



Islamabad POST

Friday, December 06, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Qatar strengthens ties with UK through major investment

Detailed News On Page-07

Pak committed to completing loan programme

Detailed News On Page-08

Fowler urges Liverpool to cherish Salah

Detailed News On Page-06



Malicious propaganda

Military urges stringent laws against fake news

Formation Commanders' Conference urges govt to implement stringent laws against 'fake news, polarisation'

STAFF REPORT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: The top brass of Pakistan's military has called upon the incumbent government to promulgate and implement stringent laws and regulations to check "unfettered and unethical use of freedom of expression to spew venom, lies and sow the seeds of polarisation," said the military's media wing on Thursday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the demand was emphasised during the 84th Formation Commanders' Conference at the General Headquarters. Army Chief Gen Asim Munir presided over the bi-annual meeting, which was attended by corps commanders, principal staff officers and all formation commanders of the army. During the conference, the participants expressed concern over the "malicious propaganda" carried out in the aftermath of the lawful deployment of the Pakistan Army in Islamabad to "secure key government buildings and provide a safe environment for the valued visiting delegations."

Continued on Page 06

Security Forces neutralize 8 Khwarij

Key Khwarij leader with PKR 1 million bounty killed in South Waziristan

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: On 05 December 2024, total of eight Khwarij were sent to hell in two separate operations conducted by the security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Sararogha, South Waziristan District on reported presence of Khwarij. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location as a result of which two Khwarij, including Kharji ring leader Khan Muhammad @Khorayay, were killed, while two khwarij were apprehended. The killed kharji Khan Muhammad @Khorayay was involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area including target killing & extortion. He was highly wanted by the Law Enforcement Agencies and Government had fixed Head money of PKR 1 Million on him. Another intelligence based operation was conducted in Lakki Marwat District and after an intense fire exchange, six Khwarij were successfully neutralised by the security forces. Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country.

May 9 mayhem

Imran Khan indicted in GHQ attack case

PTI founder, who has been behind bars for more than a year, has denied charges levelled against him

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Thursday was indicted in General Headquarters (GHQ) attack case related to May 9 violent protests broke out in the country last year. The development came during a hearing of the case in the Rawalpindi anti-terrorism court (ATC). ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah conducted the hearing of the case at a make-shift court set up in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. A legal team representing the former ruling party was also present during the hearing. A total of 100 people, including former interior minister Sheikh Rashid, were indicted in the GHQ attack case - which was registered at R.A. Bazar Police Station. However, Imran among other indicted leaders denied charges against them. Over 143 individuals, including Khan, were named as accused in the case, while 23, including Zulfi Bukhari, Shahbaz Gill and Murad Saeed, were listed as fugitives. Additionally, all accused have been prohibited from travelling abroad.

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Omar Ayub among other PTI leaders arrested

Leader of opposition has been shifted to police check post after being detained outside Adiala Jail

COURT REPOTER

RAWALPINDI: Top Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Omar Ayub Khan were taken into custody by police in Rawalpindi on Thursday. Alongside Ayub, other PTI leaders include Raja Basharat, Ahmed Chattha, and Azim-ud-Din. PTI lawyer Rana Mudassar told reporters that Ayub and Basharat were arrested by policemen at Adiala Jail's check post. He added that it was unclear what charges led to the arrests of the PTI leaders.

Continued on Page 06

Pak Navy ship visits Kenya

Pakistan Navy surgeons and medical specialists provided free medical consultations

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship MOAWIN visited Mombasa, Kenya, where it established a free medical camp. Earlier, upon arrival at the port of Mombasa, PNS MOAWIN was warmly welcomed by local authorities. At medical camp, Pakistan Navy surgeons and medical specialists provided free medical consultations, treatments and medicines to patients. The medical camp was widely appreciated by local populace, who benefited from the high-quality medical care provided. During the port visit, the Commanding Officer of PNS MOAWIN met Commander Kenya Navy, Major General Paul Owuor Otieno, and other local government officials to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation. The Commanding Officer conveyed good wishes of Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, to the people of Kenya and expressed gratitude for

Continued on Page 06

Kha. Asif for boosting defense coop with Uzbekistan

Ambassador conveyed and reaffirmed the commitment of people and government of Uzbekistan to work closely with Pakistan

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev called on Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad. Defence Minister highlighted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Uzbekistan which are based on historical, cultural and religious commonalities. He said Pakistan intends to collaborate with Uzbekistan in the mutually beneficial fields including defence cooperation. The visiting Ambassador conveyed and reaffirmed the commitment of people and government of Uzbekistan to work closely with Pakistan to further strengthen the bilateral relations.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Dr. Zuhair Muhammad Hamadallah Zaid, calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House. - DNA

Palestinian envoy meets PM

Pakistan reaffirms full support for Palestine's struggle

PM expressed his deep disappointment at the absence of global accountability of Israel and reiterated the call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Dr. Zuhair Muhammad Hamadallah Zaid, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House. While welcoming the Ambassador, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their right to self-determination, freedom and justice. He reiterated Pakistan's strongest condemnation of Israel's genocidal actions against innocent Palestinians, particularly the worsening situation since October 7, 2023 that has resulted in the loss of over 43,000 lives and injured more than 105,000 others. The Prime Minister expressed his

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Pakistan wants peace, stability in region: FO

Political will to resolve disputes through dialogue seems lacking on India's part

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reaffirmed its desire for cooperative relations with all its neighbours, including India. At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office

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Saudi Arabia rolls over \$3bln deposit to Pakistan

Extension of term to help in strengthening the foreign exchange reserves of Pakistan, says SBP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has extended the term for the deposit of \$3 billion maturing on December 5, 2024, for another year, the State Bank of Pakistan said on Thursday. This development was followed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's meeting during the former's visit to Riyadh two days ago on the sidelines of the "One Water Summit". During the meeting,

both leaders had agreed to bring about a qualitative change in the economic, trade and investment relationship between the two countries. They also expressed satisfaction at the pace of progress in the implementation of Saudi MoUs and agreements regarding investment in Pakistan. In its statement today, the central bank said: "The said amount has been placed with State Bank of Pakistan on behalf of Islamic Republic of Pakistan." It added: "The extension of the term of the deposit is continuation of the support provided

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Polish envoy highlights challenges to human rights

Says Asma Jahangir's contributions to human rights have left an indelible mark. Her colleagues and successors at AGHS continue to champion the principles of equality

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: A significant milestone in the realm of human rights advocacy was marked this week as the AGHS Legal Aid Cell, a pioneering Pakistani organization, received the prestigious Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello. The award, established by Villa Decius in Krakow, Poland, honors individuals and organizations dedicated to promoting human rights, intercultural dialogue, and peaceful coexistence among societies, religions, and cultures. At a ceremony hosted by Maciej Pisasrski, the Ambassador of Poland to Pakistan, the significance of this recognition was celebrated in the presence of international dignitaries, human rights activists, and members of the diplomatic community. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Pisasrski highlighted the legacy of Sérgio Vieira de Mello, a renowned Brazilian diplomat and advocate for human rights. De Mello's distinguished career included pivotal roles such as UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Kosovo, United Nations Administrator for East Timor, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Tragically, his life was cut short in a bombing at the UN headquarters in Baghdad in 2003. "All his life, he worked tirelessly for the protection of freedom and human rights, fostering intercultural dialogue, combating terrorism, addressing the refugee crisis, and upholding international law," said Ambassador Pisasrski.

The presence of Ambassador Nicolas Galey of France, who had the privilege of knowing de Mello personally, and Brazilian Ambassador Olyntho Vieira further underscored the global significance of de Mello's contributions. The AGHS Legal Aid Cell, founded by the late Asma Jahangir, a legendary human rights advocate, was celebrated for its unwavering commitment to providing free legal aid

to the marginalized, particularly women. The organization combines legal services with human rights advocacy, empowering vulnerable individuals who often lack the means to seek justice. "AGHS is a shining example of women's empowerment, with a majority of its members being women," noted Ambassador Pisasrski. "It embodies the legacy of Asma Jahangir, inspiring a new genera-

tion of activists not just in Pakistan but across the globe." Asma Jahangir's contributions to human rights have left an indelible mark. Her colleagues and successors at AGHS continue to champion the principles of equality, dignity, and justice, making the organization a symbol of resilience and hope. The Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello carries a profound historical connection to Poland's own struggle for freedom. Ambassador Pisasrski drew parallels between the award's ethos and the legacy of the Solidarność (Solidarity) movement, which played a crucial role in dismantling communism in Poland and liberating Central and Eastern Europe. "Today, Europe and many other regions face renewed threats to democratic values and institutions," he remarked. "In such challenging times, the work of organizations like AGHS serves as a beacon, reminding us of the importance of standing firm in our commitment to human rights and universal values." The celebration was not only a recognition of past achievements but also a call to action. Ambassador Pisasrski emphasized the pressing need to uphold human rights in an increasingly complex global landscape. "It's tempting to grow skeptical or cynical about human rights, especially in a fraught international environment," he said. "But the dedication and hope demonstrated by AGHS remind us that progress is possible, even against the odds." The ambassador lauded AGHS for its role in



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland speaks while Ambassadors of France and Brazil look on. - DNA

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Pakistan in 'talks with Starlink'

"There is no policy to slow down internet," says PTA Chairman Major Gen (retd) Hafeezur Rehman

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is in discussions with Starlink to bring its services to the country, Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja revealed on Thursday. The statement came during a Senate Standing Committee meeting on IT and Telecommunication. Chaired by Senator Palwasha Khan, the session discussed issues plaguing the nation's internet infrastructure and its impact on the IT sector. "We are in talks with Starlink to bring them to Pakistan," Khawaja told committee members as she also announced plans to auction the 5G spectrum in April 2024, positioning it as a step towards modernising the nation's digital infrastructure.

Bilwal meets Deputy PM Ishaq Dar

Governor KP and CM Balochistan also met Chairman Bilawal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar called on Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party at Zardari House, Islamabad on Thursday evening. It was agreed in the meeting that the PPP and government committees will meet to resolve the issues between the PPP and the government. Former prime minister, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Balochistan, Sarfraz Bugti were also present on the occasion. Earlier Governor KP, Faisal Karim Kundi apprised Chairman Bilawal of the All Parties Conference held in Peshawar today in which 16 political parties participated.

Chinese company interested in Punjab waste-to-energy plant

“Punjab government is ready to provide land for energy plant to Chinese company. We will welcome setting up waste energy plant in other cities too”, he resolved

DNA

LAHORE: Chinese Business Council has expressed interest in setting up a waste-to-energy plant in Punjab. In this regard, the President of the Chinese Business Council Mr. Chen Qian Jiang met the Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq in his office here on Thursday. Agha Ali Haider MPA and other officials of Chinese Business Council were also present. During the meeting, the project of generating energy from waste in Punjab was discussed. The Chinese delegation expressed interest in setting up a plant to gen-

erate energy from waste in Lahore. Welcoming the offer, the minister said that the work on next phase of Suthra Punjab programme had been started. “A project to produce diesel and gas from waste is under consideration in Punjab”, he added. He said that four to five thousand tons of waste was generated daily in Lahore alone. “Punjab government is ready to provide land for energy plant to Chinese company. We will welcome setting up waste energy plant in other cities too”, he resolved. He further said that recycling of waste would also help in resolving environmental problems. The Local Government Minister said that through the income

from waste recycling, expenditure on Suthra Punjab programme could be recovered. “I request Mr. Chen Qian Jiang to make a financial model to evaluate further progress”, he said. President of Chinese Business Council Chen Qian Jiang, while presenting the initial feasibility to the minister, said that their main goal was not commercial, but clean environment would be the main focus. “Setting up a plant near dumping site will reduce the cost”, he said. President Chinese Business Council Chen Qian Jiang sought time for another meeting with the minister tomorrow. The Minister directed LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din to prepare a presentation for further progress.

