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High time for Israel to accept defeat in Gaza: Iran's FM

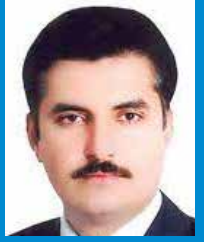
Detailed News On Page-07

Pak interested in enhancing ties with Russia

Detailed News On Page-07

Kundi calls for enhancing ties with UK

Detailed News On Page-08



Amid violent clashes

Cabinet for governor's rule in KP

The sources close to the Establishment however claim that there is no decision yet to impose Governor's rule in KP for the moment

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Blaming Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's administration for using "state machinery to attack the Centre" during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests, the federal cabinet on Thursday voted in favour of imposing governor's rule in the province, a private news channel reported citing sources. The sources close to the Establishment however claim that there is no decision yet to impose Governor rule in KP for the moment. The KP chief executive had been leading the PTI's protests seeking the release of its incarcerated former premier Khan and independence of judiciary on the frontline, which caused unrest in the federal capital and adjoining cities, drawing criticism from the ruling coalition over the alleged use of state machinery. This recommendation was tabled by the Ministry of Law and Attorney General before the federal cabinet, stating that the KP government "gave a reason for the governor's rule by invading the Centre twice". It also blamed the KP government for using state machinery and employees to "attack the Centre". The development follows the conclusion of the Imran Khan-founded party's much-hyped "do-or-die" protest in Islamabad, which ended abruptly with its top leaders and workers, including its incarcerated founder, booked in eight cases after two days of violent clashes with police. The charges against them

Continued on Page 06

BA passes resolution seeking ban on PTI

Opposition stages walkout, protesting joint resolution against what it called a "disruptive political faction"

DNA

QUETTA: In a session marked by stark division, the Balochistan Assembly on Thursday approved a resolution, tabled by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), seeking a ban on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) following the recent "violence" in its three-day-long protest that put off abruptly in the wee hours of Wednesday. Minister for Communications and Works Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa, along with provincial ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Asim Kurd Gelo, Raheela Hamid Khan Durrani, Bakht Mohammad Kakar, and parliamentary secretaries tabled the joint resolution in the assembly on the protests and violent actions of PTI. The opposition, however, staged a walkout, protesting against

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding law and order situation. - DNA

Truce on edge Israeli drone strikes in south Lebanon

PM Shehbaz Sharif welcomes announcement of ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah

AGENCIES

BEIRUT: At least three people have been reportedly injured in an Israeli drone strike in southern Lebanon less than a day after a truce deal took effect between the regime and the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah. The attack took place near a vehicle in the village of Markaba in southern Lebanon on Thursday, Israeli Army Radio reported without giving more details. Israel was forced to accept a ceasefire with Hezbollah after suffering heavy losses following more than 14 months of fighting and failing to achieve its goals in its aggression on Lebanon. The truce agreement officially came into effect at 04:00 local time (0200 GMT) on Wednesday. Hezbollah opened a support front for Palestinians in Gaza only a day after the Israeli regime unleashed its genocidal war against

Continued on Page 06

Stresses SOEs must privatize

PM Shehbaz vows to transform country's economic landscape

The prime minister said this was the fact that over a period of time spanning over a decade, the economic progress slowed down rather deteriorated due to various factors

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterating the government resolve to transform Pakistan's economic landscape, said that the national security of the country had direct linkages with the economic security. "If we are economically strong, our exports are growing fast, industrial sector is expanding.....then our economic security will automatically strengthen our critical security," the prime minister said while addressing the 26th National Security Workshop of Defence University. Emphasizing the government's commitment to execute a comprehensive "Charter of Economy", the prime minister said that in 2018, he as an opposition leader, also suggested the idea of charter of economy and now "We are fully prepared to execute this idea". The prime minister, stressing the need to privatize all the

Continued on Page 06

PTI came with intent to spread anarchy: Tarar

In a press conference in Islamabad Attaullah Tarar and Ahsan Iqbal addressed the situation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has emphasized that despite the Islamabad High Court's order prohibiting protests, the government had extended an opportunity to PTI to hold a peaceful demonstration in Sangiani. However, PTI rejected this offer, and as a result, action was taken against them. Tarar and Federal Minister for Planning and

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Pakistan reaffirms support for Palestine

Foreign Secretary participates in the meeting of the "Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution"

DNA

BRUSSELS: Foreign Secretary Ms. Amna Baloch participated in the second meeting of the "Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution" held in Brussels, Belgium. The first meeting of the Global Alliance was held last year in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Global Alliance was initiated last year to promote coordination and advance tangible, irreversible and time-bound measures towards a just and enduring peace in the Middle East, including an end to Israeli occupation and establishment of an independent State of Palestine. Speaking at the forum, the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause. She called for a ceasefire in Gaza; a comprehensive approach for resolution of the Palestinian question.

Earthquake in KP, AJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 5.2-magnitude earthquake struck parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), including Peshawar and Muzaffarabad, on Thursday, causing fear and panic among residents. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre in Islamabad, the earthquake's epicentre was in the border region between Afghanistan and Tajikistan at a depth of 212 kilometres.

Ali Zafar denies changes

Imran removes Gohar, Raja from leadership

Secretary General Salman Akram Raja tendered his resignation from the post after bickering with Bushra Bibi; more resignations likely

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Imran Khan, founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Thursday removed Barrister Gohar Ali Khan from the position of party chairman, according to reports circulating on local media. The reshuffle comes as part of a leadership overhaul within the party following internal criticism and growing dissent. Nevertheless, Senator Ali Zafar has denied that the PTI founder has removed anybody from party offices. Meanwhile Secretary General Salman Akram Raja tendered his resignation from the post after bickering with Bushra Bibi. He told Bushra that he was not answerable to her. The PTI executive committee however has rejected Salman Akram resignation. Speaking after a meeting with the former prime minister on Thursday, Barrister Ali Zafar confirmed that Khan had nominated former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser as the new PTI chairman. He added that Khan's

Continued on Page 06

Mahmood Achakzai demands judicial inquiry into

Achakzai demands legal action against PM, Naqvi, and IG

FAISAL SHEIKH

QUETTA: Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and leader of Tahafuz-e-Aeen Pakistan, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, has called for a judicial inquiry into the alleged crackdown on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers. Addressing a press conference in Quetta, Achakzai demanded legal action against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, and Islamabad's Inspector General of Police, accusing them of

Continued on Page 06

COAS Asim describes shooting skill as 'hallmark of soldier'

Attends closing ceremony of Pak Army Rifle Association meet

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has described shooting skill as the "hallmark of a professional soldier", according to a military's media wing statement.

"Attaining proficiency at shooting must remain at the heart of basic military training objectives," he said while interacting with the participants at the closing ceremony of the Pakistan Army Rifle Association central meet held at the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) in Jhelum on Thursday.

In a statement, Inter-Services Public Relations said that the mega-shooting event was conducted from 14 October to 28 November 2024. The army chief appreciated the firers for their "excellent" standards of marksmanship. Earlier on arrival, the Rawalpindi Corps commander received COAS Munir. Over 2,000 firers from the army, navy, air force, and civil armed forces including Rangers (Sindh & Punjab), teams ex Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Federal Rifle Association, Lahore Garrison Shooting Gallery (LGS) and civilians participated in the competition. COAS Munir and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu awarded trophies and medals to the award winners and runners-up in each category. In the inter-services matches, the Pakistan Army won three contests including CJCS, COAS and CNS matches while



Continued on Page 06



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FBR stresses for national economy uplift

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Commissioner Inland Revenue Dera Zone Muhammad Nawaz underlined the need of building trust among traders and the FBR terming it as essential for development of the national economy. He has urged upon the traders to become tax filers as country's progress depends on a strong economy and flourishing tax system. He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Markazi Anjuman Tajran led by its president Sohail Ahmed Azmi here at the Dera FBR office on Thursday. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Income Tax Kohat, Baseer Khattak, Assistant Commissioner Dera Sher Alam, former Deputy Commissioner Sadiq Ali Bangash, Chairman of Nizami Group Naveed Ahmed Nizami and other notables. The Commissioner said the revenue collected from taxes help in alleviating poverty and addressing other national issues. He said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was actively working to address the concerns of traders under the trader-friendly scheme. He emphasized that the country's system operates through taxes, and traders should expand their inclusion in the tax network. On this occasion, Markazi Anjuman Tajran President Sohail Ahmed Azmi highlighted issues being faced by Dera's citizens and traders, including property valuation, sales tax notices issued by KPRA, and other matters. In response, Commissioner Muhammad Nawaz assured the trader representatives that he would visit Dera in December. During this visit, he said, he would meet with trader representatives to collaboratively resolve their concerns.—APP

Principal arrested for assaulting student

LODHARAN: Police have arrested a private school principal for allegedly sexually assaulting a seventh class student. According to a spokesperson for the police, father of the victim girl submitted an application with Sadar police, stating that a private school principal, identified as Muhammad Arshad, son of Nazeer Ahmad, stopped his daughter from leaving the school after the closing time on the pretext of cleaning classrooms. Later, he sexually assaulted the minor girl in his office. DSP Sadar Circle Mahr Ishaq Sial said the accused had been arrested and the police were looking into the complaint from all aspects.

Muqam, Kundi discuss law, order situation in KP

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for SAFRON, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, met with the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, at the Governor House on Thursday and discussed various issues of the province including political, economic and law and order. The meeting focused on the worsening law and order situation in the province and the growing concerns regarding provincial rights with the federal government. During the meeting, the two leaders engaged in in-depth discussions about the escalating security challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—APP

RCCI urges government to announce industrial package

RAWALPINDI: RCCI President Usman Shaukat urges government to take urgent steps to revive the construction sector. "A delegation from the Real Estate Consultants Association (RECA), visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and held discussions with President Usman Shaukat. The meeting focused on the current challenges in the real estate sector, including high taxes, regulatory issues, and possible solutions to revive the industry. President Usman Shaukat emphasized RCCI's commitment to addressing the issues of the real estate and construction sectors, stating, "The Chamber will continue to raise its voice on all platforms to resolve the challenges faced by these vital industries. We urge the government to announce an industrial package to stimulate growth and ease business operations." The delegation comprised Malik Jamsheed (Group Head), RECA Chairman Major Naeem, President



Rawalpindi: Real Estate Consultants Association being received at RCCI

Chaudhry Farrukh, Vice President Sheikh Naem, and General Secretary Haider. From RCCI, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents Asad Mashhadi and Raja

Amir Iqbal, along with executive committee and chamber members, were present. President Usman Shaukat reiterated that the construction sector plays a crucial role in the economy, with over 70 allied industries

dependent on it. He warned that without immediate intervention, revenue losses and stagnation in economic activity would persist. He said, "The livelihood of millions is tied to this sector. Practical steps must be tak-

en to revive construction, create jobs, and support associated industries. The government needs to prioritize this sector to drive national economic growth." The RECA delegation also congratulated President Us-

man Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, and Vice President Fahad Barlas on their recent appointments, acknowledging their leadership and commitment to resolving industry challenges.

Jirga bans movement after 09 p.m in Bajaur

PESHAWAR: In the wake of rising incidents of thefts and firings, a Jirga of area elders has banned movement of people after 09:00 p.m. in district Bajaur. The Jirga held on Thursday announced that anyone who wants to go outside his house after 09:00 p.m. will inform the Jirga members, otherwise he himself will be responsible for any harm to him. Chief of the Jirga, Gul Karim Khan requested the District Police Officer not to register any FIR of a person who went out of his home after 09:00 p.m. without prior information to the authorized person. He said the decision was taken to contain rising incidents of thefts and firings in the district.—APP

Crackdown intensified against adulterated milk supply

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The district administration is taking tangible measures to provide quality services to citizens under the Chief Minister's 'Awami Agenda' program. As part of these efforts, a team of the district's Livestock department led by Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Faseeh Ishaq Abbasi inspected the milk shops in different localities including opposite Laghari Gate, Daraban road, Aara road and Dinpur road in order to ensure availability of pure milk for citizens. According to the administration, the department collected samples from the shops and analyzed the milk quality. During the inspection process, several shops were fined for violating quality standards. The shops including Al-Iqbal Milk Shop at Laghari Gate, Muhammad Naeemuddin Milk Shop near Zakrya Masjid, Muhammad Asif Milk Shop at Dinpur Chungi, Hafeezullah Milk Shop on Dinpur road, Nasrullah Milk Shop on Dinpur road and Hassan Milk Shop on Aara road were found mixing water into the milk. The inspection team imposed fines on two shopkeepers with higher levels of water adulteration while others were issued warnings. Assistant Commissioner Faseeh Ishaq Abbasi told the media that water and chemical adulteration in milk will not be tolerated under any circumstances, as it is a matter of human lives.—APP

China, Pakistan to deepen strategic cooperation: CG

KARACHI: The Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong Wednesday stated that under the guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperation will continue to deepen. He said the recent visit to Pakistan by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, following Prime Minister Shehbaz's visit to Beijing, exemplifies this high-level cooperation. During media briefing at Chinese Consulate, here, Yang Yundong said currently, China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship is everlasting and ever-refreshing. The Pakistan-China relationship is of strategic significance and both sides firmly support each other's core interests and development paths, the China-Pakistan relationship has always been a priority in China's foreign relations. Any attempt to disrupt or undermine Pakistan-China cooperation would be failed, he added. Chinese CG said the two sides will continuously strengthen practical cooperation across various

fields, jointly upgrade the CPEC and accelerate the construction of major projects in railways, highways, and ports. Following the important common understanding between leaders of the two countries, both sides are ready to advance the upgradation of ML-1, and agreed to build Karachi-Hyderabad section in line with the modality of implementation in a phased manner. He said the two sides will work together to refine and optimize the construction plan of Karachi-Hyderabad section and formulate financing and implementation plans that are feasible and sustainable at the earliest. He said the two countries will actively seek financial support for the Karakoram Highway (Rai-kot-Thakot) realignment project under the terms of the Framework Agreement of the project, and facilitate the project's early execution. He said Pakistan and China will speed up the development of the auxiliary infrastructure of the Gwadar Port, steadily attract more cargo shipments to the port, find a solution to inadequate water and power supply at an early date, accelerate the development of the

port's industrial zone, and solidly enhance connectivity between the port and other parts of Pakistan. The New Gwadar International Airport project aided by China has been completed. Yang said we are also deepening cooperation in agriculture, mining, information technology, energy, trade, and culture. China supports its companies to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones in line with the market and commercial principles. It is expected that the Pakistani side will improve its business environment and provide a favorable policy framework for Chinese investment. He said China will continue support Pakistan to improve the well-being of its people, aiming to ensure that development benefits reach all regions and communities. Under the framework of the CPEC Working Group on Socio-Economic Cooperation, and added that the two sides will strengthen their cooperation particularly in areas like healthcare, agriculture, education, climate response, and disaster prevention, while continuing to promote projects that improve people's livelihoods.

