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China's Xi warns 'no winners' in trade war with US

Detailed News On Page-08

Al-Bashir named caretaker Syrian Prime Minister

Detailed News On Page-08



Alzarri Joseph penalised for misconduct

Detailed News On Page-06



Involvement in May 9 incidents

Ex spy master Faiz Hameed charge-sheeted

ISPR says process of FGCM was initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hamid (Retd) under provisions of Pakistan Army Act and in first place Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd) has been formally arraigned on charges of engaging in political activities, violations of Official Secret Act detrimental to safety and interest of the state, misuse of authority & government resources and causing wrongful loss to a person(s)

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hamid has been formally charged with multiple offences, including engaging in political activities and violating the Official Secrets Act, the military's media wing said on Tuesday. These violations have compromised state security and interests, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. Additionally, the charges include misuse of authority and government resources, as well as causing wrongful losses to individuals. The process of field general court-martial (FGCM) was initiated against Lt Gen (ret'd) Hamid, who has served as the chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act on August 12. "[...] and in the first place has been formally arraigned on charges of engaging in political activities, violations of Official Secret Act detrimental to safety and interest of the state, misuse of authority & government resources and causing wrongful loss to a person(s)," the military's media wing said in a brief statement issued on Tuesday. Moreover, the military's



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Vawda, Chaudhry see Imran in hot water after Faiz indictment
Vawda claims PTI founder could be taken into military custody; Talal terms May 9 protests "rebellion"

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Senators Faisal Vawda and Talal Chaudhry have linked former spymaster Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hamid's indictment on charges of engaging in political activities among others to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and May 9 riots that erupted last year following the arrest of the party founder Imran Khan. The former ISI chief has been formally charged with

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ISLAMABAD: Around 350 Pakistani nationals including 245 Pakistani Zaireen stranded in Syria have crossed the Syria-Lebanon border. Pakistan government has made arrangements for their evacuation. - DNA

Over 300 Israeli strikes since Assad's fall

"Destroying all the capabilities of the Syrian army"

AGENCIES

DAMASCUS: Israeli warplanes have reportedly carried out more than 310 airstrikes across Syria since the fall of President Bashar al-Assad's regime on Sunday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). The airstrikes have targeted several key locations across the country, including military facilities in Aleppo, Damascus, and Hama. The attacks, which have included more than 60 air-strikes overnight between

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Justice delayed is justice denied: Gilani

Technology may be used to ensure timely justice: Gilani

DNA

MULTAN: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani emphasised that justice delayed is justice denied. He said it while addressing a ceremony held at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan. Expressing his delight at attending the event, Gilani highlighted the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) across various fields. He underlined the need to explore how technology could be used to ensure timely and efficient delivery of justice. "AI is no longer just an idea;

Continued on Page 06

Finalizes Syria evacuation plan

Cabinet 'approves' tariff review for eight more IPPs

PM Shehbaz Sharif calls PTI's civil disobedience move enmity with Pakistan Madrassah agreement 2019 "nothing but a piece of paper": JUI-F

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: As the incumbent government continues efforts to tackle rising electricity tariffs in the country, the federal cabinet on Tuesday approved "settlement agreements" with eight independent power producers (IPPs) running on bagasse - a move that the regime says would benefit the national exchequer by Rs238 billion. The federal cabinet meeting, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, granted the approval on the recommendation of the Ministry of Energy and the Power Division, said a statement issued by the Prime Minister Office (PMO). These bagasse-based power plants included DW Unit I, Unit II, RYK Mills, Chiniot Power, Hamza Sugar, Al-Moez Industries, Thal Industries and Chinar Industries.

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BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F leaders have said that the seminars registration agreement 2019 has no legal status, "It is nothing but a piece of paper". Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam leader Hafiz Hamdulah has alleged that the government is trying to set religious scholars in clash with each other. "The eyes of the PPP and the PML-N members were shut at the time of consultations, or it was a

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Briefs

PTI playing Pashtun card: Asif

Claimed that there were severe rifts within the PTI

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday stated that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was resorting to Pashtun card for their vested political interests. The minister lambasted the PTI leaders for pushing forward false figures regarding the reported deaths of PTI supporters during protest. "Where is the family of the deceased?" He questioned. He also claimed that there were severe rifts within the PTI as everyone was giving his own narrative. He said what he had contemplated from the speech of Omer Ayub was that when the PTI leaders fled from the protest, Bushra Bibi was also with them.

PTI eyes 'joint movement' against govt

"We are in contact with [JUI-F Emir] Maulana Fazlur Rehman," says ex-NA speaker

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: PTI senior leader Asad Qaiser has said that his party wants to collaborate with other political forces to launch a joint movement against the Shehbaz Sharif-led government. The incumbent government and the former ruling party have been at loggerheads for months, with the Imran Khan-founded PTI accusing the administration of stealing its mandate and the former claiming that the PTI was involved in anti-state activities. Their confrontation intensified further in late November when the PTI held a protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk, which prompted action from law enforcers.

May 9, Nov 26 events

Imran Khan calls for release of CCTV footage

Aleema Khan quoted Imran, saying that without CCTV footage, investigations into tragic incidents cannot be carried out

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has called for a judicial inquiry into the events of May 9 and November 26, urging the Supreme Court to release CCTV footage of both incidents to facilitate proper investigations, his sister Aleema Khan quoted him as saying after meeting him on Tuesday. Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Aleema emphasised that her brother had demanded that the Supreme Court take action on both incidents. She stated, "The founder of PTI has made it clear that without the CCTV footage, investigations into these tragic events cannot be carried out." Regarding the May 9 incident, she pointed out that Imran Khan was unaware of the full extent of the violence. "He is unaware of how many people were martyred or injured at D-Chowk. He also does not know how many people are still missing.

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Govt to take decisive action against anarchists

Says govt to bring all those targeting families of journalists to justice

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar on Tuesday announced to take decisive action against those spreading anarchy in Pakistan. Speaking at a press conference after the cabinet meeting, the minister said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, where the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is in power, had also rejected the call for civil disobedience by party founder and former

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15 terrorists killed in Balochistan's Zhob intelligence based operation

President, PM laud security forces for successful operation against Khawarij in Zhob

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army soldier was martyred while 15 terrorists were killed during an intelligence based operation in general area Sambaza of Balochistan's Zhob district, said the military's media wing on Tuesday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces conducted an IBO on December 10 during which own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. "A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed Khawarij," said the statement. However, it added, Sep Arif ur Rehman (age 32 years; resident of Mansehra District) embraced martyrdom after fighting gallantly during the intense exchange of fire. "Sanitisation operation is being conducted to neutralize any other Kharji present in the area," said the ISPR. It said that the security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and sacrifices of the brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. It is pertinent to mention here that the third quarter (July-September) of 2024 saw a sharp increase in fatalities of terrorist violence and counter-terrorism

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20 Chinese killed since 2021: Nacta

Director says that there were 14 terrorist attacks on Chinese citizens

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Twenty Chinese personnel have been killed in terrorist attacks in the country since 2021, the National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta) informed lawmakers on Tuesday. October's airport bombing that killed two Chinese engineers returning to work on a project after a holiday in Thailand was the latest in a string of high-profile attacks on Beijing's interests in Pakistan. The attack was claimed by the banned outfit Baloch Liberation Army (BLA). Police registered a first information report against leaders of the BLA and others three days after the incident. The attacks have angered China, which has

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Open Day held at Governor House to resolve problems

DNA

PESHAWAR :Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday held "Open Day" at Governor House for the public to address their problems on priority basis. The Governor said that "Open Day" would be held three times in a month, within every ten days. He made these remarks while interacting with party workers and citizens through out the province during the "Open Day" event. The event was also attended by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Provincial President Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, Secretary Coordination Farzand Ali Wazir, Deputy General Secretary Abrar Saeed Swati and Peshawar Division President Misbahuddin. During the event, Governor Kundi emphasized that the "Open Day" initiative has taken to facilitate direct communication between the provincial leadership and the public. He said that during open day, he and the party's provincial leadership would meet with citizens and party workers at the Governor House to listen

to their concerns, complaints and work towards resolving them. He also acknowledged the longstanding issues and challenges faced by party workers, which led to the decision to hold Open Days. Meanwhile, in a separate meeting, Governor Kundi discussed the role of the Young Parliamentarians Forum of Pakistan in shaping the country's future leadership. He said this during a meeting delegation of Young Parliamentarians of Pakistan at the Governor House who is the founding chairman of the Forum recalling its establishment in 2008. The delegation was led by Member of National Assembly Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar. The Forum, comprising members from different political parties, aims to provide guidance on various issues and offer training to new members. The Governor highlighted the forum's significant role in connecting young politicians and providing a platform for them to contribute to the country's future. Governor Kundi also informed the delegation about efforts taken to address the rights of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa at the federal level. He recalled holding an All Parties Conference at the Governor House, which was attended by all political parties except PTI, underscoring the province's interest in resolving pressing issues. He further discussed the province's ongoing challenges, including security concerns and shared insights on the factors contributing to the current situation. Governor Kundi expressed hopes for the active participation of young parliamentarians in representing the interests of the youth and addressing the province's issues in the national parliament. Nosheen Iftikhar briefed the Governor on the Forum's performance, which the Governor lauded. Similarly, PTIP's MPA Iqbal Wazir and former MPA of ANP Salahuddin and delegation of Peoples Lawyers Forum led by Mohim Afridi also called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi. During the meetings, the delegations members exchanged views on various matters with the Governor. The Governor assured to resolve their problem on priority basis.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui pays a visit to enquire health of Siddiqui Farooq at his residence.

CM Maryam to change destiny of Punjab: Azma

LAHORE :Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is going to change the destiny of Punjab. In a statement issued here Tuesday, Azma Bokhari said that Maryam Nawaz is making historic agreements during her visit to China. Maryam Nawaz has signed an agreement for the latest treatment for cancer. An agreement has also been signed to bring innovation in the agriculture sector in Punjab. She said that Maryam Nawaz is changing the fate of the province with the help of Allah, adding the opponents are not getting out of the politics of protests, rallies and sit-ins. In a province where the party has been in power for 11 years, only Maula Jatt's serial is being aired. The provincial minister said that whenever the country comes on track, some sedition comes out to disrupt it. Pakistan can no longer afford any sedition. Every sedition will be crushed with the help of the nation. Those who were supposed to bring about a revolution are now fighting among themselves, she added. Pakistan's cuisine Azma Bokhari said that the fight between two women (Nand Bhavaji) has created five groups among the "Fitna" party.

KP CM distributes scholarships to 82 students under EEF

Speaking on the occasion the CM announced to increase the endowment fund from Rs 1.2 billion to 2.4 billion. He said the provincial government has planned to reduce tuition fees by half in all higher education institutions starting next fiscal year

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Tuesday distributed fully funded distributed scholarship certificates to 82 students under Education Endowment Fund (EEF). The event was attended by Provincial Education Minister Meena Khan Afridi, government officials, students, and their parents. The scholarships were fully funded and cover tuition fees, accommodation, and food allowances. On the occasion it was informed that so far 526 scholarships worth Rs 615 million have been awarded under the

EEF. This included 366 undergraduate and 150 graduate scholarships for top Pakistani educational institutions. Ten graduate scholarships have been awarded for studies in international universities. Pakistan's cuisine Speaking on the occasion the CM announced to increase the endowment fund from Rs 1.2 billion to 2.4 billion. He said the provincial government has planned to reduce tuition fees by half in all higher education institutions starting next fiscal year. The CM emphasized invest-

ing in education as a priority to secure a better future for children. He highlighted a 44 percent increase in provincial revenue over the past eight months and assured continued efforts to boost resources for educational initiatives. He encouraged youth to excel on national and international platforms, projecting a positive image of the province, country, and Islam. Gandapur congratulated the scholarship recipients and reiterated the provincial government's commitment to supporting youth as a valuable asset to the nation.—DNA

Car lifter killed in encounter with Taxila Police

RAWALPINDI :A car lifter was killed in an encounter with the Taxila Police while his accomplices escaped on Tuesday, a Rawalpindi Police spokesman said. The deceased identified as Naseem Khan was wanted in several cases of murder, robbery and car theft, and had been declared a proclaimed offender. The spokesman said the accused were fleeing after stealing a Suzuki Cultus car from Wah Saddar, when they opened fire on a police party in Taxila area. In the ensuing exchange of fire, Naseem Khan was shot dead while his accomplices managed to flee leaving behind the stolen car.—APP