WWDC, partners celebrate international Volunteer Day

ISLAMABAD: The Women Welfare and Development Council (WWDC) under the Ministry of Human Rights, in collaboration with esteemed stakeholders, proudly celebrated International Volunteer Day (IVD) today. This global event recognizes the tireless efforts of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to making a positive impact in their communities. The WWDC joined forces with Alkhidmat Foundation, Pakistan Red Crescent, Pakistan Girls Guide Association, Ch. Muhammad Hussain Natt Trust Hospital, and Blue TV Rozan to commemorate this special day. Together, they organized a memorable event to honor the selfless contributions of volunteers across Pakistan. Speaking at the occasion, [Name], Representative of WWDC, emphasized the significance of volunteerism in driving social change and promoting community development. “Volunteers are the backbone of any society, and their unwavering commitment to helping others is truly inspiring.” [Name] said. The event featured a series of engaging activities, including a volunteer recognition ceremony, interactive workshops, and a panel discussion on the importance of volunteerism in addressing social challenges. International Volunteer Day serves as a reminder of the power of collective action and the impact that individuals can have when they come together to drive positive change. The WWDC and its partners reaffirm their commitment to promoting volunteerism and empowering individuals to become active agents of change in their communities.—APP

Murree police delivers justice on citizens' doorstep

MURREE: The Murree Police, under the special instructions of District Police Officer (DPO) Asif Amin Awan, organized an open court at Patriata Police Station on Thursday to provide swift justice and address grievances. According to DPO office, the event saw a large turnout of citizens, who were given the opportunity to voice their concerns and have their issues resolved on the spot. ASP/SDPO Murree Zaman Ali, who oversaw the open court, listened attentively to the problems faced by the citizens and issued immediate orders to the concerned officers to resolve them. He emphasized the importance of providing justice and facilities to the citizens, stating that it is the top priority of the police department, for which all resources are being utilized. ASP Murree urged the public to refrain from participating in any illegal activities and to identify criminals, so that the district of Murree can be completely rid of crimes. This initiative is a significant step towards ensuring that justice is delivered at the citizens' doorstep, promoting a safer and more secure environment for the community. The Murree Police has demonstrated its commitment to serving the people and providing them with a sense of security and justice.—APP

Green campus' initiative to be replicated in all KP varsities

PESHAWAR: The ‘Green Campus’ initiative of Peshawar University is going to be replicated in all the varsities of the province to transform them into hubs of sustainability and environmental responsibility. The replication plan includes nomination of Ambassador of Green Campus in all the universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including both public and private, shared Dr. Shakeel Khan, Head of Green Campus Peshawar University. The Green Campus initiative was launched in 2023 by the Business Incubation Center (BIC) with the objective of transforming educational institutions into eco-friendly spaces, Dr. Shakeel told APP. Now after achieving good results at Peshawar University, it has been decided to expand the programme in all

the universities of the province, he added. Under Green Campus initiative a number of research have been conducted to reorient the campus culture towards ecological consciousness, resource efficiency and circular economy principles. Elaborating his viewpoint, Dr. Shakeel said students conducted research and discovered that around seven to eight hundred thousand pieces of paper or plastic tea cups are discarded as trash on campus premises which can be utilized through recycling. Volunteers of Green Campus also introduced clay pots for drinking tea and water to reduce paper and plastic litter. Similarly, he continued, a device was introduced by students by use of which the ablation water at campus mosques can be reduced from 10 litre per ablu-

tion per person to three litre, saving thousands of gallons of water on a daily basis. The concept of not using polythene bags in campus premises is promoted by members of Green Campus, he added. The Green Campus is mobilizing youngsters towards minimizing environmental impacts, enhancing campus resilience and providing a healthier, more inspiring learning and working environment. The same practice will be extended to all the universities of the province and it would have a very positive impact on young generation, Shakeel hoped. He said initially a committee comprising ten members would be constituted in each varsity with the task of initiating eco-friendly measures through involving of students and faculty members.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A doctor checking eyes of a patient in free eye checking camp in connection with International Volunteer Day, at Women Welfare and Development Center.

MoU to boost skill development, employment opportunities

SACM said transparency and merit would be prioritized to provide equal opportunities to deserving candidates

PESHAWAR: In a significant move to promote skill development and create employment opportunities, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (KP TEVTA) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Economic Transformation Project (KP RETP) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here. The MoU was signed by KP TEVTA Managing Director Malik Mansoor Qaiser and KP RETP Project Director Arifullah, with financial support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The ceremony was attended by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Technical Education, Tufail Anjum, and Secretary Industries and Technical Education, Amir Afaq. Under the

partnership, an investment of Rs 11.5 billion would be made to provide free training to 60,000 young men and women across the province. Additionally, 42,000 trainees would receive grants of up to \$300 upon completion of their training. The program also aimed to offer internships and employment opportunities to 25,000 youth within various industries. Speaking at the event, Tufail Anjum emphasized that the initiative would focus on the youth from rural areas and merged districts, providing them with tailored opportunities. “The program not only aims to equip young individuals with the skills required by the market but also facilitates their placement in local industries and even abroad,” he said adding that KP TEVTA

would ensure that the training was aligned with modern demands and market needs. Tufail Anjum assured the IFAD delegation of the government's commitment to making the program a success and ensuring its benefits reach grassroots levels. He highlighted the government's broader initiatives, including interest-free loans and grants for youth, under the special directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. As part of the efforts to maximize outreach, a comprehensive awareness campaign would be launched, ensuring every eligible young person is informed about the program, he noted. He said transparency and merit would be prioritized to provide equal opportunities to deserving candidates. The program's initial phase would target 19,000

individuals, with over 800 trainers already prepared to execute it. So far, 312 applications for grants have been received, and committees have been formed to evaluate and process these applications. Following the MoU signing, Tufail Anjum, along with the IFAD team, visited the Government Technical Teachers Training College in Hayatabad. They reviewed ongoing training programs and inspected various laboratories, including those for electrical work, gemology, dressmaking, beautician training, and mechanical technologies. Anjum expressed satisfaction with the facilities and reiterated the government's commitment to providing continuous training for both students and teachers to produce skilled professionals.—APP



PESHAWAR: All Parties Conference being conducted under KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi's chairmanship on Thursday.

Walk held to raise awareness against corruption

DNA

TANK: A walk to raise awareness against corruption was held under auspices of the district administration Tank here on Thursday. The walk was organized as part of the provincial government's Anti-Corruption Week that is being observed to combat corruption in all its forms.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Allah Noor supervised the walk which saw the participation of Assistant Commissioner Shaikat Iqbal, Additional Assistant Commissioner Hassan Shah, and heads of various departments, carrying a banner inscribed with slogans against corruption. In addition, individuals from various walks of life also took part and expressed their commitment to combating corruption. Speaking on the occasion, the speakers stressed collective efforts to prevent corruption. They reaffirmed their determination to take strict actions against corruption and promote transparency in public institutions. Leading the walk, Allah Noor, the Additional Deputy Commissioner said that the government was committed to eliminating corruption in public service and is working together with all departments to make this campaign a success.

CDA chief oversees progress on integrated solid waste management

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Thursday chaired a meeting to oversee and review progress on the integrated solid waste management initiative for Islamabad. The meeting was briefed on the key components of the integrated solid waste management system. It was informed that bidding documents for outsourcing solid waste management services have been prepared and are currently under review. The preliminary proposals were discussed in detail. The

proposed services aim to provide comprehensive waste management solutions for both rural and urban areas across all zones, as well as secondary services for private housing societies. The initiative includes source segregation to ensure waste is separated at its source for better processing, the establishment of transfer stations and material recovery facilities (MRFs) for efficient waste handling and recovery, and the setup of composting facilities to manage organic waste. It was also briefed that the project would also integrate carbon credit mechanisms, while the

work on the feasibility studies for suitable landfill site has also been initiated. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the importance of a robust third-party monitoring mechanism to ensure accountability and transparency in service delivery. He directed the team to study best models across major cities, conduct field visits of the city, and rationalize the total collection of waste matter. He further instructed to complete the process of outsourcing as soon as possible. The meeting was attended by Member Environment, NESPAK consultants, and senior officers of the authority.

US launches historic Police-Community partnership in Pakistan




ISLAMABAD: In a landmark event in Islamabad on Thursday, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker unveiled the Pasban Awam Saath Saath Program, a transformative initiative aimed at fostering citizen-focused policing and empowering women in law enforcement across Pakistan. The program, a collaboration between Pakistan's civilian security agencies, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the U.S. Embassy, underscores the U.S. commitment to gender equality and justice. “Together, we are making history,” said Baker, commending efforts to increase representation and strengthen community ties. Among the achievements highlighted: A 20% rise in women officers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and 25% in Balochistan. Training for over 1,600 women and 70 transgender officers in Punjab, leading to the resolution of 1,500 cases for the transgender community. The Public Complaint Redressal System in KPK addresses over 50,000 citizen complaints. As Pakistan observes the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Baker emphasized the broader impact of U.S.-funded initiatives, including an-


ti-rape crisis cells and gender desks at police stations. These have led to a 60% increase in crimes reported by women and girls in KPK. Recognizing trailblazing women officers like Senior Superintendent Riffat Bokhari and Superintendent Beenish Fatima, Baker stated, “Your courage moves us, your commitment inspires us, and your sacrifices humble us.” The United States pledged continued support for a secure and equitable future for all Pakistanis, reaffirming its solidarity with women leaders in law enforcement.—APP

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- Warehousing
- Storage



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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
- Dec 12/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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

NUML, PIMH join hands to promote collaborative activities

The National University of Modern Languages held a seminar on Thursday titled "Paigham-e-Pakistan," jointly organized by the Department of Islamic Thought and Culture and the Department of Pakistan Studies. The seminar highlighted the significance of unity, spiritual values, and dedication to Pakistan's progress

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The National University of Modern Languages and the Pakistan Institute of Mental Health (PIMH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday to strengthen academia-industry linkages and promote collaborative activities in areas of mutual interest. The MoU was signed by Director General NUML, Brigadier Shahzad Munir, and Managing Director PIMH, Major (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Mian, at a ceremony held at NUML. This partnership marks a significant step toward fostering capacity building and professional growth for students and alumni of NUML's Psychology Department.

Under the agreement, both institutions have committed to leveraging their expertise and resources for mutual benefit. PIMH will facilitate the NUML students / alumni of Psychology

Department by providing internships and job placements in the industry and corporate sector. PIMH will provide capacity development opportunities to our students. PIMH will coordinate with NUML in organizing various events including job fairs/seminars/conferences/symposia etc, for developing strategic industry-academia linkages. Speaking at the signing ceremony, DG NUML, Brigadier Shahzad Munir highlighted the importance of such partnerships in bridging the gap between academic learning and professional practice. "This MoU aligns with NUML's vision of providing practical exposure and skill development to our students, ensuring they are prepared for the challenges of the modern workplace," he said. Major (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Mian expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "Together, NUML and PIMH will create impactful opportunities for young professionals, contributing to the

growth of both academia and the mental health industry in Pakistan." This partnership sets a precedent for academic and professional synergy, promising a brighter future for NUML students and advancing PIMH's mission to foster mental health awareness and professional development. Meanwhile, The National University of Modern Languages held a seminar on Thursday titled "Paigham-e-Pakistan," jointly organized by the Department of Islamic Thought and Culture and the Department of Pakistan Studies. The seminar highlighted the significance of unity, spiritual values, and dedication to Pakistan's progress. Renowned Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali and Dr. Musharrif Hussein, an author, translator of "The Majestic Quran," and Director of the Al-Karimia Institute, Retford, UK, were the chief guests. Director General NUML, Brig. Shahzad Munir also graced the occasion. The seminar began with a soulful

recitation of Quranic verses and a Naat by Qari Syed Sadaqat Ali, captivating the audience with his melodious voice. Reflecting on Pakistan's history, he reminded participants of the immense sacrifices made for the nation's independence, emphasizing the role of the Armed Forces, civilians, Ulama, and students. He called upon the youth to cherish and uphold Pakistan's legacy, stressing that the foundation of the country is built upon the blood of martyrs and that each generation bears the responsibility to safeguard and contribute to its development. Dr. Musharrif Hussein delivered an insightful address on the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" narrative, underscoring Pakistan as a land of purity and goodness. He highlighted the importance of adhering to moral, spiritual, and social values, and shared that the teachings of the Quran offer

guidance and solutions for humanity's challenges. He urged the audience to recognize the timeless wisdom of the Quran as a source of strength and direction. Director General NUML, Brig. Shahzad Munir, further underlined the importance of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" message, stressing the need to fulfill the purpose of our creation by utilizing our potential for the betterment of the country. He emphasized that Allah has blessed humanity with knowledge and resources, and it is the responsibility of Pakistanis to care for these blessings. DG NUML reiterated that the Quran's message is universal and everlasting, calling upon Pakistanis to understand and embody this message as stewards (Khalifa) of Allah on earth. The seminar concluded with a presentation of tokens of appreciation to the distinguished guests, followed by a group photo.

