

At Riyadh summit PM urges global action to tackle water scarcity

"We required strong political will and global leadership to overcome water crisis," says premier at Riyadh summit

News Desk

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged the global community to take action to safeguard water resources. Speaking at the 'One Water Summit' in Riyadh, Shehbaz Sharif emphasised that water scarcity is the world's biggest challenge and requires urgent measures. He highlighted the need to preserve water resources, stating that water shortages are exacerbating drought conditions. He also mentioned the devastation caused by the 2022 floods in Pakistan. The prime minister praised Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his Vision 2030 initiative and other climate-related efforts. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reached Saudi Arabia on a two-day visit to participate in the 'One Water Summit'. Upon arriving at Riyadh's Royal Airport Terminal, the prime minister was warmly welcomed by Prince Muhammad bin Abdul Rahman bin Abdulaziz, the Deputy Governor of Riyadh, along with Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and other senior diplomatic officials. The delegation accompanying the prime minister includes Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi. "Just landed in Riyadh to join Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and other global leaders at the One Water Summit, a crucial event to discuss collective strategies for addressing water security challenges," the premier wrote on his official X handle. "Together, we aim to accelerate efforts to combat desertification, tackle water pollution, and promote local, regional, and global action. Let's unite in our

DOM Dar stresses implementation of **ECO trade agreement**

He urged the member states to redefine the targets and priorities keeping in view the evolving regional and World Order

DNA

MASHHAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday urged the member states to ensure effective implementation of the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA) to help strengthen regional security and economic prosperity through mutually beneficial intra-regional trade. "However, It is a matter of great concern that the ECO region, comprising an area of 8 million square kilometers and half a billion population - roughly 15% of the World population, has intra-regional trade of, unfortunately, less than 8% of region's aggregate, and only about 2 % in global trade, which is in stark contrast to other regional groupings such as the EU where the intra-regional trade stands above 70%, and the ASEAN, where it is around 23%," the deputy prime minister said

Continued on Page 06

Spent whole day with soldiers

Army capable of foiling

NATIONAL DAY OF THAILAND

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Adviser of Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan, Ambassadordesignate of Thailand Rongvudhi Virabutr, Heads of Missions of ASEAN States cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Thailand. - DNA

US stands with Pakistan fight against terrorism

Matthew Miller said we want see Government of Pakistan to engage with peaceful protests respectfully

DNA

WASHINGTON: US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller on Monday said that the United States stands with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism. Briefing the media in Washington, Matthew Miller said: "We have said of banned terrorist organisations on social many times, we continue to stand with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism and violent extremism." Replying to a question regarding PTI's recent protests,

Curb illegal SIM card usage Govt to block terrorists' accounts on social media

NACTA, provinces to enhance collaboration with establishment of National Fusion Centre for better coordination

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that comprehensive measures would be taken to curb the activities

Continued on Page 06

Briefs ATC grants bail to Omar Ayub The court instructed him to submit surety bonds of 5,000 rupees for each case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has granted interim bail to PTI leader Omar Avub in connection with the cases registered regarding the D-Chowk protest. ATC Islamabad Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard the cases against Omar Ayub related to the D-Chowk protest. Omar Ayub appeared in court with his lawyer, Babar Awan. Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra remarked that Omar Ayub was named in case number 540, and once bail was granted, the warrants would be cancelled. The court instructed him to submit surety bonds of 5,000 rupees for each case.

Govt weighs to amend PECA act Draft amendments to cybercrime law provision establishment of **Digital Rights Protection Authority**

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has proposed a five-year imprisonment or a fine of Rs1 million for individuals found guilty of deliberately spreading fake news, as part of initial amendments to the cybercrime law. The draft introduces significant changes to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA), including the establishment of a DRPA with extensive powers to block or remove online content deemed harmful to public safety or state interests. According to the draft, spreading false information, inciting fear, or disrupting peace through online platforms could lead to severe penalties.

The army chief visited Narowal and Sialkot to watch troops training welcomed Gen Asim and briefed him on the objectives of the exercise. Gen Asim said that the armed forces are fully capable of safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of "motherland against every threat." The ISPR said that the army chief spent the whole day with soldiers and appreciated the quality of training, professional preparedness and "high morale of the soldiers." The exercise featured integrated fire and manoeuvre operations by various elements, including armour, infantry, mechanised infantry, artil-

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir has said that with the support of the nation, the armed forces will foil every conspiracy against the country. According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement on Tuesday, the army chief stated this during a visit to Narowal and Sialkot to watch troops training. The Gujranwala corps commander and the Training IG

South declares martial law amid North Korean threats

lery, air defence, army aviation and anti-tank

guided missile units, added the ISPR. It also

egies in a modern battlefield environment.

President Yeol says martial law declared to protect country from "threat of North Korean communist forces"

Agencies

SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday declared martial law in an unannounced late night address broadcast live on YTN television. Yoon said he had no choice but to resort to such a measure in order to safeguard free and constitutional order, saying opposition parties have taken hostage of the parliamentary process to throw the country into a crisis. "I declare martial law to protect the free Republic of Korea from the threat of North Korean communist forces, to eradicate the despicable pro-North Korean anti-state forces that are plundering the freedom and happiness of our people, and to protect the free constitutional order," Yoon said. He did not say in the address what specific measures will be taken. Yoon cited a motion by the country's opposition Democratic Party, which has a majority in parliament, this week to impeach some of the country's top prosecutors and its rejection of a government budget proposal. The surprise move comes as Yoon's People Power Party and the main opposition Democratic Party continue to bicker over next year's budget bill. Opposition MPs last week approved a significantly downsized

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06 every threat: COAS Asim Syrian rebels capture 4 central towns Svrian government forces reclaim some territory

Agencies

BEIRUT: Syrian militants captured four new towns early Tuesday, bringing them closer to the central city of Hama, opposition activists said, while government forces retook some territory they lost last week. The capture of the towns is the latest in the push by militants led by the salafi jihadi Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham, as well as Turkiye-backed opposition fighters. Militants now are about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from Hama, the country's fourth largest city. The latest push is part of a wide offensive by forces opposed to Syrian

media platforms, Express News reported. In collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the government will work to block the accounts of terrorist groups. Provinces are also expected to implement a cohesive strategy to prevent the usage of illegal SIM cards. The decision came during a crucial meeting of the National Action Plan (NAP) Coordination Committee on Tuesday. In the briefing, it was revealed that, as of October this year, a total of 7,984 intelligence-based operations had been conducted, resulting in the elimination of 206 terrorists.

Continued on Page 06

trump card' PTI founder directs to register FIR against PM, interior

Imran says

he 'still holds

minister over Islamabad "tragedy", says Aleema Khan

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: After the embattled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) faced an abrupt end to its "final call" protest in Islamabad, Aleema Khan, sister of incarcerated party founder Imran Khan,



demonstrated effective employment of electronic warfare capabilities and information operations designed to disrupt enemy communications and counter disinformation strat-

Continued on Page 06

said media wing of the army. The field exercise is part of the regular training exercises conducted by the armed forces solely as well as with other countries. Last month, Gen Asim Munir visited NCTC to witness the Warrior-VI-II joint exercise conducted by the Pakistan Army and People's Liberation Army of China.

Parliament defy

president and

block martial law

AGENCIES

SEOUL: Hours later, parliament voted to lift the dec-

laration, with the National Assembly Speaker Woo

Won Shik declaring that lawmakers "will protect de-mocracy with the people." Woo called for police and

military personnel to withdraw from the Assembly's

grounds. The president's surprising move harkened

back to an era of authoritarian leaders that the coun-

try has not seen since the 1980s, and it was immedi-

ately denounced by the opposition and the leader of

Yoon's own conservative party. Following Yoon's an-

nouncement, South Korea's military proclaimed that

parliament and other political gatherings that could

Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL

Call for more efforts to elevate **Islamic finance role**

The minister stressed that Islamic finance, unlike conventional systems, ties economic activities to real assets and promotes shared risk, social justice, and poverty alleviation, with global estimates indicating that zakat and waqf contributions exceed \$1 trillion annually

plained, ensure an equitable and just

DNA

KARACHI :Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, on Tuesday emphasized the critical role of Islamic finance in driving sustainable economic growth and addressing global challenges such as climate change. He was speaking as the chief guest at the 4th World Islamic Finance Forum, organized by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi here Tuesday, that brought together experts to explore the theme, "Islamic Finance, Innovation, Climate Finance and Sustainable Growth." Ahsan Iqbal noted the projected growth of the Islamic finance industry to over \$6 trillion by 2027, as per the 2023 Islamic Finance Development Report, and highlighted its foundation in the ethical and sustainable principles of Sharia law. These principles, he execonomic system through practices such as profit and loss sharing (Mudaraba and Musharaka), the prohibition of interest (Riba) and social responsibility through zakat and waqf. He stressed that Islamic finance, unlike conventional systems, ties economic activities to real assets and promotes shared risk, social justice, and poverty alleviation. with global estimates indicating that zakat and waqf contributions exceed \$1 trillion annually. Ahsan Iqbal also underscored the growing relevance of Islamic finance in addressing environmental issues, citing the example of Green Sukuk. He pointed out that global issuance of green sukuk surpassed \$20 billion in 2023, financing projects in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green infrastructure. He referenced Indonesia's issuance of \$2.5 billion in green sukuk and Malaysia's leadership in this sector. The Federal Minister said that Pakistan,

which has suffered significant economic losses from climate-related disasters, is now following suit. The government recently announced its first green sukuk worth \$500 million, aimed at financing renewable energy projects. Iqbal emphasized Pakistan's commitment to increasing its renewable energy share to 60 percent by 2030 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Highlighting the rise of Islamic fintech, which was valued at \$79 billion in 2023 and projected to reach \$179 billion by 2028, he stressed the importance of innovation, regulatory frameworks, and international cooperation in the future of Islamic finance. Concluding his speech, Ahsan Iqbal commended IBA for hosting the forum and emphasized that Islamic finance, rooted in justice, equity and sustainability, offers a road map for aligning wealth creation with moral and ethical values, benefiting both humanity and the planet.

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf exchanging views with Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan H.E Dr Irfan Neziroğlu at Naval Headquarters. Free glucometers distributed among deserving diabetes

patients

PESHAWAR: The Depart-

ment of Endocrinology & Diabetes at Mercy Teaching Hospital (MTH), Peshawar, organized a Free Glucometer Distribution Event for Type 2 diabetes patients here Tuesday. The initiative aimed at empowering patients with the tools and knowledge necessary for effective self-management of their condition. The event emphasized the importance of regular blood glucose monitoring in managing Type 2 diabetes. Fifty glucometers were provided to deserving patients to promote proactive health management and reduce the risk of complications associated with the disease. Dr Faheemullah, Dr Sajjad Malik and Dr Shehzad, health experts from the Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes, highlighted the significance of such initiatives in raising awareness and improving the quality of life for diabetes patients. The event also featured an educational session where patients were trained on the proper use of glucometers, interpreting blood glucose

CM Gandapur asks varsities to focus on students' grooming

PESHAWAR: Chief Minemphasized the importance ister (CM) Khyber Pakhof celebrating others' successes, calling it a hallmark tunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Tuesday asked of great individuals. The CM lauded Iqra National the public and private universities in the province to University for its rapid profocus on students' groomgress and expressed pride in participating in its coning apart from traditional education to firmly counter vocation. Highlighting the the national and internarole of the private sector, tional challenges. Addresshe said, "No government ing the fourth convocation can progress without public of Iqra National University and private sector support. on Tuesday, he urged stu-I fully support the private dents to embrace challengsector to groom our youth es, remain resilient, and for national and internalearn from setbacks. "One tional competition." Later the CM awarded degrees failure cannot stop your progress; keep moving forand medals to graduating ward with faith and deterstudents. A total of 438 mination," he added. He graduates were conferred

PRCS marks int'l Day of PWDs

stan Red Crescent Society hind. Persons with disa-(PRCS) joins the global bilities are integral to our community in observing society, and their voices,

ISLAMABAD: The Paki- no one should be left be-

degrees in various disciplines, including 280 Bachelor's, 120 Master's, and 38 PhD degrees. Additionally, 34 students received gold medals for outstanding academic achievements.

Islamabad **POST**

Wednesday, December 04 , 2024

Gandapur congratulated the graduates, their parents, and teachers. He commended the university's administration for their contributions to the education sector and pledged continued government support. Concluding his address, Gandapur paid tribute to the sacrifices of the province's people and security forces for peace and stability in the region.-APP

tion, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) program. From providing assistive devices and livelihood support to organizing awareness sessions, the PRCS is actively working to alleviate the challenges faced by individuals with physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities.

Chairman Laghari also reiterated PRCS's commitment to helping communities without boundaries or bias, stating that the Society will continue its mission of serving every segment of the population with compassion and care. On this occasion, PRCS calls upon all stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society, and the private sector, to join hands in amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities and ensuring their full inclusion in all aspects of life.-APP

Urgent cotton revival policy needed amid 33 % decline in production

MULTAN :Cotton production in the country dropped by 33%, and it caused serious concerns among stakeholders and there is urgent need to focus on steps to improve its production. According to Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), 5,190,725 bales were produced as of November 30, 2024. This is a sharp decline from 7,753,473 bales produced in 2023. Punjab saw a 34.19% drop, producing 2,459,684 bales in 2024 compared to

3.736.749 bales in 2023.

