political parties to Kurram in the next two days and also send an invitation to Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Kundi also announced to summon all-parties conference (APC) in the first week of December, stressing the need for collective efforts to restore peace. Meanwhile, Jamate-Islami leader Asadullah Bhattu expressed concern over the "alarming situation in Kurram", urging the Supreme Court to constitute a commission.

SC rejects plea seeking suo motu...

FROM PAGE 01
suo motu notice [on the issue], Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) additional advocate general (AAG) said during a hearing. Government officials have said that at least three Rangers as well as two police personnel embraced martyrdom during the protest, while the PTI claims that eight of its members were killed. The additional advocate general asked the constitutional bench to take up his verbal plea during the hearing of a case related to the climate change authority, in which he appeared via video link. In response, Justice Musarrat Hilali cautioned against making political statements during Supreme Court proceedings.

Nov inflation projected...

FROM PAGE 01
earlier in November in a bid to revive a sluggish economy amid a big drop in the rate of inflation. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data, inflation sharply dropped to 7.2% in October from a multi-decade high of nearly 40% in May 2023, while it was slightly higher than 6.9% in September 2024. "On the agriculture front, wheat crop sowing is in progress to achieve the targeted area and production. The government facilities are well intact regarding the timely provision of key inputs to the farmers at reasonable prices," according to the report. It said the LSM sector seems to be struggling to rebound. Although year-on-year growth remained negative, the month-on-month performance showed signs of resilience, with gradual production increases in key sectors such as textile and automobiles.

Briefs

Rupee sheds 12 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 12 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.96 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.84. 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 increased by 86 paise to close at Rs 291.98 against the last day's closing of Rs 291.12, according to the State Bank of Pakistan A(SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 03 paise and closed at Rs 1.83, whereas an increase of Rs 1.57 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 350.619 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 348.62. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham increased by 03 paise and closed at Rs 75.67 whereas the Saudi Riyal remained unchanged and closed at Rs 73.99 respectively.—APP

Gold prices up Rs.1,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs.275,900 on Wednesday 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.1,372 to Rs.236,540 from Rs.235,168 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs.216,828 from Rs. 215,571. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,400 and Rs.2,914.95, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$16 to \$2,647 from \$2,631, the Association reported.—APP

Erdogan says Turkiye ready to help with ceasefire in Gaza

ANKARA: President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that Turkiye was ready to help in any way possible to establish a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, and expressed satisfaction with the ceasefire agreement that has come into effect in Lebanon. Turkiye, which has fiercely criticised Israel's offensives in Gaza and Lebanon, has previously said it discussed a potential truce in Gaza with Hamas and gave the group recommendations on how to proceed with the negotiations. On Tuesday, US President Joe Biden said the United States would again push for an elusive ceasefire in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza "with Turkiye, Egypt, Qatar, Israel and others". "We are stating that, as Turkiye, we are ready to provide any contribution for the massacre in Gaza to end and for a lasting ceasefire to be achieved," Erdogan told members of his ruling AK Party in parliament.—APP

Albania police fire tear gas, water cannon at anti-government protesters

TIRANA: Police in Albania's capital Tirana fired tear gas and used water cannon to disperse hundreds of opposition protesters blocking roads, who accused the government of corruption and demanded it be replaced with a technocratic caretaker authority. Protesters said they were engaged in a campaign of civil disobedience against Socialist Party Prime Minister Edi Rama. The opposition in Albania have been protesting almost every week demanding a caretaker government step in until parliamentary elections in 2025.



MOSCOW: Speaker National Assembly along with delegation at near Wall of Krem- lin Moscow after laying wreath at the tomb of Unknown Soldier.

Ayaz welcomes Russia's stance on Islamofobia

The Speaker, along with a delegation of parliamentarians, is visiting the Russian Federation from November 27-29th, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Duma, Mr Vyacheslav Volodin

MOSCOW: The Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday held a meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Muftis Mr. Damir Mukhetdinov at the Moscow Cathedral Mosque. The Speaker, while highlighting the posi-

tive momentum in Pakistan-Russian relations, appreciated Russia's growing relations with the Muslim world. The Speaker welcomed Russia's stance on Islamophobia and President Putin's statement on respect for holy religious personalities.