Maqbool for importance leadership in shaping country's future

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Thursday emphasized the importance of innovation and leadership in shaping Pakistan's future. Addressing the convocation ceremony of the National University of Technology (NUTECH) at its Islamabad campus, the minister urged graduates to actively contribute to the nation's progress. He stated, "The country has fulfilled its duty by providing you with quality education; now, it's your responsibility to contribute to its development. This nation, built on an ideology, needs your efforts to shape a brighter future." He emphasized NUTECH's growing global recognition and its unique status as Pakistan's first "University for Industry," fostering a strong connection between academia and industry. While addressing the attendees, he extended heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students and their families. APP

Digital art important tool in transformation of marketing framework

ISLAMABAD :Digital art was an important tool in the transformation of marketing scenarios to boost business activities, said an entrepreneur Haris Nadeem. While talking to the media, he said, "Through digital art, one can put anything online," and it will reach maximum people overnight. Good budget, space and time were required to engage people in the conventional way of marketing style which has been squeezed down by the latest tools and techniques, Nadeem said. Computer-generated imagery (CGI) was an important effective tool to interact with customers from all over the world, he maintained. Talking about Artificial Intelligence (AI) he said that AI helps to opt for creative ways to design innovative ideas that attract the targeted audience. Digital marketing played an important role for the startups who got exposed within no time, entrepreneurs said. APP



ISLAMABAD: A Thai artisan at work on the occasion of the National Day of Thailand. —DNA

Vendors, customers grapple with high fish prices as winter sets

Talking about the problems the fish sellers are facing he said, "We don't have proper safety uniforms, we most often receive injury and bruises while cutting and packing fish"

ISLAMABAD :As winter sets in, the bustling fish market in Islamabad has seen a surge in activity, but vendors and customers alike are grappling with skyrocketing prices and persistent challenges. Muhammad Zubair, a vendor at a prominent fish stall at a local market in Aabpara, said that he had been selling fish for the last nine years. He said, "We have almost all varieties of fish, including farm, sea, and ocean fish. Sea fish include Mushka, Red Snapper, Salmon, Pamphlet, and Surmai. Sea fish varieties include Sole fish, Mali, Desi White, and Black Rahu. Farm fishes include White and Black Rahu, Mahsher, Gulfam, and others." "The price of fish ranges from around Rs 600 to more than Rs 3000, depending on the type of fish," Muhammad added. "The prices are at their peak this year as compared to last year. The prices are high due to so many factors, including carriage rate and others," he informed. Another vendor namely Ghulam who has a fish stall in Melody Market said that he had been selling fish for the last four years. He said, "The most popular fish varieties that customers like and prefer to purchase are 'Rahu,' 'Mushka,' and 'Mahsheer'." "We don't freeze fish to keep it fresh; we keep fish in the icebox," he said. "Fish prices have significantly increased as compared to last year, and most visitors complained about the rising prices of fish." He requested the government to reduce petroleum prices, which was the main reason for inflation. All existing rates of groceries and other commodities would go down so that all segments of society would also get relief. Talking about the problems the fish sellers are facing he said, "We don't have proper safety uniforms, we most often receive injury and bruises while cutting and packing fish." Rahim, a customer, said, "He prefers to purchase 'Rahu' and 'Tofi' fish. These types are good in taste. The whole family likes to eat fried fish." He said, "prices of fish have almost doubled as compared to last year. This winter he is purchasing fish after two weeks due to high rates. In past years, he purchased fish almost every week in a month." "Inflation has affected everyone so badly," he regretted. He requested the government to reduce the existing rates for all to provide relief to the common men. Talking about the benefits of eating fish, Dr Zakia, who has been running her private clinic for the past few years in Islamabad, said, "Fish is a good source of 'Vitamin E' and 'B12'. It contains a rich content of Omega-3 fatty acids, which have numerous benefits for overall health, including improved vision, improved heart and brain function, and bone health." "Fish is a source of protein; it also contains anti-inflammatory properties that help maintain arthritis, she added. She recommended consuming fish at least twice a week to get the maximum benefits. —DNA

CSP 5th working session of Islamabad Conclave concludes

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the Fifth Working Session of Islamabad Conclave 2024 titled, "Future of Multilateralism. The keynote address was delivered by Ambassador Inam ul Haque, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Other distinguished speakers included; Ambassador Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) UN; Dr. Ashfaq H. Khan, Director General, NIPS, NUST, Islamabad; Dr. Salma Malik, Assistant Professor, DSS, QAU, Islamabad; and Mr. Umer Siddique, Director General, UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan. Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP, moderated the session. The Working Session was attended by notable diplomats, academics, students and members of civil society. In his keynote address, Ambassa-

dor Inam ul Haque reflected on the evolution of global governance terminologies, noting the shift from "poor countries" to the "Global South" and the rise of "multilateralism" alongside traditional multilateralism. He questioned whether nations pursuing strategic independence are part of the multilateral framework or separate entities, highlighting the fragmented nature of the multipolar world and the need to redefine multilateralism amidst diverging narratives. Haque emphasized the duality of global institutions, noting that while the UN is universal, not all multilateral organizations are, and he underscored the challenges posed by right-wing populism, ultra-nationalism, and anti-migration policies in the West. He criticized the weakening of institutions like the WTO, the UN's limited role in global agreements like COP29, and the self-interest of powerful nations that perpetuate structural inequities

and hinder collective action, leaving countries like Pakistan trapped in systemic poverty. Despite these challenges and the U.S.'s pivot toward unilateralism, Haque argued that multilateralism persists, albeit shaped by the dominance and self-serving interests of powerful states. Ambassador Li Junhua, in a recorded video message, emphasized the need to advance a shared vision of effective multilateralism rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, calling for a reinvigorated United Nations at the core of this effort. He stressed the importance of transparent, inclusive, and accountable global institutions capable of addressing current and emerging challenges, citing the adoption of the "Pact for the Future" at the recent Summit of the Future as a commitment to enhance global governance. Ongoing multilateral discussions are addressing critical issues like financial system reforms. —DNA

Serena Chowk Interchange construction in full Swing

The official have assured residents that the project is on schedule, promising a transformative upgrade to Islamabad's traffic system

ISLAMABAD :The federal capital residents can look forward to a significant improvement in traffic flow as work on the Serena Chowk and Convention Centre Chowk Interchange project progresses steadily. Designed to tackle the city's notorious congestion hotspots, the project is making visible strides, with various aspects of construction advancing at pace. According to a CDA official, on Suhrawardy Road, piling and concrete work were underway, laying a strong foundation for future development. Simultaneously, efforts to widen roads and enhance the sub-grade structure on Kashmir Highway were in progress, aimed at accommodating increasing traffic volumes and ensuring smoother vehicular movement. He said key infrastructure elements, including box culverts and retaining walls, were also being constructed. The girder yard, a vital component of the interchange, is nearing readiness with completed girders prepared for installation. The official have assured residents that the project is on schedule, promising a transformative upgrade to Islamabad's traffic system. With dedicated efforts from engineers and workers, the Serena Chowk Interchange will become a game-changer for commuters, reducing delays and elevating the city's infrastructure to new standards. —DNA

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ULTIMATE WOMENS HEALTH SCREEN ADD ON Breast Ultrasound/ Mammogram Ultrasound Abdomen & Pelvis Cervical Smear Ovary Tumor Marker	ULTIMATE MEN HEALTH SCREEN ADD ON Prostate tumour marker (PSA) Testosterone Ultrasound Abdomen & Pelvis (Including Prostate)	

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Briefs

SCP allows
govt for
privatization
of PIA

ISLAMABAD :The Supreme Court has withdrawn its earlier order of barring the government from privatization of the national flag carrier the Pakistan International Airline (PIA), without the permission of the apex Court. The six-member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP), headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, was hearing the case relating to a suo motu notice on reports of selling major shares of PIA at a cheaper price. The then Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Saqib Nisar, had taken suo motu notice of the issue stopping the process of privatization with intentions to constitute a judicial commission, calculate the losses and probe the causes of heavy losses by the PIA. The order directed the government not to proceed with the privatization of PIA without prior permission of the SCP. —APP

ANF seizes
16.7 kg
drugs

RAWALPINDI :Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover 16.7 kg drugs, 23 liters liquor, worth Rs 2 million and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Thursday. He said 5 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near a university in Tando Jam, Hyderabad. 2 kg hashish and 23 liters of alcohol were recovered from the possession of a drug dealer netted near another university in Hyderabad. The arrested suspects confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. 2.5 kg ice was recovered from a Bahrain-bound passenger at Sialkot International Airport. 7.2 kg hashish hidden in a rickshaw was recovered on Raiwind Road, Kasur and a suspect was arrested. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act and further investigations are under process. —APP

Efforts foot
for gender
digital divide
policy to
empower
women

ISLAMABAD: The government is formulating a Gender Digital Divide Policy to enhance women's access to the digital economy. "The government is committed to ending the digital gender divide," an official from the Ministry of IT said. "Women's access to technology and the internet is essential for their empowerment, which can be achieved through the provision of digital devices and internet connectivity," the official added. The government is actively working to eliminate barriers that hinder women's use of mobile phones and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). "Digitalization can empower women and help integrate them into mainstream politics," he said. The Prime Minister's Free Laptop Scheme is playing a significant role in expanding access to digital tools, the official highlighted. Additionally, efforts are underway to implement the Smartphones for All Policy, which aims to provide affordable smartphones to the public. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Ladies posing for a group photo on the occasion of the Self Defence Forces Day of Japan.— DNA

Ethiopian Embassy honours 'Champions of Ethio-Pak Fraternity'

Notable achievements under this partnership include the successful launch of Ethiopian Airlines flights from Karachi, which have received overwhelming support from Pakistani travelers, and the exchange of delegations in key sectors such as business, trade, health, education, and technology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad on Thursday hosted a grand event to honor the individuals who have been on forefront to foster the friendship and brotherhood between the two nations by highlighting true image of Ethiopia in Pakistan especially its economic potential, rich heritage, diverse culture and multi-faceted tourism. Addressing the "Champions of Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity" ceremony, H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, expressed his profound gratitude and appreciation to the distinguished guests, recognizing their critical contributions to strengthening bilateral relations. "Today is one of the happiest days of my life in Pakistan," said Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker, adding "This gathering celebrates the champions of the Ethio-Pakistan fraternity and highlights the lasting connection between our great nations." Ambassador Dr. Jemal emphasized the significant role media plays in shaping public perceptions and advancing public diplomacy. "In this modern era, the power of media cannot be

underestimated. It is a vital instrument for disseminating accurate information and fostering understanding between nations. Through proper engagement and the seamless provision of authentic narratives, we can highlight the rich histories, cultures, and values of Ethiopia and Pakistan." Highlighting the potential

of Pakistan, the Ambassador praised the country's breathtaking landscapes, diverse heritage, and economic promise. He also addressed the challenges of misinformation faced by both nations, citing the impact of global narratives that often misrepresent Ethiopia. "Ethiopia is a land of immense progress, host-

ing international leaders annually and championing green transformation and economic growth under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia," he remarked. The Ambassador drew attention to the centuries-old ties between the two nations, anchored in shared history, culture, and traditions. He referenced Ethiopia's connection to Hazrat Bilal Habeshi (RA), a revered figure in Islamic history, to underline the deep cultural and spiritual bond shared by the people of Ethiopia and Pakistan. Ambassador Dr. Jemal commended Pakistan's media for its efforts in combating misinformation and promoting truth in the digital age. "Together, we can shape a positive global perception of our countries by sharing authentic stories and showcasing our traditions," he said. Reflecting on the growing bilateral engagement, the Ambassador highlighted the strategic initiatives taken by both nations, including Pakistan's Look Africa policy and Ethiopia's Enter and Operate in Africa through Ethiopia policy. These initiatives aim to enhance trade, cultural exchange, and collaboration, making Ethiopia a gateway for Pakistan's engagement with Africa—a continent brimming with opportunities. Notable achievements under this partnership include the successful launch of Ethiopian Airlines flights from Karachi, which have received overwhelming support from Pakistani travelers, and the exchange of delegations in key sectors such as business, trade, health, education, and technology.