Similarly, Sindh recorded

a 32.01% decrease, with

EU, WFP to strengthen Sindh's health system

ISLAMABAD: European Union (EU) in collaborative project with the World Food Programme (WFP) is helping Sindh's health system tackle malnutrition more

effectively. With a focus on self-reliance, the initiative equips local health centers to manage acute malnutrition without external aid. In Sindh's Tharparkar district, where malnutrition spikes are frequent, the EU and WFP have implemented the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Surge approach. EU, WFP to strengthen Sindh's health system This initiative aims to bolster the

worsen the situation. The trained to manage case DNA CMAM Surge approach enables health workers to han-

cases without overloading existing resources. Taheeni Thammannagoda, who oversees EU humanitarian aid in Pakistan, highlighted the importance of building local capacity. "Frequent climate shocks in Sindh exacerbate malnutrition," she said, adding, "This collaboration aims to help health systems manage surges effectively during crises." WFP Country Director Coco Ushiyama noted that the initiative has set a precedent for cost-effective expansion. "Our partnership with the Government of Sindh and stakeholders in Umerkot local health system's ability and Tharparkar shows that

spikes, analyze data, and ensure the timely delivery dle increased malnutrition of nutrition supplies. Tools provided to provincial and district health authorities include a real-time e-dashboard. This platform tracks data, detects cases early, and facilitates timely referrals to health facilities, ensuring no delay in care for malnourished individuals. The approach was first piloted in 30 health centers in Umerkot district in 2021. Its success there encouraged the Government of Sindh to consider expanding the program to other vulnerable districts. The next step involves rolling out the approach in Jamshoro district. This expansion reflects the Government's commit ment to addressing malnutrition and ensuring better health outcomes across Sindh. The collaboration between the EU and WFP underscores a shared goal: building stronger, self-reliant health systems to combat malnutrition effectively and sustainably.



2,731,041 bales this year against 4,016,724 bales last year. Balochistan contributed only 155.800 bales. Cotton expert Sajid Mahmood attributes the decline to weak policies and practical challenges. He stressed the need for a comprehensive revival program for cotton cultivation. "Conferences and meetings alone cannot resolve the crisis,' Mahmood emphasized. He recommended setting a minimum support price of Rs. 10,000 per maund to incentivize farmers. Modern, climate-resilient seeds are crucial to combat pests like whiteflies and pink bollworms. "Farmers need financial stability to prioritize cotton over other crops," Mahmood said. Research institutions like the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) require immediate funding. Mahmood suggested banning duty-free imported cotton to encourage local growers. "Strengthening research and development is the only way forward," he added. Country's reliance on imported cotton may cost over \$2 billion this year. Effective policies can elevate cotton's status, he added. Sajid Mahmood called for direct market access for farmers, bypassing exploitative middlemen.-APP

to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to malnutrition cases, particularly during high-demand periods. The project was rolled out in 12 health centers in Chachro, a town grappling with poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to clean water and sanitation. Seasonal infections and droughts often

this evidence-based model can be scaled to other districts," she said. The CMAM Surge approach is structured around eight steps. It begins with a situational analysis to identify factors driving malnutrition, such as health challenges and seasonal trends. Health workers are then

a healthy lifestyle. Tips on diet, exercise and medication adherence were shared to ensure holistic diabetes care. Mercy Teaching Hospital remains committed to its mission of providing compassionate and comprehensive healthcare to the community.--APP

readings and maintaining

the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, celebrated under the theme, "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future." In his message on this occasion, Chairman PRCS

Shahid Ahmed Sardar Laghari emphasized the importance of fostering inclusivity and empowering individuals with disabilities to take on leadership roles. He stated:

"At PRCS, we believe that

leadership, and contributions are essential to building a sustainable and inclusive future. Guided by the principle of 'Nothing About Us Without Us,' PRCS is committed to creating opportunities and removing barriers so they can lead their lives with dignity and purpose." The PRCS has been at the

forefront of supporting vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, through its comprehensive Protec-

of hotel plots with investors ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, met with a delegation of investors at the CDA Headquarters on Tuesday to discuss the upcoming open auction of prime hotel plots in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by senior officers, including the Member Planning, Member Finance, Member Estate, and other relevant officers from CDA. During the meeting, Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa highlighted the critical need for international-standard five-star hotels in Islamabad to cater to the growing demand for hospitality services. He emphasized that this initiative would play a pivotal role in enhancing the city's capacity to host national and international events, and tourism, thereby boosting the local economy and global recognition of Islamabad as a premier destination. To address this, CDA is offering five-star hotel plots for open auction, marking a significant opportunity to promote the hotel industry and meet the increasing demands for high-quality accommodations in the city. The investors were given the detailed briefing regarding the specific hotel plots being offered for auction, plots number 6 and 8, located in Sector F-5, one of Islamabad's most sought-after and prime location. These plots present an ideal opportunity for investors to develop world-class hotels, commercial centers, and service apartments, which will not only cater to the growing demand for luxury accommodation but also contribute to the expansion of Islamabad's business and tourism sectors. Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa further outlined the investor-friendly terms that have been introduced to encourage participation in the auction. The hotel plots will be available to investors on easy installment plans, with payments spread over two years. Additionally, possession of the plots will be granted upon 75% payment, and an extra 10% discount will be offered for full upfront payment, making this an attractive investment and golden opportunity for both local and international investors. The meeting also provided a platform for investors to share their proposals and suggestions regarding the auction of commercial plots. The investors expressed the need for more facilities to further stimulate participation and encourage more investment in Islamabad's rapidly growing economy. Chairman CDA assured the investors that their suggestions would be carefully reviewed, and viable suggestions would be presented for approval to the CDA Board in the near future. Chairman CDA reiterated that CDA is fully committed to full support to the investors taking part in the auction process. He emphasized the Authority's dedication to providing all necessary facilities and assistance to ensure a seamless experience for investors and to create a business friendly environment which is conducive for investment and economic activities. This initiative is expected to significantly impact Islamabad's hospitality industry, bringing state-of-the-art facilities to the city and further establishing Islamabad as a prime destination for international business and tourism.-APP

CDA chief discusses open auction

ISSI dialogue on "Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order" begins

ISLAMABAD: The 4th edition of ISSI's Islamabad Conclave, with thematic focus on "Pakistan and the Evolving Global Order," commenced today. Former Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani was the chief guest at the inaugural session. In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted ISSI's position as a premier think-tank dedicated to informed research and policy advocacy on foreign policy as well as regional and global issues. He also highlighted the Institute's achievements in the arena of multi-stakeholder dialogue, narrative-building, and regional and international outreach. Evaluating the evolving global order, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the

twin processes of turbulence and transformation. He highlighted the growing trend towards multipolarity, the high incidence of wars and armed conflict, genocide in Gaza, erosion of adherence to international law and principles of UN charter, existential threats like climate change, role of Middle Powers and the Global South, and their quest for a just and equitable world order. He underlined that Pakistan - both as a Middle Power and an influential voice in the 'Global South' – espouses important priorities. Averse to bloc politics, Pakistan envisions a world in which cooperation, rather than confrontation, is the primary driver. He added that Pakistan also places greater premium on UN-centered multilateralism, as opposed to creation

of smaller cliques or exclusive groupings. Equally, Pakistan favours such reform of the multilateral institutions that would make them more democratic, transparent, and accountable; not one that further fortifies the existing bastions of privilege, exclusivity, and immunity from reasonable scrutiny. As an elected member of the UN Security Council for the term 2025-26, Pakistan is poised to make its rightful contribution to the issues of peace and security on the global agenda, he concluded. Chief Guest Former Foreign Minister Ialil Abbas Iilani, in his address, lauded ISSI for transforming the Islamabad Conclave into a vital platform for policy dialogue and its contribution to research and outreach. On the Conclave's theme, he outlined

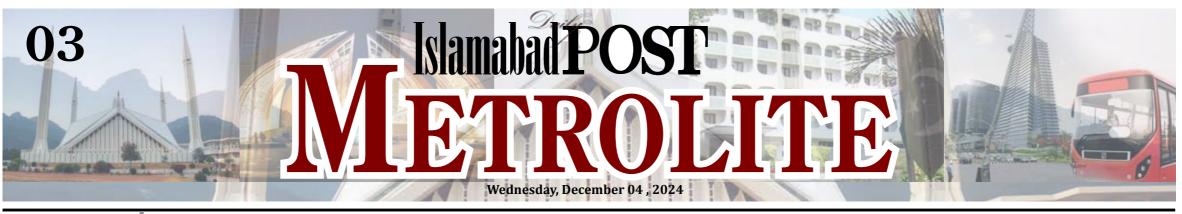
the challenges posed by major-power contestation, the escalating climate crisis, the ongoing genocide in Gaza and its tragic humanitarian consequences. He emphasized Pakistan's power potential, strategic relevance, nuclear capability and the opportunity offered by its upcoming membership of the United Nations Security Council. Ambassador Jilani outlined four major priorities for Pakistan: unshakeable commitment to international law and UN Charter, avoiding bloc politics, building a peaceful neighbourhood, and advocating for a fair and equitable global order. Going forward, he said that for Pakistan, the task is clearly cut out. "Our best way forward remains in pursuing a vision of "comprehensive security" that is human-centered and

helps realize the full potential of our people. Further, we must continue to prudently manage the complex geopolitics and accentuate our pivot to geo-economics. And, to optimally promote these objectives, we must have proactive, imaginative and nimble diplomacy. All this would contribute to Pakistan's emergence as a prosperous and pivotal nation in the 21st century and entail a whole range of opportunities for our spirited and enterprising youth and coming generations." The inaugural session concluded with Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman IS-SI's Board of Governors, presenting a memento to Ambassador Jilani. The two-day conclave features interactive discussions, expert analyses.-APP



Head Office 3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad. Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92-51) 2825132, 2274227. E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com Branch Offices -

Karachi	Labore	Postawar	Keled
Room No. 14 6/15, Srif Poor, Katikashan Wat,	F-4, Gulberg Centre,	Office No. C-B. 2nd Place, Zateer Place,	House F4, Street # 4,
Kamithi Tiro, Road, 1720 1 Block 2, PEC H S.	Main Boulevant, Lahone,	Latif Acod, Ang Road, Phatwar,	Charabit Ansair Rold, Shatin-e-Nan,
Ramathi, Tar. (+02.21) 34530525,34315478	Tatr (+10-42) 35758697, 3571/085.	Tel: (+S2-61) 2582778	Kabul - Mghanintan,
Faix. (+03.21) 34531747	Faar (+10-42) 35711420	Paix (+S2-61) 2582988	Tar + 40 7090201 772, 30 787365 508, 93 775468 208
E-amit: Karachildhaulinemstores.com	E-mail: Lahong/Shadiramovent.com	E-maix ceeduwar @Teadfowmovers.com	Ennal 1 Kabul Shadhamoona zon



National Days and Armed **Forces Days DECEMBER**

Dec 01/Romania **National Day**

Dec 02/United Arab Emirates National Day

Dec 02/Laos Republic National Day

Dec 05/Thailand **National Day**

Dec 06/Finland Independence Day

Dec 07/India **Armed Forces Flag Day**

> Dec 09/Tanzania **National Day**

Dec 11/Oman Armed Forces Day

Dec 12/Kenya Independence Day

Dec12/Turkmenistan Neutrality Day

> Dec 16/Bahrain National Day

Dec 16/Kazakhstan **Independence** Day Dec 18/Qatar National Day

> Dec 18/Niger National Day

Dec 23/Philippines **Armed Forces Day**

> Dec 23/Japan National Day

Restaurants



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



ICCI, OBF-UK to coordinate events to boost Pak's exports

President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi highlighted that ICCI is one of Pakistan's leading chambers, with over 10,000 members representing various industries and businesses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Overseas Business Forum-UK (OBF), led by its Chairman Farooq Khan, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Tuesday. The delega-tion was warmly welcomed by ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, and other ICCI

members The meeting focused on strategies to enhance Pakistan's exports, with the aim of improving the country's foreign exchange earnings. Both parties agreed to jointly organize business events that would showcase Pakistan's export-oriented products and facilitate business-to-business (B2B) meetings. To ensure smooth coordination, the ICCI and OBF-UK decided to appoint focal persons for the respective tasks.President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi highlighted that ICCI

is one of Pakistan's leading chambers, with over 10,000 members representing various industries and businesses. He emphasized the Chamber's role in bridging the gap between the business community and government officials, working towards the country's economic recovery and the growth of businesses, which will, in turn, create employment opportunities. He also mentioned plans for international-level exhibitions and business and tourism summits in friendly countries to show-

case Pakistan's potential in various sectors, as well as its tourism opportunities. Faroog Khan, Chairman of OBF-UK, reiterated the delegation's commitment to supporting Pakistan, describing it as their "motherland" and a top priority. He expressed dedication to promoting Pakistan's investment and tourism prospects on the global stage. Khan also shared that during their visit, the delegation met with relevant government officials and visited several chambers, all of which expressed a strong commitment

to working tirelessly for the country's economic well-being. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui emphasized the importance of establishing a sustainable and long-term relationship between the two organizations. Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry also pledged the Chamber's full support to OBF-UK in this common endeavor. ICCI Executive Members Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, Zareef Khan and Ethisham Chaudhry were also present during the meeting.

