



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Sinner beats Rune to reach last eight

Detailed News On Page-06

Iranian President congratulates Gazans on victory

Detailed News On Page-07

Pak committed to address issues with Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-08

PTI sets 7-day deadline

No judicial commission, govt tells PTI

Govt believes a judicial commission cannot be formed on cases already under court proceedings

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided not to form a judicial commission on the May 9 incident, as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) demanded, potentially creating a deadlock in negotiations between the government and the PTI. According to sources, the government's negotiation committee has prepared a response to PTI's demands. The ruling party has indicated it will not establish a judicial commission regarding May 9, following advice from its legal team against doing so. Sources say the ruling coalition believes a judicial commission cannot be formed on cases already under court proceedings. Judicial commissions are only established for matters not being discussed in court. Challans for the May 9 events have already been presented in courts, there are no political prisoners regarding May 9, said the sources. The written response reportedly states that details of missing persons and detainees from Nov 26 must be provided. Without names and details, no steps can be taken for their release. The government committee is expected to submit its written response to the National Assembly speaker within a few days. After receiving the government's reply, the NA speaker will decide on holding the fourth round of talks. During the third meeting between the government and PTI committees, the PTI submitted written demands. These included forming a judicial commission on the May 9 and Nov 26 incidents, as well as releasing Imran Khan and other party leaders and workers. Meanwhile, PML-N leader and Senator Irfan Siddiqui denied reports claiming that the government prepared a stance on PTI's charter of demands.

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Conviction aimed at forcing political deal: Imran Khan

PTI founder views verdict as pressure tactic aimed at coercing him into striking deal with government, says Aleema Khan

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan stated on Monday that the verdict in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case would not impact the ongoing dialogue, as quoted by his sister Aleema Khan. "This verdict has nothing to do with the [PTI] negotiation committees [and the process]," Aleema quoted him as saying on Monday after meeting her brother at Adiala jail, Rawalpindi. Last week, an accountability court in Rawalpindi convicted PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the high-profile corruption case, triggering speculations about the future of the ongoing talks between the government and the former ruling party. Judge Nasir Javed Rana handed down a 14-year sentence to the PTI founder and a seven-year sentence to his wife in the case. The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician

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RAWALPINDI: Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of General Staff (CGS) of the Iranian Armed Forces, visits the General Headquarters (GHQ) and calls on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

Iran's top general calls on COAS

Major General Dr Mohammad Bagheri also called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

RAWALPINDI: Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of General Staff (CGS) of the Iranian Armed Forces Monday visited the General Headquarters (GHQ) and called on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). During the meeting, both sides discussed matters related to the prevailing regional security environment and bilateral defence cooperation, said a news release issued by Inter-Services Public Relations. Upon his arrival at GHQ, Major General Mohammad Bagheri laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada in homage to Pakistan's martyrs.

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2 additional judges sworn in at IHC

Event was attended by judges, judicial officers, representatives of the Bar Council, Bar Association

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Two additional judges, Raja Inam Amin Minhas and Muhammad Azam Khan, were sworn in at the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The oath-taking ceremony was administered by Chief Justice IHC Aamer Farooq. The event was attended by IHC judges, judicial officers, and representatives of the Bar Council and Bar Association. Two days earlier, the Ministry of Law, with the approval of President Asif Ali Zardari, issued a

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Contempt notice to addl registrar SC judge questions CJP's ability to take up cases alone

"Are we now to be told by a research officer where a particular case should be heard?" questions SC judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Ayesha Malik on Monday expressed confusion about how a chief justice alone could be more effective than multiple judges. "How can a chief justice alone be better than three minds working together?" questioned Justice Ayesha. The remarks came as she, along with Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, raised strong objections when a case scheduled before a three-judge bench was transferred. The judges were hearing a case regarding the transfer of cases between the constitutional and regular benches against the backdrop of the three-member bench's direction to the SC office for fixing the petitions regarding jurisdictions of the benches after the 26th Amendment to the same bench that was already hearing it. The issue pertaining to the ambit and authority of the court's benches emerged following the formation of the constitutional bench in the apex court under the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

Continued on Page 06

Justice Mandokhail raises questions over rigging claims

A six-member constitutional bench conducted the hearing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail of Supreme Court questioned whether the entire election of Feb 8 was rigged. He gave these remarks while hearing a petition of PTI founder Imran Khan related to the alleged rigging in Feb 8 elections. A six-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan conducted the hearing. Senior lawyer Hamid Khan appeared on behalf of PTI founder Imran Khan. "Was the entire election from Balochistan to Khyber

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Briefs

Gilani urges dialogue for stability

It is a negotiation, not a contest, between the opposition and the govt

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani has stated that discussions, not a match, are taking place between the government and the opposition. Speaking to the media in Islamabad, Gilani said that a platform had been provided for dialogue between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the government. He said that it was a negotiation, not a contest, between the opposition and the government. The National Assembly provided a platform for talks between the government and PTI, and dialogue is the only solution for political stability in the country; there is no alternative, he added.