The real work for "Suthra Punjab" begins now, says Minister

LAHORE: Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that after the launch of the Suthra Punjab program, the real work has started now. Masses' expectations had to be met in every case. He was addressing a video link meeting of CEOs of waste management companies at Civil Secretariat here on Tuesday. Special Secretary Local Government Asia Gul was also present. The Minister congratulated the CEOs on the successful launch of Suthra Punjab program, adding that everyone worked day and night to fulfill the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. However, a lot of work was needed to be done. He expressed the determination to remove the shortcomings within three months. "We have to develop such a system of cleanliness which could achieve the desired results.—APP

Punjab joins global campaign against gender-based violence

LAHORE :Parliamentary Secretary for Women Development Department, Sadia Taimour, has said that economic progress is impossible without the active participation of women. She stated this while addressing a significant event organized at a local hotel to mark the global campaign of "16 Days of Activism" against gender-based violence. The event brought together key stakeholders from various sectors, including the textile industry, to discuss challenges and opportunities in combating gender-based disparities and promoting inclusivity across Pakistan. During the event, a comprehensive report on the analysis of data collected by the Disability Assessment Board, spearheaded by the Women Development Department, was officially launched. The report highlights critical insights into the

prevalence and nature of disabilities in women of Pakistan, serving as a foundation for informed policymaking and targeted interventions to empower individuals with disabilities. Sadia Taimour stressed the government's proactive efforts to address women's issues, including implementing strict workplace safety laws and creating policies for women's inclusion across all sectors. Romina, Coordinator for Sustainable Economic Development, Training, and Employment at GLZ, emphasized the need for collaborative policies to address the challenges faced by women and persons with disabilities. She pointed out the importance of shelter homes, legal aid, and stricter enforcement of workplace protection laws, while also calling for more effective awareness campaigns to bring

about societal change. Secretary Women Development, Usman Ali Khan, highlighted the societal issue of excluding women from development processes, stressing that it undermines national progress. He announced the launch of new training programs to enhance women's skills and ensure their inclusion in the workforce. He also outlined initiatives taken to safeguard the rights of women with disabilities and reaffirmed the department's progress toward gender equality in policy frameworks. The event also featured panel discussions, success stories, and interactive sessions with industry leaders, civil society representatives, and government officials, shedding light on strategies to enhance the participation of women and persons with disabilities in Pakistan's workforce.—APP

Peace and justice hindered by actions of followers, not religion

ISLAMABAD: Challenges to peace and justice largely arise from the misinterpretations and actions of followers rather than the essence of religion itself. Manipulated religious teachings, used for personal, political, or ideological gains, frequently fuel conflicts. In this context, a common ground for global unity through diverse paths can be established by teaching and embodying the true essence of faith. This was said by Justice Dr Syed Muhammed Anwer, judge, Federal Shariat Court, at the concluding session of an international seminar titled "The Role of Religions in Fostering Peace, Harmony, and Justice," held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The session was also addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, and Prof Dr Mohyuddin Hashmi, dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. Justice Syed Anwer, drawing attention to Pakistan's unique constitutional and symbolic recognition of religious minorities, highlighted the reflection of religious inclusivity in the national flag and its definition of minorities. Unlike many nations, Pakistan's framework considers minorities solely based on religious beliefs, not caste, color, or creed, ensuring equal constitutional rights for all citizens. However, he acknowledged that the ideal of equality is not always reflected in practice, urging a renewed focus on teaching and promoting the true values of religion. Exploring the contrasting experiences of minorities in secular and religious states, the speaker pointed out that secular states often face challenges in ensuring the safety and rights of their minority populations. He emphasized the multifaceted nature of the issue, noting that faith communities need to prioritize the dissemination of their core messages of peace and mutual respect. Presenting his insights on the way forward, Khalid Rahman underscored the complexity of creating a just environment, emphasizing that the prevailing narratives and structures are often shaped by powerful elites who primarily benefit from the status quo. He stressed that the challenges attributed to religion are equally rooted in governance and decision-making processes dominated by these elite groups. He argued that the inequities and conflicts observed globally are not the result of religious teachings but stem from systemic issues perpetuated by those in authority. Highlighting the global arms trade as an example, he noted that the largest weapons producers are also the nations advocating peace, illustrating the contradictions in elite-driven policies. He called for a critical examination of governance structures and the roles of all stakeholders, urging a shift from assigning blame to religion toward addressing the socio-political systems and economic interests that drive inequality and conflict. Earlier, Ambassador Abrar Hussain shared the key takeaways from the day-long seminar, noting the enduring relevance of religion in addressing humanity's quest for peace, justice.—DNA

UN Women's Rolling Resistance concludes with call to end gender-based violence

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Rolling Resistance: Theatre on Wheels campaign, a cornerstone of UN Women Pakistan's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, reached its powerful conclusion at the Pak-China Friendship Center in Islamabad. This groundbreaking initiative, which has travelled across Pakistan, delivered its poignant message of #Koi-Jawaz-Nahi (#NoExcuse) to a national audience, sparking dialogue and inspiring collective action against gender-based violence (GBV). Mohamed Yahya, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, highlighted the United Nations' commitment to supporting gender equality "As we conclude this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, I want to honor the resilience of survivors of domestic violence. These women and girls have faced unimaginable pain, yet their courage

to rebuild their lives inspires us all." He further added, "Our mission is unwavering: to create a world where survivors are not only heard but also empowered. This requires ensuring access to justice, fostering financial independence, and building support systems that enable women to reclaim their lives and thrive." The event featured a final performance on the iconic Rolling

Resistance mobile theatre truck, delivering a compelling narrative on the importance of justice for survivors and accountability for perpetrators. Students, activists, and policymakers engaged in post-performance discussions, sharing insights and strategies for fostering safer communities. Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative Designate UN Women Pakistan, opened the event, emphasizing the cam-

aign's transformative journey: "Gender-based violence is not merely a women's issue; it is a profound human rights crisis that impacts every aspect of society. Achieving gender equality and eradicating gender-based violence requires the unwavering dedication of individuals, organizations, and institutions. Campaigns like Rolling Resistance and The Invisible exemplify the power of collaboration and

the transformative potential of united efforts." In parallel with Rolling Resistance, UN Women launched Invisible campaign. This powerful initiative reinterprets traditional bridal henna designs, using them to trace bruises and injuries that reveal hidden stories of abuse. The campaign's evocative imagery—a black eye, marks of strangulation, and other signs of violence—brings the invisible scars of domestic violence into stark focus, amplifying the voices of survivors and making their silent suffering visible to all. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to gender equality. She said, "The government of Pakistan is committed to ensuring that Pakistan becomes a country where women and girls can thrive without the shadow of violence. Rolling Resistance is a testament to the power of grassroots advocacy, and we are proud to support this impactful initiative."



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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
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WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
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NUML entrepreneurship Gala empowers youth

Rector NUML, Major Gen (r) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M), along with the Chief Guest, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, DG NUML, Brig Shahzad Munir, visited different stalls and interacted with students. Rector NUML commended the students' efforts, highlighting their role as the future of the nation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Management Sciences at the National University of Modern Languages successfully organized the Entrepreneurship Gala 2024 on Tuesday, showcasing the creative talent and entrepreneurial spirit of its students. The event, aimed at promoting innovation and exploring alternative employment avenues, featured an array of stalls that highlighted Pakistan's rich cultural diversity and students' entrepreneurial potential. The gala featured a wide range of products, including traditional dresses, shawls, stuffed toys, paintings, calligraphy, perfumes, handicrafts, jewellery, shoes, mobile accessories, garments, arts, food items, sweets, and soups. Each stall reflected the creativity and business acumen of NUML students, offering them a platform to blend theoretical knowledge with practical skills in marketing, management, and

entrepreneurship. Rector NUML, Major Gen (r) Shahid Mehmood Kayani HI(M), along with the Chief Guest, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, DG NUML, Brig Shahzad Munir, visited different stalls and interacted with students. Rector NUML commended the students' efforts, highlighting their role as the future of the nation. "Our youth, which constitutes 64% of the population, has immense potential to drive economic prosperity and national development. Events like this not only encourage students but also prepare them for professional challenges," he remarked. The Rector also thanked Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan for his support and called for continued collaboration to empower NUML's students. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, CEO of Centaurus Mall and the event's chief guest lauded the confidence and ingenuity of the students. "These young individuals are the future of Pakistan," he said while visiting the stalls. He praised NUML's initiative for providing students with opportunities to

showcase their entrepreneurial talent and emphasized the need to overcome marketing



challenges in Pakistan. He also expressed his willingness to collaborate with NUML to create an environment that fosters innovation and sup-

ports young entrepreneurs. The Entrepreneurship Gala 2024 offered a unique blend

with the tools necessary to build successful careers in a competitive world. The

of fun, learning, and skill development. By providing students with hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, NUML aims to equip them

university plans to organize similar events in the future to further encourage innovation and contribute to Pakistan's economic growth.

Chairman CDA chairs 17th Board meeting

ISLAMABAD: The 17th meeting of the CDA Board was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Muhammad Ali Randhawa at the CDA headquarters. All board members of the CDA attended the meeting, where various agendas were reviewed, and various decisions and approvals were made. The meeting decided to accord approval for the reorganization of the Enforcement Wing to enhance its efficiency. In this connection, a three-member committee comprising Member Finance, Member Admin, and Member Technology was constituted to oversee this reorganization. The committee will present its recommendations in the next meeting to improve the capabilities and efficiency of the Enforcement Wing. The CDA Board also decided to streamline the Security Directorate to ensure discipline within the organization. The same committee comprising three members would submit recommendations for this restructuring. The CDA Board approved the extension of the e-balling agreement between CDA and NADRA. During the meeting, it was also decided to allocate space for the Smart Islamabad Initiative at the Jinnah Convention Center. The meeting also included deliberations on regulations for establishing electric vehicle (EV) charging points at existing and new fuel stations in Islamabad. It was decided that consultations and feedback would be sought from all stakeholders, ensuring the alignment of these regulations with the Federal Government's policy. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized initiating the shifting CDA's transport fleet to electric vehicles. The meeting also discussed the plots in Sector I-17 which have been allocated to different institutions according to the policy. Furthermore, the Board approved the hiring of consultants under Rule 42(f) for designing of the Khayaban-e-Iqbal signal-free corridor project. These decisions underscore CDA's commitment to sustainable urban development, enhancing administrative efficiency, better public service delivery and fostering innovation for a modern Islamabad.—DNA

Inquiry ordered into irregularities in Wildlife dept

The outcomes will not only address the current concerns but may also set a precedent for strengthening accountability mechanisms

MUMTAZ BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: On September 23, 2024, an investigative report published in the Islamabad Post brought to light alleged irregularities within the Punjab Wildlife Department. These allegations have sparked widespread concern and prompted swift action from the

provincial administration. Following the publication, the Chief Secretary of Punjab took notice of the allegations and promptly directed a formal inquiry to investigate the matter thoroughly. This move by the Chief Secretary reflects the Punjab government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance. It also underscores the growing role

of investigative journalism in highlighting issues of public interest and prompting corrective action from authorities. As the inquiry unfolds, it is expected that further details about the alleged irregularities and the scope of the investigation will emerge. The findings of the inquiry will likely play a key role in determining the future course of action, including reforms or disciplinary

measures aimed at ensuring improved functioning of the department. The situation continues to evolve, with updates anticipated as the inquiry progresses. The outcomes will not only address the current concerns but may also set a precedent for strengthening accountability mechanisms in other government departments.

RCCI, PABF organizes Pak-America Business Summit

US diplomat highlights economic partnership

RCCI President Usman Shaukat in his keynote address emphasized the vast potential for increased trade and investment, urging stronger collaboration to achieve mutual economic goals

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), in collaboration with the Pak America Business Forum (PABF), organized the 5th Pak-America Business Summit at a local hotel in Islamabad. RCCI President Usman Shaukat in his keynote address emphasized the vast potential for increased trade and investment, urging stronger collaboration to achieve mutual economic goals. He said that the major purpose of the summit was to provide an opportunity to exchange the views and identify the hurdles in trade ties between the two business communities. Also, enhance cooperation with key organizations and sector specific information sharing in both countries to ensure cohesive and coordinated strategies in promoting U.S. private sector interests in Pakistan, he added. Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam who was the chief guest on the occasion, described Pakistan and the U.S. as "best friends and trading partners," calling for con-



tinued cooperation in environmental and business initiatives. U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker highlighted that the United States is Pakistan's largest export market, accounting for approximately 16% of Pakistan's total exports annually. She said, "Over 80 U.S. firms in Pakistan directly employ 120,000 Pakistanis and indirectly provide livelihoods for over 1 million workers. Our teams actively connect American

and Pakistani businesses, fostering stronger trade and economic ties." Chairman PABF Waqar Khan stated the forum's mission is to enhance trade relations and create new opportunities for Pakistani and American businesses. President PABF Anwar Azam assured full support for Pakistani businesses aiming to expand into the U.S. market, reiterating the forum's role as a key enabler.