Int'i day of special person celebrated

ISLAMABAD : International days and weeks are junctures to edify the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. Though the existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is a UN day that is celebrated every year on 3rd December. The day is about promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development, and to raise awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.This year, the theme is "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future".

Persons with disabilities make up 16% of the global population, yet they rarely access leadership roles in the any sphere of lives. They commonly face numerous barriers which prevent them from accessing these roles, such as discrimination, stigma, or exclusion from education and employment opportunities. This is a day to recognize that amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities is essential to make meaningful progress in achieving global health goals, advancing health equity for all, and building a more inclusive and sustainable future. In the beautiful capital of Pakistan, Directorate General of Special Education works under the ambit of Ministry of Federal Education & Professional training is the focal public organization to provide enabling environment and opportunities through policies, plans, programs and

Pak, German homeopathic experts mark 50 years of collaboration



ISLAMABAD: Dr Najmus Saqib presenting golden jubilee souvenir to David Reckeweg CEO Dr **Reckeweg Germany.**

DNA

ISLAMABAD :All Par-

ties Hurriyat Conference

(APHC) Information Secre-

tary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt

said in a statement on the

occasion of the Internation-

al Day of Disabled Persons

that while the world is cele-

brating the Day of Disabled

Persons today, the same im-

perialist country like India

is using violence as a weap-

on in occupied Kashmir un-

der a systematic plan to dis-

able the Kashmiri. On the

occasion of the Internation-

al Day of Disabled Persons,

All Parties Hurrivat Con-

ISLAMABAD: Dr. David Reckeweg said that Homeopathy is a natural form of eatment that is rapidly

further emphasized that Dr. ed, "Homeopathy is a natural and effective treatment that is Reckeweg Germany believes improving the lives of millions in making treatment effective and affordable.Dr. Najmus of people."The event included heartfelt tributes and awards Saqib expressed his gratitude towards the German team for presented to key contributors

guished guests attended this prestigious event, including homeopathic doctors, industry experts, and prominent figures from the public health sector.Dr. Reckeweg Germany proudly celebrated its 50-year partnership with Dr. Salim Ahmed & Co., Pakistan. This Golden Jubilee marks 50 years of excellence, innovation, and collaboration, which stands as proof of providing high-quality homeopathic healthcare services across Pakistan. freedom, depriving them of a great blessing like eyesight for life. Meanwhile, many human rights organizations and international organizations, including Human Rights Watch, have drawn attention to the unceasing Indian cruelty and barbarity against Kashmiris and rolling on their legs, giving brought the facts based on reality to the world. But despite all this, oppression and Indian state terrorism in Indian Occupied Kash mir are reaching their peak. On the occasion of this day he appealed to all human rights organizations, the United Nations and world powers to use their influence ty and hatred by the Indian to stop the ongoing state terrorism in Indian Occupied Kashmir.-APP

Call for govt's support for local production

ISLAMABAD :The Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA), led by its Chairman Sheikh Umer Rehan, on Tuesday held a meeting with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, highlighting critical challenges facing the edible oil industry and proposing measures to enhance its sustainability and global competitiveness

During the meeting, Sheikh Umer Rehan underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive edible oil policy to address Pakistan's heavy reliance on imports, which currently account for 90 percent of the country's edible oil consumption, said a press release issued here. "A robust policy is essential to boost local production and shield the economy from global market disruptions," he emphasized. Rehan expressed concern over Indonesia's new legislation mandating that 40 percent of palm oil be diverted to biodiesel production. He explained that this policy has disrupted global supplies, causing price hikes that significantly impact Pakistan, the third-largest importer of palm oil globally. "The rising prices and reduced availability of palm oil from Indonesia pose severe risks to Pakistan's food security and local industries," he warned. The chairman called on the government to leverage Pakistan's status as a major importer to negotiate favorable terms with global suppliers. He also urged a reduction in import duties and taxes on edible oil sourced from Malaysia and Indonesia to stabilize prices for local consumers. The PVMA proposed expanding export opportunities for Pakistani edible oil products to markets in the Middle East and the United States through sea routes. Highlighting barriers in the existing Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) with Malaysia and Indonesia, Mr. Rehan called for a reduction of at least 50% in import duties on sovbean and sunflower during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit to these countries. Minister Jam Kamal Khan encouraged the PVMA to submit a detailed proposal within two to three days to address these issues and enable negotiations during the PM's visit. He assured the industry of the government's full support in resolving challenges and promoting growth. He also asked the association to include proposals for devising an edible oil policy to reduce Pakistan's dependency on palm oil imports from Malaysia and Indonesia. Sheikh Umer Rehan also proposed a pilot project to produce edible oil from rice husks, a byproduct often wasted in Pakistan despite its extensive rice production. He cited neighbouring countries successfully utilizing this method and urged Pakistan to adopt similar initiatives to reduce dependency on imports and improve self-reliance. Concluding the meeting, the PVMA chairman presented a shield to Minister Jam Kamal Khan as a gesture of gratitude. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the edible oil sector through policy reforms, innovative projects, and international cooperation. -DNA

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 9270151-3

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

gaining popularity and has ing, "This milestone reflects not a very positive impact on only our shared past but also a patients' health due to its commitment to continue innolack of side effects." These vating and expanding access to homeopathic healthcare in thoughts were shared by Pakistan."Aziz A. Khan shed Dr. David Reckeweg at the Golden Jubilee event of Dr. light on the global impact of Reckeweg Germany and homeopathy and its increasing Dr. Salim Ahmed & Co. He popularity in Pakistan. He stat-

India using violence as

weapon in IIOJK

ference Information Secre-

tary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt

expressed solidarity with the

disabled people around the

world in general and with the

Kashmiris affected by Indian

violence in particular and

said that the Indian forces,

due to the use of tactics such

as oppression and inhuman

and brutal violence against

the freedom-seeking Kash-

miris, not only disabled them

but also made them depend-

ent on others for life. Mush-

taq Ahmed Butt said that the

people, especially the youth,

arrested by the Indian forces

their unwavering support, statof this success journey, including Dr. David Reckeweg, Dr. Najmus Saqib, and Aziz A. Khan for their leadership and tireless efforts. It also highlighted the future prospects of improved healthcare services through partnerships like Dr. Reckeweg Germany and Dr. Salim Ahmed & Co.More than 500 distin-

during the raids, are taken

to interrogation centers and

subjected to severe beatings,

them electric shocks, burn-

ing their bodies, applying cig-

arette butts, pulling out their

nails, cutting their bodies,

stripping them naked and

hanging them upside down.

Such heinous tortures are

inflicted on them. He further

said that the Modi regime,

while continuing this cruel-

forces, has disabled Kash-

miri children by putting pel-

lets on them for demanding

Raja Changez Sultan Himalayan **Odyssey Award painting exhibition**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Devcom-Pakistan, as part of the 14th Pakistan Mountain Festival, organized the "Raja Changez Sultan Himalayan Odyssey Award" painting exhibition at the National Art Gallery on Tuesday. The exhibition celebrated the theme of Mountain Heritage, showcasing the breathtaking beauty, cultural richness, and environmental significance of Pakistan's mountains. Raja Changez Sultan was the chief guest who presented the award to the winning artist Beenish Azam. Pakistan National Council

of the Arts (PNCA) Director General Mohammad Ayub Jamali was the guest of honour. He distributed certificates among the participating artists. A total of 32 artists from across Pakistan participated in the exhibition, presenting a diverse array of works that captured the essence of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush mountain ranges. The event paid homage to Raja Changez Sultan, a legendary artist and poet renowned for his lifelong dedication to documenting the mystique and grandeur of mountain landscapes through his art and literary works. The participating artists included Agha Shahid, Akmal Hameed, Ambreen Anjum, Areej Batool, Asma Shahid, Attiqa Malik, Beenish Azam, Dr. Farrukh Seir, Fadhil Yousafzai, Fatima Afzal, Fatima Ejaz, Fauzia Khan, Hadia Khanam, Hatice Omar, Kanwal Nafees, Kiran Mughal, Maryam Mustafa Mazhary, Niala Abrar, Saba Hameed, Saffia Mughees, Saima Aamir, Saleha Faisal, Shafqat Mehmood, Shahnaz Akram, Shehlla Moazzam, Sidrah Iqbal, Silvat Hijazi and Tasnima Sajid. Speaking on the occasion, Munir Ahmed, Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan and Founder of the "Raja Changez Sultan Himalayan Odyssey Award," highlighted the deep cultural and ecological significance of mountains and their unique place in Pakistan's heritage. "Our mountains are the cradle of our rivers, the lungs of our environment, and the heart of our cultural diversity. Through this award and exhibition, we aim to create a nexus between art and environmental conservation, reminding us all of our responsibility to preserve the beauty and heritage of these majestic landscapes," Munir Ahmed remarked. He also paid tribute to Raja Changez Sultan, whose artistic vision and dedication to documenting the mountains of Pakistan continue to inspire and guide generations. Ahmed emphasized the transformative power of art in bridging gaps between culture and conservation.

wide-ranging services It's include Assessment, Diagnostic and Referral services, Educational and Pre-vocational trainings Curriculum development, Mobile Library and Resource Centre, In-service training of professionals in the field of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Therapeutic Interventions through Assistive Aids, Provision of Audiological services, Speech therapy, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Music therapy and Agro-therapy, Braille training, Printing and provision of Braille books.-APP

projects that would promote

social progress, educate

and rehabilitate children /

persons with disabilities

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04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Wednesday, December 04 , 2024

Briefs

Railways earn Rs. 33b in five months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistar Railways has achieved an unprecedented earning of over Rs. 33 billion during the initial five months of the current financial year 2024-25 with the untiring efforts of the department, despite facing several financial challenges. "The department has earned this revenue from passengers and freight trains, while surpassing the target through the consistent efforts and hard work of the Railway workers," official sources in the Ministry told APP. Pakistan Railways has achieved a historic financial milestone through generating Rs. 33 billion revenue over the past five months, reflecting a 14 percent year-on-year growth compared to Rs. 29 billion during the same period last year. "This marks an incremental gain of over Rs four billion, attributed to enhanced operational efficiency and strategic revenue optimization," the sourc-es revealed. The robust performance follows a record-breaking financial year 2023-24, during which Pakistan Railways earned Rs. 88 billion in revenue, a 40 percent increase from Rs. 63 billion in the previous year. The sources said Pakistan Railways surpassed its initial revenue target of Rs. 73 billion, earning Rs. 47 billion from passenger trains, Rs. 28 billion from goods vehicles, and over Rs. 13 billion from land and other sources. About the Main Line-I (ML-I), they highlighted that ground work for the ML-1 project, a key infrastructure initiative, is set to commence by next year, signaling longterm growth and profitability for the organization. "This achievement is a testament to the hard work of our employees. We aim to further boost revenue to Rs. One trillion in the next financial year," they added. To a question, the sources said that Pakistan Railways has beefed up preventive measures to reduce passenger train accidents. Only eight minor accidents with no causality took place on the entire railway network in the country. The drastic decrease in accidents has been witnessed due to the efforts being undertaken to reduce trespassing at unmanned level crossings and unauthorized locations, they added. "Our staff is continuously monitoring the railway tracks across the country and conducting thorough inspection of the trains as the safety of the passengers is the top priority of the department," the sources said.–APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Task force established in view of the recent law and order situation in federal capital.

Pak first electric SUV launched to echo new policy

Not long ago, Privatization Minister Abdul Aleem Khan announced that 30% of vehicles in Pakistan would be converted to electric by 2030, as the South Asian country takes step to combat air pollution and other climate change effects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Regal Automobiles Industries Ltd, a trailblazer in Pakistan's automotive sector, has made history with the unveiling of the country's first locally assembled electric SUV, the Seres 3. Adeel Usman, Managing Director of RAIL, highlighted that the Seres 3 would redefine the local automotive landscape, positioning the nation as an emerging hub for electric mobility innovation, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday Not long ago, Privatization Minister Abdul Aleem Khan announced that 30% of vehicles in Pakistan would be

converted to electric by 2030, as the South Asian country takes step to combat air pollution and other climate change effects. The minister was echoing the government's New Energy Vehicle (NEV) policy. Hybrid EV sales in Pakistan have more than doubled in the past year.

BYD Pakistan, a partnership between China's giant BYD and Pakistani auto group Mega Motors, said in this September up to 50% of all vehicles bought in Pakistan by 2030 will be electrified in some form. "The new vehicle policy is timely, addressing critical issues like the high oil import bill, underutilized power plants incurring capacity payments, and

transportation-related smog and greenhouse gas emissions," told Dr. Naveed Arshad, associate professor and co-director of the LUMS Energy Institute. "Unlike the earlier policy a few years ago, the updated version is more robust, offering clear targets, tax breaks and government funding for EV projects." Dr Arshad added that traditional automakers must adapt to the changing electric vehicle landscape. The current business model relies heavily on after-sales services such as engine maintenance, which is incompatible with EVs due to their extremely low maintenance requirements.

He suggested that automakers should turn to charging infrastruc-

ture, software R&D and other areas of innovation. In order to fully promote the energy transformation in the transportation sector, new policy emphasizes the establishment of extensive charging infrastructure across Pakistan. Charging stations will be installed in public areas and along major highways, and oil marketing companies are required to set up level 3 charging stations at 10% of their locations. Private charging service providers will receive incentives such as tax exemptions, reduced land costs, and simplified licensing procedures to facilitate installation and power supply. In addition, an important aspect of the NEV policy is the focus on environmental protection.