He said his country firmly supports Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and asks Pakistan to take targeted security measures to comprehensively safeguard the safety and security of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan, so as to create a safe and secure environment for the cooperation between our two countries. He stressed that media cooperation was an important part of China-Pakistan relations as it plays a crucial role in advancing people-to-people exchanges, promoting mutual understanding and enriching the content of bilateral relations. He hoped that the media friends will continue to report extensively and positively on China's economic and social development, China's foreign policy as well as China-Pakistan relations and the construction of the CPEC and make more positive contribution to the enhancement of mutual understanding between the people of our two countries and the deepening of the development of bilateral relations.—DNA

CDA unveils plans for 5-star hotels, plots in scenic Sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has announced an ambitious plan to auction premium commercial plots for the development of 5-star hotels and launch residential plots in the scenic Sector C-14. The initiative, unveiled during a meeting chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Thursday aims to attract significant investments from both local and overseas Pakistanis. The meeting, attended by CDA board members and senior officers, highlighted two prime plots earmarked for international bidding, specifically targeting overseas Pakistanis and global investors. The bidding for these luxury hotel plots is set to conclude on 17 December 2024, and officials emphasised investor-friendly terms to maximise participation. The CDA has introduced flexible payment plans, streamlined conditions, and various incen-

tives to encourage investment. Chairman Randhawa endorsed these measures, describing them as pivotal to transforming Islamabad into a global hub for tourism, business, and modern urban living. "We are committed to positioning Islamabad as a beacon of luxury and progress, offering unparalleled opportunities for investors. Engaging overseas Pakistanis is key to this vision, and we will collaborate with embassies and missions abroad to highlight these lucrative opportunities," Randhawa said. The initiative also includes the launch of residential plots in Sector C-14, nestled at the foothills of the Margalla Hills. Designed for a premium lifestyle, this sector is tailored to cater to both local and overseas Pakistanis, with preference given to investments made in foreign currencies such as the US dollar. With these strategic moves, the CDA is setting the stage for Islamabad to emerge as a premier destination for high-end developments, offering unique opportunities for investors worldwide.

"CASS webinar calls for public-private partnerships to expand digital education

The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, conducted a webinar on 'Bridging the Global Digital Divide: Access, Equity and Empowerment.' The session included speakers Dr Sumaira Kausar, Director Centre of Excellence of AI, Bahria University, Islamabad; Ms Mahnoor Salman, Senior AI Engineer & Co-founder, Atomcamp; and Mr Adnan Zaidi, CEO, Proxima AI. Shah Muhammad, Research Assistant at CASS moderated the proceedings and President CASS Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd) delivered the concluding remarks. Speaking on the topic of 'Emerging Technologies and Academic R&D', Dr Sumaira Kausar highlighted the global disparities in adopting and commercializing emerging technologies, largely driven by geographical gaps. She noted that most digital infrastructure is concentrated in a few advanced economies, leaving many low-income countries in the early stages of AI adoption readiness. Dr Kausar explained the six stages of AI adoption, from awareness to sustainability, placing Pakistan in the exploration and experimentation phase. She emphasised that emerging technologies, including AI and quantum computing, will shape future global superpowers, urging Pakistan to prioritise these areas to close the digital divide. She called for promoting AI literacy, reskilling the workforce, and establishing ethical guidelines and regulatory frameworks to accelerate adoption. "Education and accessibility are essential for quantum inclusion," she said, stressing the need for strong government commitment to drive technological progress. On the subject of 'Digital Literacy and Tech Ecosystems', Ms Mahnoor Salman emphasised the need for global cooperation to address the technological divide, advocating for technology transfer and the ethical use of AI. She highlighted the importance of Pakistan's participation in global forums like the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to align national policies with global best practices. Ms Salman called for a holistic approach to promoting digital literacy in Pakistan and the role of Public-Private Partnerships in expanding financial access. She also stressed the need for policies to empower freelancers through skills development and vocational training tailored to market demands. Mr Adnan Zaidi, speaking on 'Big Tech and Corporate R&D', highlighted how global tech giants can now influence national policies through lobbying, information control, government partnerships, and economic power. He warned that smaller nations face challenges like economic dependency, regulatory struggles, and threats to digital sovereignty. He also talked about the risks of digital colonialism, including data exploitation, cultural erosion, and inequitable access. To mitigate these, he recommended promoting local innovation, developing robust regulatory frameworks and focus on education, entrepreneurship and international collaboration as key priorities. Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS, Islamabad concluded the webinar by underscoring the need for Pakistan to address structural and institutional challenges in digital inclusion. He highlighted the importance of fostering indigenous Research and Development (R&D), digital literacy, and entrepreneurship to reduce reliance on foreign technologies and funding. President CASS urged that it was important for Pakistan to learn from global digital models while tailoring solutions to its unique needs. He also called for public-private partnerships to expand digital education and create an inclusive tech ecosystem.—DNA

SESSI announces workers' contribution from registration date


KARACHI: Commissioner, Sindh Employees Social Security Institution (SESSI) Miandad Rahoojo has announced that SESSI will demand worker's contribution payment from the date of Registration of concerned workers while the mechanism for the audit of registered units is also being changed. He also announced an increased number of SESSI Dispensaries in the SITE area. He was addressing members of SITE Association of Industry on the occasion of his visit. He was accompa-

nied by Vice Commissioner Sikandar Balouch, Medical Advisor Dr. Kamran Awan, Ambreen Kamil (Senior Director C&B), Saifullah Khan, (Director Education Cess), Muhammad Zahid Butt (Senior Director SITE East Directorate) and Syed Musharaf Hussain Rizvi (Director SITE West Directorate). Rahoojo further announced that prior to issuance of Notice u/s 81, the registered unit will be given a chance of arbitration at the Association's office. In case the matter remains unresolved at the Facilitation Desk of

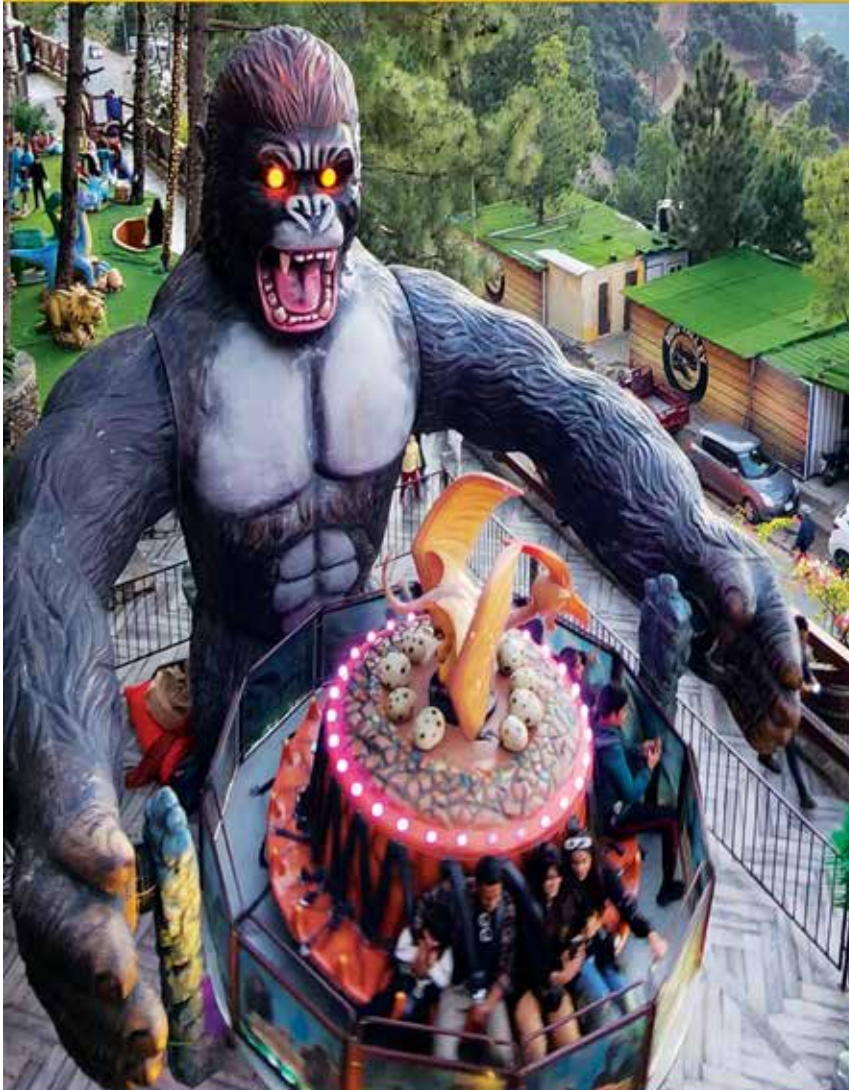
the Association, the Notice will be served. He added that action shall be against the officers conducting double visits in a year. Responding to queries & complaints from members regarding poor healthcare services at the SESSI Valika Hospital, the Commissioner said that he is not satisfied with the prevailing conditions & services of the hospital. In a bid to bring improvement in the affairs of the hospital, the Hospital Management Committees have been formed who have been given financial powers up to PKR 50,000 per pa-

tient so that matters resolve expeditiously. He further said that good quality medicines are being arranged with special packing reading 'SESSI PROPERTY - NOT FOR SALE'. Salaries of Consultants are being enhanced to match market demand and retention. We are also working to construct model operation theatres in SESSI Valika and Landhi hospitals and have signed agreements with Jinnah Sindh Medical University and Dow University for laboratory tests in Karachi whereas LUMS is being engaged to provide

these services in other cities of the Sindh province. Provision of new X-Ray machines is pending before the Governing Body for approval. Additionally, a mammography machine is being procured for the Valika hospital. The SESSI Commissioner announced the construction of a full-fledged cancer hospital on the land adjacent to Valika Hospital and upgrading of many Dispensaries of interior Sindh to hospitals. He informed that Mazdoor Card is being misused and an inquiry in such a matter is under process.—DNA



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

NOVEMBER

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

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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 Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Tashkent-Lahore direct flight to further boost bilateral ties

Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtayev said, "Because of the leadership and strategic vision of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, since September of this year, Uzbekistan has resumed the issuance of tourist visas for citizens of brotherly Pakistan"

ISLAMABAD :Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtayev on Thursday said that direct flights between Uzbekistan and Pakistan would resume on today (Friday) for enhancing regional integration. This flight, connecting the cities of Tashkent and Lahore, aims to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, take trade and economic relations to a new level, and facilitate tourists. Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev, told here. The ambassador said that this remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the personal initiative and unwavering support of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He said, "Because of the leadership and strategic vision of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, since September of this year, Uzbekistan has resumed the issuance of tourist visas for citizens of brotherly Pakistan."

"This wise decision has not only facilitated easier travel between the people from both sides but has also strengthened the bonds of friendship and created new opportunities for mutual understanding, business collaboration, and people-to-people connections between two nations," he said. Uzbek envoy said, "Direct flights will create new opportunities for tourists and businessmen, and Uzbekistan will also serve as a unique hub for Pakistan's citizens, including business chamber representatives." Ambassador Alisher Tukhtayev said, "The restoration of regular direct flights is not just about connecting Tashkent and Lahore; it is a strategic step to enhance the economic and trade connectivity and will promote cultural exchange between the two countries."

"Uzbekistan has a rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage that offers immense tourism potential," he said. We are excited to share the common historical heritage, beautiful traditions, and unique tourism opportunities with our Pakistani friends," he added. Replying to a question on the future of bilateral trade between the two nations, he said, "The future of trade and economic relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is promising, and there are untapped opportunities in different sectors of the bilateral economy to further deepen beneficial cooperation." "Today, our trade relations are developing steadily," he informed. He said,

"In particular, over the past five years, the bilateral trade turnover has increased almost four times, and this figure amounted to \$122 million in 2019 and is expected to exceed \$400 million by the end of 2024." The ambassador said, "Pakistan has an interest in the Uzbek market with its agricultural products, food, textiles, and leather products, while Uzbek industrial products, fruits, and vegetables are in high demand in Pakistan." Alisher Tukhtayev said, "The Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is fully active, and we are currently working to increase the list of preferential products under the Agreement from 17 to at least 100 items." In June 2024, the 'Made in Pakistan' industrial exhibition was held in Tashkent,

within the framework of which several new trade and investment agreements were signed, he said. "We are planning to organize an exhibition of industrial products 'Made in Uzbekistan' in Pakistan in 2025, and such events will serve to expand the range of goods exported between our countries," he said. He said, "I am confident that in the near future we will ensure the practical implementation of the agreement of the heads of states to increase the volume of bilateral trade up to \$1 billion." "I have no doubt that the future of trade and economic relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is bright, and strong political ties will serve to elevate this cooperation to a new level," the Uzbek ambassador concluded.—Agencies

IRSA releases 94100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 94,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 46,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1497.62 feet and was 99.62 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 22,900 cusecs and 49,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1159.15 feet, which was 109.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,600 cusecs and 27,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 53,400, 45,400, 38,400 and 5,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Faysal Bank wins top awards at IRBA 2024