President FPCCI stresses need to increase trade links between SAARC countries

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of member countries headed by President SAARC Chamber Jassimuddin visited the FPCCI Capital Office, President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh welcomed the delegation to the capital office. The delegation included representatives of the business community of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. In the meeting, they discussed improving trade, business and business-to-business relations between SAARC countries. Emphasizing on improving mutual relations for the promotion of trade in the SAARC region, President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Shaikh said on the occasion that SAARC countries have wide opportunities for increasing business and trade relations with each other. are, the current trade volume between SAARC member countries is far below the potential, the large population, talented and hardworking people of SAARC countries can take economic cooperation to new heights, the private sector can bring the SAARC region to each other. Pakistan wants to mobilize the SAARC countries and take advantage of the potential of the region, the regional trade model is very successful worldwide, it needs to be leveraged. President SAARC Chamber Jassimuddin said at the event that he is very happy to come to Pakistan, it is hoped that this visit will lead to the promotion of mutual cooperation, 35% of the world's population lives in the SAARC region, which is a huge market. The region needs to learn from the European Union, ASEAN and other successful regional organizations. The top priority of the business community of SAARC member countries is to increase trade. SAARC member countries can benefit from each other's capabilities.—DAN

HR council hosts 4th int'l awards show

ISLAMABAD: The fourth International Human Rights Awards Show, organized by the Human Rights Council of Pakistan, was held in Islamabad to mark International Human Rights Day. The event included a photo exhibition highlighting atrocities in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir, a session on climate change with experts discussing its threats, and an awards ceremony honoring 30 individuals for their contributions to human rights. The conference, chaired by Jamshed Hussain, emphasized the importance of human rights protection and condemned injustices and violations across the country. The event kicked off with a photo exhibition during the opening ceremony. Ms. Mushaal Hussain Mulkick, the chief guest of the exhibition, focused on the photographs depicting the atrocities in Palestine and Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The second session of the conference focused on Climate Change, hosted by Roshan Deen Diamari, Chief Spokesperson of the Pakistan Human Rights Council. The panel featured Dr. Asif Khan, Dr. Malik, Dr. Atif Wazir, and Ms. Hasina. Experts delved into the impacts of climate change on glaciers, rising temperatures, and their potential threats. The session's chief guest, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, highlighted the dangers of climate change and called for a unified strategy to address the issue.—DNA

Seven held in crackdown against encroachments

ISLAMABAD: The district administration on Tuesday intensified its drive against encroachments, illegal parking, and smoke-emitting vehicles and impounded five vehicles and arrested seven persons. In a targeted operation led by the Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sadder, seven individuals were arrested for violating city regulations within the jurisdiction of Thana Sabzi Mandi, said an Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration spokesman. Five vehicles identified for emitting excessive smoke were also impounded and taken to the local police station for further action, he added.—APP

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Briefs

Muqam urges on Int'l community to take action against India

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and SAFFRON Engineer Amir Muqam urged on the international community to take action against India about the human rights violations in IIOJK. The minister said in his message on the eve of International Human Rights Day, he said that Today, the whole world is celebrating International Human Rights Day and this day reminded the world to uphold the protection of human rights. On International Human Rights Day, we should not forget our brothers and sisters in the illegally occupied Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The serious human rights violations in the illegal Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir also require urgent attention from the international community, including the United Nations. The desecration of women in occupied Kashmir is a daily practice for the Indian army and humanity has been humiliated in the occupied valley for the past several years. India continuously committing atrocities in occupied Kashmir and the Indian army has so far martyred millions of Kashmiris. Thousands of women have become widows, thousands of Kashmiri children have become orphans. The world must understand that there is no peace in the world without a solution to the Kashmir issue, India is changing the population ratio in occupied Kashmir-Pakistan also pledges to continue its moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiris to achieve their legitimate right to self-determination.

The Government of Pakistan will continue to work for justice, equality, dignity and human rights for all.—APP

Crackdown on professional beggars

ISLAMABAD: The district administration has intensified its efforts to curb the menace of professional begging in the federal capital, with 13 individuals arrested in recent operations. According to the spokesman of the administration, in a recent move, the district administration, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (Rural), arrested 13 professional beggars. The arrests were carried out in the jurisdictions of Lohi Bher and Humak police stations. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, has urged residents to actively support the ongoing drive against professional begging. He stressed the importance of collective action to tackle this issue and appealed the residents to cooperate with authorities and report incidents of organized begging. Memon called upon the public to avoid giving money to individuals begging at public places, as it could inadvertently support these networks. Instead, he encouraged people to support recognised charitable organisations that work to address poverty and provide assistance to those in need.

Hybrid rice seed a game-changer for Pakistan

Pakistan, being a close neighbor and strategic partner of China, has ample opportunities for collaboration”

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Hybrid rice seed has been a game-changer for Pakistan. After more than a decade of trials, the country has exported hybrid rice to a third-party market, marking a major milestone in Sino-Pak agricultural cooperation. This was stated by Dr. Rasheed, who has more than 15 years of experience in agribusiness and is keen to learn new trends and explore potential partnerships during the congress. Last week, he attended ASC the annual flagship event of the Asian Seed Association (APSA), that was held in Sanya, Hainan, China in the recent week, under the theme “Riding

Court grants FIA two-day remand of five culprits

The investigation officer stated that the signatures on the recruitment documents were forged and the appointments were carried out without institutional consent. “The managing director and HR manager of APP confirmed that these appointments were neither authorized nor documented

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A civil judge/Judicial Magistrate Islamabad (West) Ahmed Shehzad Gondal on Tuesday handed over five accused, including the main culprit Arshad Majeed Chaudhry, to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on a two-day physical remand in the APP fake appointments case. The Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate Ahmed Shehzad Gondal granted two-day remand on Tuesday, allowing further investigation into the allegations of illegal appointments and financial irregularities at the national news agency. The FIA presented former APP Manager Accounts Arshad Majeed Chaudhry, his son Taimur Arshad, and three other accused Saad Yousuf, Qaiser Jawad, and Fawad Khan before the court. The investigation agency sought a seven-day remand to recover documents and funds linked to the

alleged fraudulent activities. FIA Sub-Inspector Ehtesham Gondal informed the court that Arshad Majeed authorized salary payments to 18 employees who were recruited illegally through forged documents. According to the FIA, the appointments lacked approval from APP's management, were not recorded in the HR department, and had no accompanying medical reports.

The investigation officer stated that the signatures on the recruitment documents were forged and the appointments were carried out without institutional consent. “The managing director and HR manager of APP confirmed that these appointments were neither authorized nor documented,” Gondal told the court. The FIA further alleged that most of the accused were relatives of Arshad Majeed, Moazzam Javed Khokhar, Afzal Hans, Muhammad Zubair, Attiq Ur Rehman and Pervaiz Ahmed etc, suggesting their cen-

tral role in the scam. The investigation revealed that some of the beneficiaries received salaries for three months before the scheme was uncovered. The legal representatives for the accused opposed the physical remand, arguing that the FIA had sufficient time for investigation and that further custody was unnecessary. Amir Abbas Malik represented Arshad Majeed and Taimur Arshad, while Rashid Umar Aulakh appeared for Saad Yousuf. The FIA argued that the remand was essential for the recovery of funds and forged documents. Moreover, Sub-Inspector Gondal emphasized that records were still in the possession of Arshad Majeed, and their retrieval required physical custody of the accused. The court was also informed that APP's legal advisor, Khurram Baig, had confirmed the forgery allegations. He stated that Arshad Majeed prepared fake papers and issued salaries to unauthorized individ-

uals. The approval process bypassed the appointing authorities and left no trace in HR records. The FIA arrested the accused immediately after the Special Judge Central rejected their interim bails. During the hearing, the civil judge directed the FIA to submit the departmental inquiry report conducted by APP. He also instructed investigators to determine whether the appointments were entirely fake or partially unauthorized. The judge observed that recovering the misappropriated funds was crucial to resolving the case. “Further investigation will establish the extent of wrongdoing and identify other potential beneficiaries,” he remarked.

The FIA noted that Taimur Arshad, son of Arshad Majeed, was a direct beneficiary of the scheme. The agency stated that all relevant records and financial documents were under the custody of Arshad Majeed. The FIA's Ehtesham Gondal informed the court

that efforts to recover the funds distributed as salaries to the 18 alleged recruits are ongoing. The court remanded the five accused into FIA custody for two days, allowing the agency to continue its investigation.

The case emerged after Managing Director APP Muhammad Asim Khichi filed a complaint regarding irregularities done by Moazzam Javed, Haseeb Ahsan, Khawaja Asif and Afzal Hans by appointing fake employees mostly their relatives. The FIA registered an FIR against the accused, alleging forgery and embezzlement. The initial findings revealed that unauthorized appointments were made using forged signatures and fake documents.

The investigation aimed to recover funds and hold those involved accountable. Further hearings are expected to uncover additional details about the alleged misuse of authority and financial misconduct.

Naqvi reaffirms commitment to human rights

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi delivered a powerful message on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, highlighting the importance of equality, religious freedom, and the protection of fundamental rights for all citizens in Pakistan. In his statement, Naqvi emphasized the timeless teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), describing them as a universal message of human rights for all of humanity. “Islam is a champion of human rights,” he said, reiterating the faith's foundational principles of justice and equality. Naqvi assured that every citizen in Pakistan is entitled to equal rights, while minorities enjoy complete religious freedom. He underscored that ensuring basic human rights is the defining characteristic of any civilized society and affirmed the state's primary responsibility to protect these rights. “The government is firmly committed to safeguarding human rights,” Naqvi stated, calling for a renewed dedication from all segments of society to uphold the rights and dignity of every individual. On this significant day, Naqvi urged citizens to reaffirm their commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, ensuring a just and inclusive society for future generations.—APP

PTA launches cybersecurity awareness week

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has launched Cybersecurity Awareness Week 2024, which will run from December 9 to 15. This week-long initiative aims to bolster awareness of digital safety at the individual and consumer levels. It will focus on online security, data privacy, and the legal aspects of cybercrimes under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016. According to a news release, the PTA will host expert discussions to equip individuals and organizations with essential knowledge to protect themselves from emerging cyber threats. PTA invites citizens, businesses, and educational institutions to participate and strengthen Pakistan's cybersecurity environment by following our social media handles and posting and resharing our content.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Dec10-Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) hold a banner and shouting slogans during protest against Indian Army on the eve of International Human Rights Day, near UNO office at Shamash gate, in the Federal Capital.

Modern computer lab inaugurated in IMCG F-8/1

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Model College for Girls IMCG F-8/1, had the honor of hosting Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary and Federal Secretary for the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, to inaugurate the newly renovated computer lab. The esteemed guests were warmly received by students and Principal Prof. Aasiya Rafique Malik of college along with the Vice Principal and faculty members. The occasion marked a significant milestone in the college's journey toward modernizing its educational infrastructure. The highlight of the visit was the inauguration of the newly extended and revamped computer lab. Funded by Pak Arab Refinery company with a generous donation of Rs. 7 million, the lab now boasts 30 additional computer systems, increasing its capacity to accommodate over 60 students.

The lab is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including an Interactive LED donated by Pakistan Petroleum by funding Rs 2 million. The newly renovated facilities at IMCG, F-8/1, demonstrate a significant improvement in infrastructure to support academic and extracurricular activities. Farah Naz in her speech said that now this College has newly established Mother-Child Care Unit provides first aid and medical facilities, catering to the needs of students and mothers from the community. The upgraded library offers enhanced resources to promote academic growth, while the Mind Games Room promotes critical thinking and logic through activities like chess, Scrabble, and crossword puzzles, becoming a favorite space for both students and teachers. The Smart Classroom introduces advanced technology, enabling students to engage in digital learning and

assessments through the E-Taleem LMS. The Ministry has also added an Early Childhood Education Room to address the educational and social needs of young learners. Talking to the media Federal secretary Moin Wani briefed that renovations of the washrooms in the junior and senior sections were completed with Rs. 1.15 million and the staff room has been extended to provide a peaceful and accommodating workspace for teachers. These projects stand as an excellent example of public-private partnership and by the sponsor and contributions by different companies' colleges have significantly enhanced the educational infrastructure and overall learning environment. He added The visit concluded on a highly positive note, with the chief guest applauding the college's initiatives and the collaborative efforts that made these advancements possible.