It introduces safety and recycling standards for batteries and components, while financial incentives will encourage companies to invest in the recycling field and recycling centers will be established across the country. When asked about the potential dominance of Chinese NEVs in the market, Dr Arshad emphasized that "the policy aims to leverage China's strengths in EV technology to benefit Pakistan. While Chinese brands may dominate initially, the policy emphasizes localized production, especially for smaller vehicles such as two-and three-wheelers. Such a targeted approach will increase exports while reducing reliance on imports."

observed

Seven renting rules violators arrested

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi District Police here on Tuesday carried out search operations in the jurisdiction of different police stations and arrested seven renting rules violators. According to a police spokesman, the search operations were conducted in order to maintain law and order and flush out suspects following the directions of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani. He informed, senior police officers and police personnel including women police took part in the search operations. Police checked houses, shops, hotels, tenants and a large number of individuals during the search operations. Police also arrested seven suspects namely Javed, Abeel Hussain, Rohullah, Ziaullah, Matiullah, Rasool Zaman and Saeed. He said that police were more vigilant to keep an eye on suspects and maintain law and order in Rawalpindi.Moreover,Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers, illegal weapon holders and other lawbreakers here on Tuesday arrested 15 accused besides recovering over 3 kg charras, 20 liters liquor, weapons and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman. He informed that Wah Cantt, Airport and Pirwadhai police rounded up five accused namely Sajid, Arif Iqbal, Ismail, Ashfaq and Mansha and recovered over 3 kg charras and 20 liters liquor from their possession. In other raids, Pirwadhai, Sadiqabad, Wah Cantt, Mandra and Dhamial police arrested eight accused, Aqsab, Hamza, Muhammad Abid, Waqas, Rehan, Faizan, Khalid, and Numan and recovered seven 30 bore pistols, daggers and other items.-APP

Lost bag handed over to owner

ISLAMABAD :The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) officials on Tuesday found and handed over a lost bag to its owner. According to details, the NHMP received a call on helpline number 130 that a person lost his bag near Chakri interchange having Rs 30,000 amount artificial jewellery in the bag. The NHMP North zone officials took immediate action on his request and after searching the area traced the bag and handed over it to him. The owner expressed his gratitude and admiration for the Motorway Police's honesty and dedication to

ANF recovers 2621 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI :Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 2621 kg drugs worth Rs 190 million and arrested 12 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that 90 grams ice was recovered from a suspect rounded up near a university in Islamabad. 280 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of two suspects arrested near a college on Pindi Road, Kohat. In third operation, 3.4 kg hashish was recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle intercepted near a college on Fateh Jang Road, Attock and three suspects were arrested during the operation. The arrested suspects confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

A total of 24 kg hashish and 72 kg opium were recovered from a suspect held near Miranji Town in Gujranwala. 6 kg opium and 50.4 kg hashish were recovered in two operations conducted near M-1, Islamabad. Three accused were arrested during the operation. 10 kg ice hidden in a truck was recovered near Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore and two accused were arrested. 2100 kg hashish hidden for smuggling was recovered from Gulistan area of Qilla Abdullah district in Balochistan. 355 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Muslim Bagh in Qilla Abdullah. Cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigations are under process.-APP

6TH All Pak bilingual declamation contest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 6th All Pakistan Bilingual Declamation Contest was organized at Cadet College Sanghar (CCS). Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri, graced this mega event as the Chief Guest. In the event, 45 x elite institutions from all over Pakistan participated by sending their 90 x best male & female speakers. The contestants delivered impressive speeches on both serious and humorous topics. The jury comprising of experienced panel of judges belonging to reputable institutions of Pakistan evaluated the performance of the speakers. While addressing the audience, the Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri emphasized the students to always remain diligent, resilient and optimistic to scale the pinnacle of success as mentioned by one of the speakers, "Rough tides refine the sailor's art." She congratulated the Prize Winning Teams & appreciated CCS efforts for organizing and hosting this mega event in a triumphant manner. Earlier, in his welcome address, Cdre Zeeshan Ali SI(M), Commandant/ Principal CCS expressed his profound gratitude to the Chief Guest for gracing the event. He highlighted the significance of Oratory Skills and appreciated contestants for their enthusiastic participation. In English Declamation, Ms Misbah Imran from Isra University, Hyderabad clinched the 1st Position, while Ms Shahnoor Rajpoot from Govt

College University, Hyderabad stood 2nd and Ms Areeba Imran from Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro secured the 3rd position. While in Urdu Declamation, Cadet Ghazain from Cadet College Ormara achieved 1st position, the 2nd position was won by Ms Mariyam Ameer from NUML University, Karachi & the 3rd position was secured by Ms Zova Ahmed from Karachi Medical and Dental College, Karachi. The consolation prizes in English Category were awarded to Ms Hareem Fatima from Hayat College Fatima Campus & Mr Abbas Mehdi from Govt Degree Boys College, Nawabshah and in Urdu Category to Cadet Abdul Haseeb from Marine Academy, Karachi & Ms Affaf Sikandar from Tabani's College (PECHS Campus). The Champion Trophy of the 6th All-Pakistan Bilingual Declamation Contest - 2024 was clinched by the team of Cadet College Ormara, while the Runner-up Trophy was won by the team of University of Karachi. To maintain the interest of audience, CCS cadets performed cultural shows in between the declamation sessions. Horse & Buggy Rides, Shooting at CCS firing range, visit of Faiz Mahal Art Gallery, Swimming Pool & CCS Orchards and serving of Fresh Milk Tea at College Dairy Farm were also arranged for Participants & Guests. The teams thoroughly enjoyed their stay and were thankful for great hospitality showed by CCS management.

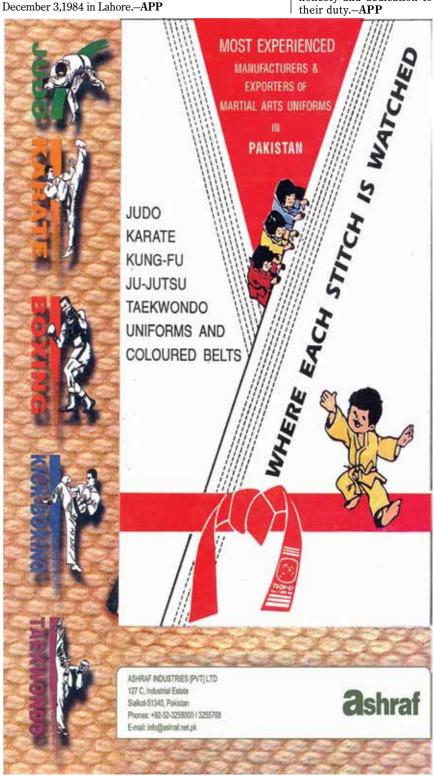
AIOU provides free education to **PWDs: VC**

ISLAMABAD :Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is making every possible effort to bring prosperity and convenience to the lives of persons with disabilities. To help them lead dignified and successful lives, the university offers free education from matriculation to PhD level," said the Vice-Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, in his statement on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Dr. Nasir further stated that the university has also established an "E-Learning Accessibility Center" in its library specifically for visually impaired students. This state-of-the-art center is equipped with specialized computers, headphones, and advanced software, enabling students with disabilities to easily access HEC's digital library, e-books, research articles, journals, and theses. It is a matter of pride that AIOU is the only public-sector university in the country providing free education to persons with disabilities up to the postgraduate level.-APP

Police arrest seven renting rules violations

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi District Police here on Tuesday carried out search operations in the jurisdiction of different police stations and arrested seven renting rules violators. According to a police spokesman, the search operations were conducted in order to maintain law and order and flush out suspects following the directions of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani. He informed, senior police officers and police personnel including women police took part in the search operations. Police checked houses, shops, hotels, tenants and a large number of individuals during the search operations.-APP

Death anniversary of poet Daman ISLAMABAD: Death anniversary of revolutionary Punjabi poet and writer Ustad Daman was observed on Tuesday.Born on September 4, 1911 in Lahore, his real name was Chiragh Deen. He was a tailor by profession and also created precious piece of writings published under the title of "Daman De Moti." Ustad Daman's poetry condemned all sorts of oppression and called for civil rights and a respectable place for Punjabi language. His poems are still widely quoted in Punjab as well as in other regions of Pakistan. Ustad Daman died on their duty.-APP



Khunjerab Pass achieves milestone with year-round operation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Starting of inbound and outbound December 1, the Khunjerab Pass, a key land border crossing between China and Pakistan at Khunjerab, transitioned from a seasonal gateway of 40,900 tonnes by the to a year-round open land end of October, marking a port, marking a significant significant year-on-year inmilestone in facilitating crease of 42.6% in vehicle trade and exchanges betraffic and 72.7% in trade tween China and Pakistan. volume. Khunjerab Port The Khunjerab Customs on the China-Pakistan borreminded travelers that der is a strategic point on the port will be closed the Karakoram Highway, on weekends. Since the which links Xinjiang Uyresumption of passenger gur Autonomous Region, customs clearance on China and Gilgit-Baltistan, April 1 this year, the Pass Pakistan. Located around has witnessed a steady 5,000 meters above sea increase in traffic. By level, the Khunjerab Pass the end of October, it has usually remains open from

recorded over 50,000 in- April 1 to November 30 bound and outbound pasevery year, and remains sengers, while the number closed from December 1 to March 31 of the followvehicles exceeded 11,000. ing year because of cold According to the Khunweather and lack of oxygen at a high altitude, Chijerab Customs, it has also overseen an import na Economic Net (CEN) and export cargo volume reported on Tuesday.

China and Pakistan issued a joint press statement last October, announcing that the Khunjerab Pass will function all year round, and agreed to step up the infrastructure construction and management of the pass and improve its passage conditions. With year-round access now established, the port is expected to further enhance economic cooperation and cultural exchange between the two neighboring countries.

Seizure of loudspeakers

NDER the cover of the ongoing bloody war in the Gaza Strip, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir issued orders to police leadership to tighten measures against the use of loudspeakers for the call to prayer in mosques within 1948 occupied Palestine (Israel), particularly in cities inhabited by Palestinians and settlers, such as Jerusalem, Ramla, Lod, Haifa, and Nazareth. Israeli army radio reports that this step responds to complaints from Israelis who find the sound of the call to prayer "disturbing". The directives include the confiscation of loudspeakers used for the call to prayer in mosques, and in cases where confiscation is not possible, financial penalties are imposed as a punitive measure. Ayman Odeh, head of the Arab Joint List in the Knesset, said, "Ben Gvir is a transient figure, no matter how powerful he becomes, and the call to prayer is stronger than all racists and all man-made laws." Odeh confidently affirmed the strength of the call to prayer, warning against efforts to create internal conflict among citizens. He cautioned all institutions that the Netanyahu-Ben Gvir government is methodically and deliberately leading toward this conflict. Arab Knesset member Walid al-Hawashlah said, "Our mosque minarets remain tall, and the voices of the call to prayer resound, no matter how much a fascist minister or a racist official tries to silence them. Ben Gvir and his ilk are incapable of extinguishing the call to prayer. Israeli society today calls for the release of hostages in Gaza, while the Prime Minister and an entire state are hostages in the hands of Ben Gvir and religious Zionist fascism." He added that the occupation and its fascist ministers are what the Israeli society wants. In this context, political analyst Yassin Azdine said in remarks to the PIC correspondent that the Israeli government is exploiting the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip to enact judaizing laws. Azdine added that the occupation desires a war against Islam and Muslims, emphasizing the need to confront these arbitrary laws with more steadfastness and resilience. He explained that the Israeli government aims to seize land and erase identity, killing in the Gaza Strip, confiscating land and areas in the West Bank, and attempting to erase identity and culture in the 1948 occupied Palestine. Azdine said that Ben Gvir and his ilk in the Israeli government see this as the right time to erase the Arab Islamic identity of Palestine, and the war on the call to prayer is one aspect of this declared war. He said, "They estimate that they can pass whatever they want in light of the shameful Arab and Islamic silence and the complicity of America and Europe, especially since the Trump administration includes anti-Islam figures and will thus strongly support such steps." He stressed that Ben Gvir will not stop at banning the call to prayer, which he describes as noise; there will be successive steps that may lead to closing mosques or seizing them. Azdine concluded by recalling that the occupation state demolished three mosques last month, two in Jerusalem and one in the Negev. Hamas warned that the decision by the extremist Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir to confiscate loudspeakers from mosques in the occupied Palestinian territories of 1948 heralds an escalation of a religious war that Israel and its leaders are trying to ignite. Hamas added in a statement on Sunday that Ben Gvir's description of the call to prayer as "noise" is "a serious crime and aggression against our mosques and our people, and a new attack on freedom of worship."

slamahad

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Malaysia and Asean agency

N October 11, Laos handed the baton of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) chairmanship to Malaysia during the closing ceremony of the 44th and 45th Asean Summits and Related Summits. Malaysia will officially assume the chair on January 1 next year with the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability". In 2015, when Malaysia last held the Asean chairmanship, the world was in the throes of violence. From Bamako to Beirut, Paris to the Sinai desert, communities mourned hostages taken, wounded, or killed - sometimes in the hundreds - in various extremist attacks. A few days before Kuala Lumpur welcomed delegates to the 27th Asean Summit, Malaysian Bernard Then's severed head was found in southern Philippines, months after he had been abducted from the Malaysian state of Sabah by Abu Sayyaf militants. Ten years on, the strategic landscape looks decidedly different in Southeast Asia. Myanmar remains locked in intractable civil strife since the junta's 2021 coup, and clashes in the South China Sea threaten to metastasise into a wider regional conflict. With Aseanparalysed on both fronts, dialogue partners' preference for minilateral arrangements such as Aukus and the Quad, and an unpredictable US president back in the White House, Asean centrality remains in question despite years of formal community-building since Malaysia presided over the 2015 launch of the Asean Community in Kuala Lumpur. While the cessation of hostilities in Myanmar and in the South China Sea will no doubt remain key priorities for Asean, any expectations of material success on these fronts in 2025 have to be tempered. The rotational, one-year term of the Asean chairmanship means that chairs can only add on to their predecessors' efforts and organisational foundations established in previous years. Still, Asean faces other contemporary challenges, many of which it has identified in the Asean Community Vision 2045. Malaysia's theme of "Inclusivity and Sustainability" is a timely reminder to reprioritise a "people-oriented, people-centred" community. There is gathering momentum to do so. The catastrophic annihilation of Gaza and the brazen impunity of the powerful have once again laid bare what previous social, economic and political inflection points such as the 1998 Asian financial crisis, 2008 global financial crisis, and Covid-19 pandemic had already made clear: the international order needs reordering because it no longer responds to the needs of the majority. The established powers that thumped their chests as architects of multilateralism and international law are themselves actively undermining those very institutions. Asean members have begun to diversify their strategic portfolios in tentative but telling ways. The expansion of cross-border local currency transactions and regional payment connectivity among member states to ensure financial resilience is one example. Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam becoming partner countries of Brics is another. Others include the expected upgrade of the Asean-China Free Trade Agreement in 2025 and last vear's establishment of the Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council summit.