ISLAMABAD: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL), Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, received two prestigious awards at the 10th Islamic Retail Banking Awards, securing recognition as the Best Islamic Retail Bank for Consumer Financing and Best Islamic Digital Banker in Pakistan for 2024. These awards reaffirm FBL's position as a leader in the Islamic banking sector and highlight a commitment to delivering innovative and Shariah-compliant financial solutions. Commenting on the achievement, Mr. Yousaf Hussain, President & CEO of FBL, said, "We are honoured to be recognised at the Islamic Retail Banking Awards. These accolades reaffirm our commitment to delivering innovative, Shariah-compliant solutions that cater to our customers' evolving needs. This recognition further strengthens our resolve to lead the way in Islamic banking, fostering sustainable growth and expanding financial inclusion across Pakistan."—APP

Naval Chief elaborates maritime security challenges



ISLAMABAD: The participants of 7th Maritime Security Workshop (MARSEW), led by Commandant Pakistan Navy War College, Rear Admiral Azhar Mahmood, visited Naval Headquarters. The workshop participants received a briefing on contemporary maritime challenges and Pakistan Navy's response strategies, including its contributions to maritime awareness and socio-economic development of coastal communities. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, also interacted with the participants. In his address, the Naval Chief elaborated on maritime security challenges and highlighted Pakistan's Blue Economy potential. He emphasized efforts to enhance maritime and coastal security through initiatives such as Regional Maritime Security Patrols and Coastal Security and Harbour Defence measures. The visiting delegation, comprising parliamentarians, politicians, bureaucrats, Armed Forces officers, members of the media, and representatives of civil society, highly appreciated Pakistan Navy's efforts and offered valuable suggestions.—DNA

Nasir urges to incentivize private sector growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, the President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has emphasized the importance of dialogue for addressing Pakistan's current political turmoil. He called for a shift away from aggressive tactics and urged the political leadership to seek de-escalation and create a stable environment for both political and economic growth. Qureshi highlighted the government's responsibility to maintain political stability by engaging all relevant stakeholders and adopting a measured approach. He warned that the ongoing political instability, combined with rising uncertainty, security concerns, and escalating business costs, is pushing local industrialists to relocate abroad, resulting in job losses and



diminished investment. Furthermore, Qureshi criticized bureaucratic inefficiencies that cause delays in investments and expressed concern over the negative impact of high energy costs, irrational taxes, and an uneven business playing field, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. To address these issues, Qureshi urged the government to foster private sector growth by offering incentives, simplifying regulations, and enhancing access to finance. Qureshi also stressed the importance of long-term policy stability to restore investor confidence and promote sustainable economic growth. He pointed

out that frequent policy shifts and a lack of clear direction from the government have created an unpredictable business environment. To foster a climate conducive to investment and growth, he called for a more consistent approach to economic policymaking, ensuring that businesses can plan and operate with confidence. Additionally, he urged the government to focus on improving the ease of doing business, addressing infrastructure challenges, and prioritizing human capital development to build a competitive and resilient economy.

ISSI's annual flagship event on 'Pak and Evolving Global Order'

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)'s annual flagship dialogue forum, the "Islamabad Conclave", is set to take place on 3-4 December 2024. This would be the 4th Edition of Islamabad Conclave, with this year's thematic focus on "Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order". The Islamabad Conclave embodies a Track 1.5 initiative designed to bring together high tiers of Pakistani leadership as well as distinguished practitioners, scholars, academics, and area specialists from Pakistan and abroad. The event serves as a forum to evaluate developments at the global and regional levels; assess their general and specific impact on Pakistan; and propose responses and innovative solutions for Pakistan to the emerging challenges and opportunities. Cognizant of the complex geo-political, security, and geo-economic dynamics, the Conclave's overall theme this year is further divided into five sub-themes, namely: (i) Major Power Competition: Emerging Realities; (ii) Evolving Strategic Environment: Impact on Order, Institutions, and Norms; (iii) Space for Middle Powers and the 'Global South'; (iv) Transforming Regional Dynamics and Architecture: Pakistan's Posture; and (v) Future of Multilateralism. After the Inaugural Plenary, the five sub-themes would be explored in separate Working Sessions. These meticulously crafted sessions envisage participation of eminent speakers with rich and diverse backgrounds and experiences, thus fostering comprehensive dialogue and strategic insights. The Concluding Plenary would aim to synthesize the plethora of ideas and perspectives shared throughout the event. Over the past four years, the Islamabad Conclave has emerged as a vital component of the annual, think-tanks-based Track 1.5 policy dialogues in Pakistan. Earlier, the 3rd Edition of Islamabad Conclave in 2023 generated insightful discourse and policy prescriptions on the theme of "Pakistan in a Changing World.—APP

SECP aims for transparency, investor's confidence

ISLAMABAD: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has aimed for greater transparency and investors confidence through effective supervision and enforcement. The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) through its centralized Supervision function continues to maintain effective oversight of capital markets and regulated businesses, said a press release issued here on Thursday. In a recent Commission meeting, a critical review of ongoing supervisory activities for regulated businesses was carried out, with a special focus on pooled investment related businesses, such as mutual funds, insurance companies and brokerage businesses. Measures were also discussed to further ensure safeguarding investors against illegal deposit taking and investment schemes, said a press release issued here on Thursday. The Commission emphasized following Standard Operating Procedures to actively deal with pending court cases. At the moment, 53 investigations and 30 criminal complaints filed by the Commission are under stay order from relevant courts. The Commission appreciated the recently concluded review of mutual fund industry, with the main objective of protecting the investors' interest.—DNA

Moot on emerging pathogens

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), in collaboration with the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO), is set to host a conference on 'Understanding and Mitigating the Threat of Emerging Pathogens: Opportunities and Challenges' on December 14-15. According to the PAS, "This conference aims to address the growing global challenge posed by emerging pathogens and their significant impact on public health, ecosystems, and economies." With a focus on zoonotic diseases, responsible for 75 percent of emerging infections in humans, the event will bring together leading scientists, policymakers, and health professionals from across the globe to discuss strategies for surveillance, prevention, and management. The conference is also aimed at enhancing understanding of global disease dynamics, considering the impact of globalization, travel, trade and the environment. The conference will delve into critical themes, including Understanding pathogen transmission from wildlife to humans; Developing effective disease surveillance and reporting systems; Exploring molecular pathology and potential drug targets; Strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration and international partnerships to mitigate future threats; Understanding treatment and prevention strategies and assessing emerging pathogens in plants. Renowned national and international experts will deliver keynote addresses, sharing insights into tackling pandemics like Ebola, avian influenza, and corona-viruses. The discussions will emphasize the role of globalization, urbanization, deforestation, and agricultural practices in the emergence and spread of infectious diseases. This event offers a unique platform for researchers, students, clinicians, health workers, veterinarians, virologists, plant scientists, and policymakers to exchange knowledge and foster collaborations. The attendees will gain valuable insights into innovative prevention and treatment strategies while exploring the role of environmental and genetic factors in disease emergence.—DNA

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Briefs

PWD demands additional Rs 135m

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) has demanded an additional Rs 135 million to complete the repair and renovation of government flats and blocks in Sector G-8, Islamabad. The PWD has partially completed repair and renovation works in G-8, the project will only be finalized once the required funds are made available, an official in the department told APP. The remaining works are expected to be completed within six months after the funds are received. He said the scope of the repairs includes internal and external painting of all flats, replacement of worn-out shutters, bathroom repairs with all necessary accessories, replacement of glass panes, and roof treatment. To a question, the official said that the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is actively conducting operations against unauthorized commercial use of residential buildings in Sectors G-13 and G-14 of Islamabad. The official said the authority has already issued notices to property owners engaging in illegal commercial activities within residential areas. According to the Islamabad Capital Territory Building Control Regulation 2020, the FGEHA has committed to taking legal action against property owners involved in the unlawful commercial use of residential buildings in these sectors, he added.—APP

Railways offer 50% concession for disabled persons

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is offering a 50 percent concession in rail fares to facilitate disabled persons traveling in all express and passenger trains, except the Green Line. "The concession is granted upon the presentation of the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) bearing the disability logo," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that a 50 percent discount is also offered to the attendant accompanying visually impaired persons. About the facilities at Railway Stations and Reservation Offices, he said that wheelchairs are available at all major stations to assist disabled passengers. Additionally, the official said that exclusive reservation and booking counters have been designated for disabled persons at reservation offices. The free-of-cost access to executive washrooms and restrooms has been provided at a few major stations for special persons. The official said that the facility of executive washrooms at 12 major stations is also being developed and will have free access for disabled passengers. To a question, the official said that Khushal Khan Khattak Express was discontinued in March 2020 owing to COVID-19, as train operation was suspended. He said that Pakistan Railways is operating 98 trains on a daily basis with 1,180 serviceable coaches. The department owns 1,680 passenger coaches on books out of which 72 percent of coaches have surpassed their useful life.—APP

Pakistan needs a cornea donation campaign: AST

A limited supply of corneal tissue can be attributed to several factors, including insufficient awareness, reluctance to donate, and demographic and systemic influences such as age, gender, education, cultural considerations, and the availability of surgeons and operating facilities

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: On Wednesday, Al-Shifa Trust (AST) advocated a state-backed cornea donation campaign to decrease reliance on imports as more than 300,000 individuals are currently on transplant waiting lists. Those awaiting transplants could be reintegrated as productive members of society in case we can have enough local donations, it said. Talking to media representatives, AST President Maj Gen (Retired) Rehmat Khan stated that bridging the imbalance requires an awareness

campaign, enabling local donations to assist needy individuals in becoming productive citizens. A limited supply of corneal tissue can be attributed to several factors, including insufficient awareness, reluctance to donate, and demographic and systemic influences such as age, gender, education, cultural considerations, and the availability of surgeons and operating facilities, he informed. He said that the global demand and supply situation is also unfavourable. Despite nearly 185,000 corneal transplants, approximately 12.7 million individuals remain on the waiting



list for transplants. He added that estimates suggest that only 1 in 70 individuals requiring a

transplant have access to one. He stated that Al-Shifa Trust Hospital can conduct nearly 800 corneal transplants annually as a significant deficit between the supply and demand of corneal tissue impairs its capacity to serve more people. Gen Rehmat Khan stated that many individuals are awaiting transplants in Pakistan and a lack of inclination in local populations prompts cornea imports. He informed that corneal tissue supply chain management could be inconsistent, mainly when certain cornea-exporting nations restrict donations to satisfy local transplant

needs. Therefore, he said, it is essential to take the initiative locally to transform the lives of individuals awaiting vision restoration. The cornea is among the simplest tissues to transplant, as it does not necessitate matching between donor and recipient. It operates without blood, extracting oxygen directly from the atmosphere. He informed that AST has a state-of-the-art eye bank at Rawalpindi Eye Hospital and expert doctors for collecting eye donations. Corneal grafting from an older adult to a younger recipient is a feasible procedure.

Saudi Arabia helps Pakistan through every crisis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Thursday that Saudi Arabia has supported Pakistan in every difficult time. He said that if Saudi Arabia had not fully supported Pakistan after the nuclear explosions,

the country would have gone bankrupt in 1998. Mian Zahid Hussain said that strict action should be taken against some political jokers who are enemies of the country and are trying to disrupt relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for petty political gains. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said Saudi Arabia has saved Pakistan from bankruptcy dozens of times. Even now, more than 2.5 million Pakistanis reside in the country, and they sent \$5.9 billion to the country last year, 24 percent of the total remittance

es. Mian Zahid Hussain said that a mischievous group is repeatedly targeting Saudi Arabia, against which strict action should be taken to control them. In the past, this group has tried to spoil relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia many times, which is condemnable. He said that in any country except Pakistan, the head of a province cannot even imagine attacking the capital repeatedly. These routine attacks cause billions of rupees in loss and make the country a laughing stock. This political group knows nothing about good

governance but likes to be in a state of war. He observed that its leader is obsessed with spoiling relations with friendly countries, opening different avenues and causing maximum damage to Pakistan's reputation and economy. None of those who launched them are with them now because they were tested during the four-year term. During the government, their popularity graph reached zero. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that most people in this group are experts in creating noise on social media and dancing to songs but want to avoid the rigours of prison.

Islamabad, WB join hands to combat smog

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and World Bank Country Director Najj Benhassine met in Islamabad on Thursday to discuss joint initiatives aimed at tackling smog and advancing sustainable development in the capital. The two sides agreed to collaborate on an anti-smog plan, with a joint team from the World Bank and the Capital Development Authority (CDA) tasked with its preparation. Minister Naqvi emphasized the urgency of addressing the escalating Air Quality Index, which has reached a critical level of 271 this year. "Before the situation becomes hazardous, we must urgently implement a comprehensive anti-smog strategy," he said. Discussions also covered key areas of mutual interest, including expanding the electric bus service, improving sanitation, providing clean water, and upgrading slums and rural areas. Naqvi highlighted the city's efforts to maintain its status as one of the world's most beautiful capitals, noting ongoing reviews of anti-smog machine installations. Najj Benhassine reaffirmed the World Bank's commitment to assisting Pakistan in achieving its sustainable development goals, including air quality improvement and urban development. "We are ready to work with the CDA to develop an effective anti-smog strategy," he said, adding that international-standard reports would help address the root causes of pollution. The meeting was attended by the Federal Interior Secretary, CDA Chairman, Deputy Commissioner, and other relevant officials. Naqvi expressed confidence that these collaborative efforts would ensure a cleaner, healthier environment for Islamabad's residents and visitors alike.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Bangladesh High Commissioner Muhammad Ruhul Alam Siddiqui.—DNA

FPCCI SVP credits PM's leadership for economic growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice President of FPCCI, Saquib Fayyaz Magoon Thursday praised Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and congratulated the nation as the Pakistan Stock Exchange's KSE-100 index surged past the 100,000 points mark for the first time ever and noting that economic indicators are now moving in the right direction.

In an interview with PTV news channel, the Senior Vice President

of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) praised the government's efforts under PM Shahbaz Sharif's leadership, noting that despite facing political instability, the government has achieved a major milestone with the stock exchange reaching an all-time high.

This achievement indicates growing trust in the country's economy and is a testament to the government's efforts to revive the economy and boost investor confidence, he mentioned. He highlighted that this

achievement marks a new beginning and a rise of hope after previous disappointments and that investors and the business community are rapidly regaining trust.