CAMEA hosts session IV transforming regional dynamics & architecture

ISLAMABAD :The fourth working session titled, 'Transforming Regional Dynamics and Architecture: Pakistan's Posture' was hosted by the Center for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA). The keynote speaker at the session was Hina Rabbani Khar, Pakistan's former Foreign Minister and currently the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Thursday. Other speakers included Amina Khan, Director, CAMEA, Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan's former Special Representative on Afghanistan, Mr. Kawa Hassan, Non-resident Fellow with Stimson's Middle East program, Haroon Sharif, former Minister and Chairman BOI, Michael Kugelman, Director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. and Mr. Leo Wigger, Associate Partner, Candid Foundation, Germany. Amina Khan, in her welcome remarks stated that the regional strategic landscape has been fundamentally reshaped by

3 major factors: great power competition; events in neighbouring Afghanistan as well as regional connectivity in South and Central Asia. She further said that these developments have prompted Pakistan to reevaluate its diplomatic strategies and find ways to navigate its national interests while maintaining its regional influence. In her Keynote address, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar said that the world is transforming and people are fighting for primacy for the rule of the world. The war in Gaza and its military and diplomatic support has exposed the major powers, with Israel being let off with impunity. She further said that South Asia has suffered due to a lack of good bilateral relationships. Pakistan is centrally located in South Asia, and collectively the region has not performed well in addressing the challenges. Countries that do not learn from their mistakes are continuously suffering and history and geography are two constants that cannot be changed, she concluded. Ambassador Asif Durrani, speaking on 'Sustainable Peace and Security in

Post-Taliban Afghanistan' highlighted Afghanistan's fragile stability under the Taliban rule, marked by dire economic conditions and widespread poverty. While noting governance improvements like reduced corruption and counter-narcotics efforts, he criticized the Taliban's ban on women's education and work, which have drawn international condemnation and deepened their isolation. He warned that this isolation enables terrorist groups like ISKP and TTP to exploit Afghan soil, posing regional and global threats. Emphasizing a regional approach, he called for Pakistan to play a pivotal role by initiating counterterrorism dialogue with the Taliban and addressing India's destabilizing actions, such as financing terrorist groups through Afghan proxies. Kawa Hassan, while talking about 'Geopolitical Shifts in the Middle East,' emphasized the transformative impact of recent events in the Middle East. He described Hamas' actions as a strategic miscalculation, resulting in devastating consequences for Palestinians. —APP

Alliance Française hosts screening of 3 best films

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As part of the 14th Pakistan Mountain Festival, Devcom-Pakistan, in collaboration with Alliance Française Islamabad, hosted the screening of three best films from the internationally acclaimed Inka Fest (Peru) on Thursday. The event celebrated the beauty, resilience, and challenges of mountain ecosystems while fostering global cultural connections. The film screening aimed to highlight the significance of mountain

ecosystems, the lives of mountain communities, and the spirit of adventure, while drawing attention to the urgent need for their conservation. The screening attracted a diverse audience, including students, environmentalists, adventurers, and art enthusiasts. It was a moment of reflection and dialogue on the intricate connections between culture, climate change, and mountain conservation. Directed by Michael Safley, Slow Water is a poignant documentary that delves into the intricate relationship between nature and indigenous innovation. Set in the

majestic highlands of Peru, the film highlights how local communities ingeniously manage glacial meltwater to sustain wetlands and livestock amidst the looming threats of climate change. The narrative takes an alarming turn as it uncovers the rising menace of illegal mining, which pollutes these critical water sources and jeopardizes both the environment and local livelihoods. With a runtime of 20 minutes, this English-language documentary, awarded Avant Premiere, is more than just a story—it is a compelling call to protect fragile ecosystems and support the people who depend

on them for survival. Directed by Guillaume Broust, Chronoception is a mesmerizing visual adventure that takes viewers deep into the uncharted Kokshaal-Too mountain range of the Tian Shan region, straddling the Kyrgyzstan-China border. The film follows the daring journey of Thomas Delfino and his team—Léa Klaué and Aurélien Lardy—accompanied by legendary guides Hélias Millerieux and Jean-Yves Fredriksen. Over the course of 53 minutes, this French-language masterpiece (with English subtitles) captures the essence of timeless landscapes and human endurance.

Honahar scholarship caters to bright yet underprivileged students

ISLAMABAD :Secretary of the Higher Education Department Punjab, Dr. Farrukh Naveed, on Thursday, emphasized that the Honahar Scholarship was designed to support brilliant students who cannot afford educational expenses. Talking to PTV, he stated that the Punjab government is committed to bridging the gap between talent and opportunity. He explained that the program aims to uplift underprivileged youth across Punjab by covering tuition fees and other educational expenses, enabling students to focus entirely on their studies. Dr. Naveed highlighted that the scholarship program, worth 130 billion rupees, will benefit 30,000 students annually. The Punjab government will pay the full tuition fees under the Honahar Scholarship, he added. Students from Punjab under the age of 22, with a family income of less than 300,000 rupees per year, will be eligible to apply for the scholarship, he further added.—APP

Operations against 3 illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Enforcement Squad on the directives of the Divisional Intelligence Committee, has conducted operations against three illegal housing schemes. According to RDA spokesman, the RDA in a significant operation against illegal housing schemes namely Ring Road Enclave (A Project of Jawahir City Pvt. Ltd.), Hurtus Floare and Countree Farmhouse and Resorts located in Mouzas Chokar, Gahi Sayedan and Ramdy, Tehsil and District Rawalpindi took action in accordance with the law. The operation led to the sealing and demolition of site offices, boundary walls, guard rooms, road infrastructures and road dividers of the illegal housing schemes, the spokesman informed. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Muhammad Abdul Aamer Khattak, along with the Director General (DG) RDA, the Additional DG RDA, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, and the City Police Officer, Rawalpindi. Despite warnings, the illegal housing societies continued to operate booking offices and development activities in violation of the rules. The DG RDA Kinza Murtaza said that under the Commissioner's guidance, the crackdown on illegal housing societies would continue and strict action would be taken against the rules violators. She urged the citizens not to invest in illegal housing schemes.—APP

MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

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Peace in Ukraine

Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election has introduced significant uncertainty for Ukraine. The president-elect's assertion that he can end the war within 24 hours – a claim perceived by many as a potential withdrawal of American support for Ukraine – has raised concerns about a push for negotiations that might favour Russian interests. Ukraine, whose resilience has been bolstered by the solidarity of the democratic world, now faces the ominous possibility of abandonment by its biggest supporter. In response to Russia's invasion, two primary conflict resolution approaches have emerged. One is peace through strength, supported by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's peace plan and backed by the West, which sustains Ukraine's resistance and offers hope of reclaiming all lost territories. The other is peace through negotiation, such as the China-Brazil proposal. This approach promises a ceasefire but risks subjecting Ukraine to another phase of Russian domination and the temporary or long-term loss of roughly 20 per cent of its territory. Ukraine's current defence-focused strategy, which emphasises peace through strength, presents significant challenges. The reliance on limited and delayed military supplies from its allies has led to prolonged confrontations, causing significant personnel losses with substantial economic and ecological damage and no clear end to the war in sight. To sustain the status quo, Ukraine faces the daunting task of mobilising up to 30,000 recruits every month to maintain military effectiveness. The demographic trajectory of Ukraine also paints a grim picture. From a population of 42 million in January 2022 to 31.1 million in July this year (in government-controlled areas), the nation faces existential risks. Forecasts from the Institute of Demography at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine predict a further decline, to 25.2 million by 2051, driven by war, migration and reduced fertility rates. The war has already displaced millions of refugees abroad, while Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery needs are estimated at US\$486 billion over the next decade. In a significant escalation, Russia updated its nuclear doctrine recently, lowering the threshold for nuclear weapon use and heightening anxiety in Ukraine and beyond. In an interview with Fox News last month, Zelensky acknowledged that Ukraine currently lacks the military strength to reclaim its 1991 borders. He emphasised the importance of diplomatic efforts to restore sovereignty over regions including Crimea, stating that a military campaign to reclaim such territories would result in an unacceptable loss of life. However, Ukrainians have long been sceptical of China's peace-through-negotiation scenario because of its lack of concrete guarantees and Beijing's perceived alignment with Russia. Moreover, China's unilateral establishment of a "friends of peace" platform, undertaken without consulting Ukrainian diplomats, drew visible frustration from Zelensky. This was reflected in his speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue in June. Complicating this dynamic are Ukraine's significant trading volume with China and its reliance on Chinese-manufactured drone components, even as it strives to develop alternatives. Last month, China appointed Ma Shengkun as its new ambassador to Ukraine. Ma previously served as deputy director general of the foreign ministry's arms control department.

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China's self-strengthening

SEVERAL Chinese industry associations have responded to the latest round of US export restrictions on China's chip industry by declaring that "US chip products are no longer safe and reliable," which has triggered ripples internationally on Wednesday. Some Western media outlets have been dissecting these statements line by line, with certain US media expressing concerns over potential Chinese "countermeasures." Meanwhile, US allies worry these "countermeasures" could spark a "China-US trade war 2.0" that would affect other countries. The White House, in turn, has stated that it would take "necessary steps to mitigate any Chinese 'coercive actions.'" This is a classic case of turning the tables. In fact, during the initial stages of the US planning its new round of export restrictions, relevant industry associations, companies, and reputable media in the US had already warned Washington that using protectionism to hinder China's technological progress would not achieve the intended policy outcomes; instead, it would "stimulate" China to accelerate its independent innovation efforts. It must be made clear that in the face of external suppression and containment, China has every right to protect its interests from unwarranted harm. At the same time, China consistently considers the broader perspective of maintaining global trade order and the stability of industrial and supply chains when making decisions. The core logic of China's response to suppression and containment in the technology sector has always been self-reliance and self-strengthening. An undeniable fact is that the US has developed a long-term "strategic consensus" on suppressing China's technological advancement, maintaining a high degree of policy coherence in this regard. From tightening export controls on advanced chip manufacturing equipment to pressuring other countries to form a "besiege" against China's semiconductor industry, expanding the "entity list" of Chinese high-tech companies, restricting Chinese investments and acquisitions in the US, and limiting technological exchanges and cooperation between US and Chinese enterprises - these sustained and malicious blockades and suppressive measures are blatant acts of bullying. This approach not only creates a more complex external environment for China's development in cutting-edge technological fields but also destabilizes the collaborative environment essential for human technological progress. For China, none of this is unfamiliar. Last year, Foreign Policy published an article, noting that "In 1993 the Clinton administration tried to restrict China's access to satellite technology. Today, China has some 540 satellites in space (the actual number has exceeded 900) and is launching a competitor to Starlink ... When America restricted China's access to its geospatial data system in 1999, China simply built its own parallel BeiDou Global Navigation Satellite System ... In some measures, BeiDou is today better than GPS." Faced with external sanctions and pressure, China has consistently demonstrated its ability to achieve technological breakthroughs and industrial upgrades through its own efforts. This was true in the past and will remain true in the future. China's self-reliance and self-strengthening are the best responses to all forms of suppression and containment. Reports indicate that China has been one of the fastest-growing economies in terms of innovation over the past decade.

Is Trump's threat to BRICS a Hoax?

Qamar Bashir



Alternatively, it is possible that, deep down, he had no real intention of implementing such a drastic measure, fully aware that in an interconnected global economy, exports are just as critical as imports to maintain economic stability. Such a move would risk destabilizing commodity prices, exacerbating inflation, and igniting public discontent.

History shows that economic mismanagement of this scale can lead to widespread protests, creating immense pressure on the government

I recently contributed an article titled "Looming Challenge to Dollar Dominance," and soon after its publication, the U.S. President-elect Donald J. Trump issued a bold and threatening statement. He warned that if any or all members of BRICS pursued business in any currency other than the dollar, he would impose a 25% tariff on imports from those countries. This is an extremely loaded and alarming statement, seemingly made without thorough back round research, consultation, or evaluation. It appears that Trump may be either overestimating the power of the mighty U.S. economy or underestimating the collective strength of the BRICS member countries. Alternatively, it is possible that, deep down, he had no real intention of implementing such a drastic measure, fully aware that in an interconnected global economy, exports are just as critical as imports to maintain economic stability. Such a move would risk destabilizing commodity prices, exacerbating inflation, and igniting public discontent. History shows that economic mismanagement of this scale can lead to widespread protests, creating immense pressure on the government, and, in the worst-case scenario, result in its downfall. He must be knowing that BRICS is one of the most powerful block. The BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—represent approximately 3.7 billion people, nearly 46% of the global population. Together, they hold a combined GDP of \$27.6 trillion as of 2023, accounting for 26.3% of the world's economic output. In global trade, the BRICS countries contributed 20.2% of merchandise exports in 2022, with China leading as the largest exporter, and collectively they play a significant role in global imports.