Balance of power in the Persian Gulf

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



From Iran's perspective, its military posture and regional ambitions are shaped by a combination of historical grievances, security concerns, and ideological aspirations. The 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War left a lasting impact on Iran's strategic thinking, reinforcing its emphasis on self-reliance and deterrence. This experience, coupled with ongoing threats from the U.S. and Israel, drives Iran's pursuit of asymmetrical warfare capabilities, including its missile program and support for proxy groups like Hezbollah and the Houthis

NHE concept of strength and weakness is inherently relative, particularly in geopolitics, where nations must be assessed in the context of their peers rather than global superpowers like the United States. In the Persian Gulf a region characterized by volatile geopolitical dynamics, strategic importance due to its energy resources, and diverse military capabilities the relative strength of nations determines the balance of power and the outcomes of conflicts. Terrain and geography play a constant role in shaping military strategies, yet history has shown that psychological factors, such as fear and determination, often override physical barriers, making war a persistent possibility in human affairs.

Iran occupies a central position in the Middle East, both geographically and geopolitically. It has long been at odds with major global players like the United States and Israel, engaging in a mix of direct confrontations, proxy wars, and strategic deterrence. Iran possesses the largest army in the Middle East, a formidable armored force, and an extensive missile arsenal. These capabilities establish it as a key regional power. Critics have argued, however, that Iran faces logistical challenges in deploying its armored forces effectively due to difficult terrain, long distances to potential battlefronts, and limitations in fuel supply for extended military campaigns. While these concerns merit consideration, they may underestimate Iran's strategic capabilities. As a major oil producer, Iran has sufficient refining capacity to meet its military fuel needs. Additionally, its geographical positioning and infrastructure provide it with multiple avenues for projecting power. For example, Iran's road and transport networks facilitate movement across its mountainous terrain, enabling it to engage neighboring states and adversaries effectively. Iran's missile capabilities significantly enhance its strategic reach. Its arsenal is believed to include ballistic and cruise missiles capable of striking targets across the Middle East, including Israel, Saudi Arabia, and U.S. military bases in the region. This missile program serves as both a deterrent and an offensive tool, compensating for any perceived limitations in its conventional military forces. The Persian Gulf's strategic importance stems from its vast energy reserves, crucial maritime trade routes, and proximity to key geopolitical players like Russia, China, and the European Union. In this context, Iran's mil- without resorting to direct conflict. Simultaitary capabilities and strategic ambitions pose significant challenges to regional stability. Iran's ability to project power extends beyond its immediate neighbors. Its strategic position allows it to strike in multiple directions, potentially including northward into Central Asia and Russia. While an Iranian confrontation with Russia is unlikely given their current cooperative relationship, the potential for realignment or conflict remains an important consideration for regional planners. The risk of a major war in the Middle East cannot be dismissed.

A conflict involving Iran could escalate rapidly, drawing in regional and global powers. For instance, Iran's adversaries, such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, would likely seek external support, particularly from the United States. However, the U.S.'s ability to respond swiftly with a blocking force is questionable due to logistical challenges and political considerations. This creates a precarious situation in which regional powers must increasingly rely on their own capabilities or alliances to ensure security. The United States has long maintained a vital interest in the Persian Gulf, primarily to ensure the free flow of oil and maintain regional stability. However, its ability to intervene decisively in a large-scale conflict is constrained by several factors. First, the U.S. faces logistical challenges in rapidly deploying forces to the region, particularly if faced with simultaneous crises elsewhere. Second, domestic political pressures and war fatigue may limit the extent to which the U.S. is willing to commit resources to Middle Eastern conflicts. These limitations create a strategic dilemma for the U.S. and its allies. On the one hand, allowing Iran to dominate its neighbors could undermine regional stability and embolden other revisionist powers, such as China and Russia. On the other hand, a direct military confrontation with Iran could lead to protracted conflict, significant economic disruptions, and a further erosion of U.S. influence in the region. To navigate these challenges, the U.S. must adopt a nuanced approach that combines military preparedness with diplomatic engagement. Strengthening alliances with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, enhancing missile defense systems in the region, and supporting proxy forces could help counterbalance Iran's influence

neously, efforts to engage Iran diplomatically, such as reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), could help de-escalate tensions and create opportunities for cooperation on shared interests, such as combating terrorism and ensuring maritime security.

From Iran's perspective, its military posture and regional ambitions are shaped by a combination of historical grievances, security concerns, and ideological aspirations. The 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War left a lasting impact on Iran's strategic thinking, reinforcing its emphasis on self-reliance and deterrence. This experience, coupled with ongoing threats from the U.S. and Israel, drives Iran's pursuit of asymmetrical warfare capabilities, including its missile program and support for proxy groups like Hezbollah and the Houthis. Iran's strategic calculus also reflects its desire to assert leadership in the Islamic world and challenge the U.S.-led order in the Middle East. By projecting power and influencing conflicts in Syria, Iraq, remen, and Lebanon, Iran seeks to expand its sphere of influence and counterbalance rival powers, particularly Saudi Arabia. However, Iran's aggressive posture carries significant risks. Its actions have alienated many of its neighbors, increased its economic isolation, and exposed it to potential military retaliation. Balancing these risks with its strategic objectives requires careful calculation and a willingness to adapt its policies to changing circumstances. The prospect of a major war in the Middle East remains a sobering possibility. While Iran's capabilities and strategic position give it the means to initiate conflict, the consequences of such a war would be devastating for the region and beyond. Economic disruptions, humanitarian crises, and the potential for escalation into a broader conflict involving global powers underscore the need for preventive measures. To reduce the likelihood of war, regional and global actors must prioritize conflict resolution and confidence-building measures. This includes addressing underlying grievances, such as disputes over borders, resources, and ideological differences, as well as creating mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation. For Iran, demonstrating a willingness to engage constructively with its neighbors and the international community could help alleviate tensions and build trust.

Pakistan's growing youth unemployment OUTH unemployment in Pakistan is rapidly becoming one of the most pressing socio-economic shells.

Shehryar Khan

Youth unemployment has far-reaching consequences.

It fuels social unrest, increases crime rates, and exacerbates mental health issues. The Pakistan Youth Survey 2022 revealed that 43% of unemployed youth experience symptoms of depression or anxiety. Moreover, the lack of

economic opportunities is driving a brain drain, with thousands of talented professionals emigrating annually in search of better prospects abroad. Potential solutions include the reformation of our education system...

pressing socio-economic challenges of the 21st century. With a significant portion of the country's population under the age of 30, the inability to provide meaningful employment to its youth poses a grave threat to Pakistan's economic stability and social cohesion. According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the national unemployment rate stood at 6.9% in 2023. Still, the situation is far more alarming among the youth, with an estimated 16% of individuals aged 15-24 unemployed. Unfortunately, we live in a country that is experiencing a demographic dividend, with nearly 64% of its 240 million population below the age of 30, according to the UNDP. This youthful workforce, if utilized effectively, has the potential to drive economic growth. However, failure to integrate these young individuals into the labor market risks turning this advantage into a liability. The International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that in 2022, Pakistan's youth unemployment rate was among the highest in South Asia, outpacing neighboring countries like India and Bangladesh. However, numerous factors contribute to this growing crisis. Firstly, our education system often fails to equip students with skills relevant to the modern job market. A 2022 World Bank re-

gy sector, a key driver of global economic growth. This mismatch leaves graduates with degrees that do not translate into job opportunities. Secondly, our economy has faced persistent challenges, including high inflation, mounting external debt, and political instability. These factors discourage both local and foreign investment, stunting job creation. The industrial sector, traditionally a significant source of employment, contracted by 3.6% in FY2023, as per the State Bank of Pakistan. Furthermore, with an annual population growth rate of 2%, Pakistan's labor market is unable to absorb the increasing number of job seekers. Approximately 4 million people enter the job market every year, but the economy generates only 1.5 million jobs annually, according to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). Youth unemployment has far-reaching consequences. It fuels social unrest, increases crime rates, and exacerbates mental health issues. The Pakistan Youth Survey 2022 revealed that 43% of unemployed youth experience symptoms of depression or anxiety. Moreover, the lack of economic opportunities is driving a brain drain, with thousands of talented professionals emigrating annually in

of our education system to align curricula with market demands. Emphasizing STEM education, vocational training, and digital literacy can help bridge the skills gap. Additionally, simplifying the process of starting a business and offering financial incentives can encourage youth-led startups. Political stability and business-friendly policies also play an integral part in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). Special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC can be leveraged to create jobs for the youth. Government-led public works programs can provide immediate employment while addressing infrastructure deficits. Programs like the Benazir Income Support Program can also be extended to support job training initiatives. Pakistan's youth unemployment crisis is a ticking time bomb that requires urgent and sustained intervention. The country's future depends on its ability to harness the potential of its young population. By addressing systemic issues in education, governance, and economic policy, Pakistan can turn this crisis into an opportunity for growth and innovation. Failure to act, however, will leave millions of young Pakistanis without hope, and the nation without a prosperous future.

06

WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Wednesday, December 04, 2024

Briefs PM urges global action to tackle...

FROM PAGE 01 PM Shehbaz will participate in the "One Planet Summit for Water," which is a col-laborative event organised by Saudi Arabia, France, Kazakhstan, and the World Bank. The summit aims to promote a coordinated international approach to water resource management. The prime minister will also address a roundtable conference, focusing on measures to improve water quality and create livelihoods. Sources indicated that Shehbaz Sharif will meet Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, where discussions will include the evolving regional situation and other significant matters. The prime minister is also expected to meet UN Secretary-General António Guterres and other global leaders.

DOM Dar stresses implementation...

FROM PAGE 01 addressing the 28th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers (COM) being hosted here. He said the ECOTA was a landmark intra-regional preferential trade agreement, which was conceptualized exactly in line with the founding and fundamental goals of the organization to create amenable and conducive conditions for the promotion of sustainable economic development of the region, aiming at joint welfare and well-being of member states. "ECOTA primarily aims to lower tariffs in our region over an agreed timeframe and provides an excellent platform for the promotion of our region's economic interests by trade promotion and facilitation. Despite a considerable period since its inception, it is vet to see day the light of implementation. So far, only five mem-

Pakistan reach Junior Asia Hockey Cup final

Hanan Shahid was named Player of the Match for his two-goal performance



SPORTS DESK

MUSCAT: Pakistan secured a spot in the final of the Junior Asia Hockey Cup by defeating Japan 4-2 in the semi-finals. he match took place in Muscat, Oman, where Pakistan's junior hockey team remained unbeaten until the semi-finals. Captain Hanan Shahid scored two goals, while Su-

fyan Khan and Basharat Ali each scored once. Hanan Shahid was named Player of the Match for his two-goal performance.

It is worth noting that the national team had been unbeaten throughout the Junior Asia Hockey Cup until the semi-finals. The second semi-final will be between India and Malaysia, with the winning team set to face Pakistan in the final. Meanwhile, Bangladesh achieved a milestone in its hockey history by qualifying for FIH Hockey Junior World Cup for the first time after a commanding 7-2 victory over Thailand in a crucial placement match at Junior Asia Cup in Muscat, Oman, on Tuesday. The win guarantees Bangladesh a spot in next year's Junior World Cup in India with the top six teams from the Junior Asia

Cup earning qualification. The team will now face the winner of



converting a penalty corner just before halftime to make it 3-1. However, Bangladesh responded emphatically after the break. Goals from Mehedi Hasan Ovi, Saddam Khan, and another from Joy in the third quarter put the match alty corner. The first quarter ended beyond Thailand's reach, despite with Bangladesh in control and Motheir second penalty corner goal. hammad Abdullah added another Abdullah sealed the win with his goal in the second quarter with a second goal in the final quarter.