The Speaker further expressed admiration for inter-faith harmony and peaceful coexistence of multiple faiths in Russia. On the topic of Palestine issue, both sides expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people. Both sides also agreed to continue cooperation

in the religio-cultural sphere. Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, is undertaking an official visit to Moscow from 27-29 November on the invitation of his Russian counterpart. Earlier, the Speaker of the National

Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Alexander Garden, near the Kremlin wall, in Moscow, to pay tribute to the fallen heroes of World War II. He was joined by Vasily Piskarev, the Chairman

of the State Duma's Committee on Security and Anti-Corruption. The Speaker, along with a delegation of parliamentarians, is visiting the Russian Federation from November 27-29th, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Duma, Mr Vyacheslav Volodin.

FPCCI, CCIs hails Tashkent, Lahore direct flight

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and other business bodies have hailed the commencement of a direct air link between Pakistan and Uzbekistan on November 29 as it would help to enhance bilateral economic cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) from different regions on Wednesday declared the direct flight from Tashkent (Uzbekistan) to Lahore on November 29th as significant for the bilateral economic ties between the two brotherly countries. The national airline of Uzbekistan, 'Uzbek Airways,' will land at Lahore Airport from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on Friday, November 29 at 9:00 a.m. and will start its direct flight operation, and this weekly flight operation is likely to be increased in the coming months. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and other business bodies have hailed the commencement of a direct air link between Pakistan and Uzbekistan on November 29 as it would help to enhance bilateral economic cooperation. It would prove to be useful in forging bilateral business and economic integration with the Central state of

the Central Asian region, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states, President of, Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh, said while talking to APP here. President FPCCI said one flight in a week from Tashkent, the industrial hub of Central Asian States, to Lahore, would help enhance economic and trade activities and regional economic integration. Atif Ikram said the Uzbekistan embassy in Islamabad deserved appreciation for playing a significant role in the launch of a direct air link between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. President's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, from different cities and regions of the countries agreed that the direct flight link was a useful development and would help improve bilateral economic relations between the two countries. President of, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Muhammad Jawed Bilwani told APP that the business community of Karachi anticipates that this step would have a positive impact on trilateral as well as bilateral trade relations with Uzbekistan and Cen-

tral Asia. Talking to APP, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mian Abuzar Shad, said Uzbekistan is an important country in the Central Asian region and the direct flights between Tashkent and Lahore would strengthen business relations between the two countries and all the credit in that regard goes to embassies of both countries in Islamabad and Tashkent. Talking to newsmagazine, the President of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), Rana Muhammad Siddique Khan hailed the direct flight between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and said that the role of the business community of Gujranwala is significant in increasing bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. President GCCCI said that Pakistan and Central Asian states, especially Uzbekistan, have a common economic and trade future and only through the concept of shared economic prosperity can economic development come to our region. Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry, traders and the business community are already doing business in Uzbekistan in different sectors, and this

direct flight operation benefited the business community of Gujranwala. President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rehman Naseem Bharara, said besides trade relations, the direct flight link would also help in enhancing tourism and cultural ties between the two countries. Meanwhile talking to news agency, President of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Ayub Mariani, hailed the direct flight from Tashkent to Lahore and said such direct flights should be started between major cities of the two countries, including Quetta which had a historical connection with Central Asia. President of Peshawar (Sarhad) Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fazal Moqem Khan, said the SCCI welcomed a direct air link between Uzbekistan Capital, Tashkent and Lahore as their businessmen would be commercially connected with Central Asia. Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala, Vice Chairmen BMG Anjum Nisar and General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil, also hailed the direct flight between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