Saquib Fayyaz Magoon emphasized that political parties should prioritize the country's future and refrain from spreading propaganda against the government. He highlighted that within just a year, the current government has successfully revived the economy and restored investors' trust, which is a remarkable achieve-

ment. He also expressed optimism that the current progress will lead to further improvement in positive indicators, building on the momentum of the stock exchange's historic success.

He noted that the government's efforts have already yielded remarkable results, including the revival of the economy and restoration of investors' trust and hoped that this trajectory will continue, leading to even more promising developments for the country's future.

Tanveer hails PSX performance as it crosses 100,000 points

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday hailed the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) performance as it crossed 100,000 points signaling a major boost to Pakistan's economy. The minister also congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on achieving rapid economic growth, attributing this success to the his tireless efforts and the government's effective economic policies, said a statement here. He said, "Pakistan will achieve rapid economic growth in all sectors." "There is a positive trend in all economic indicators," he remarked.—APP

Dastgir condemns PTI violent politics

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) senior leader Khurram Dastgir Thursday strongly condemned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's destructive agenda and blackmailing tactics, stating that these actions will no longer be tolerated. In an interview with a private news channel, he said that conspiring against the state will not be tolerated and that such actions will be terminated at all costs. The government will not hesitate to take decisive action against anyone found guilty of undermining national security or engaging in anti-state activities, he highlighted. He demanded that the PTI respect the democratic system and desist from its violent activities, which have compromised the security of Islamabad and put its residents at risk. Dastgir emphasized that the protection of citizens is of paramount importance, and his government will not tolerate any compromise on their security. He reiterated that the government is committed to ensuring that the fundamental rights of citizens.—APP

ANF recovers over 63 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 63 kg drugs worth Rs 10 million and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Thursday. He informed that 3.6 kg hashish hidden in secret cavities of a car intercepted near Kohinoor Mills Rawalpindi was recovered and arrested an accused. 3 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near a petrol pump in Fateh Chowk, Hyderabad. 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from a drug dealer netted near Pirwadhai Mor G.T, Road Rawalpindi. 900 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a college on the Expressway Islamabad. 51 grams weed was recovered from two accused held near a university in Bahria Town Islamabad. The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions. In another operation, 1.2 kg ice was recovered from a suspect rounded up near Haji Camp Peshawar. 10 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects apprehended on Saryab Road, Quetta. 32 kg hashish hidden near the coastal line in Gwadar was recovered and in another operation, 5 kg heroin and 5 kg ice were recovered from a warehouse near D-Block Chowk, Gwadar. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act and investigations have been initiated.—DNA

Global agritech company devotes to optimise China-Pak agri coop model

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Plump rice grains, full-bodied peppers, fragrant sesame... an endless stream of visitors were full of praise for the dazzling array of agricultural products at the ongoing 2024 China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE). "From high-quality seeds, premium agricultural inputs to the Agriculture Value Chain (AVC) comprehensive business, Syngenta Group is committed to building a win-win framework between China and Pakistan, not only helping local farmers open up new sales channels as well as increase their income, but also enriching Chinese consumers' din-

ing tables, and making China's oilseed and cash crop import sources more diverse," a staff at Syngenta Group China, told China Economic Net (CEN). "By supplying inputs and production services to growers, bartering with entities in core producing areas in exchange for key agricultural products, while linking China's agricultural product market demand and opening up the global upstream and downstream chains, the AVC model has brought practical benefits to farmers in Pakistan." Sesame cultivation in Pakistan has tripled in the past 5 years. As most Pakistan sesame is for export, with more than 1/3 goes to China, AVC aims to link the quality sesame from Pakistani growers

served by Syngenta with international value chain partners especially in China. In May 2023, APAC's first CentriGo Flagship Center of Syngenta launched in Okara, Punjab, serving more than 500 farmers across over 10,000 acres of farming on potato, corn, rice, vegetables and sesame. All of them get top-quality agronomy inputs including seeds, fertilizer, crop protection, and services such as drones spraying and farm mechanization. "I have 20 acres of sesame. By using drones to spray insecticides provided by CentriGo, my yields increased by 10 percent. Owe to the improved quality of exported sesame, I received a price 30 percent higher than the average market price."

Mian Bashir Ahmad, one of CentriGo growers, said. Other than the steadily advancing sesame project, Pakistani chilis have also emerged as an agricultural product favored by Chinese consumers. "Syngenta is exploring collaborations with Chinese companies for potential chili contract farming in Pakistan. The initiative aims to develop varieties suited to Chinese tastes, with the goal of enhancing agricultural supply and value chain resilience," the staff introduced, pointing to the Pakistani dried chilis on the booth. "During this process, we are devoted to boost the interests of local farmers and promote the upgrading of the global agricultural supply chain."

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Ceasefire in Lebanon

AFTER 65 days of bloody war and more than 13 months of escalation, a ceasefire has been established between Hezbollah and Israel, leading to varying evaluations of the conditions that led to this agreement and what each party achieved from it. The ceasefire agreement between the Lebanese resistance and Israel came into effect at dawn on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, following an open military confrontation that lasted over two months and a supporting battle for Gaza that began the day after the Al-Aqsa Flood battle in October last year. Writer Dr. Abd al-Razzaq Maqri notes how Israel and U.S. leaders attempted to portray the ceasefire agreement as a defeat for the resistance, suggesting that the Al-Aqsa Flood would ultimately lead to final defeat for the resistance. He points out that the rhetoric of these oppressive forces affected the morale of many supporters of Palestinian rights and the resistance. This shift aligned with the interests of those who wanted to retreat to their safe circles, unaffected by the volatile Palestinian situation and the images of humanitarian tragedies in Gaza that disrupt their familiar lives of peace and tranquility. In an article published by the Palestinian Information Center, he argues that the Israelis understood they had become entangled in a war in Lebanon, which would be a devastating war of attrition for them and their future. They realized that achieving the declared war objectives related to disarming Hezbollah and breaking the resistance in Lebanon was impossible. As a result, they accepted the ceasefire and relied on the U.S. to secure formal gains that would allow them to save face, such as Hezbollah moving beyond the Litani River and the Lebanese army deploying in southern Lebanon, ensuring Hezbollah would not be armed or manufacture weapons. According to Hezbollah, the number of Islamic resistance operations since October 8, 2023, has exceeded 4,637 (announced) military operations over 417 days, averaging 11 operations daily. Among these, there have been 1,666 diverse military operations since the start of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the launch of the "Fist of Strength" operations on September 17, 2024, averaging 23 operations daily. These operations targeted Israeli army bases, cities, and settlements, from the Lebanese border to beyond Tel Aviv, including heroic responses to enemy ground incursions into Lebanese territory. Israeli affairs expert Ihab Jabareen believes that Israel sought the agreement to reorganize its ranks. He indicates that Israel attempted to achieve its military objectives, but airstrikes did not succeed, and on the ground, it faced strong resistance, resulting in a rapidly filled casualty count. This situation, according to Jabareen, pushed Israel to resort to diplomatic channels as a necessary option, sooner or later, to translate tactical strikes into strategic outcomes. For Israel, what existed before this war should not remain the same afterward. In the opening of his article, he mentions three key factors that prompted the occupation to agree to the ceasefire: Iran, armament, and the need to ease fronts. These are points Netanyahu discussed in his promotional speech for the agreement, which closely resembles the Versailles Treaty for the region, addressing the Israeli public, even though the target audience was the international community.

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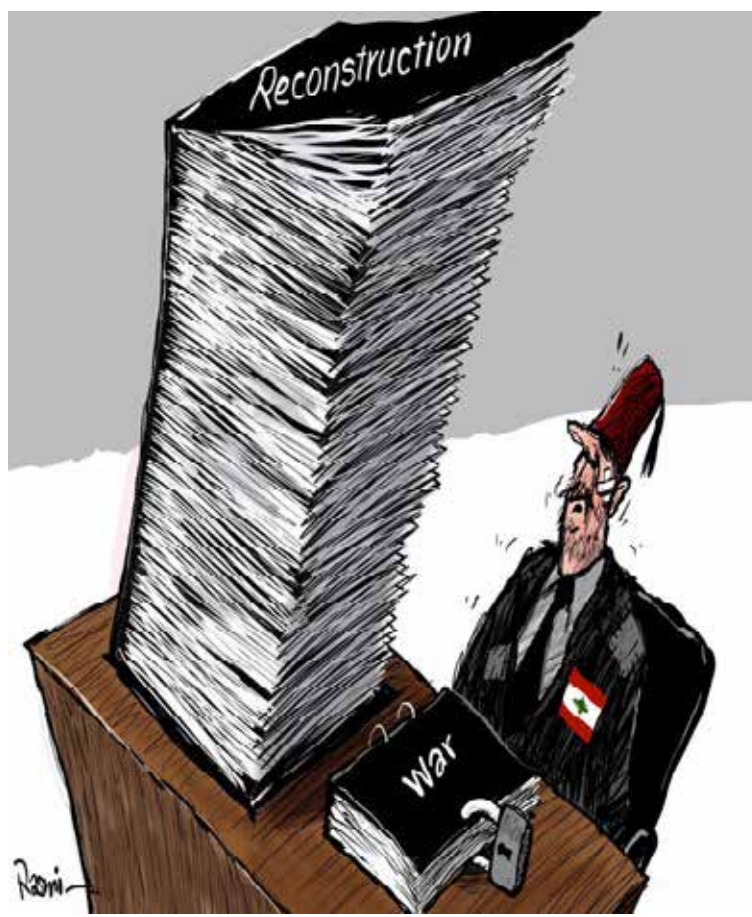
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G7 smearing China

THE G7, originally an economic organization focused on economic cooperation, frequently involves itself in international events and conflicts beyond its original scope. In particular, it has inserted itself into the Russia-Ukraine conflict, becoming a meddling force with clear political motives. According to an early draft from the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting reported by Bloomberg on Monday, they are expected to vow "appropriate measures consistent with our legal systems, against actors in China and in other third countries' who are supporting Russia's 'war machine' in Ukraine." Why is the G7 so intent on portraying China as aiding Russia militarily? On the one hand, they want to pass the buck to China for the Russia-Ukraine conflict. On the other, they are trying to legitimize their strategy of isolating China and uniting a small circle of allies led by the US, from calling on China to stop its "backing" of Russia's dual-use weapons in April to now attempting to take "appropriate measures." The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has repeatedly responded that "China handles the export of military products prudently and responsibly. We have never provided lethal weapons to any party of the conflict." It has also pointed out multiple times that China's normal trade with Russia is done aboveboard. It's consistent with WTO rules and market principles. It does not target any third party and should not come under external interference or coercion. China's legitimate and lawful rights and interests brook no infringement. However, it is the US, the G7's "main leader," who has authorized Ukraine to use powerful long-range weapons to strike targets. Regardless of the fact, the Russia-Ukraine conflict provides the G7 an opportunity to amplify the so-called "China threat" narrative. They use it as an excuse to expand sanctions against Russia and other countries, and weaken China's international image, thereby consolidating G7's waning influence. The G7 is no longer regarded as a purely economic organization but rather a geopolitical alliance, a tool for advancing "strategic objectives." Their true aim has shifted to using pressure and sanctions to promote the strategic interests of specific nations, shaping the global order and maintaining Western dominance. As a result, China has become their primary target. The G7 expresses frequent concerns about China possibly supporting Russia, yet chooses to turn a blind eye to the US' approval of Ukraine's use of long-range weapons. One side calls for peace while the other fuels the flames of war - who should be questioned? This reveals that Western politicians, eager to threaten Beijing with sanctions, are simply making futile, baseless statements, which only harm the West's overall image. Not only the G7, but the European Commission is also proposing sanctions related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. According to documents leaked to Bloomberg, the European Commission will sanction several Chinese firms it claims helped Russian companies develop attack drones that were deployed against Ukraine. Companies from Russia, Serbia, Iran, India, and other countries will also be included in the sanctions. Such "scattershot" actions prove that neither the G7 nor the EU are genuinely focused on ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The G7 constantly talks about its "unwavering commitment" to Kiev, yet never stops its "unwavering smearing" against China. What the G7 expresses is a self-affirmation of its perceptions, reinforcing its narrow mind-set rather than presenting a true solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Celebrating progress and commitment to Europe on Romania's National Day

Dan Stoenescu



With a predictable foreign policy, anchored in European and transatlantic democratic values, Romania is currently an essential contributor to Europe's security, continuing, as long as necessary, the firm and multidimensional support for Ukraine and its citizens and its constructive engagement in strengthening security in the Black Sea region and NATO's Eastern Flank