Govt to block terrorists' accounts..

FROM PAGE 01 During the meeting, it was decided to enhance collaboration between the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and the provinces. A National Fusion Centre has also been established to facilitate more effective coordination. In the upcoming meeting, senior officials from PTA and other relevant institutions will present effective mechanisms to combat terrorism and its supporting infrastructure. Minister Naqvi strongly condemned the recent terrorist incidents in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), calling them "deeply regrettable and condemnable." He stated that to counter terrorism, the professional capabilities of Counter Terrorism Forces (CTFs) in these regions will be enhanced through full cooperation. He further stated that efforts to strengthen law enforcement agencies such as the police and the Frontier Constabulary (FC) would be prioritised to improve security. "To improve law and order, everyone must work together," said Naqvi, adding that the police forces across all provinces would be equipped with modern technology to enhance their operational effectiveness.

Imran says he 'still holds trump card'

FROM PAGE 01

said on Tuesday that her brother "still holds trump card close to his chest". "PTI founder told me that he would not reveal his trump card right now," Aleema told reporters after meeting the former premier at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, where he has been incarcerated for more than one year. She said that she "waited for six hours vesterday but she was not permitted to meet Imran". Aleema also dismissed rumours about the PTI founder's deteriorating health conditions, saying that he is "totally fine". Detailing his brother's stance on the outcomes of the "do-or-die

Sufiyan propels Pakistan to seriesclinching victory over Zimbabwe Sufiyan registers record bowling figures of 5/3

DNA

BULAWAYO:Sufiyan Muqeem's five-wicket haul, followed by an opening onslaught, led Pakistan to a crushing 10-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the second T20I of the three-match series here at Queens Sports Club on Tuesday. Chasing a modest 58-run total, Pakistan knocked the winning runs inside the batting powerplay without losing a single wicket.

Left-handed opener SaimAyub was the core aggressor of the match-winning stand, courtesy of his quickfire 36-run knock from 18 deliveries, studded with six fours and a six.

Chelsea will 'dominate' Premier League: Maresca

LONDON: Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca says the club will "dominate" the Premier League in the next five to 10 years. The 44-year-old Italian has repeatedly played down his team's title chances this season, despite Chelsea being third in the table and level on points and goal difference with Mikel Arteta's challengers Arsenal. Chelsea leapfrogged struggling champions Manchester City after a convincing 3-0 win at home to Aston Villa on Sunday, but still trail league leaders Liverpool by nine points. However, Maresca continues to refute Chelsea's readiness to compete for titles despite the world record sums in multiple transfer windows under their Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital ownership group. Chelsea have spent more than £1.5bn since the Clearlake takeover - largely on younger players on longer contracts - albeit balanced by substantial sales. The likes of Enzo Fernandez, Moises Caicedo and Nicolas Jackson are hitting peak form, adding to the star

impact of Cole Palmer over the past 18 months. But Maresca believes the inexperience of his squad, which has an average age of just over 23, is a reason they will ultimately fall short this season. "We're not in the title race. We are not, in my opinion," said Maresca. Speaking before Wednesday's Premier League match at Southampton, Maresca added: "What I said to the owners and the sporting directors the first time I met them, because of the age, and because of how good the squad is, for me Chelsea in the next five to 10 years will be one of the teams, or the team, that is going to dominate English football. "This is what I said this to the club the first time I met them. No matter who will be the manager, for the next five or 10 years, because of the age, the squad, you can dominate English football, and I still think exactly the same. "In terms of a target they didn't ask me for any target, only to try to build something important for the next years. I think we are [heading] in the right direction. "In terms of a personal target, I know you struggle to believe but I'm not focused on [the] end of season, next season, because it's not real." Chelsea finished 12th and sixth in the first two seasons under their new American ownership, without winning a trophy, but have begun to stabilise and improve under Maresca. - Agencies



ber states have signed the agreement," he added.

South declares martial law amid...

FROM PAGE 01 budget plan through a parliamentary committee. "Our National Assembly has become a haven for criminals, a den of legislative dictatorship that seeks to paralyse the judicial and administrative systems and overturn our liberal democratic order," Yoon said. He accused opposition lawmakers of cutting "all key budgets essential to the nation's core functions, such as combatting drug crimes and maintaining public security [...] turning the country into a drug haven and a state of public safety chaos." Yoon went on to label the opposition, which holds a majority in the 300-member parliament, as "anti-state forces intent on overthrowing the regime" and called his decision "inevitable". "I will restore the country to normalcy by getting rid of anti-state forces as soon as possible."

Parliament

defy president...

FROM PAGE 01

Assembly building. He urged

military and law enforcement

personnel to "remain calm

and hold their positions.

"social confusion"

cause

Bin Yousuf was not all but equally impressive as he scored an unbeaten 22 off just 15 deliveries, hitting two fours and a six in the process. The hosts' captain Sikandar Raza won the toss and elected to bat first. His decision, however, backfired as Zimbabwe's batting unit unfolded on a meagre 57 in the 13th over. he home side got off to a decent start to their innings as openers

Biran Bennett batted sensibly up top. The opening duo registered a brisk 37-run partnership, which lasted with Marumani's dismissal off Abbas Afridi in the fifth over. He scored 16 off 14 deliveries with the help of three boundaries. Fellow opener Bennett followed the suit, just three

balls later, as he fell victim to Haris Rauf. Bennett remained the top-scorer for

The back-to-back dismissals sparked a match-defining collapse, majorly inflicted by the spinners, resulting in Zimbabwe slipping from 37/2 to 57 all out. Besides openers, none of the Zimbabwe batters could amass double figures as Pakistan bowlers dominated the proceedings.

Left-arm spinner Sufiyan-Muqeem was the standout bowler for the green shirts,

returning bowling figures of 5/3 in 2.4 overs – the best by a Pakistan bowler in men's T20Is, after Umar Gul's 5/6. Right-arm pacer Abbas Afridi bagged two wickets, while Haris Rauf, Salman Ali Agha and Abrar Ahmed chipped in with a wicket apiece. The 10-wicket victory led Pakistan to an unassailable 2-0 lead over Zimbabwe in the ongoing three-match series, with T20I scheduled on December 5 at the same venue.

protest, she claimed that the PTI founder had no access to newspapers and television in prison to stay updated about the country's developments. She added that the PTI founder received information about the Islamabad demonstration from his lawyers who met him today and yesterday.

US stands with Pak...

FROM PAGE 01

State Department US spokesperson said that we want to see any protests be peaceful, and we want to see the Government of Pakistan, as is true with any government around the world, to engage with peaceful protests respectfully, and to deal with them peacefully. In reply to a question about TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India) gas pipeline, Matthew Miller said: "We have made quite clear our position on the Taliban, and the position on the Taliban's abuses of its people, including, of course, women and girls inside Afghanistan.'

Syrian rebels capture...

FROM PAGE 01

Gambhir joins Indian team in Australia India leads five-match Test series 1-0

ADELAIDE: India's head coach GautamGambhir has made his return to Australia ahead of the second Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will be held in Adelaide from December 6 to 10. Gambhir was seen arriving in Adelaide on Tuesday, after a brief departure to India to attend to a family emergency. The former cricketer had left the Indian squad following the conclusion of the first Test in Perth, where India triumphed with an impressive 295-run victory. He also missed the two-day warm-up match against the Prime Minister's XI at Manuka Oval, Canberra, which had already been reduced to 46 overs per side due to inclement weather. Indian regular skipper Rohit Sharma who missed the first Test due to the arrival of his second child, witnessed Rahul stepping into the opener's role. Despite Gambhir's absence, team India, led by stand-in captain JaspritBumrah, managed to secure a dominant win in the opening Test and are now focused on carrying that momentum into the second match. India's remarkable performance in the series opener included a stunning comeback after being dismissed for just 150 runs in their first innings. - Agencies

No rush for Alisson to return: Liverpool boss The Brazilian has been out since early October because of a hamstring injury

WEB DESK

LONDON: Liverpool's first-choice goalkeeper Alisson will not be rushed back from injury, manager Arne Slot said on Tuesday ahead of the leaders' midweek Premier League clash at Newcastle United. The Brazilian has been out since early October because of a hamstring injury although he has hardly been missed with understudy Caoimhin Kelleher impressing.

"I think I have been clear a few weeks ago about what my position is about our goalkeepers, but we are just waiting for Alisson to be completely fit because Caoimhin is doing too well to put Alisson on goal if he's only 50%," Slot told reporters. "That would not be good for Alisson and it would not be good for the team. He's getting there, it might take a few more extra days, but he's getting closer. "Like I've always said, the end phase of a rehab is always the period where you feel like 'okay, is he really there or does he need extra days?' But he will be in goal before the end of December if things continue like they are now." Ireland's Kelleher has made 11 appearances this season in all com-

Wednesday with a commanding ninepoint lead in the Premier League and they are 11 ahead of reigning champions City after beating them on Sunday. "We know we have a difficult week coming up again and as we thought, Real Madrid and Man

Manchester City.

City were difficult to face," Slot said. "I think it's even harder to go to Newcastle away as well. "We're not even halfway through the season yet, but it's a good position to be in. That's definitely true." Slot was inevitably asked about forward Mohamed Salah's future at the club with the Egyptian's contract expiring at the end of the season and still no new deal agreed. Salah said after scoring and assisting against City that it might have been his last

home game against them.

petitions and has kept four clean

sheets in his last five games, in-

cluding against Real Madrid and

Liverpool head to Newcastle on

President Bashar Assad Pakistan win first-ever Blind T20 World Cup PCB chief Mohsin Nagvi congratulated the Pakistan blind team on their historic win

would be suspended, accord-DNA ing to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. The military MULTAN: Pakistan blind also said that the country's cricket team has clinched striking doctors should retheir maiden Blind T20 turn to work within 48 hours, World Cup, defeating Bang-Yonhap said. Thousands of ladesh by 10 wickets in the doctors have been striking final held here at Multan for months over government Cricket Stadium on Tuesplans to expand the numday. Bangladesh, who batber of students at medical ted first, posted a total of schools. The military said 139/7 wickets. Arif Hussain anyone who violates the deemerged as the top scorer cree could be arrested withfor Bangladesh, contribout a warrant. Under South uting 54 runs. Pakistan's Korean law, martial law can bowling attack was led by be lifted with a majority vote Babar Ali, who claimed two in the parliament, where the wickets, while Mohammad opposition Democratic Party Salman and Matiullah took holds a majority. Soon after one wicket each, restricting the declaration, the National the Bangladeshi side to a Assembly speaker called on modest total. his YouTube channel for all lawmakers to gather at the

In response, Pakistan blind team chased down the target of 140 runs with ease, reaching it in just 11 overs. Nisar Ali remained unbeaten with a stellar 72 runs,

while Mohammad Safdar cial 47 runs, also not out.

supported him with a cru- Their unbroken partner-

ship saw Pakistan across nant 10-wicket victory. the line, ensuring a domi-This victory marks a his-



toric achievement for Pakistan, as they lift the Blind T20 World Cup for the first time in the tournament's history.

The competition, which began in 2012, had seen India dominate the previous editions, with the Men in Blue winning the title in all three previous tournaments. The first edition, played in India in 2012, saw India defeat Pakistan by 29 runs in the final. The second edition in 2017 also saw India triumph, this time by nine wickets against their neighbors. The third edition, held in India in 2022, again saw India take the trophy, this time beating Bangladesh in the final. However, this year, Pakistan has broken the trend, lifting the trophy in the fourth edition of the Blind T20 World Cup, which took place in their home country.

that over the past days has captured large parts of the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, as well as towns and villages in southern parts of the northwestern Idlib province. The militant operations' administration said gunmen killed 50 government forces as they captured the central towns of Halfaya, Taybat Al-Imam, Maardis and Soran. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, confirmed that the towns were taken. The pro-government Dama Post media outlet reported intense clashes in an around the towns, adding that Syrian troops are firing artillery shells at insurgents in the area. State media reported intense airstrikes by Syrian and Russian air forces in the area. Both the Observatory and pro-government media outlets reported that Syrian govt forces on Tuesday captured the village of Khanaser, days after losing it. Khanaser sits on one of the roads that lead to Aleppo.