MoU to foster technological innovation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Pakistan's cuisine According to a news release issued here Tuesday this collaboration aims to foster technological innovation and address dynamic policy and regulatory challenges. The collaborative model between PTA and HEC is expected to drive improvements in areas such as curriculum development, the creation of specialized training programs, regulatory innovation workshops and aligning research with real-world problems by incorporating inputs from experts in the telecom/ICT industry. Moreover, industry partners can provide academia with access to resources such as equipment and data, while also sharing real-world problems with researchers to help develop innovative applications. The heads of both institutions have committed to ensuring that the MoU is effectively implemented to achieve the desired results.—DNA

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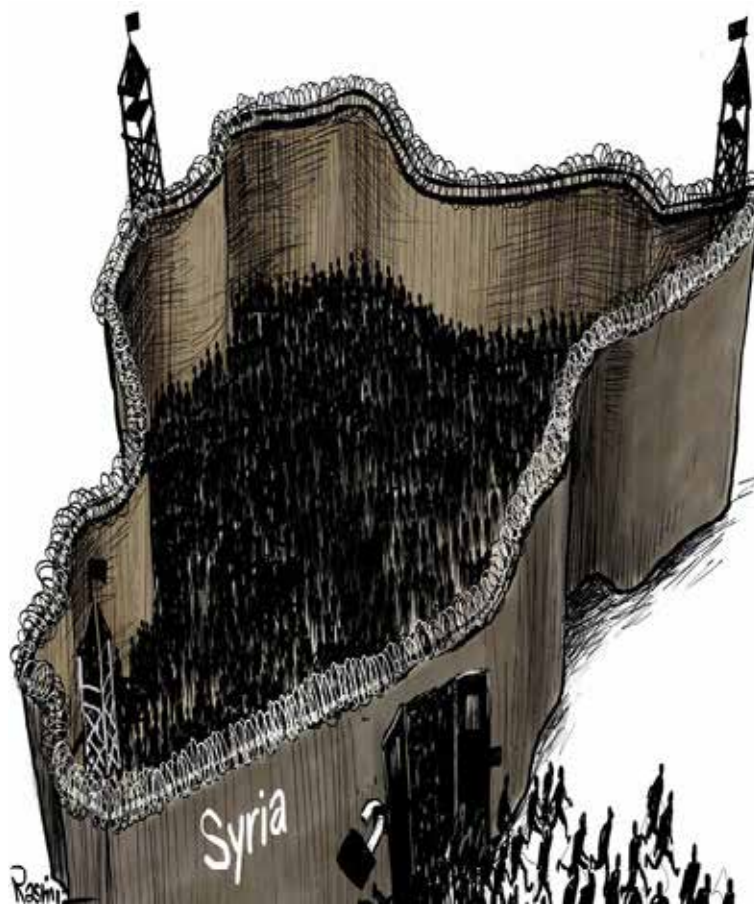
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Psychological concepts failed to explain Gaza

EMMANUEL Kosadinos, a member of the French-speaking mental health network in Palestine, announced that the trauma experienced by Palestinians is shaped by the ongoing violence they face, noting that concepts such as post-traumatic stress disorder cannot explain this reality, "because there is no 'post' trauma where there is no moment of relief or return to a normal environment; it is a continuous trauma." The writer explained in his blog on Mediapart that continuous humiliation lies at the heart of this experience, which is a form of trauma rarely recognized in mainstream clinical discourse. He said this humiliation, along with other acts of violence, strikes at the collective identity of Palestinians and deeply affects not only individuals but also the very fabric of their community. In the article referring to the statement of Palestinian psychologist Samah Jabr at a conference held in Istanbul, the writer points out that dominant psychiatry is often complicit in dehumanization. He emphasizes that colonial psychiatry has historically served as a tool of control, as seen in Algeria, where false scientific theories were used to strip indigenous populations of their humanity. He said, "Today, similar tactics are used in Palestine, where resistance fighters are often described as mentally unstable. Therefore, mental health practitioners must reject these practices, focus on recognition and empowerment, and refrain from pathologizing trauma or exerting control over victims." The writer warns that resilience in the Palestinian context goes beyond mere survival; the concept of resilience embodies an active and forward-looking response to the future. This includes a variety of individual and collective actions, from creative initiatives to community organizing. Documenting stories of suffering and resistance plays a crucial role in countering dominant narratives, and thus Palestinians must reveal their hidden truths and amplify them to challenge global indifference and denial. The writer notes that this conflict has broader implications—normalizing violence against the Palestinian people and the erosion of international law reflect a global moral decline. Therefore, the echoes of these injustices resonate beyond Gaza, highlighting similarities with other colonial contexts where humanity has been denied and resistance has been pathologized. The writer points out that acts of genocide are often preceded by rhetoric portraying Palestinian women as a "demographic threat," and actions like building parking lots over mass graves reveal an ongoing effort to erase Palestinian history and identity. In this context, mental health becomes a field of struggle and a form of resistance. With the collapse of the mental health system in the first two weeks of escalating violence, leaving tens of thousands of people in Gaza without care, Palestinians continue to rely on culturally rooted practices, such as reciting Quranic verses to strengthen their perseverance, and on collective initiatives that prioritize healing based on available community resources. The writer adds that Palestinians living abroad also suffer from trauma, experiencing survivor's guilt, helplessness, and disconnection from their homeland. Supporting these individuals requires recognizing their struggles and helping them transform their anger and despair into meaningful action.



Russia, Ukraine and Trump

POLITICAL promises are easy to make and hard to keep. US president-elect Donald Trump once said that if he won a second term he would end the Ukraine war in a day. So far, Ukraine and Russia disagree: even with the possibility of the incoming administration halting US weapons supply to Kyiv or its dangling of sanctions relief for Moscow, neither side looks ready for a ceasefire. A negotiated settlement is even further over the horizon. And Europe is doubling down on support for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, realising accurately its collective defence is directly threatened by Russian President Vladimir Putin's land grab and mass murder of civilians. There is no reason to believe Putin will stop his aggression, as the annexations of Crimea and Donbas have shown. That poses an existential risk to democratic Europe, one that Nato, the transatlantic security alliance, cannot leave unaddressed. Wars generally cease when there is either a definitive military win or both sides are exhausted by violence. Until that threshold of maximum pain is breached, one side or the other will continue the fight, using a temporary truce to regroup, re-arm and redeploy. At the bottom of that pit of collective destruction lies the opening for a negotiated settlement. Neither side has fallen that low. It is likely that Russia calculates that with the addition of North Korean troops and weapons, it can sustain the fighting for some time. The rouble may be collapsing against the US dollar, but Pyongyang is not getting paid in dollars. As cold weather grips the region, Russia's sanctions-busting oil sales will continue to earn Moscow the much-needed hard currency to keep the war effort afloat. Political uncertainty in Europe, including potential changes in the German and French leadership, gives Russia even more reason to keep its war machine running. Troops are holding and have made gains in an arc of control that includes nearly the entire eastern flank of Ukraine, stretching from Crimea through Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, Donbas and Luhansk. Were the European Union to falter in its support, and the United States pull back weapons transfers, Moscow is likely to see Ukraine as considerably weakened. Ukraine also shows no signs of giving up its existential fight. Embattled German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said that support for Ukraine "will not waver". EU countries have shown a willingness to keep Russian troops as far from their borders as possible, providing advanced weapons systems to Zelensky. There is little sign they will ease up now. Both Moscow and Kyiv are likely to uphold the illusion of compromise once Trump takes office. In the closely watched first days of any new US administration, energy and resources will be applied to secure the promise of an instant peace. Neither side has much to lose in entertaining Trump's penchant for hyperbole. But once negotiations begin, if they start at all, they will be bogged down by the minutiae of who controls what and for how long. As the unfolding civil war in Syria shows, dramatic shifts can occur while regional powers attempt to influence events far from their shores. World leaders react to the end of the Assad regime in Syria Part of what makes a settlement so difficult is the lack of common ground on which negotiations rely. The incoming Trump administration is reportedly evaluating competing proposals.

Martial law in South Korea and Regional Tension

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



While Yoon's declaration did not explicitly reference North Korea, developments on the Korean Peninsula likely influenced the decision. Pyongyang's increased military activities, including missile tests and rhetorical threats, have heightened security concerns in South Korea.

By linking domestic opposition to North Korea sympathizers, Yoon attempted to portray martial law as a safeguard against both internal and external threats. This strategy, however, risked deepening domestic divisions. Critics argued that equating political dissent with national security threats undermined democratic...

ON December 3, 2024, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol took the extraordinary step of declaring martial law, accusing the opposition Democratic Party of engaging in "anti-state activities" and attempting to obstruct governmental operations. This sudden decision sparked an immediate response from lawmakers, with 190 of South Korea's 300 parliamentarians convening to demand its revocation. Under the South Korean Constitution, the president is obligated to respect such an order, and Yoon ultimately rescinded the declaration within hours. This event posed a critical test of South Korea's democratic resilience, its regional geopolitical role, and the durability of its alliances. The invocation of martial law is not unprecedented in South Korea's history. Such measures have been implemented during periods of intense political turmoil, often coinciding with military coups. Notable examples include the 1979 declaration of martial law, which was accompanied by widespread protests and repression. This period ultimately catalyzed the pro-democracy movement that culminated in South Korea's full transition to democracy in 1987. However, the 2024 declaration marked the first use of martial law in nearly 45 years and occurred under significantly different circumstances. Unlike previous instances, Yoon's declaration of "emergency martial law" was not a response to war or rebellion. Instead, it was framed as a necessary step to address a multifaceted crisis, including legislative gridlock, medical strikes, and alleged threats from North Korea. The decision raised questions about the appropriateness of martial law as a tool to resolve political and social disputes in a democratic society.

Martial law in South Korea suspends civilian authority and grants broad powers to the military. Under such a regime, the president can dissolve parliament, restrict public demonstrations, and impose additional measures deemed necessary to restore order. In this case, Yoon's declaration included the dissolution of parliament, a ban on public demonstrations, and an order for striking medical interns and residents to return to work within 48 hours. The president justified these measures by citing a constitutional crisis and accusing the opposition of undermining the state. However, the opposition Democratic Party

argued that the declaration was an overreach, designed to stifle dissent and consolidate executive power. The swift parliamentary vote against the declaration underscored the strength of South Korea's democratic institutions and the commitment of its lawmakers to preserving constitutional norms. At the heart of Yoon's decision was the political impasse between his administration and the opposition-controlled parliament. The Democratic Party had blocked critical legislation, including the 2025 budget bill, which left the government unable to address urgent economic and social issues. Additionally, efforts to impeach prosecutors who had declined to charge Yoon's wife with alleged investment fraud further exacerbated tensions. Beyond political gridlock, labor unrest, particularly in the healthcare sector, contributed to the sense of crisis. Striking junior doctors and other medical workers disrupted essential medical services, creating public discontent. By declaring martial law, Yoon sought to reassert control and compel a return to normalcy. However, his framing of these issues as "anti-state" activities drew criticism for conflating legitimate political opposition with subversive threats.

While Yoon's declaration did not explicitly reference North Korea, developments on the Korean Peninsula likely influenced the decision. Pyongyang's increased military activities, including missile tests and rhetorical threats, have heightened security concerns in South Korea. By linking domestic opposition to North Korea sympathizers, Yoon attempted to portray martial law as a safeguard against both internal and external threats. This strategy, however, risked deepening domestic divisions. Critics argued that equating political dissent with national security threats undermined democratic freedoms and diverted attention from genuine security challenges posed by North Korea. Moreover, a government preoccupied with internal disputes would be less effective in addressing external threats, potentially emboldening Pyongyang to exploit the situation. The invocation of martial law had significant implications for South Korea's regional and international standing. Domestically, it threatened to erode public trust in democratic institutions and

revive memories of past authoritarian regimes. Internationally, it raised concerns about the stability of a key U.S. ally in East Asia and its ability to uphold democratic values. The United States, with approximately 28,500 troops stationed in South Korea, has a stake in the country's stability. A prolonged period of martial law could have strained the U.S.-South Korea alliance, complicating joint efforts to counter North Korean aggression. It could also have disrupted trilateral cooperation with Japan, which is critical for maintaining the regional balance of power. Moreover, South Korea's democratic backsliding could have undermined its credibility as a proponent of liberal values in the Indo-Pacific region. This, in turn, could have provided propaganda fodder for authoritarian regimes seeking to challenge the global democratic order. The swift parliamentary response to Yoon's declaration demonstrated the resilience of South Korea's democratic institutions. Lawmakers from across the political spectrum united to defend constitutional norms, forcing the president to revoke martial law within hours. This outcome reinforced the principle that executive power is subject to legislative oversight, even in times of crisis.