Survivors recount horrors of boat tragedy

Pakistani nationals termed the incident a 'mass killing'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani survivors of the Morocco boat tragedy have made shocking revelations about the incident in their preliminary statement. According to sources, a four-member Pakistani investigative committee is currently in Morocco to probe the tragedy which reportedly claimed the lives of 44 Pakistani nationals. The committee recorded the statements of the Pakistani nationals who survived Morocco boat tragedy, sources said. In their statement, Pakistani nationals termed the incident a 'mass killing,' claiming that the human traffickers stopped the journey in open waters and demanded ransoms from those onboard.

At Musharraf's luncheon

Ex-CJP assured Clinton of no death penalty for Nawaz

State Department advised President Clinton against visiting Pakistan, but he still did for Nawaz, reveals book

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Dr Naseem Ashraf, former chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and former head of the National Commission for Human Development, has narrated in his upcoming book that the US State Department had advised President Bill Clinton against visiting Pakistan. However, President Clinton decided to visit Pakistan to prevent the execution of ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif. The US president also held a secret meeting with then-Chief Justice of Pakistan Irfad Hassan Khan to get an assurance that Nawaz would not be hanged. He arrived in Pakistan for a few hours after receiving assurances from General Musharraf. Dr Ashraf expressed these thoughts in his book, "Ring Side," which will be launched in Peshawar tomorrow, Tuesday, with additional launch events planned in various cities across Pakistan.

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PM warns negligence in Hajj preparations won't be tolerated

PM chairs review meeting on Hajj 2025 preparations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has issued strict directives for the special preparations of Hajj 2025, emphasising that no negligence in serving the pilgrims will be tolerated. According to Express News, the prime minister presided over a review meeting regarding Hajj 2025 preparations. He reiterated that pilgrims are Allah's guests, and ensuring their comfort is

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Mihai Eminescu, Allama Iqbal monument to be restored

The monument, which symbolizes the cultural bond between Pakistan and Romania, was inaugurated approximately 21 years ago by then-Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, in recognition of the literary contributions of the two iconic poets

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, announced that an FIR has been registered against those responsible for vandalizing the monument dedicated to Romanian poet Mihai Eminescu and Pakistan's national poet Allama Iqbal. In a statement shared on X (formerly Twitter), the Chairman emphasized CDA's commitment to preserving national heritage. He stated, "An FIR has been lodged, and an investigation into the incident is underway." Additionally, he directed the Environment Directorate to initiate restoration efforts on the damaged monument without delay. The primary objective is to meticulously repair and rejuvenate the structure, ensuring it is restored to its original condition and grandeur. This includes preserving its historical and cultural significance while employing expert craftsmanship and appropriate materials to maintain authenticity. The restoration process will also involve consultation with heritage conservation specialists to ensure the monument regains its former glory while adhering to international standards of preservation. Expressing gratitude, Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dan Stoenescu, praised the CDA's swift response. In his message on X, the ambassador remarked, "Thank you for your

commitment and efforts to restore this unique monument celebrating our national poets, Mihai Eminescu and Allama Iqbal, as well as the enduring friendship between our nations."



ISLAMABAD: A view of the original image of the monument, which unfortunately is not in the same shape anymore. - DNA

The monument, which symbolizes the cultural bond between Pakistan and Romania, was inaugurated approximately 21 years ago by then-Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, in recognition of the literary contributions of the two iconic poets. Both Pakistan and Romania have historically enjoyed strong bilateral relations, marked by mutual respect and cooperation across various fields. The establishment of the monument symbolized the enduring friendship and collaboration between the two nations, serving as a testament to their shared values and diplomatic ties. This monument stood not only as a cultural and historical landmark but also as a beacon of goodwill between the two countries. The respective Romanian ambassadors and the Pakistani government demonstrated unwavering commitment to maintaining the monument, dedicating substantial efforts and resources to ensure its preservation and upkeep. Their collaborative endeavors underscored the significance of the monument as a representation of their partnership. Unfortunately, in recent times, the monument suffered damage due to an act of vandalism. This incident has marred the monument's legacy and raised concerns about the protection of such symbolic structures. The act highlights the need for stronger measures to safeguard cultural and diplomatic heritage, ensuring such incidents do not undermine the efforts invested in fostering international relationships.