In 2023, the BRICS nations—collectively exported approximately \$578 billion worth of goods to the United States, with China accounting for the majority at around \$427 billion. Conversely, the U.S. exported goods valued at about \$151 billion to these countries, with significant exports including pharmaceutical preparations, gem diamonds, crude oil, and cotton apparel. If the U.S. imposed a 25% tariff on imports from BRICS countries, it would significantly impact inflation, industrial costs, and overall economic output. The higher tariffs would increase the cost of goods like electronics, machinery, textiles, and agricultural products, driving up consumer prices and

fueling inflation. U.S. industries reliant on imports from BRICS countries would face higher production costs, reducing profitability and competitiveness in global markets. The ripple effect would likely slow economic growth as consumer spending diminishes and industrial output declines due to costlier inputs. Conversely, if BRICS countries imposed reciprocal tariffs on U.S. exports, it would reduce the competitiveness of U.S. goods in key BRICS markets, leading to a decline in export volumes. This would particularly affect industries such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and machinery, which rely heavily on BRICS consumers. The combined tariffs would disrupt global supply chains, increase costs for businesses, and create logistical challenges. In the U.S., these changes could lead to job losses in export-driven sectors, further dampening economic activity and reducing GDP growth. BRICS countries would also face economic setbacks, as reduced access to the U.S. market would hurt their export-driven industries, particularly in China and Brazil. Higher tariffs on U.S. goods, such as advanced technology and pharmaceuticals, would raise costs for consumers and industries in BRICS nations. Additionally, these countries might experience slower GDP growth and job losses in export-oriented sectors. This strategy represents a clear lose-lose situation where both the U.S. and BRICS countries would suffer significant economic harm, with ripple effects lowering the quality of life for people in both regions. By resorting to tariffs, the U.S. and BRICS nations would effectively exacerbate inflation, disrupt global supply chains, and reduce industrial output, ultimately undermining their own economic strength. For the U.S., industries reliant on BRICS imports would face higher production costs, while reduced exports to BRICS markets would hurt key sectors like agriculture and technology. Similarly, BRICS nations would lose access to the lucrative U.S. market, damaging their export-driven economies and slowing growth. The resulting global price wars, market distortions, and overcapacity would not only strain businesses but also erode consumer purchasing power, worsening living standards across the board. If the U.S. and BRICS countries imposed 25% tariffs on each other's imports, both sides would face a surplus of goods, leading to aggressive dumping in other markets. This competition to offload surplus products would trigger price wars in

global trade, compressing profit margins for U.S. and BRICS exporters. Key industries, such as U.S. agriculture and BRICS manufacturing, would experience reduced revenues, overcapacity, and potential job losses. The economic strain would slow industrial output and GDP growth in both regions, while geopolitical tensions could escalate as global trade dynamics become more fragmented. Other countries, particularly in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Europe, would benefit from lower prices and increased access to surplus goods, stimulating economic activity and lowering input costs for local industries. However, this influx of cheap goods might pressure local businesses unable to compete, risking closures and job losses in vulnerable sectors. Over time, the short-term benefits of affordable goods could give way to global economic imbalances and market volatility, highlighting the interconnected nature of trade and the long-term risks of protectionist policies. Trump's approach is also akin to conceding defeat, reflecting a lack of proactive and forward-thinking measures to enhance the U.S. economy and address global economic concerns. Instead of imposing tariffs, which are regressive and self-defeating, the U.S. should focus on strengthening its economic resilience, boosting industrial innovation, and reinforcing the dollar's position as the preferred currency for international transactions. Addressing the legitimate concerns of BRICS countries regarding the dominance of the dollar in global trade through dialogue and reforms could foster greater economic cooperation and stability. Investing in infrastructure, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and technology-driven solutions would not only bolster the U.S. economy but also demonstrate leadership in addressing global economic challenges. Such an approach would encourage mutual prosperity rather than deepening divisions, making it a more effective and sustainable strategy than the imposition of tariffs. "One of my learned journalist colleagues, Agnes Zhao, while commenting on Trump's statement, said, 'Trump always says much; let us see what he will do.'"

—The writer is Press Secretary to the President(Rtd) Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC Macomb, Detroit, Michigan

The arrogance of power: A reminder of divine sovereignty

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The intoxication of power stems from the illusion of invincibility. A person who achieves power begins to feel untouchable, surrounded by sycophants and shielded from critique.

This state of mind leads to arrogance and a sense of superiority over others. The Quran cautions against this mindset, reminding believers of the story of Pharaoh, who, in his intoxication of power, declared himself a god.

POWER is a formidable force that holds the potential to shape societies, dictate fates, and influence minds. Its allure often tempts individuals into a dangerous realm of arrogance and entitlement. The intoxication of power is unlike any other; it speaks loudly, sometimes deafening its possessor to reason, morality, and the delicate balance of life. This phenomenon has been observed throughout history, as those who ascend to positions of authority often become blind to the responsibilities and transient nature of their station. They forget that the very source of power, Allah Almighty, can retract it at His will, for no worldly rise is eternal.

The intoxication of power stems from the illusion of invincibility. A person who achieves power begins to feel untouchable, surrounded by sycophants and shielded from critique. This state of mind leads to arrogance and a sense of superiority over others. The Quran cautions against this mindset, reminding believers of the story of Pharaoh, who, in his intoxication of power, declared himself a god. His downfall was swift and severe, a reminder that no one is beyond the reach of divine justice. Allah states in the Quran: "Indeed, Pharaoh exalted himself in the land and made its people into factions, oppressing a sector among them... Indeed, he was of the corrupters" (Surah Al-Qasas, 28:4). His fate serves as a stark warning that the abuse of power leads to ruin. The blindness caused by power is not just a loss of sight but a loss of insight. It clouds judgment, leading individuals to act against principles they once held dear. This blindness often manifests as an inability to empathize with others or recognize their struggles. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned against such arrogance, stating: "The most despicable among people in the sight of Allah on the

Day of Judgment will be those whom others avoid because of their arrogance and tyranny" (Sahih Bukhari). This Hadith underscores the responsibility that comes with power and the dire consequences of misusing it. The Quran further emphasizes that power is a test from Allah. It is not a privilege to be abused but a trust to be upheld with justice and humility. Allah says: "Say, 'O Allah, Owner of Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty away from whom You will. You honor whom You will, and You humble whom You will. In Your hand is [all] good. Indeed, You are over all things competent'" (Surah Aal-e-Imran, 3:26). This verse is a reminder that power is neither permanent nor absolute; it is a temporary responsibility that must be exercised with accountability. Despite these reminders, history and contemporary times reveal countless examples of individuals who forget their Creator and the transient nature of their authority. The intoxication of power leads them to commit injustices, oppress the weak, and prioritize their desires over the collective good. Such behavior not only invites the wrath of Allah but also paves the way for their downfall. The Quran warns: "And We do not send the Messengers except as bringers of good tidings and warners. And those who disbelieve dispute by [using] falsehood to [attempt to] invalidate thereby the truth, and they have taken My verses and that of which they are warned in ridicule. And who is more unjust than one who is reminded of the verses of his Lord but turns away from them and forgets what his hands have put forth? Indeed, We have placed over their hearts coverings, lest they understand it, and in their ears deafness. And if you invite them to guidance, they will never be guided - then ever" (Surah

Al-Kahf, 18:56-57). The fall of those intoxicated by power is inevitable, for apart from Allah, every rise has a fall. This universal truth is often ignored in the euphoria of success. Yet, history is replete with examples of once-mighty rulers and leaders who met humbling ends. Their stories serve as lessons for those who come after them, yet the cycle continues. Why does this happen? The Quran explains that such arrogance stems from ingratitude. Allah says: "And when We bestow favor upon man, he turns away and distances himself; but when evil touches him, then he is full of extensive supplication" (Surah Ha-meem-Asajadah, 41:51). The antidote to the intoxication of power is humility and a constant remembrance of Allah. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) embodied this principle throughout his life. Despite being the leader of a growing Muslim Ummah, he lived modestly, treated everyone with kindness, and upheld justice without favor. He reminded his followers: "The leader of a people is their servant" (Sunan Abu Dawood). This Hadith encapsulates the essence of leadership in Islam: it is not about dominion but service. In conclusion, power is a trust from Allah, not a possession to be abused. Its intoxication is a test of character, separating those who rule with justice and humility from those who succumb to arrogance and tyranny. The Quran and Hadith provide ample guidance on the proper use of power and the consequences of its misuse. As believers, it is imperative to recognize that all power belongs to Allah alone. The one who gives can take it away, and every rise is followed by a fall. Remembering this truth can keep a person grounded, ensuring that their authority is exercised with responsibility, justice, and a constant awareness of their accountability before Allah.

Briefs

Military
urges
stringent...

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"This pre-planned coordinated and premeditated propaganda reflects the continuity of a sinister design by certain political elements as an attempt to drive a wedge between the public [and] armed forces and institutions of Pakistan," it said, adding that this futile attempt, fuelled and abetted by external players, will never be successful. The troops were deployed in the federal capital amid Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) "do-or-die" protest — aimed at securing party founder Imran Khan's release, who has been behind bars for more than a year — which coincided with the planned visit of the Belarusian president on Nov 25. However, the protest culminated in PTI's hasty retreat after the government's midnight crackdown on the protesters. The Imran Khan-founded party has since claimed that at least 12 of its workers were killed and 1,000 arrested. Meanwhile, the government has categorically denied using live ammunition against the protesters and said that four law enforcers, three Rangers personnel and a policeman, were martyred during the protest. The Ministry of Interior had also clarified that the Pakistan Army troops were deployed only to "secure key government installations and foreign diplomats in the sensitive Red Zone while ensuring secure environment for high-profile foreign dignitaries visiting the country". Furthermore, it said the troops neither came in "direct clash with these miscreants nor employed for riot control". In today's conference, the forum emphasised that those spreading fake news for "vested political and financial interests" need to be identified and brought to justice.

Pakistan
reaffirms
full...

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deep disappointment at the absence of global accountability of Israel and reiterated the call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance to the suffering Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The Prime Minister assured Ambassador Zaid that the entire Pakistani nation stood united in its solidarity with the brave Palestinian people and would continue to support them in every possible way. The Prime Minister also stressed upon the need for a just and lasting resolution of the Palestine issue, based on the two-state solution, with the creation of an independent state of Palestine with pre-1967 borders and Al Quds as its capital, in accordance with the UN's relevant resolutions. Ambassador Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamadallah Zaid deeply appreciated Pakistan's steadfast support to the Palestinian people during their present ordeal, as well as Pakistan's principled position on the Palestinian Question.

Pakistan
wants...

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Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan has consistently advocated constructive engagement and result oriented dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues including Jammu and Kashmir dispute. She, however, said the political will to resolve disputes and differences through dialogue seems lacking on India's part. She said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence, emphasizing it wants peace and stability in the region. She said Pakistan has been acting in a responsible manner notwithstanding the difficulties in bilateral relations. She added the eastern neighbour should create conducive environment for advancement of peace and dialogue, and resolution of longstanding disputes. The spokesperson voiced concerns over the continuing seizure of properties of Kashmiri people in Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She said the Indian actions are part of an ongoing drive to confiscate Kashmiri lands and properties to harass and intimidate the Kashmiri people and punish them for their dissenting political views.



OKARA: Mian Zahid hockey Club team posing for a group photo with coach Qazi Sultan after qualifying semifinal of Al barq Punjab hockey league. — DNA

Zimbabwe stun Pakistan in to seal consolation victory

Pakistan clinch the three-match series 2-1

DNA

BULAWAYO: Debutant Tinotenda Maposa backed his bowling figures of 1/12 with a match-winning cameo of 12 not out to power Zimbabwe to a thrilling two-wicket consolation victory over Pakistan in the final T20I of the three-match series here at Queens Sports Club on Thursday. The home side had a flying start to the run chase as they were 73/1 in 9.3 overs with opening batter Brian Bennet and Dion Myers at the crease. Emerging spinner Sufiyan Muqem, however, provided the visitors with a vital breakthrough, dismissing set batter Bennet, who remained the top-scorer for Zimbabwe with a 35-ball 43, laced with seven boundaries including a six. His dismissal sparked a middle-order collapse, which saw the home side slipping to 94/5 in 14 overs. Skipper Sikandar Raza offered some resistance against a momentum-filled Pakistan's bowling attack until his dismissal off Jahandad Khan in the 18th over. Abbas Afridi, who returned brilliant figures of 3/23, inflicted another dent to Zimbabwe's pursuit by getting rid of Wellington Masakadza (six). The hosts then needed 12 off the final over with Maposa on strike. The right-handed batter smashed Jahandad for a four and a six on

the first two deliveries of the decisive over, which eventually proved enough to lead Zimbabwe to a narrow two-wicket victory. Opting to bat first, the touring side could

only accumulated 132/7 in the allotted 20 overs despite skipper Salman Ali Agha's 32-run knock. Pakistan had a dismal start to their innings as young opener Omair Bin

Yousuf perished for a golden duck on the second delivery of the second over with just four runs on the board.