UAE visa amnesty scheme: Authorities issue new advisory

DOHA: The United Arab Emirates authorities have issued a fresh advisory for the expats seeking the UAE Visa amnesty scheme. The amnesty applicants, who want to return to their homelands, have been advised to adhere to the validity period of the exit permits issued to them after regularising their residency status. The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security (ICP) has asked the overstayers to must comply with the 14-day validity period of exit permits, granted to them under the Amnesty scheme. The ICP has informed that the exit permits from the UAE are issued through an electronic service that is easily accessible via the applicant's company or personal accounts, authorised typing centres, and official website or smart app. ICP urged the individuals to depart from the nearest exit port before the expiration of the permit or the grace period, which ends on December 31. The authority warned the UAE visa rules violators, who fail to leave during the grace period, will automatically face reinstatement of prior penalties and restrictions. The United Arab Emirates announced a visa amnesty program running from September 1 to October 31, 2024. During the amnesty period, individuals who choose to leave the country will not be subject to overstay fines, exit fees, or entry bans. They will retain the right to re-enter the UAE at any time, provided they have valid visas and related documents.—APP

Malaysia drops 1MDB-linked charges against ex-PM

JAKARTA: A Malaysian court on Wednesday discharged former Prime Minister Najib Razak from multiple corruption charges involving 6.6 billion ringgit (\$1.48 billion) of government funds linked to the 1MDB scandal. This decision comes as Najib, who is serving a six-year prison sentence for a separate corruption conviction related to the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB)—a state fund he established in 2009 to drive economic growth—seeks to be released from jail and serve the remaining four years of his sentence at home, according to the local English daily Malay Mail. Najib and former Treasury Secretary Irwan Serigar Abdullah were granted a discharge not amounting to acquittal (DNAA) for all six charges in the trial. A DNAA allows the prosecution to re-charge the accused on the same grounds at a later time.

UAE president launches energy investment firm XRG

DUBAI: United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Wednesday launched XRG, an investment company in energy and lower carbon chemicals, the WAM state news agency reported. It also said UAE energy giant ADNOC had approved redirecting 200 billion dirhams (\$54.45 billion) to the local economy over the next five years.—APP

Iran welcomes end of Israel 'aggression' in Lebanon

TEHRAN: Iran welcomed the end of Israel's "aggression" in Lebanon, after a ceasefire came into force on Wednesday between Israel and Hezbollah. Hailing the news of the end of Israel's "aggression against Lebanon", foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei in a statement stressed Iran's "firm support for the Lebanese government, nation and resistance". He also called on the international community to "exert effective pressure" on Israel to end the war in Gaza. Iran has made support for the Palestinian cause a pillar of its foreign policy since the advent of the Islamic Republic in 1979. The war in Lebanon has dealt blows to Hezbollah, killing the group's charismatic leader Hassan Nasrallah in September in a powerful Israeli strike in Beirut, as well as many other top ranking officials. While Iran officially celebrated the ceasefire, many citizens expressed doubts over the prospects of long-term peace. "I hope that (the truce) will last," Mostafa, a student in Tehran who did not wish to give his full name, told AFP.

"But I don't think so, because they (the Israelis) are fundamentally looking for war," said the 22-year-old. Yeganeh, another student in the capital, said: "We hope there will be no war anywhere, but it's not something we can predict." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday said the truce in Lebanon would allow his country to "focus on the Iranian threat", without elaborating. Newspapers, printed before the ceasefire officially came into effect at dawn Wednesday, hailed the event, casting it as a triumph for Hezbollah. It is an "admission of defeat" for Netanyahu, read the front-page headline of conservative daily Jahan, stressing that the Israeli premier had promised the "complete destruction" of Hezbollah. Israel's assault on Hezbollah left the Lebanese group weakened, but not completely crushed, with many of its supporters in Lebanon hailing the end of the war as a "victory".—APP

Hamas says 'ready' for Gaza truce after Lebanon ceasefire

GAZA CITY: Hamas is ready to reach a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, a senior official in Hamas said Wednesday, hailing the ceasefire that took hold in Lebanon. "We have informed mediators in Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye that Hamas is ready for a ceasefire agreement and a serious deal to exchange prisoners," the official told AFP, however accusing Israel of obstructing a deal. In a statement released later Wednesday, Hamas said "the enemy's acceptance of the agreement with Lebanon without achieving its preconditions marks a significant milestone in shattering (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu's illusions of reshaping the Middle East through force". The group also praised the "pivotal" role of its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. In the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Authority expressed hope that the ceasefire would bring stability to the region, especially in war-torn Gaza. "We hope that this step will contribute to stopping the violence and instability that the region is suffering from," the Palestinian presidency said in a statement, highlighting the need to enforce a UN resolution for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.—APP