DECEMBER 1st is not only a day for Romanians to celebrate the historic union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania in 1918, but also a moment to reflect on how far our country has come since its accession to the European Union. As we commemorate our National Day, we are reminded of the undeniable progress that Romania has made, driven by the transformative power of EU membership. One hundred and six years ago, the centuries-long ideal of national unity was achieved, building the foundation of the modern Romanian state. Thirty-five years after the fall of the Iron Curtain in Europe, replacing totalitarianism with democracy, we are living in a complex international context, marked by the illegal, unjustified, and unprovoked aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, instability and radicalism. Determination and solidarity remain essential values. With a predictable foreign policy, anchored in European and transatlantic democratic values, Romania is currently an essential contributor to Europe's security, continuing, as long as necessary, the firm and multidimensional support for Ukraine and its citizens and its constructive engagement in strengthening security in the Black Sea region and NATO's Eastern Flank. Romania does not address these difficulties and challenges in isolation. Today, Romania is part of the strongest collective security alliance, NATO, which brings a billion people under its protective umbrella. Romania celebrated 20 years of NATO membership this year, in the year in which the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance turned 75. The two decades of NATO membership have strengthened our country's strategic profile as a promoter of transatlantic solidarity and allied unity, as an active supporter of the "open door" policy, and of support for partners who share the same principles and values. Since joining the European Union in 2007, the benefits for Romania and its citizens have been undeniable. Our daily lives have been shaped by an influx of investments, enhanced economic ties with other member states, and access to a shared space of values and principles. From the improvements in living standards to the substantial growth

in our economy, Romania has emerged as a success story of European integration. The EU has not only strengthened our economic foundation but has also contributed to the development of modern infrastructure, the digitalization of key sectors, and a more competitive labor market. Looking back at the past 17 years, the numbers speak for themselves. Romania has received over 60 billion euros in EU funds, more than offsetting our contributions to the EU budget. These funds have been a driving force behind transformative projects across transport, healthcare, education, and the environment. As a result, Romania's GDP has tripled, and GDP per capita has nearly quadrupled. Our citizens are experiencing tangible benefits, from increased wages to more opportunities for travel, study, and work across the EU and beyond. Starting 2025 we will be fully fledged members of the Schengen zone and travel visa-free around the world, including to the USA. Today, Romanians enjoy the freedom of movement and the advantages of a larger, unified European market, which has opened doors for entrepreneurs and businesses. Romania's progress extends beyond the numbers; it's felt in the everyday lives of our people. The minimum wage has increased twentyfold in the past two decades, and the average salary has grown significantly. These changes are not just about economic growth, but about lifting the standard of living for all Romanians. The EU has played a crucial role in this transformation, offering expertise, funding, and a clear path towards modernization. Whether through the Erasmus program, which has allowed over 44,000 Romanian students to study abroad, or the vast improvements in infrastructure, Romania has become more connected to the world and better positioned to face the challenges of the future. However, this is just the beginning. As we look to the future, Romania has a unique opportunity to continue building on these gains, particularly in areas like digitalization, healthcare, and education. The European Union's budget for 2021-2027, along with the Next Generation EU recovery plan, provides Romania with over 79 billion euros in funding for reforms and investments. This is a crucial opportunity to accelerate our development, improve our

infrastructure, and address the challenges posed by global crises, such as the war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the pandemic. Romania's unwavering commitment to EU values will ensure that we contribute to the broader European project, strengthening the EU's resilience and unity. Romania has also played a pivotal role in the EU's response to global challenges. Our support for the European integration of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, for example, is a testament to our dedication to the European project and to building a more stable and secure region. As we celebrate December 1st, we should also recognize our role in advancing European unity and cohesion, particularly in the face of difficult times. The future of Romania lies in its continued integration into the European project. Our place in the EU is not just about economic benefits, but about shaping a society based on shared values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. Romania's National Day is not just a celebration of our past, but a reminder of the bright future that lies ahead—a future defined by growth, innovation, and a deepening of our ties to Europe. Romania and Pakistan enjoy very good bilateral relations and Pakistan represents an important partner for Romania in the South Asian region. Moreover, this year, Romania and Pakistan celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations, and this link has been constantly developed throughout the years. This mutual motivation has rendered a fruitful political dialogue, reflecting the clear desire of both states to develop a pragmatic relationship in fields of common interests. Our two countries are bound to take forward the bilateral agenda and the cooperation within the EU-Pakistan framework and in multilateral formats, especially within the UN. As we celebrate Romania's National Day, let us honor the progress we have made and commit to pushing forward in the years to come. Together with our European partners, we will continue to build a Romania that is prosperous, secure, and fully integrated into the European family and a strong partner of Pakistan!

- Dan Stoenescu is the ambassador-designate of Romania to Pakistan

How did Ali Sobh become a Mega-millionaire ?

Qamar Bashir



One particularly painful moment came on his 22nd birthday when he asked for a single day off

A YOUNG, pregnant woman from Lebanon fled to the United States—the "Land of Opportunity"—with her husband and family, escaping the horrors of a war-torn homeland. They arrived in America shattered, both emotionally and financially. Struggling to find their footing in a foreign land, they faced a harsh new reality that seemed anything but promising. One night, the woman had a vivid dream in which she was pregnant with a golden child, a vision that left her both bewildered and conflicted. How could such a dream be true when her family was trapped in the suffocating grip of poverty? The dream felt like a cruel joke, a mockery of her life's grim circumstances. Her despair only deepened when her child was born—a boy with a host of physical challenges. He was legally blind, unable to read due to a genetic condition, and flat-footed, which made standing for long periods nearly impossible. As he grew, it became clear he would never become the doctor, engineer, or police officer she once imagined. He could never drive, a freedom most people took for granted. The burden of his limitations weighed heavily on her heart, and she began to question not only her dream but her own worth as a mother. To add to the family's misfortune, her husband was betrayed by his own brothers. They robbed him of his hard-earned money, ousted him from their shared business, and reduced him to the role of a mere servant. This betrayal crushed his spirit, leaving the family even more vulnerable. Amid this sea of despair was their son, a boy whose childhood was stolen by necessity. At the tender age of nine, he took on the grueling job of a paperboy to help his family pay the mounting bills. While other children played, went to the movies, and celebrated birthdays, he worked tirelessly, shouldering burdens

far beyond his years. By thirteen, he had added the roles of busboy and waiter to his growing list of jobs. His life was a relentless cycle of labor, leaving little room for school, play, or dreams of his own. Despite his sacrifices, the boy felt invisible, his efforts unnoticed and uncelebrated. Each day he fought a silent battle against the unfairness of his circumstances, against the weight of expectations he could barely carry. His mother, too, sank deeper into her own disillusionment, convinced that the golden child from her dream was nothing more than a cruel illusion. And yet, amidst the heartbreak and relentless toil, a quiet resilience began to grow within him—a spark of something extraordinary waiting to be revealed. Despite his hardships, Ali was a spiritual soul. People often remarked that he had the aura of a priest. His calm demeanor and striking good looks made him stand out, even in his difficult circumstances. After years of relentless work, he managed to save \$6,000—a small fortune in his eyes—but he never let his struggles dim his optimism. His handsome features eventually caught the attention of a modeling agency, and for a while, he found fleeting success in the limelight. At just 19, Ali took a bold step and opened his own business: a small ice cream shop. But his father, forced him instead help him in a restaurant business. He took out a loan by pledging his house and insisted on becoming Ali's business partner. Deep down, Ali knew it was a risky decision, but out of respect for his father, he agreed. Within a year, their business failed. They lost everything—the shop, their savings, and even their dreams. The weight of this failure forced Ali to drop out of college. At just 17, he experienced the heartbreak of foreclosure, and his father was crushed under the weight of debt. Poverty, which they had fought so hard to escape, came roaring back into their lives. To make matters worse, Ali suffered a devastating injury, breaking his leg after a horseback riding accident. Unable to afford proper treatment, he cut off his plaster prematurely, leaving his leg permanently damaged and in chronic pain. Yet, even in the depths of despair, he refused to give up. Ali returned to work, taking on grueling jobs as a waiter and laborer, carrying heavy loads from shops to carnivals. Just as he began to recover emotionally, another challenge arose. His uncle, who ran a car wash, offered Ali a job, promising to pay him \$600 a month for exhausting hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. But this job came with its own humiliations. While Ali toiled tirelessly, his cousin—meant to manage the car wash—enjoyed a life of luxury, flaunting a \$60,000 Cadillac and shirking all responsibilities. Ali's spirit was tested daily. One particularly painful moment came on his 22nd birthday when he asked for a single day off. His cousin, cold and dismissive, refused. That night, Ali returned home utterly broken. The weight of his struggles became unbearable. For the first time, he seriously considered ending his life. With a gun

to his neck, ready to pull the trigger, he decided to say one final goodbye to his mother. It was during that moment of connection that clarity struck. Ali realized he couldn't let his pain define him. He vowed that within a year, he would turn his life around. Fueled by sheer determination, Ali worked relentlessly. At 22, he managed to open his own car wash. By 28, he owned six car washes, built from the ground up through his hard work and grit. He married the love of his life and finally began to taste the success he had fought so hard for. But life had one more cruel twist in store. His uncles, now bankrupt due to poor decisions, came to Ali for help. Despite their past betrayals, he lent them \$10,000, trusting in their need. Only later did he discover the bitter truth: they had used his money to open a car wash modeled after his brand, stealing his customized designs and goodwill. The betrayal stung deeply, but Ali chose to rise above it. He had built his empire with integrity and resilience, and no one could take that from him. When Ali earned his first \$100,000, he didn't splurge on luxury or status. Instead, he bought a truck to support his business, reinvested in his dreams, and expanded his operations. Practical and determined, he saved every penny he could, eventually buying out his uncle's failing car wash. This marked the beginning of a remarkable turnaround—not just for his business, but for his life. The "golden dream" his mother had once seen now seemed to be unfolding before their eyes. By the age of 35, the boy once dismissed as handicapped had become one of the most successful businessmen in Detroit. His empire had grown to over 40 companies, a testament to his resilience, vision, and relentless drive. Yet, success did not make him complacent. Ali never forgot the education he had been forced to abandon as a young boy. Determined to fulfill that lost dream, he enrolled at the University of Michigan. Despite managing a rapidly expanding business empire, he graduated with straight A's in every subject, proving that his pursuit of knowledge was as unyielding as his pursuit of success. Amid his achievements, Ali embarked on a deeply spiritual journey, performing Hajj. This pilgrimage transformed him. The profound experience rekindled his faith and gave him a renewed sense of purpose. In a moment of spiritual clarity, Ali made a solemn contract with God. He gave up the vices he had gradually indulged in and resolved to live a life guided by integrity, humility, and generosity. As part of his newfound commitment, Ali pledged to donate one-fifth of everything he earned to those in need. This act of devotion wasn't a fleeting gesture but a lifelong commitment. Millions of dollars now flow each year from his businesses to charities across the United States and his homeland of Lebanon. His contributions support education, orphanages, authentic organizations, and countless individuals in desperate need. Yet, true to his values, Ali never sought recognition for his charity. He believes that giving is an act of faith, not a transaction for applause.

By the age of 45, Ali had achieved a level of success most could only dream of. He owned luxurious villas, a fleet of high-end cars, a collection of wristwatches—the cheapest of which cost \$50,000—his own luxury yachts, and over 40 thriving companies generating millions of dollars every month. From a life of poverty and struggle, Ali had risen to the pinnacle of wealth and achievement. Yet, despite his immense success, Ali felt a deeper calling. He realized that his journey, marked by adversity, resilience, and faith, held valuable lessons for others. He wanted to inspire struggling men and women around the world to rise above their hardships, to stay connected with Allah, to work hard and smart, and to set goals so high that they not only achieved them but surpassed them. He believed that self-belief, coupled with determination, could turn even the most daunting dreams into reality. This calling brought him to social media. Determined to share his hard-earned wisdom and life experiences, Ali assembled a team of talented individuals to help him amplify his message. Within just six months, Ali became one of the most influential social media figures in the United States and Lebanon. Posting inspirational videos on Instagram under the username Alisobh_official, he garnered 170,000 followers and over 30 million views in half a year. His powerful, heartfelt videos, rooted in his real-life struggles and triumphs, resonated deeply with his audience. Ali didn't stop at Instagram. His videos, brimming with raw emotion and practical advice, reached millions more on TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube. His story—of rising from rags to riches with nothing but his mother's dream and his indomitable spirit—captivated hearts worldwide. Followers flooded his inbox with messages of gratitude, sharing how his words had transformed their lives, helping them to overcome adversity and rekindle their faith in themselves and Allah. For many, Ali's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and belief. Unlike many millionaires and billionaires born into privilege, Ali had started with nothing but his mother's vision of a "golden boy." His rise to success wasn't handed to him—it was earned, one hard-fought step at a time. In one particularly emotional conversation, Ali shared his story with me, and tears filled his eyes. He admitted that even now, when he feels overwhelmed by challenges or weighed down by life's hardships, he turns to his own videos for strength. "I listen to my own words," he said, his voice trembling, "and they remind me of where I came from and where I'm going. They give me the energy I need to conquer whatever difficulty comes my way." Ali Sobh's life is more than a story—it is a beacon of hope for anyone facing adversity. It is proof that with faith, hard work, and unwavering self-belief, even the most impossible dreams can become a reality.

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

Briefs

Cabinet for governor's rule in KP

FROM PAGE 01
include terrorism, assault on police, violation of Section 144, abduction, and interference in government operations. The sources close to the federal government revealed that a majority of cabinet members — who met today with a one-point agenda — suggested imposing governor's rule in KP, accusing the province of allegedly patronising the major opposition party's protests against the coalition government. However, the cabinet decided to consult coalition partners, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), as well as stakeholders like the Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) and the Awami National Party (ANP), before making a final decision. Amid speculations of the governor's rule, the KP advocate general office "completed preparations for a legal response" to the federal government. During a consultative session today, the law officers collected verdicts related to the governor's rule to counter the expected decision from the Centre.

BA passes resolution seeking...

FROM PAGE 01
the mistreatment of the former ruling party. The resolution, a copy of which is available with Geo News, stated that the PTI, which has been at loggerheads with the government, was responsible for the May 9 events — a reference to the violent protest that broke out last year following PTI founder Imran Khan's arrest and saw attacks on public properties including military institutions in many parts of the country. "Once again, it [the former ruling party] is carrying out violent actions," it stated, adding that the PTI's "anarchist agenda" has affected the country's system and every sector, including judiciary, media and the economy. The resolution further stated that a provincial chief executive's attempts to open a front against the Centre were tantamount to advancing the anti-state's power agenda.

COAS Asim describes shooting...

FROM PAGE 01
the Pakistan Air Force won the CAS contest. Pakistan Army secured the overall Championship Trophy. The FTR team trophy was won by the Pakistan Army led by Lieutenant General Ahsan Gulrez. The President's Cup National Challenge match trophy was awarded to Naik Waseem Ahmed Khan of the Pakistan Army. Pakistan Air Force won the Prime Minister 'Skills at Arms' Big Bore National Challenge. Azad Kashmir Regiment won the first prize in para firing matches (infantry squad). The highest military shooting honour, 'The Master at Arms' Trophy was awarded to Sepoy Aftab Ahmed of the Punjab Regiment. The 'Best Shot Match Trophy' Group 2 and Group 3 were awarded to Lance Dafadar Muhammad Imran of Cavalry and Havaldar Fateh Ullah Khan of EME Battalion.

Imran removes...

FROM PAGE 01
decision was driven by a desire to allow seasoned leaders to take charge of the party's future direction. The shake-up also saw the resignation of PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja, who stepped down amid increasing criticism of the party's handling of the recent protest in Islamabad. Barrister Zafar clarified that Raja's resignation was not voluntary but a result of Khan's decision to remove him from office. In a further shake-up, Khan appointed Ali Muhammad Khan as the new PTI Secretary General, filling the void left by Raja's departure. Sources indicated that the PTI leadership turmoil could result in additional resignations as the party grapples with mounting pressure in the wake of its failed protest in Islamabad.