The green shirts lost two more wickets in quick succession and had consequently slipped to 19/3 in four overs. Emerging middle-order batter Tayyab Tahir briefly bolstered the team's total with a brisk cameo, which lasted in the eighth over with the scoreboard reading 52/4 in 7.4 overs. Tahir struck two fours and a six on his way to a 14-ball 21. Meanwhile, Pakistan captain Agha was involved in cautious partnerships with Qasim Akram (20) and Arafat Minhas before finally perishing in the 15th over. Agha remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with a run-a-ball 32, which included three boundaries. Minhas then joined hands with Abbas Afridi for an important 27-run partnership for the seventh wicket, which lasted with the latter's dismissal in the penultimate over. Abbas scored 15 off 14. Meanwhile, Minhas carried his bat with an unbeaten 22 off 26 deliveries, while Jahandad Khan made six not out. For Zimbabwe, Muzarabani bagged two wickets, while Wellington Masakadza, Tinotenda Maposa, Richard Ngarava and Ryan Burl shared four wickets between them. The two-wicket victory helped Zimbabwe avoid the clean sweep in the series, won by Pakistan 2-1.



As ICC meeting postponed again India 'rejects' PCB formula for Champions Trophy 2024

Sources say meeting postponed due to India's failure to respond to Pakistan's proposal

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: A key meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), scheduled for yesterday (Wednesday) to discuss the hosting of the Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan, was postponed again before it could even begin as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) "rejected the formula" proposed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The sources revealed that the meeting was postponed due to India's failure to respond to Pakistan's proposed solution to the matter. The meeting will now take place on December 7. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Dubai this morning with high hopes for the crucial meeting, during which the future of the tournament, scheduled to take place in Pakistan in February-March 2025, was set to be discussed. The sources further said that the BCCI has also rejected the PCB's proposals, leaving the impasse unresolved. After this, the PCB sources communicated a clear response to the ICC: the meeting should take place only when a final decision is necessary, and India's stance should be clarified first. It is pertinent to

mention here that the upcoming Champions Trophy is at a standstill following BCCI's refusal to send its team to Pakistan, while PCB remained firm on their stance of opposing the hybrid model for the eight-team tournament. However, in the latest turn of events, a new model, dubbed as "partnership formula", is under consideration to end the deadlock between PCB and BCCI. As per the new formula, Pakistan will also play their matches in India during ICC events for next three years. Dubai is most likely to be the neutral venue for both the teams as per the expected new agreement. India is scheduled to host three ICC events during this time period, including Women's World Cup 2025, co-hosting of T20 World Cup 2026 with Sri Lanka and Champions Trophy 2027. Details further shared that the apex cricketing body has advised the BCCI to accept the aforementioned model, in a bid to avoid legal action by Pakistan and also to resolve the issue without voting. If the proposed formula gets mutually agreed upon then there may not be a need for the board meeting and the apex cricketing body will communicate the development with the board members.

Australia stroll to victory over India in first ODI

WEB DESK

MELBOURNE: Australia ruthlessly dismantled India in their first outing since October's shock T20 World Cup semi-final defeat. Led by Tahlia McGrath in place of the injured Alyssa Healy, the hosts bowled out India for just 100 on a good batting wicket, before racing to victory in the first of three one-day internationals in just 16.2 overs. The five-wicket margin of victory flattered India, who were blown away by pace bowler Megan Schutt's career-best 5-19, while only Jemimah Rodrigues managed to pass 20. In reply, opener Phoebe Litchfield and Georgia Voll set the tone with the bat as Australia responded to their surprise World Cup semi-final defeat by South Africa in style. Litchfield crashed 35 off 29 balls before becoming one of Renuka Singh Thakur's three victims but 21-year-old debutant Voll ensured Australia got over the line with an unbeaten 46.

Polish envoy highlights challenges

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inspiring individuals and organizations worldwide to continue the fight for justice and equality. "Their work exemplifies the legacies of Sérgio Vieira de Mello and Asma Jahangir," he added. The event also featured remarks from Brazilian and French diplomats, who shared personal reflections on Sérgio Vieira de Mello's remarkable career and enduring influence. Their tributes highlighted the interconnectedness of global human rights efforts and the shared responsibility to uphold these principles. In a poignant conclusion, Ambassador Pisarski called for collective gratitude and continued action: "Let us never grow tired or discouraged in doing what is right. We owe it to these giants of human rights and to the activists of the new generation who carry their legacy forward." The ceremony concluded with a humanitarian initiative. Ambassador Pisarski informed attendees about ongoing efforts to support the pupils of Mashal Model School in Bari Imam. A donation box placed in the embassy hallway offered an opportunity for guests to contribute to this noble cause. The recognition of AGHS Legal Aid Cell with the Polish Prize of Sérgio Vieira de Mello is not only a testament to its remarkable work but also a celebration of universal values that transcend borders. In honoring AGHS, the award reinforces the belief that dedicated individuals and organizations can make a profound difference in the lives of the vulnerable, inspiring hope and action in the pursuit of a just and equitable world. Through this celebration, the spirit of solidarity and the commitment to human rights championed by figures like Sérgio Vieira de Mello and Asma Jahangir continue to inspire and guide efforts to build a more inclusive and compassionate global community.

Athletic Bilbao edge out Real Madrid

"We missed the penalty. I don't have to evaluate a player's game because of a penalty that is sometimes scored and sometimes missed. Obviously he is disappointed but we have to continue"

MADRID: Jude Bellingham's fourth goal in four games was not enough to prevent Real Madrid falling to their second La Liga loss in an enthralling encounter at Athletic Bilbao. The England midfielder put Carlo Ancelotti's side on level terms in the 78th minute after he reacted first to a poor save from Julen Agirretxe. However, the home side surged upfield and an uncharacteristic mistake from Federico Valverde allowed Gorka Guruzeta through on goal and he coolly slotted past Real keeper Thibaut Courtois. Before Bellingham's equaliser, Kylian Mbappe was given the chance to level from the spot after Agirretxe fouled Antonio Rudiger but the Frenchman's penalty was well saved - as happened in last week's loss at Liverpool in the Champions League. "He is not at his best level, but you have to give him time to adapt. He has scored 10 goals and is working to do better," said Ancelotti of Mbappe's performance. "I haven't spoken to him. It was a complicated match - even, competitive. When we equalised we could think of having control and small details penalised us tonight."

"We missed the penalty. I don't have to evaluate a player's game because of a penalty that is sometimes scored and sometimes missed. Obviously he is disappointed but we have to continue." It was a tough

moment for Mbappe to endure at Anfield where his side fell to a 2-0 defeat, but a goal on Sunday was the Frenchman's eighth in the league and provided a platform to build from after a shaky start to life in Spain.



However, his display at the San Mames showed there is still plenty of work for Real's coaching staff to do if they are to fully integrate Mbappe into the European champions' way of working. Despite the absence of Vinicius Junior on the left, Mbappe started in his unfavourable central role and often found himself drifting wide - leaving huge gaps in Real's attacking play. There have been glimpses of Mbappe in full flow but they have been few and far between since his summer move from Paris St-Germain. The hosts had taken the lead eight minutes into the second half through a tidy Alex Berenguer finish from a sumptuous cross by Nico Williams. Real pushed hard in the final minutes for an equaliser with Mbappe coming close, but Ernesto Valverde's side held on to send the home fans wild. Their second defeat of the La Liga season means Ancelotti's team remain four points adrift of leaders Barcelona with a game in hand. Athletic Bilbao's first league win over Real since March 2015 moves them three points behind third-placed Atletico Madrid. — Agencies

Pak Navy ship visits Kenya

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the support extended by host Navy and local Pakistani community. The visit of PNS MOAWIN to Kenya and establishment of medical camp serves as a testament to Pakistan Navy's commitment to fostering goodwill and providing essential medical services to communities in need.

KSA rolls over \$3 billion...

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by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which will help in strengthening the foreign exchange reserves of Pakistan and contribute to the country's economic growth and development." It is worth noting that the \$3 billion deposit agreement was initially signed with SFD in the year 2021 and subsequently rolled over in 2022 & 2023, after the issuance of the royal directives that reflect the continuation of the close relationship between the two brotherly countries, it concluded.

Omar Ayub among other PTI...

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The development came after the indictment of PTI founder Imran Khan along with 99 other accused in General Headquarters (GHQ) attack case related to May 9, 2023, violent protests earlier today. Ayub was among 100 accused indicted in the anti-terror case carries charges of inciting the workers and supporters to attack military and government installations following the arrest of the ousted prime minister by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) last year. Ayub had secured bail in some cases, including GHQ attack and D-Chowk protest, however, it did not end his legal woes as he was booked in six new cases under various charges following the party's November 24 "final call" protest in Islamabad that saw fierce clashes between the law enforcers and the PTI workers last week. Subsequently, a special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi had dismissed an acquittal petition yesterday, filed by the opposition leader in the GHQ attack case, registered against 120 people including PTI senior leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi. In the GHQ attack case, Ayub had dismissed the charges against him saying there was neither evidence of his presence at the scene nor he was directly or indirectly related to the case.

Imran Khan indicted in GHQ...

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Following the indictment, the court fixed Dec 10 as the date for recording the evidence of the prosecution. It is pertinent to mention here that the indictment in this case was deferred four times due to several reasons. At least 70 PTI leaders were accused of planning the May 9 events and inciting the workers and supporters to attack military and government installations following the arrest of the ousted prime minister by the NAB. During the protests, the miscreants targeted the civil and military installations including - Jinnah House and the GHQ in Rawalpindi. The military termed May 9 "Black Day" and decided to try the protesters under the Army Act. The PTI founder, however, blames the "agencies men" for arson and shooting in some areas during the May 9 violent protests. The then-government as well as the one currently ruling have time and again blamed the PTI founder and the party's senior leadership for engineering allegedly "organised" attacks on military installations. Despite securing relief in major cases, the former premier still faces a number of cases related to the May 9 incidents which are being heard by an Anti-Terrorism Court. Last month, Imran's bail petitions in eight cases related to the May 9 violence, including the Jinnah House attack were rejected by an ATC in Lahore.

Briefs

PSX stays bullish, gains 3,134 more points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 3,134.63 more points, a positive change of 2.98 percent, closing at 108,238.97 points as compared to 105,104.34 points on the last trading day. A total of 1,647,134,799 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,749,316,877 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs63.229 billion against Rs50.416 billion on the last trading day. As many as 473 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 307 of them recorded gains and 129 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 37 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 163,462,276 shares at Rs10.09 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 150,476,152 shares at Rs1.59 per share and Cnergico PK with 86,659,730 shares at Rs.6.87 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs481.08 per share price, closing at Rs20,681.08, whereas the runner-up was Sapphire Fibres Limited with Rs101.64 rise in its share price to Rs1,214.02.—APP

Gold price ups by 500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.500 and was sold at Rs. 275,700 on Thursday against its sale at Rs 275,200 on previous trading day. All Sindh Sarafa Jewelers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.428 to Rs.236,368 from Rs 235,940 whereas that of 10 grams 22 karat also went up to Rs.216,671 from Rs 216,278. Per tola and ten-gram silver were also traded at the same rate at Rs 3,400 and Rs 2,914.95, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$5 to \$2,645 from \$2,640, the Association reported.