Bumper election year brings headwinds for liberal democracies

Some observers fear new wind in sails of authoritarianism due to results of 2024 elections

PARIS: Voting by more than half the world's population in 2024 elections has left many liberal democracies facing crises of confidence, political fragmentation and heightened polarisation, with some observers fearing new wind in the sails of authoritarianism. The bumper election year was headlined by the November polls in the United States, democracy's self-described "shining city upon a hill", where Donald Trump emerged victorious. Many post-vote analyses have focused on the economic drivers for the public's rejection of the Dem-

ocratic party incumbents. Trump's repeated threats to undermine the rule of law also appear to have done little to discourage voters. The Republican has vowed to bring to heel a justice system that had targeted him with multiple investigations and trials, to punish hostile media outlets and even name civil servants on the basis of their ideological allegiances. If Trump does everything he has said he will, "the United States will see the most intense assault on checks and balances and civil liberties in its peacetime history", political scientist Larry Diamond wrote in Foreign Affairs.

"We are at a dangerous moment, not only in the US but in many other places," Max Bergmann of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) told AFP. For the past two decades, the Western democratic model installed since 1945 and reinforced following the collapse of the Soviet bloc after 1989 has been on the back foot. The US-based organisation Freedom House has highlighted increased violence and suspected or confirmed manipulation around many elections worldwide. Elsewhere, some so-called "hybrid" systems saw powerful incumbents retaining

their position but faced with determined, organised and new opposition. India's Narendra Modi and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan suffered setbacks at legislative and municipal elections respectively. Even in more competitive democratic systems, such as in Europe, "we are seeing increasingly polarised and fragmented politics", Bergmann said. Germany's governing alliance between Social Democrats, Greens and Liberals collapsed this month, with little clarity about how a new government will look following new polls in February. And in the neighbouring Neth-

erlands, a fragile four-way coalition is battling internal division as it tries to stay afloat following the previous government's 2023 implosion. France, where monolithic parties of left and right for decades took turns at power, has also seen its political landscape shattered since centrist Emmanuel Macron surged to the presidency in 2017. His snap election surprise in summer has produced a parliament almost evenly divided between three blocs—a united left, centre-right and far right. With all sides at daggers drawn on almost every subject, reform ef-

forts have been paralysed. The volatile state of Western democracies can be explained by a "crisis of confidence in political parties and in the media that is unprecedented since 1945", said Bertrand Badie, an international relations expert at French university Sciences Po. Voters were reacting to "a drought in what's on offer in politics", he added. "What were Macron or Kamala Harris offering in France or in the US beyond preventing their rivals—Trump or the far right led by Marine Le Pen—from taking power? This creates a big pro—APP

Briefs

Israeli strikes on Gaza killed 15

CAIRO: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 15 people on Wednesday, some of them in a school housing displaced people, medics in Gaza said, adding that the fatalities included two sons of a former Hamas spokesman. Health officials in the Hamas-run enclave said eight Palestinians were killed and dozens of others wounded in an Israeli strike that hit the Al-Tabeeen School, which was sheltering displaced families in Gaza City. Among those killed were two sons of former Hamas spokesman, Fawzi Barhoum, according to medics and Barhoum himself. In the Shejaia suburb of Gaza City, another strike killed four people, while three people were killed in an Israeli air strike in Beit Lahya on the northern edge of the enclave where army forces have been operating since last month. Separately, a ceasefire between Israel and Iran-backed group Hezbollah came into effect on Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the US and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in a region shaken by two wars for over a year. — Agencies