CM terms GIA milestone for Balochistan uplift

Addressing at the inauguration ceremony of Gwadar International Airport, Balochistan Chief Minister said that this airport is equipped with modern technology and world-class facilities which is capable of handling large aircraft

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Monday termed the inauguration of Gwadar International Airport (GIA) is a milestone for the development of Balochistan which would lead the province on new paths of prosperity and economic stability. He said that this airport is a historic project not only for Balochistan but also for the whole of Pakistan which would be helpful in promoting trade activities at national and international levels. Addressing at the inauguration ceremony of Gwadar International Airport, Balochistan Chief Minister said that this airport is equipped with mod-

ern technology and world-class facilities which is capable of handling large aircraft. He said that this modern airport would connect the area with major cities of the world saying that the completion of Gwadar International Airport could bring immense development in the investment, trade and tourism sectors in the province which would directly benefit the people. Mir Sarfaraz said that this project would provide employment opportunities to the local people and increase training and job opportunities for the youth. "The people of Gwadar have always played a key role in the development of Balochistan and their cooperation is the foundation of our successes," he said. He said that this project is

an important initiative under China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) which could make not only Balochistan but the entire Pakistan more stable and attractive internationally. He expressed his determination that more such development projects would be launched in the province that could bring positive change in the lives of the people of Balochistan. Thanking the government representatives, local people and experts present, he said that this successful launch of Gwadar International Airport is the result of collective efforts.

The CM reiterated his resolve that the development and prosperity of Balochistan is his top priority and all possible steps could be taken for this purpose.

Evening shifts started in 50 ICT schools: Fara

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Farah Naz Akbar on Monday informed the National Assembly that the Evening shifts had been started in 50 schools across the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Replying to supplementary questions during the Question Hour of the lower house of the Parliament, she said that 7,500 students were being enrolled who were out of school in the ICT area. Farah added that students would get Rs 5000 each month. Meanwhile replying to another question, she informed that the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training had sought records from the Federal Directorate of Education for the regularization of remaining teachers. She added that 73 remaining teachers of 132 would be regularized soon.—APP

Over 3000 kg emergency medicines delivered to Parachinar via helicopter

PESHAWAR, Jan 20 (APP): On the directives of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, over 3,000 kilograms of emergency medicines have been airlifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Parachinar via helicopter. Advisor to the Chief Minister, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, stated that the Medical Superintendent (MS) of Parachinar Hospital had reported a critical shortage of medicines. In response, essential medical supplies were promptly dispatched. Additionally, other necessary items were sent to cater to the needs of residents amid the harsh cold weather. Due to security concerns and blocked roads caused by severe weather conditions, helicopters are being used for the transportation of medicines.—APP

First ACP governing body meeting, five co-opted members selected

KARACHI: The first meeting of the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's governing body held the other day, under the leadership of President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Mohammad Ahmed Shah. According to press release, during the meeting, governing body approved the formation of 17 sub-committees and selected five key members to further contribute to the Council's mission. Additionally, five co-opted members were selected, whose inclusion was unanimously approved. These members include renowned scholar Dr. Jaffer Ahmed, educationalist Alya Iqbal Naqvi, famous anchorperson Wasim Badami, social figure Chand Gul Shah, and Honorary Consul General of Spain, prominent businessman Ghouse Akbar. The members of the Governing Body provided

valuable suggestions for the further improvement of the Arts Council. They acknowledged that the Arts Council has now become the largest institution in the country, playing an essential role in promoting art and culture as well as reducing hatred. The newly formed committees include Dr. Huma Mir, who will serve as a member of the Administration & Member Liaison Committee, Dr. S.M. Qaisar Sajjad, who will handle the Medical & Social Welfare Committee, Mohammad Iqbal Latif, who will oversee the Special Event & Stage Show Committee, Dr. Ambarin Hasib Amber, who will be part of the Literary & Poetry Committee, and Ghazi Salah Uddin, who will be responsible for the Press & Publication Committee. Other members include Syed Sajid Hasan for the Drama Committee,