07

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Rupee gains 11 pasia against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 11 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.86 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.97. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.40 and Rs 278.90 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 2 paisa to close at Rs 291.97 against the last day's closing of Rs 291.99, ac-cording to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.85. whereas a decrease of 51 paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 352.19 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 352.70. The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 04 paisa each to close at Rs75.64 and Rs73.95 respectively.-APP

Gold price increases by Rs 700 per tola

ISLAMABAD : The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 700 and was sold at Rs 275,200 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs 274,500, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also went up by Rs 600 to Rs 235,940 from Rs 235,340 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs 216,278 from Rs 215,728. 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 rose by \$7 to \$2,640 from \$2,633, the Association reported.-APP

MBS, Macron sign strategic partnership, call for ME peace

The far-right National Rally party said it would vote to oust Michel Barnier's government after the prime minister used an executive tool to push through a social security budget bill without parliamentary approval

FOREIGN DESK

RIYADH: French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed a strategic partnership on Monday aimed at deepening bilateral ties and de-escalating conflict in the Middle East, including Lebanon, where the two leaders called for presidential elections. The French leader arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday for a three-day state visit just as a political crisis threatens to topple the French government. After a meeting with Prince Mohammed, the de facto ruler of the oil-rich Gulf kingdom, Macron's office announced the signing of a new partnership aimed at improving cooperation in "defence, energy transition, culture, mobility between the two countries". The two leaders also "agreed to make every effort to contribute to de-escalation in the region", including helping to consolidate the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. "Together, they called for the holding of presidential elections in Lebanon with the aim of bringing the Lebanese people together and carrying out the reforms necessary for the stability and security of the country," the state-ment from Macron's office said. Macron touched down in Rivadh in the afternoon, where he was greeted by an honour guard of



sword-holding servicemen and celebratory cannon fire as he disembarked from his plane. He did not comment on the political situation in France as he arrived. Macron's visit began as France's less than three-month-old minority government faced the prospect of being forced out by a vote of no confidence in the coming days. The far-right National Rally party said it would vote to oust Michel Barnier's government after the prime minister used an executive tool to push through a social security budget bill without parliamentary approval. The leftwing is also expected to back the motion, which could be held as early as Wednesday. If successful, it would oust the government that was appointed in September after snap polls.

Macron's three-day stay also coincides with a flare-up of violence in Syria, where anti-government rebels have seized Aleppo, the country's second-largest city. The fighting in Syria follows France's brokering of a ceasefire in neighbouring Lebanon, where Israel has been fighting Hezbollah. Macron's state visit is the first by

a French president to Saudi Ara-

bia since Jacques Chirac in 2006, cementing what the presidency calls a "very close relationship". In 2021, Macron became one of the first Western leaders to meet Prince Mohammed in Saudi Arabia after the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at Riyadh's consulate in Istanbul. The French president and Prince Mohammed will see how they "work together" on the conflicts shaking the region, with Lebanon at the "heart of the discussions", the French presidency said in an earlier statement. Macron is hoping for Saudi support for the Lebanese army, which is being deployed towards the border with Israel under the ceasefire but is poorly armed and trained.

He will also try to win Saudi help to reverse the political disintegration that has plunged Lebanon's government and economy into catastrophe. Paris and Riyadh are also calling for a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict and a "political outcome" based on the two-state solution of separate Israeli and Palestinian states. Saudi Arabia, home to the holiest sites in Islam, has paused discussions with Washington on potentially recognising Israel in return for deeper security and bilateral ties with the United States. In September, the crown prince hardened his position, insisting that Saudi Arabia would not establish ties with Israel before the creation of a Palestinian state. Macron is accompanied by about 50 senior officials from major French companies including TotalEnergies, EDF and Veolia, as well as start-ups in artificial intelligence and quantum physics. France and Saudi Arabia aim to "significantly strengthen" their economic ties to "the height of our shared ambition", the presidency said. Discussions are also underway for Saudi Arabia to acquire French-made Rafale fighter jets, although no announcement is expected during the visit, according to a source close to the matter.

Canada labels Yemen's Houthi movement as terrorist group

Islamabad POST

Wednesday, December 04, 2024

OTTAWA: The Canadian government has officially listed the Houthi militant group, also known as Ansarallah, as a terrorist entity. The group, backed by Iran, has been active in Yemen since the early 2000s and has played a major role in regional instability. In recent years, the Houthis have attacked commercial and naval vessels in the Red Sea, with these actions escalating in November 2023 in response to Israel's military offensive in Gaza. Canada joins the United States, which designated Ansarallah as a terrorist group in January 2024. The decision to list the Houthis follows a series of strikes by Canada's allies, the US and Britain, against Houthi targets earlier this year. Canada's Public Safety Minister, Dominic LeBlanc, emphasised that the group's actions threaten civilian lives and global supply chains, especially in the Red Sea, a crucial shipping route. The designation carries legal implications under Canadian law, which includes criminal penalties for individuals or organizations dealing with listed entities. Those associated with Ansarallah may also face entry bans into Canada. The Houthis have historically maintained alliances with other terrorist entities such as Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Lebanon's Hezbollah. The group's recent missile strikes on Israel and continued Red Sea attacks reflect the deepening regional conflict. The Houthis have controlled large parts of northern Yemen since 2014 and have been in a prolonged battle for power against Yemen's internationally recognized government. - APP

Putin is 'not interested in peace,' says NATO chief

ATHENS: NATO's new chief on Tuesday drew a grim picture of Russia's leadership, saying that President Vladimir Putin is "not interested in peace." Referring to the Ukraine

war that Russia launched

in February 2022, Secre-

tary General Mark Rutte

Rutte said: "He is pressing

on, trying to take more ter-

ritory. Because he thinks

Hamas,Fatah near agreement on who will oversee postwar Gaza

CAIRO: Palestinian officials say Fatah and Hamas are closing in on an agreement to appoint a committee of politically independent technocrats to administer the Gaza Strip after the war. It would effectively end Hamas' rule and could help advance ceasefire talks with Israel. The rival factions have made several failed attempts to reconcile since Hamas seized power in Gaza in 2007. Israel has meanwhile ruled out any postwar role in Gaza for either Hamas or Fatah, which dominates the Western-backed Palestinian Authority. A Palestinian Authority official on Tuesday confirmed that a preliminary agreement had been reached following weeks of negotiations in Cairo. The official said the committee would have 12-15 members, most of them from Gaza. It would report

Lebanon asked US, France to press Israel to halt truce breaches

BEIRUT: Top Lebanese officials have urged Washington and Paris to press Israel to uphold a ceasefire, after dozens of military operations on Lebanese soil that Beirut has deemed violations, two senior Lebanese political sources told Reuters on Tuesday. Deadly Israeli strikes on south Lebanon and Hezbollah rocket launches on an Israeli military post on Monday have put a US-brokered ceasefire between the two in an increasingly fragile position less than a week after it came into effect. Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri, a close Hezbollah ally who negotiated the deal on behalf of Lebanon, spoke to officials at the White House and French presidency late Monday and expressed concern about the state of the ceasefire, the sources said. Neither the French presidency nor the foreign ministry were immediately available to comment. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot spoke to his Israeli counterpart Gideon Saar on Monday, saying both sides should adhere to the ceasefire. US State Department spokesperson Matt Miller told reporters on Monday that the ceasefire "is holding" and that the US had "anticipated that there might be violations." The truce came into effect on Nov. 27 and prohibits Israel from conducting offensive military operations in Lebanon while requiring Lebanon to prevent armed groups, including Hezbollah, from launching attacks on Israel. It gives Israeli troops 60 days to withdraw from south Lebanon. A monitoring mechanism chaired by the United States is tasked with monitoring, verifying and helping enforce the truce, but it has yet to begin work. Berri on Monday urged it to "urgently" ensure Israel halts its breaches, saying Beirut had logged at least 54 Israeli violations of the ceasefire so far. Israel says its continued military activity in Lebanon is aimed at enforcing the ceasefire and does not violate its obligations under the truce. Mikati on Monday met in Beirut with US General Jasper Jeffers, who will ommittee, and stressed the need for Israeli troops to swiftly withdraw. with the matter told Reuters that France's representative to the committee, General Guillaume Ponchin, will arrive in Beirut on Wednesday and that the committee would hold its first meeting on Thursday. "There is an urgency to finalize the mechanism, otherwise it will be too late," the source said, referring to Israel's gradual intensification of strikes despite the truce. Miller said the monitoring mechanism would begin its work "in the coming days." At least 12 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon on Monday, Lebanese authorities said, in the deadliest day since the ceasefire came into effect. They included six people in the southern town of Hariss and another four people in the southern town of Taloussa, according to Lebanon's health ministry.- DNA

1,284 more points

PSX stays

bullish, gains

ISLAMABAD: The 100-In-dex of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 1,284.13 points more points, a positive change of 1.24 percent, closing at 104,559.07 points as compared to 103,274.95 points on the last trading day. A total of 1,766,474,377 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,556,252,523 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 56.624 billion against Rs. 47.097 billion on the last trading day. As many as 465 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 271 of them recorded gains and 160 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 34 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Cnergyico PK with 246,707,903 shares at Rs 6.72 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 89,419,070 shares at Rs 1.47 per share and Hascol Petrol with 87,024,698 shares at Rs.14.68 per

share. –APP

King Charles welcomes Emir of Qatar as state visit begins

LONDON: King Charles and Keir Starmer welcomed Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, for a state visit to Britain on Tuesday. The emir and his wife Sheikha Jawaher bint Hamad bin Suhaim Al-Thani arrived by car at Horse Guards Parade in London with Prince William and his wife Catherine, who was marking her return to formal state visit duties after undergoing preventative chemotherapy for cancer. Charles, who is continuing his own treatment for cancer, and the emir inspected the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards while a military band played. The reception was to be followed by a trip to Westminster where the emir was set to address both chambers of the British Houses of Parliament.-APP

to the Palestinian Authority, which is headquartered in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and work with local and international parties to facilitate humanitarian assistance and reconstruction. A Hamas official said that Hamas and Fatah had agreed on the general terms but were still negotiating over some details and the individuals who would serve on the committee. The official said an agreement would be announced after a meeting of all Palestinian factions in Cairo, without providing a timeline. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media on the talks. There was no immediate comment from Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is dismantled and scores of hostages are returned. He says Israel will maintain open-ended security control over Gaza, with civilian affairs administered by local Palestinians unaffiliated with the Palestinian Authority or Hamas. No Palestinians have publicly volunteered for such a role, and Hamas has threatened anyone who cooperates with the Israeli military. The United States has called for a revitalized Palestinian Authority to govern both the West Bank and Gaza ahead of eventual statehood. The Israeli government, which is opposed to Palestinian statehood, is reportedly discussing a postwar plan with the United Arab Emirates, which normalized relations with Israel in 2020 and backs a rival Fatah faction. The Hamas official said the emerging Palestinian agreement would fulfill one of Israel's war goals by ending Hamas' rule in Gaza. It's unclear if Israeli officials would see it that way. The Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank, recognizes Israel and cooperates with it on security matters, a policy that is deeply unpopular among Palestinians, many of whom view it as a subcontractor of the occupation. Israel says the authority has not done enough to combat militancy or curb incitement. The committee would assume its responsibilities after a ceasefire agreement with Israel, the Hamas official said. American and Arab mediators have spent nearly a year trying to broker such an agreement, but the negotiations have repeatedly stalled. Hamas ignited the war with its Oct. 7, 2023, attack into Israel, in which Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Some 100 hostages remain inside

Matt, Randhawa discuss areas of mutual interest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: British Deputy High Commissioner Matt Cannell called on Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa at CDA headquarters to discuss areas of mutual interest and enhanced cooperation. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa formally welcomed British Deputy High Commissioner Matt Cannell. He expressed his hope to further strengthen the partnership with UK. He offered his full support for cooperation in the key areas of education, healthcare, climate change and sustainable urban development. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa further highlighted the importance of promoting cooperation through people to people contact and collaboration



in the social sector especially for the welfare of the poor. The conversation also included other areas of mutual interest. Cannell commended the natural beauty and development of Islamabad and appreciated the efforts to make it a modern and sustainable city. He emphasized the UK's interest in strengthening close ties through knowledge sharing, people

 to people contact, and cultural exchanges. Chairman
 Randhawa reiterated CDA's
 commitment to strengthening strong partnerships
 that align with Islamabad's
 development goal.

he can break Ukraine's resolve," "Ukraine is entering another crucial winter. And Russia's aggression shows no sign of abating. Just the opposite, Putin is ramping up his rhetoric and reckless actions," Rutte, who took office last month, told a press conference ahead of a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Brussels According to Rutte, Putin is using Ukraine as a "testing ground for experimental missiles and is deploying North Korean soldiers in this illegal war." Moreover, he said, "Russia and also China have tried to destabilize our nations with acts of sabotage, cyber-attacks, and energy blackmail." However, this state of affairs will not deter NATO from supporting Ukraine and consolidating the transatlantic alliance, he said Against this background, he added, "We are setting up our new NATO Command in Wiesbaden (Germany) to coordinate security assistance and training for Ukraine."Anadolu Agency website contains only a portion of the news stories offered to subscribers in the AA News Broadcasting System (HAS), and in summarized form. Please contact us for subscription options.