Hague appointed Oxford's chancellor

LONDON: William Hague, a former leader of the Conservative Party and England's foreign minister, was elected on Wednesday as the next chancellor of the University of Oxford, a largely ceremonial role which dates back centuries. Hague was named as successor to Chris Patten, Britain's last governor of Hong Kong and a former senior Conservative politician, for what is seen as one of the grandest positions in higher education. He beat off competition from the former Labour minister Peter Mandelson and three other candidates. The university said Hague "won a majority of support in the final round of voting for the post" and he will be 160th recorded chancellor in the university's history, a role that dates back at least 800 years. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan had also applied for the position of chancellor in September at the prestigious university despite being incarcerated in corruption and other cases relating to incitement of violence during May 9 protests last year. The seat had become vacant after the resignation of 80-year-old Lord Patten who stepped down from the post after serving for 21 years. However, in October, the former PM's bid was rejected, his adviser had said. Oxford had released a shortlist of 38 candidates who were in the running for the first round of voting with Imran's name not among them. — Agencies

ATC approves exemption of Ayub, Gul

DNA
GUJRANWALA: A Gujranwala Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) approved the exemption filed by PTI leaders Omar Ayub and Zartaj Gul concerning the May 9 case. The interim bail applications of PTI leaders Omar Ayub, Zartaj Gul, and Ahmed Chattha were scheduled for hearing in court; however, none of the accused appeared before the court. Citing road closures, the accused sought exemption from personal attendance. The court initially accepted the application submitted on behalf of Ahmed Chattha and directed Omar Ayub and Zartaj Gul to file similar applications through their counsel. Subsequently, the legal representatives of Ayub and Gul submitted the required pleas, which were granted by the court. The hearing was adjourned until Dec 19.

Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire holds, as civilians start to return home

The agreement, which promises to end a conflict across the Israeli-Lebanese border that has killed thousands of people since it was ignited by the Gaza war last year, is a major achievement for the US in the waning days of President Joe Biden's administration

NEWS DESK

BEIRUT: A ceasefire between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah held on Wednesday after the two sides struck a deal brokered by the US and France, a rare feat of diplomacy in the Middle East wracked by two wars and several proxy conflicts for over a year. The agreement ended the deadliest confrontation between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group in years but Israel is still fighting its other arch foe the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Lebanon's army, tasked with ensuring the ceasefire lasts, said it was preparing to deploy to the south of the country, a region Israel heavily bombarded in its battle against Hezbollah, along with eastern cities and towns and the armed group's stronghold in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Cars and vans piled high with mattresses, suitcases and even furniture streamed through the heavily-bombed southern port city of Tyre, heading south. Fighting had escalated drastically over the past two months, forcing hundreds of thousands of Lebanese from their homes. Israel's military said on Wednesday its forces were still on Lebanese territory and urged residents of southern Lebanese villages who had been ordered to evacuate in recent months to delay returning home until further notice from the Israeli military. Israeli troops have pushed around 6 km (4

Resistance groups hail Hezbollah's steadfastness

BAGHDAD: Iraq's anti-terror group Kata'ib Hezbollah has hailed the ceasefire deal between Israel and Lebanon, saying the truce would have been impossible without the steadfastness of the fighters of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah. Kata'ib Hezbollah made the remarks in a statement on Wednesday, hours after a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon officially came into effect, putting a temporary end to nearly 14 months of fighting between the two sides. It went on to say that the decision "was, without doubt, a purely Lebanese one," stressing, however, that a pause in action by any of the resistance groups across the region will not weaken the unity of the resistance front. "On the contrary, new parties will join, strengthening the resistance front to confront the enemies of Allah, His Messenger, and the believers," the group added. Kata'ib Hezbollah further held the United States "a partner of the Zionist entity in all its treacherous crimes of murder, destruction, and displacement," stressing that "it must pay the price for these crimes sooner or later." The Iraqi anti-terror group also reaffirmed its commitment to support the Palestinian cause, emphasizing that it will not abandon Palestinians in Gaza, no matter how great sacrifices would be required. "We remain undeterred by the threats, treachery, or criminal methods of the enemy. And it is incumbent upon us to aid the believers," it said. A ceasefire deal between Israel and Hezbollah began at 04:00 local time (0200 GMT) on Wednesday. The ceasefire agreement requires Israeli troops to withdraw from south Lebanon and Lebanon's army to deploy in the region. The Israeli regime initiated its full-scale war on Lebanon in late September when Benjamin Netanyahu announced updated war objectives, emphasizing a determination to return hundreds of thousands of settlers to their homes in northern occupied Palestine. Israeli military commanders pledged to eradicate Hezbollah and eliminate its presence in southern Lebanon. However, they were ultimately compelled to accept a ceasefire agreement without achieving any of those goals. Far-right Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said Tuesday the agreement between Israel and Lebanon does not achieve the war's goals of returning the settlers of the north to their homes safely. Opposition leader Yair Lapid said Netanyahu's cabinet was "dragged into an agreement with Hezbollah" as the northern towns in the occupied territories were destroyed, the lives of the residents collapsed, and the army was exhausted. — Agencies