Civil society also played a crucial role in resisting the imposition of martial law. Protests and statements from advocacy groups highlighted the importance of safeguarding democratic freedoms and holding the government accountable. These efforts underscored the maturity of South Korea's democracy and its capacity to withstand challenges to its constitutional order. The December 3 declaration of martial law serves as a cautionary tale about the limits of executive authority in a democratic system. It underscores the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between legitimate political dissent and threats to national security. It also highlights the risks of using extraordinary measures to address routine political disputes. For South Korea, the incident underscores the need for continued vigilance in protecting democratic norms and institutions. It also points to the importance of dialogue and compromise in resolving political and social conflicts. In the absence of such mechanisms, crises are likely to recur, with potentially destabilizing consequences for the nation and the region.

An immoral proposal to resolve the Palestine question

Alex Loi

What can possibly go wrong? In this context, the future of the Palestinians, having been slaughtered for more than a year in Gaza, and forcibly displaced and murdered in the hundreds in the West Bank, looks bleaker and perhaps even worse than the first "Nakba", or Catastrophe with the capital C, 76 years ago. You can demand justice, and end up with endless suffering. Or you can accept there is no justice in this world, but try to secure a better future for your children. The Israeli military has now ethnically cleansed northern Gaza and set up what looks like permanent...

WELL, war crimes and genocide pay. Israel has just scored a big win with the fall of the House of Assad in Syria. Having decimated Hamas in Gaza, rolled back Hezbollah in Lebanon, and now secured the end of Iran's only client state in the Middle East, the American-Israeli axis of imperialism has decisively turned the tide in its favour. Iran is more isolated than ever - the "axis of resistance" is no more, at least in the near future. Putin has lost face. Who would have thought that Joe Biden, a serial failure in foreign policy, actually managed to score, by fluke if nothing else, during his last month in office? Always bet on Israel: "Genocide Joe" turns out to be right against his legions of critics, including yours truly. For now. Foolishly, Donald Trump has said, "This is not our fight." Actually, it is very much America's fight. Benjamin Netanyahu, a suspected war criminal, has claimed credit. The guy is bold, I will give him that. Assad is, without a doubt, worse than the Israeli prime minister and belongs in The Hague. But now that he is given Russian protection, a comfortable exile awaits. It will cost him dearly, of course, with his billions stashed away. Moscow will demand its pound of flesh for its "hospitality". The Israelis have cause to celebrate. It's as good as it gets short of an actual military defeat of Iran, an unlikely prospect. Comparatively, chaos and mayhem in the Arab world is better than an ever strengthening Iranian-led axis of resistance. But the West, and the United States in particular, shouldn't celebrate so soon. The history lessons from the fall of Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi, and the return of the Taliban, should tell

you pretty much all you need to know what is likely to happen next in Syria, assuming it will continue to exist as a unified entity, a big assumption. The group that is taking over in Damascus is a rebranded former al-Qaeda outfit. What can possibly go wrong? In this context, the future of the Palestinians, having been slaughtered for more than a year in Gaza, and forcibly displaced and murdered in the hundreds in the West Bank, looks bleaker and perhaps even worse than the first "Nakba", or Catastrophe with the capital C, 76 years ago. You can demand justice, and end up with endless suffering. Or you can accept there is no justice in this world, but try to secure a better future for your children. The Israeli military has now ethnically cleansed northern Gaza and set up what looks like permanent posts in central Gaza. More land than ever has been illegally taken over by Israeli settlers in the West Bank. It's hard to see how any of these can be reversed in the foreseeable future. Since the US, and much of the West, have been fully complicit in the horrible crimes being committed against the Palestinians, it's time they make amends. There are about 5.5 million Palestinians in the Israeli-Occupied Territories. There are 27 countries in the European Union, and five English-speaking countries within the Anglo-American sphere. It should not be too much of a burden for them collectively to open their borders to the besieged Palestinians, with immigration quotas being set according to the different sizes of their economies. They will, of course, need heavy subsidies by Washington and Brussels to pay for the massive resettlement and immigra-

tion programmes. That will be a small sacrifice and may even yield long-term benefits. After all, having to arm Israel to the teeth and enable its domestic repression and occupation is terribly expensive, with no end in sight. Germany under Angela Merkel managed to accept more than a million refugees, so this would be small beer. If the West did that, it wouldn't have to live with its murderous and disgusting hypocrisy like it does today. The few left in old Palestine can be absorbed into a few friendly Arab states. A token number, say the 2 per cent remaining, will be granted full Israeli citizenship. Their tiny presence will not endanger or dilute the essential Jewish character of the Israeli state. In return, Israel will be granted formal international recognition to annex the entire former Palestine, thereby realising the long-aspired Zionist dream of Greater Israel, with the whole of Jerusalem as its capital. For that, it will reverse all apartheid-like and discriminatory laws and practices against Arabs living in the new and greater Israel. Most Arab states will then formally recognise Greater Israel, not just with its pre-1967 borders. It's that - complete injustice but a brighter future for today's Palestinian children - or endless mass murder and repression, and more fanatical and murderous response in the victims' fight for justice. But that would be rewarding Israel's genocidal imperialism, you say? Yeah, sure, why not? The West was built on genocides and imperialism. Israel may then even revert to its more humane, or at least less brutal, former self. Call me crazy, but oftentimes, injustice pays. And while might is not always right, it usually is.

Briefs

Ex spy master
Faiz Hameed
charge...

FROM PAGE 01
media wing said the former spy master's role in creating agitation and unrest including May 9 riots "in collusion with vested political interests" was also being investigated. The May 9 events refer to the violent protests that broke out in the country last year following the arrest of jailed PTI founder Imran Khan in a corruption case. During the riots, the alleged supporters of PTI founder ransacked and attacked the public properties including military installations, prompting the civil-military leadership of the country to try the rioters under Army Act. Besides PTI founder Imran, dozens of other party leaders have been implicated in the cases related to the May 9 mayhem. In the statement today, the ISPR said: "During the process, involvement of Lt Gen Faiz Hamid (Retd), in events related to creating agitation and unrest, leading upto multiple incidents including but not limited to 9th May 2023 incident for fomenting instability; at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, is also being separately investigated," read the statement. "Lt Gen Faiz Hamid (ret'd) is being afforded [...] all legal rights as per the law," it added. Speaking to Geo News, Brigadier (ret'd) Rashid Wali said the charges levelled against the ex-spy master were of a serious nature. He said the trial of the former military officer would be conducted in the military court following which the court would announce its verdict. He said after that Hamid could lodge an appeal against the court verdict as well.

Vawda,
Chaudhry...

FROM PAGE 01
multiple offences, including engaging in political activities, violating the Official Secrets Act, misuse of authority and government resources and causing wrongful loss to a person(s), as per the military's media wing. These violations have compromised state security and interests, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday. Speaking to a private news channel, Senator Vawda reiterated that the PTI's civil disobedience call for December 14 was aimed at influencing the Hamid's trial. The senator said it was highly likely that Hamid's facilitators and supporters' trial would be initiated in the coming day. Vawda claimed that the former spy master, ex-PM Imran and ex-first lady Bushra Bibi cannot be separated from the violent protests on May 9, 2023. "It won't be surprising for me if the PTI founder is taken into military custody," Vawda added.

15 terrorists
killed in...

FROM PAGE 01
campaigns, with a 90% surge in violence, according to a report issued by Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS). A total of 722 people were killed, including civilians, security personnel, and outlaws, while 615 others were wounded in as many as 328 incidents recorded during the period under review. Nearly 97% of these fatalities occurred in KP and Balochistan - marking the highest percentage in a decade, and over 92% of these incidents of terror attacks and security forces' operations were recorded in the same provinces.

20 Chinese
killed since...

FROM PAGE 01
pushed the federal government to begin formal negotiations for a joint security management system. Pakistan's ongoing counter-terrorism efforts remain a key topic of discussion between the two countries due to the rising frequency of attacks targeting Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. During a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives today, Nacta Director Colonel Usman informed the participants that there were 14 terrorist attacks on Chinese citizens in the country since 2021 in which "20 [Chinese personnel] have been killed and 34 injured".

Markhors register second
win in Champions T20 cup

Khawaja Nafay was named Player of the Match

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Markhors secured their second consecutive win in the ongoing Champions T20 Cup, defeating the Dolphins by two wickets in a thrilling encounter at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. After being asked to bat first, the Dolphins posted a total of 128/9 in their allotted 20 overs. They suffered an early setback in the very first over when opener Sahibzada Farhan was dismissed for a duck by AkiJaved. Tahir Baig and Mohammad Akhlaq attempted to stabilize the innings, building a 63-run partnership for the second wicket. However, the stand was broken when Baig was dismissed for 29 off 28 deliveries by Mohammad Nawaz, leaving the Dolphins at 63/2 in 9.2 overs. The pressure mounted as Umar Amin (11) fell to Nawaz, reducing the Dolphins to 81/3 in 11.4 overs. Akhlaq remained steadfast with a 40-run knock off 33 balls, but his dismissal at 87/4 in 13.2 overs further dented the Dolphins' progress. The lower order faltered, with QasimAkram (14), Mohammad Suleman (9), and skipper Faheem Ashraf (1) falling cheaply. Mohammad Nawaz led the bowling attack with stellar figures of 3/28 from his four overs, supported by AkiJaved, who claimed two wickets, while Nisar Ahmad and Mohammad Imran Jr picked up one wicket each.



In reply, the Markhors faced a shaky start. Hard-hitting batter Fakhar Zaman was dismissed for a golden duck on the first ball of the innings. Mohammad Shahzad (11) and Abdul Samad (1) also fell within the powerplay, leaving the team struggling at 44/3 in 4.2 overs. Khawaja Nafay took charge, forming a vital 29-run partnership for the fourth wicket with skipper Iftikhar Ahmed. However, Iftikhar struggled and was dismissed for 5 off 13 balls, leaving the team at 96/5 in 12.2 overs. SarwarAfri managed only 13 runs before falling to Faheem Ashraf. Khawaja Nafay emerged as the standout performer for the Markhors, smashing 68 runs off 41 balls, including four boundaries and four sixes at a strike rate of 165.85. His explosive innings brought the Markhors to the brink of victory, but he was dismissed with the score at 102/6 in 14 overs. The pressure increased as Salman Irshad and QasimAkram struck to dismiss Saad Masood (9) and Nisar Ahmad (0), reducing the Markhors to 125/8 in 17.1 overs. With just four runs needed, Mohammad Nawaz (18) and AkiJaved (5) held their nerve to seal the chase in 18.5 overs. Sameen Gul led the Dolphins' bowling with figures of 3/23 in his four-over spell, while QasimAkram picked up two wickets. Faheem Ashraf and Salman Irshad chipped in with one wicket each. Khawaja Nafay was named Player of the Match for his incredible, match-winning knock.

PSL reveals Players'
Draft schedule

The registration process of domestic and foreign players will start this week

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) on Tuesday, unveiled that the highly-anticipated players' draft for the upcoming 10th edition will be held on January 11, 2025. Taking to its social media handles, the marquee league released a 26-second promo with the caption, "The countdown begins." The video featured different Television sets, which revealed the date for the upcoming players' draft. Meanwhile, sources claimed that another meeting will be held later this week to discuss the matters related to the next edition of the league. Details further shared the registration process of domestic and foreign players will also start this week. It was reported last week, that the six franchises suggested holding the players' draft for PSL 10 abroad, in either England or Dubai, to increase the popularity of the league. The franchises also pressed on roping in notable foreign players for the upcoming edition, especially those, who went unnoticed in the recently-held Indian Premier League (IPL) mega auction. In response, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) assured the inclusion of renowned overseas players. The franchises further demanded PCB to provide financial assistance in picking top foreign cricketers. Furthermore, the teams' representative also requested the PCB to contact England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for English player's participation in the next edition of the PSL. Remember, the ECB has decided against issuing the No Objection Certificate (NOC) to national cricketers for participating in overseas franchise leagues that clash with the domestic season. The decision is likely to result in a significant decline in England players' participation in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), whose next edition will collide with their domestic season due to the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025. Notably, the upcoming 10th edition of the PSL is set to run concurrently with the cash-rich IPL for the first time since its inception in 2016.

Saqib wins historic Gold
at GAMMA World c'ship

Saqib emerged victorious in the U-18, 52.2 kg category

DNA

JAKARTA: Pakistan's Muhammad Saqib etched his name in the history books by claiming a gold medal at the Global Association of Mixed Martial Arts (GAMMA) World Championship 2024. Saqib excelled in both the Senior and U-18 categories, showcasing remarkable skill and resilience against competitors from 78 countries. In the U-18 52.2 kg category, Saqib emerged victorious in a fiercely contested final, defeating Kazakhstan's Mansur Septegen in three thrilling rounds. Saqib's journey to the gold included a dominant performance in his opening

bout against MaksymShkhanov of Ukraine and a semi-final win over AkezhanMagerov, also from Kazakhstan. The championship, which began on December 8, continues to witness the participation of Pakistan's top fighters. Shahzaib Khan, Asim Khan, and Dawood Jan are set to represent the nation in the

senior category, with their matches starting on December 11. The finals for the senior events are scheduled for December 14. Adding to Pakistan's success, Mahmood Kamal secured two bronze medals in the -93 kg and +93 kg categories, further cementing the country's growing reputation in mixed martial arts.