Rupee sheds 02 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Thursday depreciated by 02 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.94 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.92. Pakistan's cuisine However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.50 and Rs 279.00 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 85 paise to close at Rs 292.98 against the last day's closing of Rs 292.13, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.85, whereas an increase of Rs1.32 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 354.03 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 352.71.—APP

UNESCO honours Japan's ancient sake tradition

ASUNCION: UNESCO has officially recognised Japan's traditional method of sake brewing as an "intangible cultural heritage," a distinction producers hope will spark global interest in the centuries-old rice wine, which has seen a decline in domestic popularity. Japanese delegates at a UNESCO meeting in Paraguay celebrated the honour by sampling sake. The brewing process, which resembles beer-making more than wine production, involves fermenting rice, water, yeast, and a vibrant mould called koji over several weeks. The resulting drink can be enjoyed hot, cold, or at room temperature. Sake remains an integral part of Japanese culture and traditions, frequently served at ceremonies and special occasions.—APP

Pak, Czech Republic for steps to boost economic cooperation

The Minister also highlighted the potential for both nations to explore Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing in Pakistan. He hoped that the EV industry of Czech Republic will cooperate with Pakistan in order to establish EV manufacturing plants in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema on Thursday discussed key strategies to boost economic cooperation between Pakistan and Czech Republic. The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema has expressed enthusiasm for the forthcoming inaugural session of the Pak-Czech Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) during meeting with Ladislav Steinhubel, Ambassador of Czech Republic to Pakistan, said a press release issued here. Both sides agreed to form sector-wise Joint Working Groups (JWGs) before JMC in order to make it more productive. Ahad Cheema emphasized the importance of the JMC (scheduled to be held on 28-29 April, 2025 in Islamabad) in fostering deeper trade and the investment ties, particularly in sectors with untapped potential, and underscored Pakistan's commitment to ensuring that the session results in actionable, impactful outcomes. The Minister noted that the trade volume between both countries in the current fiscal year was USD 84 Million, and emphasized the need to enhance it through closer economic cooperation. He added that renewable energy, information technology, healthcare, nano-technology, agro-technology,



mining, and green technologies are the key areas of cooperation which can be helpful in boosting trade. The Minister also highlighted the potential for both nations to explore Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing in Pakistan. He hoped that the EV industry of Czech Republic will cooperate with Pakistan in order to establish EV manufacturing plants in Pakistan. The Minister welcomed the activation of the Agreement on Economic Coop-

eration between Pakistan and the Czech Republic, which came into effect on June 1, 2024 after the completion of procedures and formalities. This agreement provides a solid foundation for enhanced bilateral relations, opening new avenues for cooperation across a range of sectors, including energy, technology, healthcare, and more. Minister Cheema highlighted that Pakistan, due to its strategic position as a gateway between South, Central, and East Asia with access

to the Middle East, holds significant potential for collaboration with the Czech Republic which is located at the heart of Europe. He noted that the complementary strengths of both countries, particularly the Czech Republic's expertise in technology and innovation, provide a solid foundation for mutually beneficial partnerships in trade, investment, and industrial cooperation. Additionally, the Minister emphasized the importance of collaboration in edu-

cational exchange and manpower supply for strengthening bilateral ties. He highlighted that Pakistani students will gain access to scholarships at renowned Czech universities, enhancing their education and skills. Furthermore, both countries are working to formalize labor exchange agreements, which will facilitate workforce development and foster greater economic integration. These initiatives aim to improve expertise, promote knowledge transfer, and create a more competitive workforce, contributing to sustainable growth and deeper cooperation between Pakistan and the Czech Republic. The Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan expressed his country's strong commitment to strengthening ties with Pakistan. He noted the importance of collaboration in both traditional and emerging sectors, emphasizing that the Czech Republic sees Pakistan as a key partner in the region. He highlighted his government's eagerness to work closely with Pakistan to explore new business opportunities and build a mutually beneficial partnership. The Ambassador also conveyed optimism about the upcoming JMC session, anticipating it will drive meaningful progress in expanding economic and trade relations between the two nations.

Iraq PM denies wiretapping allegations as 'lie of the century'

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani on Thursday denied allegations that members of his office were responsible for wiretapping the phones of MPs and other politicians — accusations that have sparked months of uproar. Corruption scandals frequently grip Iraq, with smear and disinformation campaigns often used to settle political scores. Sudani said the accusations were levelled at the government "in an immoral manner," adding the allegations "are baseless and I can say with absolute certainty that it is the lie of the century." He was publicly addressing the allegations for the first time, in remarks reported by the state news agency INA. The accusations first emerged in August, and subsequent reports by Iraqi and Arab media outlets suggested that among the victims of the alleged wiretapping were powerful members of the political class. In particular, they pointed to members of the Coordination Framework, a pro-Iran Shiite parliamentary bloc that brought Sudani to power. Iraq's judiciary has opened an investigation into the accusations, but has not publicly commented on them or revealed who is implicated. The only individual named in the case is Mohamed Al-Jouhi, a former official in Sudani's office. The first official to publicly comment on the accusations was MP Mustafa Sanad, who alleged in August that he himself had been a victim of the wiretapping and said a network had been arrested, including officers and officials, notably Jouhi. And in September, former speaker of parliament Mohammed Al-Halbussi also claimed in a televised interview that his movements have been subject to "surveillance." In September, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary denounced "the inaccuracy of information" circulating in the media over an investigation into the "Mohamed Al-Jouhi network." It described as "false" reports "circulating in the media and on social media regarding attempts to eavesdrop on the president" of the council, Faiq Zidan.—APP

India set to launch Earth-mapping satellite with NASA

NEW DELHI: A new US-Indian satellite is set to be launched in March next year, India's science minister said in parliament, updating lawmakers on the first Earth-mapping joint mission between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organization. A collaboration agreement between ISRO and NASA was signed in 2014, with a targeted launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, or NISAR, project in 2024. The satellite's reflector, however, which is one of the main NASA contributions to the joint mission, had to undergo corrections, Science Minister Jitendra Singh told Parliament members on Wednesday. "The Radar Antenna Reflector was delivered to ISRO by NASA in October 2024, which is reintegrated with the satellite and currently undergoing necessary tests," Singh said in a written reply to a parliamentary query. "Also, due to the eclipse season, the conditions are not conducive for deployment of NISAR's boom and the Radar Antenna Reflector. In view of the aforementioned factors, NISAR is now likely to be launched during March 2025." The reflector is a key component of NISAR, and at 12m in diameter it will be the largest radar antenna of its kind ever launched into space. It will focus transmitted and received microwave signals to and from the Earth's surface, allowing the satellite to scan nearly all of the planet's land and ice surfaces every week. The data will provide a picture of how Earth's surface moves horizontally and vertically. "The information will be crucial to better understanding everything from the mechanics of Earth's crust to which parts of the world are prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions," the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.—APP

French lawmakers vote to oust prime minister, plunging country into chaos

PARIS: French Prime Minister Michel Barnier has been forced to resign just three months into his term, after lawmakers on the left and the right united to support a no-confidence motion and plunge the country into deeper political instability. A total of 331 out of 577 lawmakers voted against Barnier's fragile government, seizing their opportunity to topple the veteran politician — and renowned negotiator — after his attempt to ram through part of his government's annual budget on Monday. His is the first French government to be defeated in a no-confidence motion since 1962, and Barnier is now set to become France's shortest-serving prime minister in history. Barnier's cabinet is now expected to serve in a caretaker capacity until French President Emmanuel Macron names new leadership. Barnier is set to formally submit his resignation to Macron on Thursday morning, according to French media. Choosing a successor will prove a delicate task, with the increasingly vulnerable president forced to appease lawmakers on both extremes of French politics. Macron had appointed Barnier to lead a minority government after a snap election, called by the president in the summer, split France's parliament into three factions, each well short of a majority. The situation had immediately appeared untenable, and it collapsed at the first major hurdle on Monday, when Barnier was forced to use a constitutional mechanism that bypassed a vote in the legislature on his 2025 budget. That allowed rival lawmakers on the left, who had long vowed to bring him down, to call a confidence motion in response, and the far-right National Rally supported the motion to see it through on Wednesday. The far right had also called a similar motion. Pleading his case during Wednesday's debate in the National Assembly, Barnier told lawmakers he was "not afraid," but warned that removing him would make "everything more difficult." Marine Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National Rally, said during the debate that Barnier's "stubborn adherence to dogma and doctrine prevented him from making the slightest concession, which would have avoided this outcome." In the day before the vote, Barnier accused the far right of political blackmail, saying that they had agreed to his concessions on electricity tax hikes and medical aid for undocumented people before demanding more. The far-right leader has been the chief antagonist throughout the Macron era, challenging him in two presidential elections and now dispatching the prime minister he handpicked to settle a simmering crisis. She placed the blame for the fall of Barnier's government squarely on Macron's shoulders. "He's the one most responsible for the current situation," she said following the vote. Macron "will assume his responsibilities, he will do what his reason and his conscience dictate to him," she said in an interview with French broadcaster TF1. Macron will address the French nation at 8 p.m. on Thursday evening, the Elysee Palace announced. France is now hurtling towards the end of a remarkably volatile year without a prime minister or a budget. Macron is required to pick a new prime minister, but it is difficult to envisage a candidate who would expect the support of both the leftists and the far-right. A budget must also be passed before a December 21 deadline; if that deadline is missed, the government could still legislate a "fiscal continuity law," which would avoid a shutdown by allowing the government to collect taxes and pay salaries, with spending capped at 2024 levels, according to the S&P Global Ratings credit rating agency.—DNA

ICCI gears up for energy moot to tackle Pakistan's energy crisis

The discussions focused on the country's severe power crisis, with consensus emerging that misgovernance and policy failures have created a massive circular debt, which has consumed trillions in budgetary resources, yet remains unresolved in both the power and gas sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) mulls to organize a high-level Energy Conference, bringing together stakeholders from the private sector, government departments, academia, and research institutions. The purpose of the conference will be to develop a viable and practical action plan to address the ongoing energy crisis, with recommendations to be presented to the government for implementation. This initiative was agreed upon during discussions between Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of ICCI, and Dr. Fiaz A. Chaudhry, Chair-



man of the Board of Directors of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company Ltd. (NTDC) and Senior Advisor at LUMS

Energy Institute, during Dr. Chaudhry's visit to the Chamber House. The discussions focused on the country's severe power cri-

sis, with consensus emerging that misgovernance and policy failures have created a massive circular debt, which has consumed trillions in budgetary resources, yet remains unresolved in both the power and gas sectors. The discussions also covered critical issues such as overhauling governance, building institutional capacity, promoting energy conservation, utilizing indigenous resources, improving energy efficiency, addressing price anomalies, and exploring deregulation and privatization in the energy sector. The participants emphasized the need for a comprehensive policy to meet electricity demand, a solution essential to resolving the crisis. There was unanimous agreement

that the energy sector has the potential to transform from being the country's greatest economic burden into a driver of financial security and prosperity. However, achieving this transformation will require strong political will and commitment to energy sector reforms, despite inevitable resistance from entrenched interests. The stakeholders also agreed that the upcoming conference would focus on analyzing the national impact of the energy crisis, including demand and supply issues, measures to meet demand, and the role of pricing in the solution. Dr. Chaudhry also shared insights on energy-saving techniques, including modern construction methods.

Qatar emir and UK prime minister discuss investment ties

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed Qatar's £1 billion investment in British climate technologies as he met the emir on the final day of a state visit to London. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani held talks with Starmer at his Downing Street residence on Wednesday afternoon. During the meeting, the two leaders agreed that Qatar and the UK's "thriving investment relationship would continue to grow and deliver significant benefits for both countries," Starmer's office said. They also discussed strengthening defense ties and Qatar's mediation role in the Middle East, including in Gaza. Earlier, the UK announced the agreement with Qatar to invest £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) in British climate technologies. Engineering company Rolls-Royce will receive investment in technology programs that "improve energy efficiency, support new sustainable fuels and lower carbon emissions," the UK government said. Qatar is one of the largest purchasers of Rolls-Royce engines, which are used in some Qatar Airways jets. "Enabling the energy transition through lower carbon technologies is a key part of our strategy," Rolls-Royce CEO Tufan Erginbilgic said. "We are delighted to welcome Qatar as a strategic partner, who will support the growth of these technologies. They share our ambition to make an impact on the challenge of climate change." The UK partnership with Qatar is expected to create thousands of highly skilled jobs and will launch climate technology hubs across the UK and Qatar, the UK government said. It will include investment in start-ups in the UK and Qatar focusing on energy efficiency, carbon management and green power. Starmer said that the deal was a "significant step in our ambition to become a clean energy superpower and further evidence that the UK is one of the best places in the world for companies to develop our technologies." Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said: "The United Kingdom has a proud history of innovation in cutting-edge technology, and Qatar has long been a trusted investment partner to British businesses.—APP

Jam for capitalizing on emerging opportunities to boost trade

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday reviewed the Commerce Ministry's Performance and set the vision for enhanced trade and exports. The minister chaired an internal review meeting to assess the performance of various wings and attached departments under the Ministry of Commerce. The minister emphasized the need to capitalize on emerging opportunities to boost Pakistan's trade and export potential, said a press release issued here. During the meeting, Minister Jam Kamal directed officials to prioritize the facilitation of exporters to maximize their productivity. He stressed the importance of diversifying Pakistan's export basket and exploring untapped international markets to enhance the country's trade footprint. Highlighting the significance of staying ahead of regional trends, the minister urged his team to adopt a strategic approach to align with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's export-led policy. He noted that targeted efforts to expand trade partnerships and refine export strategies would play a critical role in driving economic growth. Appreciating the relentless dedication of commerce ministry officials and Pakistan's trade officers abroad, Minister Jam Kamal praised their contributions toward fostering economic ties globally. He encouraged them to maintain their commitment to excellence while identifying innovative solutions to overcome challenges. The minister reaffirmed his commitment to a collaborative and forward-looking vision, aiming to position Pakistan as a competitive player in the global market.—APP

Briefs

Israel carrying out 'genocide' in Gaza: Amnesty

THE HAGUE: Amnesty International on Thursday accused Israel of "committing genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza since the start of the war last year, saying a new report was a "wake-up call" for the international community. The London-based rights organization said its findings were based on "dehumanizing and genocidal statements by Israeli government and military officials," satellite images documenting devastation, fieldwork and ground reports from Gazans. "Month after month, Israel has treated Palestinians in Gaza as a subhuman group unworthy of human rights and dignity, demonstrating its intent to physically destroy them," Amnesty chief Agnes Callamard said in a statement. "Our damning findings must serve as a wake-up call to the international community: this is genocide. It must stop now," she added. The Palestinian group Hamas launched an unprecedented attack inside southern Israel on October 7, 2023, triggering a deadly Israeli military offensive as Israeli officials vowed to crush the militants. Israel has repeatedly and forcefully denied allegations of genocide, accusing Hamas of using the Palestinian people as human shields. "There is absolutely no doubt that Israel has military objectives. But the existence of military objectives does not negate the possibility of a genocidal intent," Callamard told AFP at a press conference in The Hague. The 300-page report points to incidents where there "was no Hamas presence or any other military objectives." - Agencies

Economic indicators moving in right direction

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that all the economic indicators were going in the right direction during last nine months. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, she said that the inflation has decreased to 4.9 percent from 35 percent during the PML-N government. "It is evident that people get employment whenever the PML-N takes reins of the country," said Marriyum Aurangzeb. The senior provincial minister said that the inflation is at the lowest during last six years. "The economy is improving with every passing day and industry is also on the rise," she said. The senior minister added that the government is providing relief to the masses in every field and 30,000 students were given scholarships yesterday. According to Marriyum Aurangzeb, the government did remarkable work to control smog during last nine months. "Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had directed all the departments concerned in March to play their role to mitigate the effects of smog," she added.