miles) into Lebanon in a series of ground incursions launched in September. Israel said it identified Hezbollah operatives returning to areas near the border and had opened fire to prevent them from coming closer. There were no immediate signs that the incident would undermine the ceasefire. The agreement, which promises to end a conflict across the Israeli-Lebanese border that has killed thousands of people since it was ignited by the Gaza war last year, is a major achievement for the US in the waning days of President Joe Biden's administration. Diplomatic efforts will now turn to shattered Gaza, where Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas, which led the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israeli communities. Israel has said its military aim in Lebanon had been to ensure the safe return of about 60,000 Israelis who fled from their communities along the northern border when Hezbollah started firing rockets at them in support of Hamas in Gaza. In Lebanon, some cars flew national flags, others honked, and one woman could be seen flashing the victory sign with her fingers as people started to return to homes they had fled. Many of the villages the people were likely returning to have been destroyed. Hussam Arout, a father of four said he was itching to return to his home. "The Israelis haven't withdrawn in full, they're still on the edge. So we decided to wait until the army announces that we can go in. Then we'll turn the cars on immediately and go to the village," he said.

Yasmin's bail hearing adjourned

COURT REPORTER
LAHORE: The hearing for Dr. Yasmin Rashid's post-arrest bail in two cases related to the May 9 incident, involving the burning of police vehicles near Jinnah House, has been adjourned until December 10. The hearing took place in the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), where Judge Manzoor Ali Gill was set to review Dr. Yasmin Rashid's post-arrest bail application in two cases. However, her lawyer, Barrister Burhan Mazoom Malik, was absent from court. An assistant lawyer informed the court that Barrister Malik could not attend due to road closures and requested additional time for arguments. The court directed the lawyer to complete the arguments on the bail pleas and adjourned the hearing until December 10. Dr. Yasmin Rashid has filed for bail in two cases related to the burning of police vehicles near Jinnah House, with charges including sedition and inciting public riots.

Khalid stresses dialogue, rule of law

FAISAL SHEIKH
ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Chairman, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, stated that the constitution and law allow for peaceful protests, not violence. He emphasised that the country could not function as it currently was being run. In a statement, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui expressed that the feudal democracy in Pakistan was not suitable for the country. He reaffirmed that the constitution and law permitted protests, but not violent actions. He further stated that those who have closed the doors for negotiations should understand that dialogue is the ultimate solution, and that opportunities for communication should not have been closed off. Siddiqui also stressed that decisions on issues like water should be made with the consent of all provinces.

General Zhang visit GHQ, interacts with military leadership

The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment. Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia expressed China's deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership



DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of the People's Republic of China, visited General Headquarters (GHQ) along with a high-level delegation. The distinguished guest held a one-on-one meeting with General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), followed by delegation-level discussions. The engagements focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, measures for regional stability, and enhancing bilateral defense cooperation. General Asim Munir underscored the enduring and all-weather nature of Pakistan-China relations, emphasizing their foundation of mutual trust and cooperation. He af-

firmated that this historic partnership has withstood the test of time and is poised to grow further. The COAS thanked Chinese leadership for standing firmly with Pakistan, irrespective of changes in the international and regional environment. Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia expressed China's deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast commitment to their strategic partnership. He commended the Pakistan Army's resolve and professionalism in its ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and reiterated China's determination to further strengthen this enduring relationship. Earlier, upon his arrival at GHQ, General Zhang Youxia laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada, paying homage to Pakistan's martyrs. He was accorded a warm reception, including a guard of honor presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army.