Pakistan crush Italy 3-0
in World Squash C'ship

This is Pakistan's third consecutive win

ITALY: Pakistan squash stars Noor Zaman, Nasir Iqbal, and Asim Khan delivered stellar performances, securing a commanding 3-0 victory against Italy in their final group match of the World Team Squash Championship. The trio dominated their respective matches to ensure a comprehensive victory. Sixth-seeded Asim Khan opened the proceedings with a decisive win over Italy's Umar Zaki Masood, registering scores of 11-8, 11-4, and 11-7. Following Khan's triumph, Pakistan's silver medalist Noor Zaman outclassed Lorenzo Staurengo with scores of 11-4, 11-7, and 11-5. British Junior Open winner Nasir Iqbal completed the sweep by overwhelming Daniel De Bartolomeo with a commanding 11-2, 11-1, 11-1 victory. With three consecutive wins, Pakistan secured the top spot in Group H. On Monday, Zaman and Iqbal had powered Pakistan to a 2-1 victory over Hong Kong, booking a place in the knockout stage of the World Team Squash Championship. In a crucial match, Zaman battled to a hard-fought 3-2 win against Hong Kong's Henry Leung, with scores of 7-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-4, and 11-6, sealing the victory in just 44 minutes. Meanwhile, Iqbal delivered a dominant 3-0 victory against Chi Him Wong, recording scores of 11-5, 11-5, and 11-5 in just 31 minutes, solidifying Pakistan's position in the match. However, Asim Khan narrowly lost to Hong Kong's Alex Lau in a grueling 3-2 contest, with scores of 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 11-13, and 11-4. Despite Khan's defeat, Pakistan edged past Hong Kong to progress to the knockout stage. Pakistan has won the World Team Squash Championship six times in ten appearances, with their most recent triumph in 1993. Earlier in November, Asim Khan and Noor Zaman participated in the Professional Squash Association (PSA) Cape Town Open. Earlier, Pakistan's squash legacy came alive in the 2024 WSF World Squash Team Championships as the six-time champions staged a dramatic comeback to defeat host nation Hong Kong, China in a gripping Pool H encounter. Despite entering the tournament as [9/12] seeds, Pakistan showed their fighting spirit, topping the No.8-seeded hosts to take control of Pool H in the men's event. The deciding clash on the all-glass court unfolded in front of an energetic home crowd. Alex Lau, the hometown hero, gave Hong Kong, China an early advantage with a tense 64-minute win over Asim Khan. Lau clinched the match with scores of 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-4, leaving Pakistan with a mountain to climb. However, Noor Zaman, a rising 20-year-old star, showcased exceptional determination and skill. Zaman pulled Pakistan level with a remarkable five-game victory over his opponent from Hong Kong, finishing 11-7, 8-11, 11-5, 4-11, 6-11. - DNA

Dortmund
Suele out
after latest
injury

'Not so good news, unfortunately,' said Sahin

DORTMUND: Borussia Dortmund will be without defender NiklasSuele for several months after he picked up an ankle injury in the league on Saturday, coach Nuri Sahin said on Tuesday ahead of their Champions League game against Barcelona. Suele had only come back from an ankle injury on Nov. 30 in the league game against Bayern Munich but had to be taken off injured late in their 1-1 draw against Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday with the same injury. "Not so good news, unfortunately," Sahin told a press conference ahead of Wednesday's clash with Barca. "He will be out for several months. He has suffered a serious injury. "It is the same injury," Sahin said. It is completely unfortunate to injure the same spot. - Agencies

Root hails Brook
as 'best player'

Root highlights Brook's prowess against both spin and fast bowling

WEB DESK

CHRISTCHURCH: England's experienced batter Joe Root on Monday, showered praise on in-form teammate Harry Brook and termed him the best player in the world currently. Root, while addressing a press conference following England's thumping 323-run victory over New Zealand in the second Test, lauded player of the match Brook, who has scored two centuries and a fifty over the course of just three innings in the ongoing series. The top-ranked Test batter backed his statement by highlighting Brook's ability to not only absorb but to exert the pressure and his prowess against both spin and fast bowling. "Brooky (Harry Brook) is by far and away the best player in the world at the minute. He can absorb pressure, he can apply it. He can whack you over your head for six. He can scoop you over his head for six. He can smack spin. He can smack seam," Root said. "He's so hard to bowl to and dovetailed with someone like Pope, who's extremely busy and scoring in awkward areas, [which] makes it very difficult to stop the flow of runs. I think they just played exceptionally well together," he added. In response to the praise, Brook humbly acknowledged it and reciprocated the compliment to Root, who has amassed the most Test runs in 2024. "I'm trying to catch him, but he's too good, isn't he?" Brook said. "He's got another hundred this week and he's obviously one of the best players, if not the best player, to have ever played the game. It's mega to play with him and he's awesome to watch. "I've only played 22 or 23 games, whatever, so those stats can soon come soaring down. I'm just trying to keep on getting as good as I can, working hard in the nets and improving areas that are uncomfortable.

Imran Khan
calls for
release of...

FROM PAGE 01

Over 200 PTI workers are unaccounted for, and there are concerns they may also have been martyred," she said. Aleema added that the PTI leadership remains deeply concerned about the missing workers. "The founder of PTI is particularly worried about those who have gone missing," she explained. In her statement, she also confirmed that PTI would observe December 15 as Youm-e-Shuhada (Martyrs' Day). "On this day, PTI workers from around the world, including Peshawar, will gather for prayers to honour those who sacrificed their lives," she said.

Govt to take
decisive
action...

FROM PAGE 01

premier Imran Khan. Dismissing his criticism at those responsible for online harassment of journalists, the minister said the government would bring all those targeting families of journalists to justice. "The PTI has asked people to boycott the products of the Army whereas it has never called for boycotting Israeli products. The PTI didn't even attend the All Parties Conference (APC) on the issue of Palestine," he added. Elongating his flak on the PTI, he said brave sons of the soil were laying down their lives for Pakistan but the PTI is involved in maligning the martyrs for the sake of inviting foreign elements in Pakistan's internal affairs, adding that the government was introducing a track and trace system to identify the anti-Pakistan elements.

Cabinet
'approves'
tariff...

FROM PAGE 01

The development came two months after the premier announced the pre-mature termination of power purchase agreements (PPAs) with the five oldest IPPs, with annual savings of Rs60 billion or around Rs411bn over the remaining term of their contracts. The federal government was under immense pressure to reconsider its PPAs with the power plants following outcry across the country as the addition of capacity payment charges inflated the power bills beyond the affordability of the inflation-burdened masses.

Madrassah
agreement
2019...

FROM PAGE 01

betrayal for the sake of the 26th Constitutional Amendment," he questioned. JUI leader said that the government is staging a spectacle against its own legislation bill. Meanwhile, JUI Senator Kamran Murtaza has said that "Tahir Ashrafi remains available to every government". JUIF chief Fazal-ur-Rehman yesterday warned the government against politicizing the seminaries registration bill.

Over 300
Israeli...

FROM PAGE 01

Monday and Tuesday, have caused extensive damage to Syrian military assets, including weapon warehouses, ammunition depots, airports, naval bases, and research centres. Many of these facilities have been completely destroyed. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have confirmed that their forces are operating in Syrian territory beyond the demilitarized buffer zone between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The IDF has said its strikes are aimed at preventing weapons from falling into the hands of extremists, particularly as Syria enters a post-Assad era.

Justice
delayed...

FROM PAGE 01

it is a reality," he remarked, pointing out the challenges in achieving justice in Pakistan, where cases often linger in courts for years. He stressed that laws are vital for ensuring justice in society, but the current delays in the system negate their purpose.

Alzarri Joseph penalised for misconduct

Joseph was recently banned for two matches by Cricket West Indies

WEB DESK

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday, reprimanded West Indies' pacer Alzarri Joseph for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct during the first ODI against Bangladesh in St. Kitts and Nevis on Sunday. According to the apex cricketing body, Joseph breached Article 2.3 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "the use of an audible obscenity." The incident occurred before the commencement of the ODI series opener between West

Indies and Bangladesh when Joseph used offensive and abusive language with the fourth umpire after the latter refrained the pacer from stepping onto the pitch with his spikes on. The right-arm pacer, as a result, has been fined 25 per cent of his match fee, while one demerit point has also been added to his disciplinary record. Although it was his first offence in a 24-month period as per the ICC's Code of Conduct but the pacer was banned by Cricket West Indies (CWI) last month for storming off the field during an international after a heated exchange with cap-



tain Shai Hope. The incident occurred in the final ODI of the three-match series between West Indies and England as Joseph was unhappy with the field placement and was also seen arguing with the captain. He still managed to dismiss Jordan Cox on the fourth delivery of the eventful over but did not celebrate with his teammates and instead returned to his mark. After concluding the over, Joseph left the field unannounced and went to the dressing room, forcing the home side to start the fifth over with just 10 players in the middle. Joseph, however, returned

to the field at the start of the sixth over but did not bowl until the 12th. He then bowled two more overs before leaving the field again after two misfields off his bowling. He later returned to bowl five more overs, two in the middle and three at the backend. The right-arm pacer registered match figures of 45/2 in his quota of 10 overs. "Alzarri's behavior did not align with the core values that Cricket West Indies upholds," Miles Bascombe, CWI Director of Cricket, said. "Such conduct cannot be overlooked, and we have taken decisive action to ensure the gravity of the situation is fully acknowledged."

Briefs

Rupee sheds 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs278.05 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.97. 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 Rs277.60 and Rs279.10 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 46 paise to close at Rs293.20 against the last day's closing of Rs293.66, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.83, whereas a decrease of 52 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs354.30 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs354.82. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 02 and 01 paise to close at Rs75.70 and Rs74.00, respectively. —APP

PSX turns bearish, loses 1,073 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 1,073.74 more points, a negative change of 0.98 percent, closing at 108,896.65 points as compared to 109,970.39 points on the last trading day. A total of 1,548,302,320 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,597,868,204 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 68.805 billion against Rs. 60.251 billion on the last trading day. As many as 469 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 106 of them recorded gains and 329 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 34 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 200,870,859 shares at Rs 1.66 per share, Cernyico PK with 150,687,962 shares at Rs 6.94 per share and K-Electric with 73,030,711 shares at Rs.5.91 per share. —APP

Gold price increases by Rs 1000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.1000 and was sold at Rs. Rs 277,400 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs 276,400 on previous trading day, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.858 to Rs.237,826 from Rs 236,698 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat also went up to Rs.218,007 from Rs 217,221. Per tola and ten gram silver were also traded at same rate at Rs 3,400 and Rs 2,914.95, respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$10 to \$2,662 from \$2,652, the Association reported.—APP

Qatar urges open dialogue on Syria's future

DUBAI: Qatar's Foreign Ministry has reiterated its commitment to engaging with all parties in Syria to shape the country's future. In a statement issued on Tuesday, spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari emphasized that "all doors and channels of communication" are open, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve progress. Al-Ansari described the situation as "historic days for the region," and that it was a "ray of hope" for the Syrian people to fulfill their aspirations amid ongoing challenges. He criticized Israel's actions in Syria, stating it was unacceptable for Tel Aviv to "exploit" the current circumstances and violate that nation's sovereignty.—APP

Amb. Jemal presents credentials to Turkmenistan's Parliament speaker

The Ambassador informed the Speaker about the firm resolve of the Government of the FDR Ethiopia, led by Dr. Abiy Ahmed, for further integrating the region by ensuring peace and stability and sharing its resources

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) designated to Turkmenistan with residence in Islamabad presented his letter of credence to H.E. Dunyagozel Gulmanova, the Speaker of Parliament of Turkmenistan, on December 09th, 2024. Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, who is currently in Ashgabat on a working visit, presented his credentials to the Speaker during a ceremony held at the Parliament of Turkmenistan. Dunyagozel Gulmanova, the Speaker of Parliament of Turkmenistan, welcomed the Ambassador and conveyed good wishes of the Government and the people of Turkmenistan for the prosperity and development of the FDR Ethiopia. During the meeting, both sides reviewed full spectrum of the bilateral relations and explored new areas of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation to further advance their common goals of shared prosperity and development of their people. In his remarks, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal, on behalf of the Government of the FDR Ethiopia, extended greetings to the Government of Turkmenistan as well as good wishes for its



prosperity and development. On the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jemal informed the Speaker about political ideology and top priorities of the inclusive government in Ethiopia which enjoys a thumping majority in the House of the Peoples' Representatives and has been striving to ensure

holistic prosperity. He briefed the Speaker about the deep and penetrating foreign policy reforms undertaken by the Government of the FDR Ethiopia to further increase its outreach for partnerships with sisterly countries including Turkmenistan. He also briefed her about com-

prehensives reforms carried out in the political, economic, social and legal spheres to chart the country on the path of progress and development by addressing macroeconomic imbalances, increasing productivity, attracting foreign direct investment, and creating massive job opportuni-

ties in Ethiopia. The Ambassador informed the Speaker about the firm resolve of the Government of the FDR Ethiopia, led by Dr. Abiy Ahmed, for further integrating the region by ensuring peace and stability and sharing its resources. He specifically highlighted the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam which was constructed on the basis of the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of resources, and also with the vision to share with neighboring countries in the region. On top of that, the Ambassador said H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, launched the Green Legacy Initiative to address climate change issues through the initiatives of afforestation, environmental restoration and food insecurity. The Ambassador reiterated his government's commitment to strengthen its relations with Turkmenistan by enhancing bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation to the higher level. On the other hand, Dunyagozel Gulmanova, the Speaker of Parliament of Turkmenistan, appreciated the consistent economic growth achieved by Ethiopia under the leadership of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. She said the Government of Turkmenistan looks forward to further strengthen the bilateral relations with the FDR Ethiopia including the Parliamentary cooperation.