Junior Hockey Asia Cup

Pakistan hockey team crush Bangladesh by 6-0

Pakistan will take on Oman in next encounter

SPORTS DESK

MUSCAT: Pakistan national hockey team powered to clinical victory over Bangladesh over 6-0 in the Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup in Oman on Thursday. According to details, Sufiyan Khan spearheaded the Green Shirts by scoring a hat-trick of goals. Muhammad Ahammad, Rana Waleed, Zakriya Hayat netted a goal each. Pakistan continued the momentum they gained in their first match against China by clinching a terrific 7-2 victory. Fayyaz Hamza and Sufiyan Khan had netted two goals each against China. Rana Waleed, Muhammad Ahammad, and Muhammad Mugheera had scored one goal each. The Men in Green will look to extend their winning streak in their forthcoming match against the



hosts, Oman on Saturday. Earlier in opening match Pakistan Hockey's rising star Sufiyan Khan and Hamza Fayaz played pivotal roles as Pakistan secured a dominant 7-2 win over China in the Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2024 on Wednesday. Their twin strikes helped Pakistan claim an impressive victory in this

crucial league-stage match. The match began slowly, with neither team able to score in the opening quarter. However, the momentum shifted in the second quarter when Hamza Fayaz broke the deadlock just two minutes into the period with a well-taken field goal. Pakistan quickly doubled their

lead when Sufiyan Khan converted a penalty corner to make it 2-0. The Green Shirts continued to press, and Hamza netted again to extend Pakistan's advantage to 3-0. China managed to pull one back when Di Yanwei scored, reducing the deficit to 3-1. But Pakistan responded swiftly, with Muhammad



Ahammad adding a fourth goal taking the score to 4-1 in the penultimate quarter, their favor.

'No hybrid model' 'It's unacceptable that Pak visit India and they don't'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has told the International Cricket Council (ICC) that it will not accept the hybrid model for the upcoming Men's Champions Trophy 2025 'unacceptable'. According to the details, the apex cricketing body has summoned a board meeting on November 29 to deliberate on the future of the eight-team tournament, slated to be held in Pakistan in the February-March window next year. In the meeting, the ICC board members will discuss various options, including adopting a hybrid model, relocating the event entirely, or postponing the tournament. Meanwhile, PCB chair Naqvi, while addressing a press conference here at Gaddafi Stadium in the wee hours of Thursday, asserted that the cricket board would do what's in the best interest of Pakistan cricket before emphasizing the need of reciprocity in cricketing ties between Pakistan and India. "Our stance is very clear," Naqvi stated. "I promise we'll do what is best for Pakistan cricket. I'm constantly in touch

with the ICC chairman, and my team is talking to them constantly. We're still clear in our stance that it's not acceptable that we play cricket in India, and they don't play cricket here. Whatever will happen, will happen on the basis of equality. We've told the ICC very clearly, and what happens next we'll let you know." "Whatever we do, we will make sure the best outcome for Pakistan is achieved. But I repeat, and I am sure you know what I mean, it's not possible that Pakistan play in India, and they don't come here."



Men's U19 Asia Cup begins today

Pakistan, who missed out on the final in the last edition of the event, is placed in Group A, alongside India, Japan and UAE

DUBAI: Pakistan will begin their journey in the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup on Saturday as the eight-team tournament begins today. The Group A matches of the 50-over event will be played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) while the Group B matches will take place at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium (SCS). Pakistan, who missed out on the final in the last edition of the event, is placed in Group A, alongside India, Japan and UAE. Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are placed in Group B. The top two sides from each group will play the

semi-finals scheduled on 6 December, while the final will take place at the DICS on 8 December. All matches are set to start at 10am PKT, with the toss taking place at 09.30am PKT. Saad Baig-led Pakistan will face India in their opening match on 30 November at the DICS. They are scheduled to play UAE and Japan on 2 and 4 December, respectively at the same venue. Among the 15-member squad, four players — Mohammad Riazullah, Saad Baig, Shahzaib Khan and Tayyab Arit have featured for Pakistan in the last edition of U19 Asia Cup held at the UAE in December 2023. Pakistan, before beginning their journey in the tournament, has been in Dubai for three weeks as they featured in the U19 tri-series featuring Afghanistan and UAE. Although they finished runners-up to Afghanistan in the final, the tournament provided valuable experience and warm-up to the team. During the course of the tournament, Pakistan players tried to make full use of the conditions as opening batters Shahzaib Khan (330 runs, five matches, 1x100, 3x50s) and Usman Khan (314 runs, five matches, 1x100, 3x50s) finished among the top three batters in the event. Similarly, in the bowling chart, right-arm fast bowlers Abdul Subhan and Ali Raza bagged nine wickets each as they too ended among the top three bowlers. Saad Baig talking to PCB Digital on the eve of the tournament, said: "We have been in Dubai for a few weeks now and had a good outing in the tri-series tournament. Even though we couldn't win the final, it provided players a great opportunity to acclimatise to the conditions and now we are ready for the Asia Cup. — DNA

Liverpool secure historic victory over Real Madrid

LONDON: Liverpool regained top spot in the Champions League table and registered a first victory over Real Madrid in 15 years on Wednesday with a dominant 2-0 win courtesy of goals from Alexis Mac Allister and Cody Gakpo. Such was The Reds' superiority that they could afford the luxury of a rare Mohamed Salah penalty miss in between goals as they claimed a fifth win from five games to sit two points clear at the head of the new-look league format. On a miserable night for the Spaniards, now 24th in the 36-team competition, Kylian Mbappe was well-shackled and also missed a penalty that would have drawn Real level against the run of play in the second half. With Liverpool dominating possession and chances against the Champions League holders, Mac Allister struck the opener in the 52nd minute after a neat one-two with Conor Bradley in front of a delirious Kop end at Anfield. Gakpo sealed the game in the 76th minute with a header past Thibaut Courtois from an Andy Robertson cross. "When you play against teams like Real Madrid, it's always nice to score, but the most important thing is that we won it, and I think in a really good way," Mac Allister said. "We dominated the game, we deserved this." The result continued boss Arne Slot's scintillating start at Liverpool, who as well as their 100% Champions League record also sit top of the Premier League by eight points. Notably, Liverpool had not beaten Real Madrid since 2009, failing to win any of the previous eight matches including two painful Champions League final defeats. "It's a big result, it was a massive game for us. Obviously, they got the better of us the last few times in the Champions League so we wanted to come out here tonight and put on a performance," said goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher. His second-half penalty save against a confidence-sapped Mbappe brought one of the biggest roars of the night. "I don't really look at the player too much, I was confident and thankfully I went the right way again," he said. — Agencies

Bashir leads England's fightback against NZ

CHRISTCHURCH: Right-arm spinner Shoaib Bashir took four wickets as England recovered from a poor start to reduce New Zealand to 319/8 on the opening day of the first Test here at Hagley Oval on Thursday. Put into bat first, the home side had a shaky start to their first innings as their opener Devon Conway (two) fell victim to Gus Atkinson in the second over with just four runs on the board. But Williamson, walking out to bat at number three, anchored New Zealand's innings with a sensible knock. The right-handed batter was involved in crucial partnerships for the home side, including a 78-run partnership with Rachin Ravindra (34) and a 69-run stand with Daryl Mitchell (19) before falling victim to Atkinson in the early phase of the third session. He remained the top-scorer for New Zealand with 93 off 197 deliveries, falling in the 90s for the first time in six years in the longest format. His dismissal sparked a middle-order collapse as the home side lost three more wickets at regular intervals and were consequently reduced to 298/8. Meanwhile, all-rounder Glenn Phillips displayed remarkable grit as he stood firm at the close of play, unbeaten with a brisk 41 off 58 deliveries. — APP

Pakistan clinches series triumph over Zimbabwe

Pakistan win the three-match series 2-1

DNA

BULAWAYO: Kamran Ghulam's maiden century, followed by a combined bowling effort, steered Pakistan to a resounding 99-run victory over Zimbabwe in the ODI series decider here at Queens Sports Club on Thursday. Chasing a daunting 304-run target, the home side only managed 204 despite skipper Craig Ervine's gutsy half-century. Zimbabwe got off to a shaky start to the run chase as they were reduced to 10/2 inside three overs. Following the slump, Ervine joined hands with Tadiwanashe Marumani and forged a cautious 39-run partnership, lasted with the latter's dismissal in the ninth over.

Ervine was then involved in another crucial partnership, when he added 41 runs for the fourth wicket with Sean Williams before eventually falling victim to Aamir Jamal in the 26th over. He remained the top-scorer for Zimbabwe with a 63-ball 51, laced with five fours and a six. Brian Bennett then offered some resistance against a disciplined Pakistan's bowling attack with a 27-ball 37 but his efforts were not enough to snatch the victory from the visitors. For Pakistan, Saim Ayub, Haris Rauf, Abrar Ahmed and Aamir Jamal picked up two wickets each, while Kamran and Faisal Akram chipped in with a wicket apiece. Opting to bat first, the touring side accumulated 303/6 in the allotted 50 overs, thanks

to anchoring knocks by Kamran and Abdullah Shafique. The visitors got off to a steady start, with openers Saim Ayub and Abdullah knitting a solid 58-run partnership. The opening pair appeared

in complete control until Saim faltered against Faraz Akram in the 13th over. The last match's centurion scored 31 off 37 deliveries with the help of three fours and a six. Coming out to bat

at number three, Kamran took the reins of Pakistan's batting expedition. He was involved in two crucial partnerships for the green shirts, including an 89-run stand with captain Mohammad

Rizwan (37 off 47 balls). Kamran Ghulam smashed 10 fours and sixes on his way to a 99-ball 103 and top-scored for Pakistan. He was followed by opener Abdullah, who made 50 off 68 deliveries, laced with five fours and a six. Later, vice-captain Salman Ali Agha and middle-order batter Tayyab Tahir pushed the team's total past the 300-run mark with brisk cameos. Agha scored 30 off 26 balls, while Tayyab made an unbeaten 29 off 16 deliveries, laced with four boundaries. Sikandar Raza and Richard Ngarava led the bowling charge for Zimbabwe with two wickets each, while Blessing Muzarabani and Akram struck out one batter apiece. For the unversed, the three-match ODI series between Pakistan and Zimbabwe is levelled at 1-1.



Mahmood Achakzai demands judicial...

FROM PAGE 01

violence against PTI workers. He criticised the continued imprisonment of PTI's founding leader despite his electoral victory, urging his release on bail. "Releasing him will not cause the sky to fall," Achakzai remarked. He claimed that PTI workers were targeted with gunfire during peaceful protests at D-Chowk in Islamabad and demanded a transparent judicial probe into the matter. "PTI workers were shot in the head. Thousands of peaceful protesters were subjected to violence," the nationalist leader alleged. Judicial accountability is necessary," he said, expressing disillusionment with state institutions and emphasizing the need for institutions to operate within their constitutional domains to alleviate the country's crises. Achakzai also highlighted security issues in Balochistan, criticising the lack of arrests following killings in Musa Khel, Rara Sham, and Harnai.

PM Shehbaz vows to transform...

FROM PAGE 01

State Own Entities (SOEs), said the government must go out of the business. "The government's mandate is only to facilitate the private businesses." "We should completely do away with the businesses to save trillions of rupees," he said adding that all institutions were on same page and he and the Army chief were also fully aligned on this issue. Facilitating the audience over strong performance of Pakistan Stock Exchange that crossed 100,000 points on Thursday, the prime minister said this was the result of team effort and close coordination among the federal government and various stakeholders. "This is also about business sentiments and we believe that Pakistan is slowly and steadily moving towards right direction."

PTI came with intent to spread...

FROM PAGE 01

Development Ahsan Iqbal, in a press conference in Islamabad, accused PTI of having ulterior motives, claiming that the party's true intention was never to protest peacefully but to incite violence. Tarar also highlighted the disruption caused by PTI's actions, noting that Islamabad had been under siege for several days, with a group of agitators attempting to destabilise the capital. He pointed out that foreign guests had been in the Red Zone, and that troublemakers, armed with modern weapons, tear gas shells, stones, and catapults, had violated the High Court's ruling. Attaullah Tarar stated, "We offered them the option to protest peacefully in Sangiani, where demonstrations could be conducted in a non-violent manner, but their intent was never peaceful. Just two days ago, footage was released showing professional agitators using firearms, weapons, tear gas shells, and pellet guns. In the attacks by these troublemakers, Rangers and police personnel were martyred. Who should we hold responsible for the blood of these martyrs?"

Israeli drone...

FROM PAGE 01

the besieged territory in October 2023, launching numerous retaliatory attacks against Israeli targets in the occupied territories. Following the truce announcement, the resistance movement warned it was fully ready to counter further potential Israeli aggression against Lebanon, while stressing the recent ceasefire deal was driven by its thousands-strong triumph operations. The Israeli military on Thursday issued a threat to the residents of the border villages in southern Lebanon, warning them against returning home. It said residents are prohibited until further notice from moving south to the line of 10 villages and their surroundings, and also within the villages themselves.