Muhammad Ayoub Shaikh for the Folk & Heritage Committee, Akhlaq Ahmed Khan for the Literature Fiction Committee, Amjad Hussain Shah for the Music Committee, Abdullah Sultan for the Youth Committee, and Farrukh Tanveer Shahab for the Fine Arts Committee. Dr. Amjad Siraj Memon will head the Health Awareness Committee, while Dr. Jaffer Ahmed will be responsible for the Research, Documentation & Library Committee. Alya Iqbal Naqvi will serve on the Education Committee, Wasim Badami will manage the Electronic Media Committee, Chand Gul Shah will handle the Women Empowerment Committee, and Honorary Consul General of Spain, prominent businessman Ghouse Akbar will lead the Diplomatic & Corporate Liaison Committee.—APP

OxfordAQA leads charge in education innovation

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The OxfordAQA School Leaders' Conference, held in the capital city, brought together a diverse group of educational leaders, policymakers, and academic experts from in and around the city. Leveraging Islamabad's unique role as a center for decision-making and policy development, the event focused on exploring innovative strategies to advance teaching, learning, and assessment in Pakistan. Delivering the keynote, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Special Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, commented, "The OxfordAQA School Leaders' Conference in Islamabad presents a unique opportunity to bring together the brightest minds in education, as we chart a way forward for modern education, it is essential to ensure that our schools are not only preparing students for the future but are also leading the way in reshaping educational practices to meet the demands of an ever-changing world." With the theme Innovation in Teaching and Learning, the conference featured distinguished speakers and panelists, including Andrew Coombe, Managing Director, OxfordAQA International Qualifications, and Walid Mushtaq, CEO, Roots International Schools and Colleges. In his welcome address, Arshad Saeed Husain, Managing Director, Oxford University Press Pakistan, emphasized the need for collaborative leadership and global best practices to enhance educational standards. He said, "We must realize the potential of learning from each other, and from the indigenous resources that we have in Pakistan. Education has to be relevant to the learner. We at OxfordAQA ensure synthesis of global and local to achieve the right balance." Adding on to Arshad's message, Salma Adil, Director of OxfordAQA Pakistan, highlighted the organization's commitment to equipping students with future-ready skills. Amanda Ingram, Director of Exams, British Council, Pakistan, commented, "We are delighted to partner with Oxford AQA to provide world-class UK qualifications to Pakistanis across the country. Together, we successfully delivered the inaugural Oxford AQA January 2025 exam series, ensuring exam security, supporting schools, and creating an optimal environment for student success. We look forward to further strengthening this valuable relationship." The event featured insightful discussions on 'Future-proofing education' to prepare students for an evolving world, 'Leading change through innovation in teaching and learning,' 'Collaborative leadership in educational management,' and 'Preparing for a digital future with OxfordAQA's forward-thinking assessment framework.'

First-ever int'l moot on animals, environmental rights concludes on a high note

Minallah highlights animals legal rights, links biodiversity with protecting animals' habitat

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE: Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Justice Athar Minallah commended the organizers of Pakistan's first-ever International Animal and Environmental Rights Conference held in Lahore (18-19 Jan, 2025) for organizing a conference on a subject that is close to every Pakistani's heart. As a judge of the Supreme Court, it was not easy for me to accept invitation to a public gathering and address a seminar but the subject of the conference and the purpose of the seminar convinced me that I must attend and address on this important top-

ic, he said. He praised the organizers, the award-winning Pakistani Interspecies Justice lawyer, an activist, philanthropist and a teacher of animal laws Altamush Saeed and the co-organizer Ahmad Malik—for raising public awareness on such an important subject that deals with animals' rights and environment challenges. Justice Minallah said the world, particularly Pakistan was confronting with serious environmental challenges and one of the causes of the rising temperatures and melting glaciers was that we were trespassing in the kingdom of animals. If we preserve their natural habitat and don't disturb them, I can assure nature would remain intact and there would

be no threat to our forests or eco-system, he said. The conference that was attended by a large number of the audience particularly the youth from various universities and colleges, animal lovers and members of civil society. Those who addressed and interacted with the audience included the national and international animal rights representatives, economists keeping an eye on the businesses related with animals' sale, farm animals' rights activists, wild animal rights champions, legal fraternity and activists. During the two days, one had the opportunity to listen to the stalwarts of animal rights. They included Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Ayesha Malik of the Supreme Court