UOG, PCTVI, IIRMR sign MoU to broaden skilled landscape in Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In order to broaden CPEC-driven skill landscape in Gwadar, China's development role and Gwadar port's global appeal, a significant MoU has been inked between University of Gwadar (UoG), Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCTVI) and Institute of International Relations & Media Research (IIRMR) in Gwadar. It is first of its kind holistic collaboration though which IIRMR as national-level "Think Tank" has entered into a formal agreement with UoG, sole educational institution of higher education in Gwadar

and PCTVI, 1st professional institute gifted by China for imparting modern skilled trainings to the youth of Gwadar to contribute Gwadar growth and national economy. During a formal ceremony, University of Gwadar (UoG) Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Syed Manzoor Ahmed and Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) president Yasir Habib Khan signed Memorandum of Understanding. On the occasion UoG Pro VC Mr Mazoor termed the MoU a landmark development promising a resilient role to shape up CPEC's 2.0 (Phase II) with involvement of all stakeholders especially Gwadar youth

and communities belonging to different sphere of lives. Mr IIRMR president Yasir Habib Khan said that MoU will help tap those areas of technical & vocational developments that are still untapped, unexplored and undiscovered stimulating deeper sense about CPEC growth doctrines after taking on board government bodies, private sector and Gwadar youth. The purpose of this MoU is to establish a collaborative relationship between IIRMR and the University to promote activities such as seminars, consultative dialogues, sports festivals, cultural and economic exhibitions, research conferences, exchange programs and other

joint ventures. These initiatives will focus on the areas of economic development, the skilled labor needs of Gwadar and Balochistan, the socio-cultural landscape of the region, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the development of Gwadar Port, and the role of China in these developments. Both UoG and IIRMR agree to foster exchange research and best practices related to creating employment pathways for the youth in Balochistan. They plan to promote awareness and understanding of Balochistan's heritage and traditions through cultural festivals and events, Mou said.

SECP Appellate Bench handled 314 appeals till date during 2024

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission's (SECP) Appellate Bench, an apex quasi-judicial Appellate forum, has managed 314 cases till date during the year 2024. Out of these, 122 appeals/review were disposed of and the remaining cases were adjourned due to the Appellants' absence, said a press release. The cases decided by the Appellate Bench during the period, were related to the regulatory and statutory violations. Major violations pertained to areas such as, issue of capital, anti-money laundering, insurance, annual general meeting, Illegal Deposit Taking, Disqualification of Directors, the appointment of independent directors, statutory filing of accounts and Employees' provident funds, among others. In comparison, the Appellate Bench Registry fixed 125 Appeals from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, 89 appeals/review were disposed of whereas, the remaining cases were adjourned on the Appellants' request. During recent times, there has been a strong focus towards clearing the outstanding appeals. As a result, backlog of Appeals from year 2011 to 2016 has already been cleared. The next milestone is to dispose of all pending appeals filed during 2017, 2018 and 2019.—APP

Saudi businesses explore energy, tourism opportunities in Rajasthan

JAIPUR: Saudi Arabia is exploring cooperation with India in solar and wind energy, infrastructure, tourism, and technology-based industries, its Ministry of Investment said on Tuesday, as it participated in the Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit in Jaipur. The government of India's largest state by area is hosting the investment event from Dec. 9 to 11, as it seeks to double Rajasthan's gross domestic product to \$350 billion in the next five years. The summit was opened on Monday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who encouraged foreign delegates — including from Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UK and Japan — to explore the state's potential as a global business destination. The Saudi Ministry of Investment's pavilion in the forum's exhibition space presented Invest Saudi — the nation-wide investment brand — and promoted opportunities in the Kingdom, while delegation members held talks with Indian companies. "We are talking about supporting our private sectors: Indians to invest in Saudi Arabia and Saudi companies to invest in Rajasthan and India," Abdullah Al-Arfaj, director of international relations for South and West Asia at the Saudi Ministry of Investment, told Arab News. "Through its participation in this summit, the Saudi Ministry of Investment seeks to foster productive dialogue and build actionable partnerships... The summit is an ideal platform to strengthen Saudi-Indian cooperation and establish the foundations for long-term, sustainable partnerships.—APP

France's Macron to host party leaders in quest for new govt

The state and the social security system will also be allowed to continue borrowing on financial markets to avoid any interruption of payments, the source added

PARIS: French party leaders will gather at President Emmanuel Macron's Elysee Palace office Tuesday afternoon in a bid to chart a route toward a new government, days after Prime Minister Michel Barnier was toppled in a confidence vote. Shutting out the far-right National Rally (RN) and hard-left France Unbowed (LFI), the effort to find a way forward comes as caretaker ministers scramble to clarify France's 2025 finances, after the previous administration fell over its cost-cutting budget plans. "The aim is to move forward with a deal about a method" to build a new government on the unstable foundations of a hung parliament, people close to Macron said late Monday. Barnier had been supported by conservative Republicans and Macron's centrist camp, but the shaky alliance was far short of an overall majority in a National Assembly split three ways with the NFP left alliance and the RN. It is unclear how leaders could build a broader base of support for any new government. Most are unwilling to compromise on pet issues such as last year's unpopular pension reform, or to tarnish their image with voters by compromising ahead of potential new elections next year. "We will not participate in a government of 'national interest' with the Republicans or Macronists or whoever," Greens party leader Marine Tondelier said Monday — a position mirrored by Republicans chief Laurent Wauquiez. In a letter late Sunday, Socialist leaders told Macron they were open to "dialogue and pitting points of view against one another" to "find an exit from this deadlock situation that's harmful to the French public." But they added that they would not join a technocratic government or one run by a prime minister from the right, and called for "a true change of political course" on "pensions, purchasing power and tax justice." Bringing so many parties together around one table marked progress from Macron's first attempt to reach consensus after July's snap election, commentator Guillaume Tabard wrote in conservative daily Le Figaro. "But if even a minimal deal is to be found ranging from the Republicans to the Communists, it will require an enormous labor of negotiation that will take days or weeks," he added. "The promise to quickly replace Barnier, yet again issued with confidence, will once again be betrayed." In an apparent acknowledgement that progress will be slow, Macron's office said that a special budget law to allow the French state to keep functioning would be presented to caretaker ministers Wednesday on its way to parliament. Its three measures include authorizing the government to continue raising existing taxes until a new budget is passed by MPs, a ministerial source told AFP. The state and the social security system will also be allowed to continue borrowing on financial markets to avoid any interruption of payments, the source added.—DNA

Hundreds of Syrians line up at Turkish border crossings as Erdogan expects more to go home

Turkish officials have not said how many Syrians have returned since Assad's downfall on Sunday. But Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the numbers would increase as Syria stabilizes, and announced plans to reopen a third border crossing to prevent congestion.

CILVEGOZU Border Crossing, Turkiye: Hundreds of Syrian refugees gathered at two border crossings in southern Turkiye on Monday, eagerly anticipating their return home following the fall of Bashar Assad's government. Many arrived at the Cilvegozu and Ocutupinar gates at daybreak, draped in blankets and coats. Some camped by the barriers, warming at makeshift fires. The crossings correspond to the Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salameh gates on the Syrian side. Among those waiting at Cilvegozu was 28-year-old Muhammed Zin, who fled Damascus in 2016 and has been living and working in Istanbul. "Assad was shooting us, killing us," he told The Associated Press. "I will return to Syria now. Thank God, the war is over." Assad's fall has sparked widespread

joy among Turkiye's 3 million Syrian refugees, with many taking to the streets of Istanbul and other cities to celebrate. On Sunday, Syrians removed the government's flag from the Syrian Consulate in Istanbul, replacing it with the opposition's flag. At the Ocutupinar border gate, Mustafa Sultan, 29, said he was crossing into Syria to find his older brother who was imprisoned in Damascus under Assad's rule. "I haven't seen him for 13 years. The prisons have been emptied so I am going to go see whether he's alive," he said. Turkish officials have not said how many Syrians have returned since Assad's downfall on Sunday. But Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the numbers would increase as Syria stabilizes, and announced plans to reopen a

third border crossing to prevent congestion. "As Syria gains more stability, God willing, voluntary, safe and honorable returns will increase," Erdogan said in a televised address following a Cabinet meeting. Turkiye welcomed Syrian refugees with open arms in the early years of Syria's civil war that broke out in 2011 — becoming host to the world's largest number of refugees. Ankara believed the conflict would end quickly and the influx would be temporary. But as Turkiye faced economic challenges, public opinion toward the refugees soured, forcing Erdogan's government to seek ways to ensure their safe and voluntary repatriation. Turkish officials now hope that a significant number of Syrians will return voluntarily. "We will continue our efforts to ensure the safe and voluntary

return of Syrians and to rebuild the country," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Monday. At Cilvegozu, some refugees wheeled their suitcases while others carried belongings in sacks. Authorities set up a checkpoint some 5 kilometers (3 miles) away, only allowing Syrians with proper documents to the border gate, HaberTurk television reported. Zakariya Mori Al-Shami, 31, who arrived in Turkiye in 2019, was waiting to cross with his wife and two children to return to Aleppo. He hopes to rebuild his home, which was destroyed during the conflict. Anxious to rejoin his family in Damascus, Mohammed Al Muhbuhar, 27, said he headed to the border "immediately" after Assad left. "There is no more torture. God willing, Syria will be better," he said. Hundreds of dis-

placed Syrians were also returning Monday from Lebanon. Sami Abdel-Latif, a construction worker from Hama who hoped to join his wife and four children, said while the future in Syria is uncertain, "anything is better than Bashar." He said he expected some chaos initially but that eventually the situation would settle down. "Look at Aleppo now," Abdel-Latif said, referring to the first major city taken by opposition forces more than a week ago, where life has continued more or less as normal. Malak Matar, who was preparing to return to Damascus, said: "You feel yourself psychologically free — you can express yourself," saying people had waited 14 years for that. Now, he said, "Syrians have to create a state that is well-organized and takes care of their country. It's a new phase."—Agencies

Jordanian man returns home after 38 years in Syria's prisons

AMMAN: A Jordanian man has returned to his home country after spending 38 years in Syrian jails, an official said on Tuesday, after the fall of president Bashar Assad ended an agonizing wait for his family. The man, named as Osama Bashir Hassan Al-Bataynah, was found in Syria "unconscious and suffering from memory loss," Jordanian Foreign Ministry Soufian Al-Kodati told AFP. Kodati said the man's relatives reported his disappearance in 1986, when he was just 18, and that he had been in jail ever since. "He was transferred from Damascus to the Jaber border crossing (with Jordan) where he was handed over to border guards," added Kodati, saying the man had been reunited with his family on Tuesday morning. The opposition forces who swept Assad from power on Sunday also opened the prisons and released thousands of detainees. Civil society groups had long accused Assad of presiding over a brutal regime of arbitrary arrests, torture and murder in prisons. Many foreigners were being held, including Suheil Hamawi from Lebanon who returned to his country on Monday after being locked up for 33 years. The Arab Organization for Human Rights in Jordan said Tuesday there were still 236 Jordanians detained in Syria. Amnesty International has documented thousands of killings at Saydnaya prison, whose name has become synonymous with the worst atrocities of Assad's rule, and dubbed it a "human slaughterhouse." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimated in 2022 that more than 100,000 people had died in the jails since the start of an uprising in 2011 that led to the civil war.—APP