Justice Sial refuses to be part of constitutional bench

On Nov 25, the JCP had established the nine-member constitutional bench for SHC

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: One of the nine members of the newly formed constitutional bench of the Sindh High Court has recused himself from becoming part of it, arguing that the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) should have constituted the bench on a seniority basis. Had he not opted to recuse, Justice Omar Sial would also have been part of a three-member committee that decides fixation of cases before the SHC constitutional bench. He informed the head of the constitutional bench, Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha, through a letter that whether one wishes to be a bench member or not remains a judge's prerogative. Informed sources told that Justice Sial opined in his letter that every judge of the SHC would have been assigned the task of addressing constitutional violations and if it was not possible, the selection of judges for these benches should be seniority-driven unless there were reasons for not doing so. On Nov 25, the JCP had established the nine-member constitutional bench for SHC, headed by Justice Agha under the 26th Amendment. Writes to Justice Agha, says JCP should have considered selection of judges on basis of seniority Justice Agha is at number nine on the seniority list of SHC judges, while Justice Mohammad Salim Jessar, Justice Sial, Justice Yousaf Ali Sayeed, Justice Abdul Mobeen Lakhani, Justice Zulfikar Ali Sangi, Justice Sana Akram Minhas, Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro and Justice Arbab Ali

Hakro, who were named as members of the constitutional bench, are at serial numbers 12, 14, 16, 21, 22, 24, 26 and 28 on the seniority list of SHC judges, respectively. This indicates as many as eight senior judges, including SHC Chief Justice Mohammad Shafi Siddiqui, senior puisne judge Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto, Justice Salauddin Panhwar, Justice Mohammad Junaid Ghaffar, Justice Zafar Ahmed Rajput, Justice Mohammad Iqbal Kalhor, Justice Zulfikar Ahmad Khan and Justice Mahmood A. Khan, have been ignored or superseded by the commission while considering the names for the constitutional bench. Currently, the SHC is functioning with 28 judges against a sanctioned strength of 40. Around 96,000 cases, including 36,000 constitutional petitions, have been pending before the SHC. Of them, nearly 22,000 constitutional petitions are pending at its principal seat in Karachi and around 14,000 at different benches in other parts of the province. Justice Sial, in his letter, also mentioned that his senior colleagues in the commission and SHC chief justice had disagreed with the nominations made for the SHC constitutional bench, and he appreciated that their "dissent was not person-specific but a matter of principle". In their point of view, the judge maintained, some senior judges would better sit on benches dealing with cases assigned to the constitutional bench with their experience, knowledge, and wisdom. In this regard, the wisdom of SHC chief justice was best positioned to decide which judge should be on which bench, he said, adding that the chief justice of a province knew his judges best. When a substantial majority of the members of JCP from the executive become instrumental in forming benches, rightly or wrongly, a dangerous perception is created about interference by executive in the judiciary, which erodes the very fabric of democracy, the letter pointed out.

ECC reviews implementation of key policy decisions

The ECC noted with concern the delays in the implementation of its decisions and directed the concerned ministries to improve their coordination

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a special meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division, today. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik (virtual), federal secretaries, and senior officers from concerned ministries and departments. The meeting reviewed the implementation status of various earlier policy decisions of the ECC concerning matters related to finance, interior, industries and production, inter-provincial coordination, housing and works, food security and research, power, national health services regulation and coordination. The ECC was briefed on the overall implementation status of its past decisions followed by separate presentations by the relevant ministries on the current status of the issues pending with them and the steps taken and required to get a closure on them.

MURREE SPARKLETTS
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Adeel Butt 03334131756	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------