of Pakistan, Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court, President of the Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHBA) Manzoor Butt, AHC Abuzar Niazi, co-organizer and former SCP clerk & NUST Faculty member Bilquees Bano, animal rights activists Aiza Qamar and artist Faryal Gauhar, journalists Sana Roger and Yusra Askari, Barrister Ahmad Pansota, Four Paws Project Director Dr Amir Khalil, WWF Pakistan's Hamera Aisha, Legal Counsel for Animals Australia, Shatha Hamade and Dr Gulbikie Mirzaoglu. In his keynote address Justice Minallah highly complimented International Animals Welfare Group, Four Paws—Project Director, Dr Amir Khalil and his team—for

rescuing the 'world's loneliest elephant' Kavan from Islamabad's Marghazar Zoo and transferring it to a sanctuary for elephants in Cambodia. Justice Athar Minallah recalled the days when he was Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and a number of petitions landed in the court regarding the welfare of animals and provision of various facilities in the Islamabad Zoo. This was the time when Dr Amir Khalil and his team were already in the federal capital looking after Kavan and coping with multiple challenges including the lack of cooperation from the government of the day and inappropriate conditions, they were working in, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Fahad Sulaiman Al Kharusi, Ambassador Embassy of the Sultanate of OMAN calls on Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi, at the Governor House, Islamabad. — DNA

Peshawar board extends deadline for Matric annual exam admissions

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Education Board has announced an extension for the submission of admissions for the Matric Annual Examination 2025. According to Alamzeb, spokesperson for the Peshawar Education Board, the extension has been granted to provide students with additional convenience. Students can now apply with a normal fee until January 27. The decision allows students to complete their registration with a normal fee by the new deadline, he added. "The extension aims to facilitate students further, ensuring they can register on time and focus on their exam preparations," said Alamzeb, who also serves as Deputy Controller of Examinations.—APP

KP govt releases over 460m for Village and Neighborhood Councils

ABBOTTABAD: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Monday has announced the release of grants totaling 460.7 million for 3,501 Village and Neighborhood Councils (VCs/NCs) across the province's settled districts.

According to official sources, these funds are earmarked for the payment of three months' salaries to local government representatives. A formal notification has been issued to Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Directors of Local Government in all settled districts, instructing them to ensure the timely disbursement of the allocated amount. As part of the allocation, PKR 78 million has been designated for the Village and Neighborhood Councils in the Hazara Division, reflecting the region's proportionate share in the overall disbursement. The distribution process is set to begin immediately to assist the councils in meeting their financial obligations. This initiative is part of the provincial government's broader efforts to bolster the financial framework of local governance and provide necessary support to elected representatives at the grassroots level.—APP

Farmers urged to boost early cotton production for higher yields

ISLAMABAD: A meeting aimed at boosting early cotton production in Pakistan was held at the Cotton Research Station Faisalabad on Monday. The session was chaired by Chief Scientist Agriculture (Research), Dr Sajid ur Rahman, and attended by various stakeholders, including researchers and farmers. According to Sajid ur Rahman, the key objective of the meeting was to encourage farmers to cultivate early cotton in line with the Agriculture Department's ambitious target of covering 10 million acres of land. Sajid highlighted that the per-acre yield of cotton has been on a continuous decline in seasonal sowing, stressing the importance of early planting to help reverse this trend. Sajid urged farmers to begin sowing cotton by February 15, noting that the sowing period from February 15 to March 31 is critical for ensuring the best possible yields. He recommended farmers use approved cotton varieties, such as Rayaal, Cindal,

Raya, and Kinnow, to achieve optimal results. The certified seed varieties can produce yields ranging from 60 to 70 Maunds per acre when properly sowed. He also emphasized that proper soil preparation and seed selection are essential for maximizing productivity. Farmers urged to boost early cotton production for higher yields: Agriculture experts stress timely sowing Sajid gave an in-depth lecture on low-cost production technologies suited for early cotton cultivation and emphasized the significance of using certified seeds for optimal yield. "To achieve maximum yields of up to 70 Maunds per acre in early sown cotton, it is crucial to use glyphosate-tolerant, three-gene varieties that can yield high results with minimal inputs," Chief Scientist Agriculture stated during the meeting. Further addressing the challenges facing cotton cultivation, Dr. Rahman stressed the need for modern crop management techniques to combat climatic challenges and pest

infestations. He advised farmers to seek guidance from the Agriculture Department regarding the prevention of whitefly attacks, pink bollworm infestations, and other extreme weather conditions. Dr Sajid also instructed the researchers at the Cotton Research Station to play a pivotal role in the campaign to revitalize Pakistan's cotton industry, boosting economic growth and prosperity for the country's farming communities. Chief Scientist Agriculture also suggested some new experiments to the researchers of the institute regarding early sown cotton so that precise information must be generated which can benefit the farmers to obtain maximum yield. He also urged researchers to develop Climate-resilient cotton varieties that can thrive in Pakistan's diverse climate conditions. He also discussed some improved irrigation, fertilization, and pest management. Practices which can benefit the farming community.—DNA