Briefs

Rupee sheds 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.04 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.96. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.60 and Rs 279.10 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 84 paise to close at Rs 292.82 against the last day's closing of Rs 291.98, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.83, whereas an increase of Rs 1.55 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 351.74 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 350.19. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 02 and 04 paise to close at Rs 75.69 and Rs 74.03 respectively. —APP

Gold price dips by Rs 700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs 700 and was sold at Rs 275,200 on Thursday against its sale at Rs 275,900, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went down by Rs 600 to Rs 235,940 from Rs 236,540 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs 216,278 from Rs 216,828. 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 decreased by \$7 to \$2,640 from \$2,647, the Association reported. —APP

Call for new law protecting faiths amid surge in Islamophobia

LONDON: A Labour MP has asked the British government for a new law to protect "religious texts and the prophets of the Abrahamic religions" from "desecration." Tahir Ali, MP for Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley, spoke during Prime Minister's Questions in Westminster, bringing into focus issues around hate crimes against the UK's Muslim communities as part of Islamophobia Awareness Month. Addressing Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Ali said: "Last year, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution condemning the desecration of religious texts, including the Qur'an, despite opposition from the previous government." He added: "Acts of such mindless desecration only serve to fuel division and hatred within our society. Will the prime minister commit to introducing measures to prohibit the desecration of all religious texts and the prophets of the Abrahamic religions?" —APP

Chinese water-saving facilities play a vital role in Pakistan

Pakistan suffers from chronic water shortages. In addition to residential water, the country devotes almost three-quarters of its water supply to cultivating its water-intensive crops: approximately 23 percent for wheat, 21 percent for rice, 19 percent for sugar cane, and 14 percent for cotton especially, which supports Pakistan's pillar textile industry, requires a large amount of water to maintain its long growth cycle as a water-loving crop

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese water-saving facilities could play a vital role in Pakistan, sources of Chinese water-saving industry leader Tianjin Dayu Irrigation Group Company told China Economic Net (CEN) at ongoing 2nd China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE). "The panoramic solutions for the whole industrial chain of agricultural water-saving irrigation could systematically meet the agricultural needs of different regions and climates. Besides Pakistan, we have also provided targeted solutions in ASEAN countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, as well as Central Asia, Africa and as far as South Amer-

ica," the sources told CEN. At the beginning of this year, the first batch of equipment for the Million Acres of green Pakistan Smart Farm Project participated by Dayu, has been packed and delivered. The first batch of 20 sprinkler machines and the intelligent water-fertilizer integrated drip irrigation system covering 2,000 hectares could be used for the planting and irrigation of wheat, cotton, tomatoes, corn and other crops, providing vital technical support for the construction of smart farms in Pakistan. "Local water resources are relatively scarce, thus there is an urgent need for water-saving agricultural facilities and to improve the level of smart agricultural production. Our facilities could meet the

needs of Pakistani partners. Now the project is moving forward," the staff added. On July 7, 2023, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif launched the LIMS (Land Information and Management System) initiative, which aims to promote modern agricultural development, improve agricultural productivity and meet the food needs of Pakistan's growing population through the application of advanced technology and modern irrigation systems, among which the Million Acres of Green Pakistan Smart Farm Project as a response to and support for this initiative. Pakistan suffers from chronic water shortages. In addition to residential wa-

ter, the country devotes almost three-quarters of its water supply to cultivating its water-intensive crops: approximately 23 percent for wheat, 21 percent for rice, 19 percent for sugar cane, and 14 percent for cotton especially, which supports Pakistan's pillar textile industry, requires a large amount of water to maintain its long growth cycle as a water-loving crop. Northern metropolis Tianjin is a resource-based water-scarce city, where has focused on promoting green manufacturing and forming a water-saving model for the entire industry chain from water sources to processes to products in past few years. This bilateral cooperation focuses on long-term development to gradually transfer the mature manage-

ment experience of "tridimensional water management" of agricultural water conservation, safe drinking water for farmers, and rural sewage treatment to Belt and Road partners including Pakistan. "More than that, facing the global food crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict as well as climate change, countries around the globe are eager to ensure their own food security, including agricultural countries like Pakistan that are severely affected by climate change. If modern water-saving irrigation systems are going to promote crop yields, improve the level of agricultural intelligence, increase food self-sufficiency, and alleviate the food crisis, it will be a multi-win."

Pakistan highlights regional, global issues at DSAS meeting

Zaidi expressed concerns over regional challenges, including the unresolved Kashmir issue and its implications for regional stability



STRASBOURG: Charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Mission to the European Union, Faraz Zaidi highlighted the regional and global issues during the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South Asia (DSAS) meeting in Strasbourg on Thursday. The meeting, attended by Ambassadors from South Asia, marked the first engagement with the newly elected European Parliament. In his address, Zaidi emphasized the strategic importance of South Asia and its immense economic

potential. He underscored Pakistan's long-standing partnership with the European Union, highlighting the success of GSP Plus as a mutually beneficial scheme. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to deepening cooperation in trade, technology, and culture. Pakistan highlights regional, global issues at DSAS meeting in Strasbourg Zaidi expressed concerns over regional challenges, including the unresolved Kashmir issue and its implications

for regional stability. He emphasized the need for international attention on human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). Highlighting global concerns, Zaidi reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to addressing climate change and facilitating legal migration pathways in collaboration with the EU. He called for collective efforts to address humanitarian and security issues in Afghanistan, particularly terrorism emanating

from Afghan soil. On the Palestinian issue, Zaidi commended the EU's principled position and expressed hope for sustained efforts towards a just resolution under international law and UN Resolutions. He emphasized the need for international action to end the ongoing crisis and achieve peace. Zaidi concluded by expressing Pakistan's readiness to work closely with the EU on shared priorities for peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. —DNA

Algeria facing growing calls to release French-Algerian author Boualem

PARIS: Politicians, writers and activists have called for the release of French-Algerian writer Boualem Sansal, whose arrest in Algeria is seen as the latest instance of the stifling of creative expression in the military-dominated North African country. The 75-year-old author, who is an outspoken critic of Islamism and the Algerian regime, has not been heard from by friends, family or his French publisher since leaving Paris for Algiers earlier this month. He has not been seen near his home in his small town, Boumerdes, his neighbors told The Associated Press. "The detention without serious grounds of a writer of French nationality is unacceptable," France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said on Wednesday. He added Sansal's work "does honor to both his countries and to the values we cherish." The European Parliament discussed Algeria's repression of freedom of speech on Wednesday and called for "his immediate and unconditional release." Algerian authorities have not publicly announced charges against Sansal, but the APS state news service said he was arrested at the airport. Though no longer censored, Sansal's novels have in the past faced bans in Algeria. A professed admirer of French culture, his writings on Islam's role in society, authoritarianism, freedom of expression and the civil war that ravaged Algeria throughout the 1990s have won him fans across the ideological spectrum in France, from far-right leader Marine Le Pen to President Emmanuel Macron, who attended his French naturalization ceremony in 2023. But his work has provoked ire in Algeria, from both authorities and Islamists, who have issued death threats against him in the 1990s and afterward. Though few garner such international attention, Sansal is among a long list of political prisoners incarcerated in Algeria, where the hopes of a protest movement that led to the ouster of the country's then-82 year old president have been crushed under President Abdelmadjid Tebboune. Human rights groups have decried the ongoing repression facing journalists, activists and writers. Amnesty International in September called it a "brutal crackdown on human rights including the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association." Algerian authorities have in recent months disrupted a book fair in Bejaia and excluded prominent authors from the country's largest book fair in Algeria has in recent months, including this year's Goncourt Prize winner Kamel Daoud. "This tragic news reflects an alarming reality in Algeria, where freedom of expression is no more than a memory." —APP

Pope to visit Turkiye for Council of Nicaea anniversary

ROME: Pope Francis said on Thursday he planned to visit Turkiye's Iznik next year for the anniversary of the first council of the Christian Church, Italian news agency ANSA reported. The early centuries of Christianity were marked by debate about how Jesus could be both God and man, and the Church decided on the issue at the First Council of Nicaea in 325. "During the Holy Year, we will also have the opportunity to celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the first great Ecumenical Council, that of Nicaea. I plan to go there," the pontiff was quoted as saying at a theological committee event. The city, now known as Iznik, is in western Anatolia, some 150km southeast of Istanbul. The pope had already expressed in June the desire to go on the trip and the spiritual head of the world's Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, had said the two men would celebrate the important recurrence together but no official confirmation had been made yet. Despite international travel becoming increasingly difficult for him because of health issues, Francis, who will turn 88 on Dec. 17, completed in September a 12-day tour across Asia, the longest of his 11-year papacy. —APP

Israeli military says it downed drone smuggling weapons from Egypt

CAIRO: The Israeli military said on Wednesday it shot down a drone that was carrying weapons and crossed from Egypt to Israel. When asked about the latest drone incident, Egyptian security sources said they had no knowledge of such an incident. In two separate incidents in October, Israel also said it downed two drones smuggling weapons from Egyptian territory. Israeli officials have said during the war in Gaza that Palestinian militant group Hamas used tunnels running under the border into Egypt's Sinai region to smuggle arms. However, Egypt says it destroyed tunnel networks leading to Gaza years ago and created a buffer zone and border fortifications that prevent smuggling.

Ukraine ready to host second peace summit soon

KYIV: Ukraine is ready to host a second global summit aimed at ending Russia's invasion in the "nearest future," the Ukrainian president's chief of staff Andriy Yermak said on Thursday, local media outlets reported. Ukraine held its first "peace summit" in Switzerland in June, bringing together over 90 countries to draft a resolution based on Ukraine's proposed conditions to end the war. However, Russia was not invited to that summit and dismissed its deliberations as meaningless without Moscow's participation. —APP

High time for Israel to accept defeat

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says it is high time for Israel to accept defeat in Gaza after it was forced to plead for a ceasefire agreement with the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah. In a post on his X account on Wednesday, Araghchi said Hezbollah once again shattered the myth of Israel's invincibility by forcing the regime to accept the ceasefire. On Tuesday, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu finally accepted the deal, which is expected to end the regime's months-long deadly escalation against Lebanon. It came after a meeting of his "security cabinet" to discuss a proposal put forward by the United States and France. In his post, the Iranian foreign minister said Netanyahu was forced to plead for a ceasefire after heavy casualties in southern Lebanon. Over the past year, Araghchi added, the Israeli prime minister "milked US taxpayers of tens of billions of dollars to fund his war crimes" in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. Over the past year, Netanyahu has milked US taxpayers of tens of billions of dollars to fund his war crimes, all while enjoying full US military support and political cover. He was still forced to plead for a ceasefire, after heavy casualties in southern Lebanon. Israel has been enjoying full US military support and political cover for its criminal acts, he emphasized. —APP

AlHuda CIBE provide Shariah certificate to Apex Takaful in Uzbekistan

Takaful not only seeks to deliver financial protection but also ensures adherence to Islamic ethical guidelines and values

DUBAI: AlHuda CIBE has formally certified Apex Takaful, marking it as the inaugural Takaful operator in Uzbekistan. Apex Takaful has successfully launched a pioneering product that meets Shariah compliance requirements and has secured essential certification. The certification process conducted by AlHuda CIBE spanned one month, during which a thorough evaluation of Takaful contracts, operational agreements, and overall operational frameworks was undertaken. Apex Insurance operates as a prominent entity in the Uzbek insurance sector, delivering a broad spectrum of insurance products and services. The company is deeply committed to customer satisfaction and ensuring financial security by providing innovative risk management solutions tailored to the diverse requirements of its clientele. Its adherence to ethical business practices and Shariah principles, particularly through introducing Takaful operations, has reinforced Apex Insurance's reputation as a reliable partner in the burgeoning Uzbek insurance market. Takaful represents a distinctive model of Islamic insurance grounded in the principles of mutual assistance and risk-sharing among participants. It offers Shariah-compliant insurance solutions whereby policyholders contribute to a collective fund. This pooled capital serves as a compensatory resource for eligible members in the event of an insured loss. Takaful not only seeks to deliver financial protection but also ensures adherence to Islamic ethical guidelines and values. Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, has articulated insights regarding the emergence of new Islamic finance markets globally, particularly within the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS). Notably, Uzbekistan is making significant strides in promoting and implementing Islamic finance initiatives. With a predominantly Muslim population, the country presents a favorable demographic foundation for the expansion of the Islamic finance sector. —DNA

A world with engineers thrives, a world without engineering stagnates

To fully leverage the potential of its engineers, Pakistan must adopt a multi-pronged approach

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



THE progression of the modern world is intricately tied to the work of engineers. From shaping the physical landscape with towering skyscrapers and intricate bridges to advancing technologies that connect people across continents, engineers are the architects of progress. A world without engineering is almost unimaginable, as engineering forms the backbone of civilization's most significant achievements. While global recognition and support for engineers

are evident in many countries, challenges persist in nations like Pakistan, where engineers excel despite limited resources and inadequate support systems. Engineers are problem solvers, innovators, and visionaries who translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions. Their contributions span numerous fields, including civil, mechanical, electrical, computer, and biomedical engineering. Each branch addresses specific needs, collectively driving global progress. Civil engineers design and construct essential infrastructure like roads, bridges, and buildings that form the foundation of human settlements. Their work facilitates transportation, commerce, and connectivity. Electrical and computer engineers develop technologies that underpin modern communication, computing, and automation. Their innovations enable global connectivity and the digital revolution. Biomed-

ical engineers create medical devices and systems that enhance healthcare, while environmental engineers devise solutions to mitigate pollution and manage natural resources sustainably. The absence of engineering would leave humanity without the tools and structures that define modern life. Roads would remain unpaved, technology stagnant, and health systems rudimentary. Engineering's influence is so pervasive that even its simplest applications, like water supply systems and electricity grids, are vital for daily existence. In many countries, engineers enjoy high social status, competitive salaries, and comprehensive benefits that reflect their critical role in development. Nations like Germany, the United States, Japan, and South Korea invest significantly in engineering education and infrastructure, ensuring that their engineers have the resources needed to innovate and thrive.

Germany Known for its engineering excellence, Germany provides engineers with robust training and employment opportunities. In stark contrast to the global scenario, Pakistani engineers often face a challenging professional environment. Despite their vital contributions, they grapple with low salaries, limited resources, and insufficient recognition. Pakistani engineers, particularly those in government departments like Sindh Province, Balochistan Province, Pak PWD, WAPDA, and Railways, often work for salaries that fail to reflect their skills and responsibilities. Unlike many other professions, engineers in Pakistan are not granted technical allowances, further diminishing their financial stability. Working with constrained budgets, old vehicles, no fuel, lack of staff and outdated equipment, engineers in Pakistan often achieve remarkable results through sheer ingenuity and dedication.