Israeli forces kill at least 34 people in Gaza

CAIRO: Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 34 Palestinians overnight and on Tuesday, medics said, as Israeli tanks pushed into areas in central and southern parts of the enclave. An Israeli airstrike killed at least 25 people in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where Israeli forces have operated since October, and injured dozens of others in a multi-floored building, medics said. The Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said most of those killed were from the same family, including women and children. Images posted online, which Reuters couldn't immediately verify, showed the bodies lined up in a single mass grave in the town. Another airstrike on a house in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed at least seven people. It wounded several others, medics and the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said, while another killed two people in Rafah south of the enclave. In Deir Al-Balah near the coast, Israeli naval forces detained six Palestinian fishermen who tried to sail into the Mediterranean Sea earlier on Tuesday, according to residents. Gunmen led by the Palestinian militant group Hamas killed some 1,200 people and took over 250 hostages back to Gaza when they attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, according to Israeli tallies. More than 44,700 Palestinians have been killed in the 14-month-old Israeli military campaign on Gaza that has followed, Gaza health authorities say. Ceasefire efforts by Arab mediators Egypt and Qatar, backed by the United States, have failed to find agreement, but recent signs of optimism among Israeli and Palestinian officials have suggested a deal to end the war could be closer. On Monday night, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas' increasing isolation after the downfall of Syria's Bashar Assad could open the door to a deal to return hostages but it was too early to say if efforts would succeed. On Tuesday, a Hamas official declined to disclose the content of negotiations but told Reuters mediators had recently stepped up their efforts.—Agencies

Briefs

Xi warns 'no winners' in trade war with US

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned Tuesday that there would be "no winners" in a trade war with the United States and vowed the country would hit its growth goals for the year. US President-elect Donald Trump — who returns to the White House next month — unleashed a gruelling trade war with China during his first term in office, lambasting alleged intellectual property theft and other "unfair" practices. He has pledged to impose even higher tariffs on China after taking office on January 20, as Beijing grapples with a shaky post-pandemic economic recovery. "Tariff wars, trade wars, and technology wars go against historical trends and economic rules, and there will be no winners," Xi said of China-US relations while meeting several heads of multilateral financial institutions in Beijing, according to state broadcaster CCTV. — Agencies

Omar calls for judicial inquiry into Nov 26

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader Omar Ayub called for a thorough judicial inquiry into the firing incidents on peaceful protesters, which resulted in the loss of lives and mass arrests. Addressing the National Assembly session, Ayub stated that 12 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers were martyred, and over 5,000 were detained during the incident. "Our protest was entirely peaceful — not a single thing was broken," he said. He also compared the recent violence to the Model Town incident during the tenure of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He alleged that the November 26 killing was yet another example of state brutality.

J. Ayesha calls for action against gender-based violence

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Ayesha Malik has said that merely referring to women as mothers and sisters is not enough; providing them with protection is essential. Speaking at a seminar on gender-based violence, Justice Ayesha Malik stated that eliminating gender-based violence had never been a priority in our society. "No one can provide accurate data on the number of rape incidents in the country," she added. Justice Ayesha Malik highlighted the lack of data on sexual assault cases, stating that it is incorrect to claim the absence of laws. She mentioned that special courts had been established for such cases. — APP

Pakistan and US agree on coop to modernize FIA

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Meets Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker in Islamabad.

Country Director, International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Lynn Nelson was also present on the occasion. Acting US Ambassador Natalie Baker expressed condolences over the martyrdom of police and Rangers personnel in Islamabad. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on enhancing bilateral cooperation and Pak-US relations. Moreover, the holding of the ICC Champions Trophy tournament in Pakistan was also discussed during the meeting. Natalie

Baker expressed her best wishes for the successful holding of the Champions Trophy in Pakistan. Mohsin Naqvi expressed his desire to make the FIA a modern institution on the lines of the FBI. He stated that he would welcome the cooperation of the United States in this regard. During the meeting, it was agreed that the United States would provide support in modernizing the FIA on the lines of FBI. It was also agreed that the US will provide assistance in making the National Forensic Agency more effective in accordance with the modern requirements. Interior Minister said that cooperation of USA in enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies is of utmost importance. He stressed the need for providing modern weapon and equipment to the civil armed forces to effectively deal with terrorism and emergencies. He said that equipping the civil armed forces with modern weapon and equipment is the top priority. Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that Pakistan and the US have excellent relations, which span over several decades. He said that no foreigner with legal documents is being expelled from Islamabad, but illegal foreigners will not be allowed to stay in Islamabad. Natalie Baker said that they are working with Pakistani authorities to increase the representation of women in law enforcement agencies. Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha and Additional Secretary Interior Rifat Mukhtar Raja were also present on the occasion.

CJP reviews Gwadar sub-jail facilities

DNA

GWADAR: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi has visited Gwadar sub-jail to inspect the facilities provider to under-trial prisoners. According to a Supreme Court statement, the CJP continues his visits to remote districts of the country. This marked the second day of his Gwadar tour, accompanied by the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court and other judges. During the visit, CJP Afridi stressed improving prisoners' welfare and upgrading infrastructure. He also stressed the need for establishing jails in every division of Balochistan. Official assured him of plans to set up prisons in Makran and Zhob divisions.

Moonis Elahi declared fugitive

DNA

GUJRAT: PTI leader and former federal minister Chudhary Moonis Elahi has been declared a fugitive by a local court in a double murder case. Additional Sessions Judge Mian Javed Akram issued the ruling, naming Moonis Elahi and others as suspects in the June 28, 2023, killings of Yasir and Muhammad Yousaf in Chakriar. Police revealed that co-accused Muhammad Akhtar died in jail during the trial. Elahi was implicated under section 109 for allegedly abetting the crime based on disclosures by other accused. The 19-page verdict pertains to an FIR registered at the Mangowal police station on June 29, 2023.

France begins military withdrawal from Chad

PARIS: France has started the withdrawal of its military from Chad with the departure of two warplanes that were based in the capital N'Djamena, the French army said, two weeks after Chad said it was ending its defense cooperation pact with Paris. In a surprise move, the government of Chad — an ally of the West in the fight against Islamist militants in the region — ended the defense cooperation pact on Nov. 28. Terms and conditions of the withdrawal and whether any French troops will remain in the central African country altogether have yet to be agreed, but on Tuesday the first Mirage warplanes returned to their base in eastern France. "It marks the beginning of the return of French equipment stationed in N'Djamena," Army spokesman Col. Guillaume Vernet said after two Mirage fighter jets left Chad. France has already pulled its soldiers out of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger following military coups in those West African countries and spreading anti-French sentiment.

Maryam hails Pak-China ties as time-tested

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday said the friendship between China and Pakistan stood the test of time. On the second day of her visit, she met with the Minister of International Department of Communist Party of China (CPC) Liu Jianchao. She thanked the minister for a warm welcome and praised the long-term vision of CPC. She said due to the sincere efforts of the Chinese leadership, China has emerged as a leading economy at the international horizon. The chief minister also highlighted the deepening connection between the people of both countries. She said their friendship demonstrated the ever-growing bond of masses in both sides of the aisle. She expressed her appreciation for the huge success of China's rural sector and said Punjab would like to emulate that model.

Al-Bashir appointed caretaker Syrian PM until March

NEWS DESK

DAMASCUS: The Syrian militants now in power in Damascus appointed Mohammad Al-Bashir as head of a transitional government that will be in place until March 1, state media said Tuesday. On Sunday, the militants led by Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham seized the capital Damascus in a lightning offensive, toppling president Bashar Assad who fled the country. "The general command has tasked us with running the transitional government until March 1," said a statement attributed to Bashir on state television's Telegram account, referring to him as

"the new Syrian prime minister." Before being tapped for the role, he had been head of the militants' so-called Salvation Government in northwest Syria and previously held the role of its development minister. Also Tuesday, a source within the political affairs department of the Salvation Government told AFP Bashir would head the transitional government. The Salvation Government, with its own ministries, departments, judicial and security authorities, was set up in the Idlib bastion in 2017 to assist people in the militant-held area people cut off from government services. It has since begun rolling out assistance in Aleppo, the first major city to fall from

government hands after the militants began their offensive. Meanwhile, Syria's Islamist militant leader on Tuesday vowed to pursue former senior government officials responsible for torture and war crimes, a day after he began talks on the transfer of power following president Bashar Assad's ouster. Assad fled Syria as the Islamist-led opposition alliance swept into the capital Damascus, bringing a spectacular end on Sunday to five decades of brutal rule by his clan. He oversaw a crackdown on a democracy movement that erupted in 2011, sparking a war that killed 500,000 people and forced half the country to flee their homes, millions of them finding refuge abroad.

COAS commends Pakistan Army team for securing gold medal

It is recognised as one of the most challenging military exercises globally



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir congratulated the Pakistan Army team for securing the prestigious Gold Medal in the "Exercise Cambrian Patrol" held in the United Kingdom. He expressed it during a meeting with Pakistan Army. The Cambrian Patrol, recognised as one of the most challenging military exercises globally, witnessed participation from 143 teams. The Pakistan Army contingent demonstrated ex-

ceptional skill and resilience, marking the sixth occasion that the Pakistan Army has clinched this coveted honor. Gen Asim Munir commended the team on their outstanding accomplishment for upholding the honor of Pakistan on an international platform. The Exercise Cambrian Patrol, conducted in the unforgiving mountainous terrain of mid-Wales, United Kingdom, is an arduous test of physical endurance, tactical acumen, and mental fortitude. It emphasises teamwork, leadership, self-discipline, courage, and determination under the most demanding operational scenarios, serving as a benchmark for military excellence.

Pakistan, Oman and Spain conduct joint navel exercise

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Ship Saif conducted Joint Patrol and Passage Exercise with Royal Navy of Oman Vessel (RNOV), AL-Seeb and Spanish Navy Ship Santa Maria. Exercises were aimed to develop synergy and mutual understanding between Navies operating in the region while demonstrating interoperability to undertake Joint Operations. The exercise between Royal Navy of Oman Ship AL-Seeb, Pakistan Navy Ship Saif and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency Ship Kashmir was conducted during Focused Operation "Karakoram Resolve" under Pakistan led Combined Task Force (CTF-150), said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy) on Tuesday. "Upon culmination of Focused Operation 'Karakoram Resolve', PNS Saif also conducted exercise with Spanish Navy Ship Santa Maria and rehearsed various maritime operations to enhance interoperability," it said. Pakistan Navy has always been at the forefront of international efforts towards Maritime Security by maintaining permanent presence in the vital areas of Indian Ocean Region (IOR), it further said. In addition, Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman regularly conduct Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib to enhance mutual cooperation and understanding between brotherly navies.

Govt 'serious' about pursuing contempt case against Imran

Meanwhile, constitutional bench adjourns hearing on civilians' military trials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Additional Attorney General (AAG) for Pakistan Amir Rehman has informed the Supreme Court that the government is serious about pursuing the contempt case against PTI founder Imran Khan. His statement came on Tuesday during a hearing on a contempt of court plea filed by the federal government relating to the May 25, 2022, long march, wherein Khan had violated court orders. The hearing was conducted by a seven-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan and included Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan. During the hearing, Justice Aminuddin questioned whether the government genuinely intended to pursue the petition. The AAG responded affirmatively, saying that the government sought a serious hearing on the matter. Rehman further argued that the PTI founder violated a court order during the long march on May 25, 2022. Justice Aminuddin remarked that if the court issued a notice, the PTI founder would have to appear in person and instructed the addi-

tional attorney general to seek guidance on presenting the jailed former prime minister in court. Justice Mandokhail emphasised that contempt cases are strictly between the court and the accused, urging the parties not to become emotional as the court was offering a clear path forward. Salman Akram Raja, counsel for the PTI founder, informed the court that his client had already submitted a response. He contended that the court's verbal order had not reached the PTI founder, partly due to the disruption of mobile services, which had hindered communication between the legal team and their client. Justice Hilali inquired whether a notice had been served to the PTI founder. In response, Raja clarified that his client had filed the response only after receiving the notice. The constitutional bench subsequently adjourned the hearing indefinitely. The cricket-turned-politician gave his supporters a call to march to Islamabad to demand dissolution of assemblies and a date for elections following his ouster via a no-confidence motion by the multiple party alliance — Pakistan Democratic Movement earlier that year. In a separate case on the PTI founder's plea to form a judicial commission to probe the May 9, 2023, violence, his lawyer Hamid appeared before the constitutional bench and took to the rostrum.

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