UK diplomat strengthens partnerships for climate

Melinda Bohannon Highlights 10 Years of UK Support for Job Creation and Women Empowerment

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: In her first visit to Pakistan, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Director General for Humanitarian and Development, Melinda Bohannon, celebrates 10 years of the UK's £154.7 million investment in Karandaaz. The programme supported over 1.1 million jobs, over 50% of which were for women, and generated over PKR 230 billion in additional income for businesses across the country. In her 3-day visit, Bohannon also met the Minister of Finance to discuss progress on Pakistan's IMF-supported programme, and on-going UK technical assistance to support the Government of Pakistan's economic reform priorities. She also met the Sub-Committee of the Anti-Rape Act 2021, Chaired by the Secretary Law and Justice, to mark the milestone launch of Pakistan's first National Sex Offender Register. During her visit, she opened the British High Commission's final Chevening 'Climate Connects' debate. The debate brought together alumni from the UK's flagship



scholarship programme, Chevening, to debate progress made at COP29 on 'Just Transition'. It followed a debate in Karachi on green growth, and in Lahore on urbanisation. Reflecting on her visit, the UK's Development and Humanitarian Development Director, Melinda Bohannon said: 'In Haripur, I met the most fantastic teachers helping children catch-up on their learning. And I met wonderful, and dedicated women who are delivering vital family planning services through our mobile outreach medical camps. We are providing support to these schools and clinics, but these inspirational

individuals are at the heart of delivering change. I was also inspired by the stories from private sector leaders working with Karandaaz, mobilising capital to Small and Medium Sized enterprises and providing innovative solutions to develop Pakistan's finance ecosystem'. Her visit also saw her meeting with communities who benefit from the British High Commission's groundwater recharging project in Mirpur, KPK. She heard from local communities how the High Commission's cost-effective, locally sourced nature-based solutions are helping them to tackle the challenges they face from climate change. To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, she met with young, disabled, women leaders who with support from the British High Commission, are helping disabled people in their communities. Through supporting people to access disability cards, advocating for more accessible public transportation, and lobbying for job quotas for people with disabilities, Bohannon saw how UK support is empowering young leaders to make tangible changes in their communities.

Pakistan, Russia agree to run cargo train

"The goods train will run via Iran and Azerbaijan to Moscow"

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Energy Minister Awais Leghari on Thursday said that Pakistan and Russia have agreed to run cargo train between the two countries. In an interview to Russian media, minister said that the test run of the train will begin from March in the next year. He said that the trade and bilateral relations have progressed between Pakistan and Russia. "The goods train will run via Iran and Azerbaijan to Moscow in Russia and will operate under the North-South Corridor," he said. Awais Leghari said that the work also been under progress over the direct air service between Pakistan and Russia. Pakistan and Russia signed eight memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in the fields of health, trade and education on Wednesday.

Syrian army withdraws from Hama as opposition forces enter

The army says it's redeploying 'to preserve civilian lives and prevent urban combat' reversing an earlier claim denying that rebel fighters had entered the strategic city

NEWS DESK

DAMASCUS: The Syrian army says that opposition forces have entered Hama city after intense fighting, prompting its units to redeploy outside the strategic city in another major blow to President Bashar al-Assad. The army said in a statement on Thursday that it was redeploying its forces "to preserve civilian lives and prevent urban combat", reversing an earlier claim that denied rebel fighters had entered the city. Opposition commander Hassan Abdul Ghany posted on social media earlier on Thursday that his fighters had begun entering Hama, which they had been laying siege to since Tuesday amid heavy fighting

overnight with the Syrian army, which was backed by intense Russian air attacks. Al Jazeera's ResulSerdar said the taking of Hama was a "major development". "In just over a week they have managed to take full control of Syria's second-largest city, Aleppo, and now the fourth-largest city," Serdar said, reporting from the Turkish city of Kilis, on the border with Syria. Opposition fighters pushed south from their enclave in northwest Syria, seizing Aleppo last week before reaching a strategic hill just north of Hama on Tuesday and advancing towards the city's east and west flanks. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said late on Wednesday that opposition fighters had "surrounded Hama city from three sides". "Violent clashes took place

during the night between the rebels and the regime forces", particularly in the Jabal Zayn al-Abidin area, just north of Hama, the United Kingdom-based monitor said. The head of the Syrian Observatory, Rami Abdulrahman, said government forces had been engaged in "fierce resistance and trying to stop the rebels' advance". Hama lies more than a third of the way from Aleppo to Damascus and its capture would open the road to a rebel advance on Homs, the main central city that functions as a crossroads connecting Syria's most populous regions. It is also critical to the control of two major towns with sizeable minority religious communities; Muhrada, which is home to many Christians, and Salamya, where there are many Ismaili Muslims.

Pak committed to completing loan programme: Aurangzeb



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to ensuring a smooth and successful completion of the 37-month IMF programme described by him as Pakistan's own programme of macro-economic reforms and structural adjustments funded and supported by the Fund. The government of Pakistan under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is very clear that the trust and credibility we have regained over the last 14 months, must be maintained to lay the path for an inclusive and sustainable growth, he said while talking to IMF's new Resident Representative for Pakistan, Mr. Mahir Binici who called on the Minister at Finance Division today. Secretary Finance was also present. The Minister extended a formal welcome to Mr. Mahir Binici on his assignment in Pakistan and assured him full support for carrying out his official responsibilities and a smooth day-to-day consultation with the government of

Pakistan. Mr. Mahir reciprocated the sentiment and committed himself to working closely with the Government of Pakistan for ensuring a successful completion of the IMF programme. Meanwhile, Addressing a gathering in Islamabad, finance minister said that the SOEs have inflicted staggering Rs six trillion losses during last 10 years. "We want the private sector to run these institutions as the private sector has to run this country," minister stressed. He said the government only have to provide policy framework and ensure its continuation. Finance Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to economic reforms agenda. He said the government will continue to focus on facilitating the private sector in order to boost the economy. He also emphasized the need to bring everyone into the mainstream and ensure their contribution to the economy. Muhammad Aurangzeb yesterday said that Pakistan's economy moving towards betterment. He pointed out while addressing a moot yesterday, that foreign exchange reserves would soon reach to cover three months imports in next few weeks, which had previously dropped to cover only two weeks.

PIA names acting CEO as it prepares to resume EU flights

SC lifts stay order from PIA privatisation, case dismissed

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Thursday named one of the company's senior executives as acting CEO as it prepares for the resumption of European flights following the lifting of a ban. PIA's spokesperson said on Sunday the airline expects to resume flights to Europe, starting with Paris, within the next three to four weeks, after the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) lifted its ban. The airline needs to appoint a permanent CEO. In the interim, it issued a statement on Thursday saying KhurramMush-taq, previously head of PIA's Commercial, Airport Services, Flight Services, Security and Vigilance departments, would "take charge of the office after the tenure of Air Vice Marshal Amir Hayat comes to an end". It did not specify when that was. In 2020, the EASA suspended PIA's authorisation to operate in the European Union because of concerns about the ability of Pakistani authorities and its Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) to ensure compliance with international aviation standards. The UK also suspended permission for PIA to operate in the region after Pakistan began investigating the validity of pilots' licences following a plane crash that killed 97 people. PIA and the government, which aims to sell a 60% stake in the carrier, had urged the EASA to lift the ban that cost the airline Rs40 billion (\$144 million) annually in revenue. The loss-making national carrier has a 23% stake in Pakistan's domestic aviation market, but a lack of direct flights means its 34-plane fleet cannot compete with Middle Eastern carriers that hold a 60% market share. A failed attempt to privatise the airline in October received a single offer, well below its asking price. Meanwhile, The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) has withdrawn its earlier order halting the privatisation of the national carrier, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), clearing the way for the government to proceed with the process. The Constitutional Bench, led by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, issued the instructions today, effectively closing the case, Express News reported.

Arrest warrant issued for Bushra Bibi

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: A special court on Thursday issued an arrest warrant for PTI founder Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, in the new Toshakhana case for failing to appear in court for the past 10 hearings. Last month, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted bail to Imran in a recent Toshakhana case while the government ruled out his release due to the pending bail in cases against him. Imran and Bushra were apprehended in the case on July 13, following their acquittal in the Iddat case the same day. While Bushra had secured bail in the case from the IHC in October, allowing her to be freed from jail, the PTI founder has remained incarcerated since his arrest on August 5 last year in a separate Toshakhana case. In the most recent case, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) accused the couple of retaining an expensive Bulgari jewellery set gifted by a foreign leader - including a necklace, earrings, bracelets, and rings - at a low price, saying it caused significant loss to the exchequer. In September, Special Judge Central ShahrukhAr-jumand had set the couple's indictment in the case for October 2. However, it was deferred to October 5 on the defence counsel's request for more time. A day before that, Judge Ar-jumand had rejected their post-arrest bail petitions. On Oct 24, a day after the IHC approved her bail plea in the case, Bushra was released from Adiala Jail.

J. Mansoor urges postponement of JCP meeting

Shah highlighted the pending petitions challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The senior judge of the Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah penned a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi, urging the postponement of the Judicial Commission's December 6 meeting, citing concerns over its constitutional validity. Justice Shah highlighted the pending petitions challenging the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which reconstituted the Judicial Commission. He stressed that over two dozen petitions await decision, and any decision to uphold or nullify the amendment could directly impact the legality of the commission's actions. Justice Shah cautioned that if the amendment is invalidated, it would undermine the decisions made by the reconstituted Judicial Commission, leading to potential embarrassment for the judiciary and its members. Justice Shah proposed the formation of a full court to hear the petitions against the 26th Amendment and requested the Chief Justice to direct the Supreme Court Registrar to expedite the listing of these petitions for hearing.

APC censures Centre, KP over 'dangerous' law and order

Multi-party moot hosted by Governor Kundi following deadly Kurram clashes that left over 130 dead

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The All Parties Conference (APC) has raised alarm over the deteriorating law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), describing it as "dangerous." In a declaration, which was issued after an hours-long meeting, the APC noted a steep rise in violence compared to last year, with over 70 security personnel were martyred in the past month alone. The meeting was attended by 16 parties under the chairmanship KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House, while the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which is in power in province, boycotted the huddle.

The APC highlighted over 200 fatalities in Kurram unrest this year, blaming ineffective governance at both federal and provincial levels. It also called for immediate measures, including the release of funds allocated for tribal districts under the National Finance Commission (NFC) award, which has been inactive for more than two years. Expressing concern over the alarming law and order situation, the declaration said that 3% of the amount allocated for the former Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) has not been released in five years, demanding the due amount should be released. Leaders demanded that historical Pak-Afghan trade routes be reopened to revive regional commerce. Additionally,

the APC urged the inclusion of forests and environmental concerns in the upcoming NFC award formula, adding it should be made according to census. The declaration also sought a performance audit of KP's government, stressing transparency in resource allocation and governance. With lawlessness and financial mismanagement mounting, the APC's recommendations underscore a pressing need for coordinated efforts. It also said that the recommendations of the committee headed by former PM's adviser Sartaj Aziz should be implemented in letter and spirit. Moreover, the declaration said mines and minerals are the property of the people of the provinces and their details should be made public. The declaration also demanded that the federation should provide gas to the province on preferential basis as per Article 158 of the Constitution and net hydro profit (NHP) and federal excise duty on oil should be paid to the province as per Article 161.

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