The lack of incentives compels many talented engineers to seek opportunities abroad. This brain drain deprives Pakistan of skilled professionals who could contribute to national development. Despite their importance, engineers in Pakistan do not receive the same level of policy attention as professionals in other fields. Without clear strategies to enhance their working conditions and incentivize innovation, their potential remains underutilized. Despite all challenges, Pakistani engineers continue to drive significant progress across various sectors. Engineers in Pakistan have been instrumental in building vital infrastructure, including roads, dams, and power plants, which are essential for economic growth. The IT sector, bolstered by Pakistani engineers, has seen exponential growth, contributing to the country's global competitiveness. During natural disasters like earth-

quakes and floods, engineers play a crucial role in rebuilding efforts, ensuring the resilience of affected communities. These achievements underscore the resilience and talent of Pakistani engineers, who continue to excel despite limited support. To fully leverage the potential of its engineers, Pakistan must adopt a multi-pronged approach. The government should ensure that engineers receive salaries and technical allowances comparable to international standards. This financial stability would incentivize excellence and reduce brain drain. Providing access to state-of-the-art equipment and continuous professional development opportunities would enable engineers to undertake innovative projects. Incorporating engineers into national development policies and decision-making processes would ensure that their expertise is utilized effectively. Establishing research and development centers and offering grants

for engineering projects would foster a culture of innovation. Highlighting the achievements of Pakistani engineers through media and public forums would elevate their status and inspire future generations to pursue engineering careers. The world as we know it owes much of its progress to engineers. Their ability to innovate, solve problems, and create has shaped every aspect of modern life. In Pakistan, engineers have demonstrated exceptional resilience and ingenuity, achieving remarkable feats despite facing numerous challenges. To unlock their full potential and ensure rapid national development, Pakistan must invest in its engineering workforce. By providing competitive salaries, modern resources, and policy support, the nation can harness the transformative power of engineering to build a brighter future. A world with engineers thrives, a world without engineering stagnates. Pakistan must choose to thrive.

Briefs

Nefarious intentions will never come true

DNA

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, Thursday said that the "nefarious intentions" of the PTI founder will never come to completion. Speaking at a press conference in Peshawar, the minister accused PTI of habitually targeting state institutions and misleading its workers. "Attacking state institutions has become a defining trait of PTI's leadership," he stated. Commenting on PTI's recent calls for protest, Muqam said, "The so-called final call turned out to be 'missed call' or 'wrong call.' The PTI founder, once adamant about not returning without his demands being met, including the release of Bushra Bibi and Ali Amin Gandapur, quit his workers and fled." The federal minister dismissed PTI's demands as baseless and criticised their approach to the 26th Constitutional Amendment. He noted that the amendment, passed with a two-thirds majority in the assembly, could not simply be undone by PTI's protests or a march at the D-Chowk. Muqam further highlighted the disruption caused by PTI's protests, saying they brought immense difficulties to the public, paralysing daily life in Islamabad.

IHC issues contempt notice to PTI

COURT REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The IHC has issued a contempt of court notice to PTI and sought a response regarding the November 24 protest. The hearing was conducted by Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, Justice Amir Farooq, on a petition filed by the president of the F-7 traders' association. The petitioner argued that despite the clear orders of the high court, thousands of protesters entered Islamabad, disrupting the city's operations. The protesters, who had come from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, were demanding the release of Imran Khan using force. In response to the violation of court orders, the Islamabad High Court issued a notice to PTI and requested a reply by next week. The court also issued notices to the Secretary of the Interior, Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and IG, directing them to submit their responses at the next hearing.

Kundi calls for enhancing ties with UK

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has stressed the need of enhancing bilateral ties and cooperation with the United Kingdom to strengthen the national economy. Talking to a delegation of Overseas Pakistan Business Forum in Peshawar on Thursday, he said unfortunately the ongoing wave of terrorism has badly affected economic activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Faisal Karim Kundi asked the delegation to play its role to enhance exports of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the United Kingdom and other European countries. The delegation assured the governor to play its role to showcase the Pakistan manufactured goods in the foreign countries.

Met office predicts rain, snowfall

ISLAMABAD: The PMD has forecast rain and snowfall in various regions of the country from Nov 28 to Dec 2. According to the PMD, Quetta, Pishin, Ziarat, and QilaSaifullah are expected to experience strong winds and thunderstorms during this period. Snowfall is predicted in mountainous areas, including Waziristan, Kurram, Mohmand, Dir, Chitral, Swat, Malakand, Mansehra, Kohistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Kalat. - DNA

Pakistan is interested in enhancing ties with Russia

The Speaker highlighted the role of interparliamentary cooperation in Pakistan Russia relations while emphasizing the need for regional and trade connectivity



NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Pakistan is interested in enhancing business ties with Russia, said Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the meeting with Speaker Federation Council of the Russian Federation Ms. Valentina Matviyenko today in Moscow. Speaker Sadiq noted that the business cooperation between Pakistan and Russia has increased significantly but there is still room for development. He further underscored that there is an urgent need to find working financial mechanisms in order to remove remaining obstacles to trade cooperation. The Speaker added that Pakistan needs oil,

gas, machines and many other things from Russia. He called on to step up business cooperation "Let the G-to-G work, but we, at the parliamentary level also want to promote business ties," the Speaker said. The Speaker recalled Matviyenko's visit to Islamabad this October and highlighted that the increased intensity of bilateral exchanges at all levels was a testament to growing Pakistan Russia relations. The Speaker highlighted the role of interparliamentary cooperation in Pakistan Russia relations while emphasizing the need for regional and trade connectivity. Both sides agreed to continue regular parliamentary exchanges. Earlier, Pakistan and Russia signed a historic Agreement between State Duma of the Federal As-

sembly of the Russian Federation and the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Cooperation in Moscow. The Agreement was signed here in Moscow by Visiting Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker H.E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and his counterpart H.E. Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the Russian State Duma. The Agreement aims to enhance ties between the two legislative bodies and establish permanent cooperation mechanisms through committees, commissions and parliamentary groups. In his opening remarks, Mr. Sadiq noted that with Mr. Volodin, he has long ties of friendship, while with some members of the Russian delegation, Mr. Sadiq has been acquainted for over 10 years. He also thanked Mr.

Volodin for accepting invitation to visit Pakistan. Speaker Sadiq also expressed gratitude to Mr. Volodin for his support to the initiative of Pakistan to convene a Speakers Conference Format. The sides agreed to hold its fourth Session in Moscow in 2025. In this connection, Mr. Sadiq suggested that not only official but also business delegations may be invited to this meeting in order to enhance economic cooperation. The Speaker, National Assembly H.E. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation today, on the invitation of his counterpart, H.E. Vyacheslav Volodin. The two parliamentary leaders held a tête-à-tête, followed by delegation-level talks.

Death toll climbs to 107 after fresh Kurram clashes

Police say five more people killed and nine others sustained injuries in latest skirmishes

STAFF REPORT

KURRAM: Clashes between warring tribes entered eighth day on Thursday, with the overall death toll reaching 107, despite claims of reaching a ceasefire deal a day ago in District Kurram. Police said five more people were killed and nine others sustained injuries in the fresh engagement. The development comes a day after the feuding tribes agreed to a new 10-day ceasefire. "A 10-day ceasefire between the warring parties in Kurram has come into effect as of today," read the statement issued by the office of the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Kurram. At least 107 people have lost their lives in the feud between communities in the district, including 52 in the firing on a convoy on November 21. Police have said that the recent clashes have claimed 55 lives leaving 140 others wounded. The district administration has said the Parachinar-Peshawar road had been closed for eight days due to violence. Meanwhile, Kurram Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud has said that due to the closure of the main highway, trade with Afghanistan at the Kharachi border was also suspended. Furthermore, suspension of internet and mobile phone services are also adding to the woes of the people. However, Mehsud said that steps were being taken to stop clashes and enforce the ceasefire. "A jirga of elders from Hangu, Orakzai and Kohat is reaching Parachinar for talks. The parties have agreed to the ceasefire, while efforts are underway to fully implement the truce," said the DC. The latest violence began last Thursday when two separate convoys travelling under police escort were ambushed. Police have struggled to control violence in Kurram, which was part of the semi-autonomous Federally Administered Tribal Areas until it was merged with KP in 2018.

Pakistan, WB join hands to combat smog in Islamabad

Minister Naqvi emphasised the urgency of addressing the alarming AQI figures, which reached 271 this year in the federal capital

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and World Bank Country Director Najy Benhassine met in Islamabad on Thursday to discuss joint initiatives to tackle smog and advance sustainable development in the capital. Caused by toxic pollutants, smog has engulfed several cities in Punjab over the past month, with Lahore and Multan being the worst hit. The AQI reading in Multan has already crossed 2,000 twice, setting a new record for air pollution. The Punjab government has declared an emergency in Lahore and Multan, while the effects have also been felt in the federal capital, where the air quality became "very unhealthy" two weeks ago. During their meeting, Naqvi and Benhassine decided to form a joint team of the World Bank and the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to work together on an anti-smog plan, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported. Minister Naqvi emphasised the urgency of addressing the alarming AQI figures, which reached 271 this year in the federal capital. "Before the situation becomes hazardous, we must urgently implement a comprehensive anti-smog strategy," he was quoted as saying. Previously, CDA had said that the smog situation in Islamabad was under control but called for collective measures and effective coordination from all relevant stakeholders to improve the air quality in the city. Discussions also centred on key areas of mutual interest, which included expanding the electric bus service, improving sanitation, providing clean water, as well as upgrading slums and rural areas.

Israel ups bombing in Gaza, strikes kill 17

Medics said at least two people, a woman and a child, were killed in tank shelling that hit western areas of Nuseirat, while an air strike killed five others in a house nearby

FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 17 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, medics said, as forces stepped up bombardments on central areas and pushed tanks deeper in the north and south of the enclave. Six people were killed in two separate air strikes on a house and near the hospital of Kamal Adwan in Beit Lahya in the northern Gaza Strip, while four others were killed when an Israeli strike hit a motorcycle in Khan Younis in the south. In Nuseirat, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, Israeli planes carried out several air strikes destroying a multi-floor building and hitting roads outside mosques. At least seven people were killed in some of those strikes, health officials said. Medics said at least two people, a woman and a child, were killed in tank shelling that hit western areas of Nuseirat, while an air strike killed five others in a house nearby.

PTI issues list of 'missings' as Pindi police deny opening fire

Protesters stayed in Pindi and Attock all throughout Sunday and Monday, and police engaged them and tried to restrain but they were fired upon and the protesters were violent, the RPO said

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: The PTI on Thursday issued a list of supporters that it alleged were still missing since party protesters were cleared from Islamabad in a state crackdown that the Rawalpindi police denied saw any open firing on the crowds. A day of pitched battles between security forces and PTI protesters across the federal capital ended in a hasty retreat of the party's top leadership and supporters from the Red Zone in the early hours of Wednesday. At least six lives were lost in the three days of protests, which included a policeman and three Rangers officials who were knocked down by a speeding vehicle, officials and hospital sources said. Claims and counter-claims over deaths purportedly caused by law-enforcement action against the PTI marchers remained a major bone of contention between the government and the opposition party on Wednesday. Following their retreat from Islamabad's Blue Area, PTI leaders alleged that a number of the party's supporters had perished, allegedly due to firing by security personnel. While party sources were claiming the deaths of at least six people, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja claimed in a video message that around 20 party supporters lost their lives. Last night, the PTI posted on X that "a dozen innocent protesters have been confirmed dead, hundreds remain missing, and thousands are injured - many in critical condition. The death toll continues to rise exponentially as hospitals across the capital report an influx of dead bodies and severely injured protesters. Authorities are now refusing to release the bodies and are

actively erasing evidence of the brutality." Separately, the Rawalpindi police held a press conference to address the protest, saying the police did not open fire on the protesters, nor did they injure any protesters, while providing casualty figures of its personnel. Rawalpindi Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfraz Alpa recounted the incidents from Nov 24, when the protest first began, saying the police tried to restrain the thousands of protesters who descended on Pindi and Attock. "The Nov 24 protest call started as a peaceful one but ended up being violent," the RPO said, alleging that the protesters fired directly at the police and used teargas. "They became trained protesters, stood in front and used various government resources. "But police tried to restrain and not injure anyone, so much so that there were no reports of any protester being injured, nor did any hospital report any injuries, in the entire Pindi district. Protesters stayed in Pindi and Attock all throughout Sunday and Monday, and police engaged them and tried to restrain but they were fired upon and the protesters were violent, the RPO said. "On Nov 24, 170 Pindi police officers were injured. Among the injured are SSP, SP, DSP, and other police personnel. Among the injured, two were victims of bullet shots and 25 are in critical condition because of the protesters' violence with sticks," RPO Alpa said, adding that the protesters also set fire to 11 police vans. He said that 262 policemen were injured in the past three months in Pindi. "Police have registered 32 cases and 1,151 protesters have been arrested. When the data was checked, 64 of those arrested were Afghan nationals; four had resident cards, while 60 were illegal," RPO Alpa said regarding the Nov 24 protest.

Journalist Matiullah booked in terrorism case

Anti-terrorism court approves senior journalist's two-day physical remand

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Thursday approved a two-day physical remand of senior journalist Matiullah Jan in relation to a case registered against him at Islamabad's Margalla Police Station. Jan, whose arrest was confirmed by the Islamabad Police earlier in the day, was presented before ATC judge Tahir Abbas Sipra, wherein Prosecutor Raja Naveed requested a 30-day physical remand. However, the court rejected the request and granted police a two-day physical remand of the journalist. Matiullah, after being arrested, was then shifted to Margalla Police Station, cops said. However, human rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Haazir said that he was at the lock-up when she went to visit him. Earlier, in a post on X, his family said that he had been "abducted" from the parking of PIMS at around 11pm by "unmarked abductors in an unmarked vehicle". "I demand that my father be let go immediately and his family immediately be informed of his whereabouts," the post added.

President condemns Israel's aggression

ISLAMABAD: As the world observes International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Friday, President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the unabated Israel's aggression and reiterated the call for the international community's role for an immediate ceasefire and end to the genocide of Palestinian people. "The global conscience cannot ignore the plight of millions who face unprecedented hardships due to Israeli occupation. We believe that the continued occupation and disregard for international law is the biggest obstacle to achieving peace in the region" the president said in his message on the Day. Urging the international community to act urgently and decisively to end the genocide of the Palestinian people, he reaffirmed Pakistan's - APP

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