Georgia PM vows retribution for protests as court rejects bid to annul vote

TBILISI: Georgia's prime minister on Tuesday threatened to punish his political opponents, accusing them of being behind violence at mass protests, as Tbilisi's top court rejected a key lawsuit to annul the result of a contested October vote. Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze - who infuriated protesters last week by announcing his government would shelve EU accession talks until 2028 - also suggested he would take retribution on public servants if they take part in protests. Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets on Monday against the ruling Georgian Dream party in a fifth straight night of protests, with more demonstrations planned on Tuesday. They accuse the government of bringing Tbilisi back into Moscow's orbit and betraying the Black Sea nation's bid for EU membership, which is

Gaza, at least a third of whom are dead.-DNA

enshrined in its constitution and supported by around 80 percent of the population. Georgia has been gripped by political turmoil since a contested October election, which pro-EU President Salome Zurabishvili and the opposition say Georgian Dream rigged, demanding a re-run. But, intensifying the crisis, Tbilisi's top court on Tuesday rejected a lawsuit filed by Zurabishvili and opposition parties to overturn the election result. A re-run of the contested vote was one of the protesters' main demands. Zurabishvili, who backs the protests and whom Georgian Dream are trying to remove from office, did not yet respond to the court's decision to throw out her case. That announcement came shortly after Kobakhidze who has ruled out talks with the opposition - vowed to punish his opponents. "Opposition politicians

who have orchestrated the violence in recent days while hiding in their offices will not escape responsibility," he said at a press conference. The ruling Georgian Dream party has refused to back down despite increasing international criticism of Georgia's handling of its protests, with several Western countries saying Tbilisi had used excessive force. Kobakhidze, 46, also threatened to punish civil servants who join the protests, after several ambassadors and a deputy foreign minister resigned over the demonstrations crack-down and his decision to suspend EU talks. "The process of self-cleansing within the public sector has been very interesting. We are closely monitoring everyone's actions, and they will not go without a response," he said. Evoking language used by the Kremlin, Kobakhidze alledged the protest movement

was "funded from abroad." He also singled out NGOs - heavily targeted in a repressive pre-election campaign by authorities - for being behind the protests, vowing that they will "not evade responsibility as defined by law." Tbilisi earlier this vear adopted Russian-style legislation designed to restrict the activity of NGOs as well measures that the EU says curb LGBTQ rights. The adoption of the laws prompted the US to slap sanctions on Georgian officials. But Kobakhidze said his government hoped that the "US attitudes toward us will change after January 20" - when Donald Trump, who has criticized federal support for gender transition, takes office. Kobakhidze's threats to the opposition came as more Western leaders criticized Tbilisi's police response to the protests. NATO chief Mark Rutte on Tuesday slammed as

"deeply concerning" the situation in Georgia, condemning "unequivocally" the reports of violence. The mostly young protesters accuse Georgian Dream of acting on Russian orders and fear the ex-Soviet country will end up back under Russian influence. "We want freedom and we do not want to find ourselves in Russia," 21-year-old protester Nika Maghradze, told AFP. Georgia's health ministry earlier said that 26 people -23protesters and three law enforcement officers - were injured in the latest protest on Monday night. President Zurabishvili has described the protests as Georgians "rising against the Russian puppetry regime." "The message is clear: Give me my vote back! Give me my European future back!," she had said on social media on Monday.-Agencies

Pakistan, Kazakhstan agree to strengthen ties through trade

MASHHAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday met his Kazakh counterpart Murat Nurtleu wherein both countries agreed to strengthen bilateral relations through enhanced connectivity, trade and people-to-people linkages. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 28th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers being held here, the two leaders discussed bilateral issues of common interest. The two deputy prime ministers also exchanged views on the latest regional and global developments.-APP







Briefs Israel continues to pound **Gaza**

WEB DESK

GAZA CITY: Israel has continued to pound Gaza, killing dozens and issuing new evacuation threats. The Israeli military launched strikes overnight that killed at least 14 people in the north of the enclave, according to reports on Tuesday. Meanwhile, new forced evacuation orders were issued, calling on people to leave areas in the southern city of Khan Younis.

Medics reported that eight people were killed in a series of overnight strikes in Beit Lahiya, while four others were killed in Gaza City. A further two people were killed in attacks in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps in the northern part of the Strip. Later, the Israeli army ordered residents in the districts of Khan Younis to flee, prompting a westward exodus in the early morning hours. "For your own safety, you must evacuate the area immediately and move to the humanitarian zone,' the army said a statement on X, citing rocket launches by Palestinian groups.

Research states that there are no "humanitarian zones" in which people can find safety, and that forced evacuation orders do not help those fleeing to find safety or shelter from harm. The use of these terms by Israel is aimed at bestowing legitimacy on forced displacement and creating the illusion of adherence to humanitarian law, the Action For Humanity nongovernment organisation stated.

PHC grants interim bail to Bushra Bibi

PESHAWAR: The Pesha-



RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the family photo of the One-Water Summit. - DNA

Tarar: PTI trying to hoodwink masses through false narrative

He said even the PTI Chairman, Barrister Gohar remarked that there were only 12 bodies and all other claims were bogus. He said there was no dead, if the PTI had any dead bodies they should present in front of media

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was trying to hoodwink the people through fake narrative and lies. Lambasting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, in a media talk, he said that the party was creating a false narrative of firing on the protesters. He once again challenged the PTI to present a single piece of evidence showing a law enforcement agencies personnel firing bullets directly on the protesters.

"There is not a single video in which law enforcement agencies person can be seen directly firing upon protesters. They have all kinds of videos but there is no video evidence

(of direct firing) as this never took place", he maintained. The minister said that a video of a man running away in which he was saying that he hit by a gunshot, went viral. AttaullahTarar said the same person in another video was claiming that he had got an injury on his hand. However when in the video, he opened the bandage on his hand no bullet mark was visible on his hand. Tarar stated that the PTI was defaming the state through their concocted stories based on lies. The PTI is spreading lies about bodies and different leaders were giving different figures of fatalities ranging from a dozen to 4000. A senior leader of the PTI Lateef Khosa claimed that over 150 bodies were lying at his residence. He said even the PTI Chairman, Barrister Gohar remarked that there were only 12 bodies and all other claims were bogus. He said

there was no dead, if the PTI had any dead bodies they should present in front of the media. Taking a dig on the PTI, he said these bodies were found on TikTok, Facebook, X, WhatsApp and other social media platforms, but in reality, there were no dead bodies. He said the PTI was trying to hoodwink the nation through its lies and misleading statements. He said that it was unfortunate that such people form political parties who had no sense. He also pointed out four Rangers personnel and a police officer were martyred, but no one from the PTI expressed sympathy with the bereaved families. The PTI miscreants target security forces and police personnel but later claim of make hue and cry of killing of their party workers. The minister said that on social media, it was claimed that Jam Amanullah, a boy from Khanpur was killed in law enforcement agencies firing. Now his father Jam Tahir has issued a video in which he clarified that his son was alive and sitting beside him in his home. He also made it clear that neither United States nor United Kingdom could allow armed rioters to protest outside White House and 10 Downing Street. About the economic situation, the minister said that due to the prudent policies of the government, inflation has fallen to a 70-month low which was a manifestation that Pakistan's economy was growing. He said that foreign exchange reserves have exceeded \$ 11 billion mark and Consumer Price Index was going down every month. He said that the stock market had broken several records and crossed the 100,000 points mark whereas the interest rate had been reduced to 15 percent and the KIBOR rate to 13 percent.

SC seeks report in missing persons case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday issued notices to the interior minister, the Attorney General of Pakistan, and other parties in the missing persons case and sought reports from all relevant institutions.

In October 2023, former senator and senior lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan filed a constitutional petition in the SC to "challenge the illegal and unlawful practice of enforced disappearances".

A month later, the SC retu-rned the petition for being an "individual grievance" and "not raising any question of public importance". In January, the SC directed the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances to submit a "comprehensive report" on missing persons, along with the details of all production orders issued. A six-member Constitutional Bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan heard the case on Tuesday. Advocates Latif Khosa and Faisal Siddiqui appeared on behalf of the petitioner, Ahsan.

UN Women's rolling resistance arrives in Peshawar

Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR: UN Women Pakistan's Rolling Resistance- a theatre on wheels campaign made its impactful stop in the city at the Institute of Management Sciences (IMS) as part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The campaign, under the theme #KoilawaazNahi (#NoExcuse), leverages the transformative power of theatre to spark dialogue and mobilize collective action against gender-based violence (GBV). The event brought together leaders from academia, government, and civil society. ZainabQaiser Khan, Head of Peshawar Office, UN Women Pakistan, reiterated the campaign's transformative vision: Through innovative platforms like Rolling Resistance, we aim to foster empathy, challenge harmful norms, and inspire action. Gender-based violence is not just a women's issue: it is a human rights crisis affecting every facet of society.

1mln youth to be trained in under Bano Qabil: Naeem

President Dr. Rizwan were also present

Taliban close medical institutes to women Robert Dickson, the Charge d'Affaires of UK Embassy for Afghanistan

war High Court has approved interim bail for Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, until December 23. Justice Waqar Ahmad heard the petition for Bushra Bibi's interim bail. The petitioner's lawyer informed the court that 27 different cases have been filed against Bushra Bibi. The court inquired whether all these 27 cases were filed in the same district and if they were all registered on the same day.

Bushra Bibi's lawyer clari fied that some cases were filed on the same day, while others were filed on different days. The court remarked that the purpose of granting bail was to ensure that the individuals appear before the relevant courts. Later, the court granted interim bail to Bushra Bibi until December 23. - Agencies

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman Tuesday said that one million youth will be provided free IT training in the next few years under the 'BanoQabil project' of Alkhidmat Foundation. He said that new BanoQabil Centers will also be established in Rawalpindi, following Karachi and Lahore.

He was speaking at the Youth Empowerment Session organized by Alkhidmat Foundation on the occasion of International Volunteer Day at Pak-China Center.

He congratulated Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan for serving in almost eight major sectors and continuing its mission through projects like earthquake and flood relief, healthcare, education and training of orphans, housing, scholarships, and the BanoQabil program. He praised Alkhidmat Foundation's efforts in providing thousands of orphaned and destitute children with free education, training, and housing, particularly through its premier educational institutions like Aghosh, which cater to the educational needs of underprivileged children.

Vice Ameer Mian Muhammad Aslam, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Punjab North Dr. Tariq Saleem, and Alkhidmat Foundation

on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Hafiz Naeem emphasized on provision of employment and development opportunities to the youth in the $I\overline{T}$ sector.

He called for ensuring uninterrupted internet facility to the citizens and said that there must be ethical guidelines for the use of technology. He said that the Constitution obliges the state to provide free and quality education to all citizens.

However, he said that 25 million children in the country are still deprived of education. Hafiz Naeem emphasized on implementing a uniform curriculum and education system. He stressed the need of implementing the economic system of Islam in the country as the interest-based capitalist system deprives people of equal opportunities and concentrates wealth in a few hands.

He reaffirmed Jamaat-e-Islami's commitment to strive for an Islamic economic system in line with the spirit of the Constitution of Pakistan. Hafiz Naeem emphasized implementation of Urdu as the national and official language as mandated by the Constitution and upheld by the Supreme Court, calling for all government correspondence, education, and judicial proceedings to be conducted in Urdu.

Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong calls on Bilawal Bhutto

The meeting comes more than a month after the Chinese ambassador urged Islamabad to crack down on terrorist groups targeting Chinese nationals in the country



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong arrived at Zardari House in Islamabad to meet Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday. The visiting dignitary and Bilawal discussed bilateral relations between China and Pakistan. The two sides also discussed ways to increase social and cultural exchanges between the two countries. Former foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar was also present during the meeting. The meeting comes more than a month after the Chinese ambassador urged Islamabad to crack down on terrorist groups targeting Chinese nationals in the country. "Top priority should be the security of the Chinese personnel in Pakistan because they come to Pakistan to

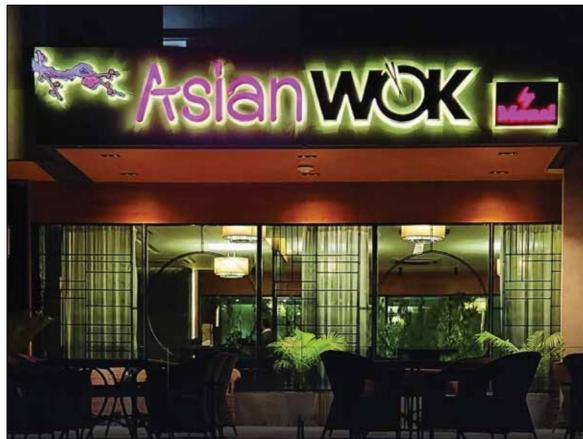
participate in Pakistan's development," Jiang Zaidong told journalists at a press conference at his residence at the Chinese Embassy. "They [Chinese] are innocent and they don't deserve this kind of sacrifice and their families do not deserve this kind of tragedy," the envoy added. The Ambassador said during the recent visit of the Chinese premier, the Pakistani leader made commitments that the government would crack down on terrorism and effectively safeguard the security of Chinese personnel, institutions and projects. However, Pakistan called Chinese ambassador's comments "perplexing" and contrary to established diplomatic traditions between the neighbors. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch said at a weekly news conference in Islamabad that the government is dedicated to ensuring the security of Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in Pakistan.

condemned the ban on girls' education in medical fields

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: Students enrolled in medical programs at various health institutes in Afghanistan report that they were not allowed to attend classes on Tuesday, December 3rd. Female students studying midwifery and nursing confirmed to Khaama Press that they were informed to stay home until further notice. One student from a medical institute in western Kabul told media that they were prohibited from entering their classrooms,

and the staff vaguely informed them that "classes are temporarily suspended." When students protested, the authorities at the institute explained that the Taliban had issued an order to close the institutes until further notice. This directive from the Taliban regime, which is believed to have been communicated verbally, has sparked widespread reactions. Khaama Press attempted to contact the spokesperson and officials from the Ministry of Public Health of the Taliban for comment, but they declined to provide any responses by the time this report was compiled.



WE WELCGME YGU AT ASIAN WGK, MURREE

30 Minutes Drive From Islamabad - Murree Toll Plaza

TIMINGS 12:30 PM - 12:00 AM

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