TDCP introduces double decker bus service in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: The Tourism Development Corporation Punjab introduced double decker bus service to explore Faisalabad for the general public and students of schools, colleges and universities. According to official sources on Monday, the main terminal of the bus is Bagh-e-Jinnah and it will

cover a 28-km distance on various city roads. The estimated travel time will be 3-hours with one-and-a-half hours stay. The ticket price general is Rs 500 and students /children under 19 is Rs 400. Friday and Sunday will be for the general public, however, the bus can move on other days also if its seats

are filled. The special booking for 60 seats in a bus for a student's group will be in Rs 20,000 and for general public with family Rs 25,000 per tour. The TDCP also offered free travelling to Senior Citizens (65 plus) CNIC required, kids under-5 (FRC required) and disabled persons (card required).—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JANUARY

Jan 01 / CUBA	Revolution Day
Jan 01 / Palestine	Palestine Revolution Day
Jan 01 / Sudan	National Day
Jan 04 / Myanmar	Independence Day
Jan 06 / Iraq	Armed Forces Day
Jan 12 / Tanzania	Armed Forces Day
Jan 14 / Uzbekistan	Armed Forces Day
Jan 15 / Nigeria	Armed Forces Day
Jan 20 / Mali	Armed Forces Day
Jan 20 / Laos	Armed Forces Day
Jan 25 / Thailand	Armed Forces Day
Jan 26 / Australia	National Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Qureshi stresses crucial eco reforms to drive export-led growth

Qureshi pointed out that while other nations have been lowering trade barriers and integrating their economies globally, Pakistan has moved in the opposite direction, maintaining tariffs that are at least twice the global average and three times higher than those of successful East Asian exporting countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, the President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, commended the sitting government, particularly Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, for taking decisive actions to improve the country's economic situation and pull it out of its current challenges. He expressed optimism that these bold measures are beginning to show positive signs for the economy. However, he highlighted that Pakistan's share in global exports has been

consistently declining, with a reduction of over 20% in the past two decades. He stressed that prioritizing economic expansion is essential to counter rising poverty and unemployment. Qureshi pointed out that while other nations have been lowering trade barriers and integrating their economies globally, Pakistan has moved in the opposite direction, maintaining tariffs that are at least twice the global average and three times higher than those of successful East Asian exporting countries. He warned that relying on foreign assistance to resolve the economic challenges is unlikely



to succeed, as no country has achieved export-led growth without first implementing crucial domestic reforms. He empha-

sized that now is the time to address the hardships faced by the people and pave the way for meaningful change, urging the formulation of investment- and people-friendly policies through consultations with all stakeholders, including business leaders and chambers.

Nasir Qureshi went on to say that as far as the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) is committed to fostering an environment that promotes ease of doing business by actively addressing the challenges faced by the business community. Through continuous dialogue with government

officials and relevant stakeholders, ICCI strives to identify and resolve key issues such as excessive regulations, complex procedures, and high operational costs that hinder business growth. The Chamber is dedicated to advocating for policy reforms that support entrepreneurship, enhance competitiveness, and simplify processes, thereby creating a more conducive environment for both local and international businesses to thrive. By focusing on these critical areas, ICCI aims to drive economic growth, stimulate investment, and create more opportunities for businesses to expand and succeed.

Pak, Singapore committed to strengthen coop: Rabia

Currently, the trade volume between the two countries stands at approximately US\$1.193 billion, which is relatively modest compared to other South Asian nations and the Halal products sector presents significant potential, she added

DNA

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Pakistan to Singapore, Rabia Shafiq on Monday highlighted the longstanding strong growing bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Singapore, emphasizing continued collaboration at bilateral, regional and multilateral fora. She stated that over the past few decades, Pakistan and Singapore had steadily cultivated its political economic and institutional partnership with Singapore. While engagements have laid a strong foundation for cooperation across multiple sectors, she stressed that there existed immense myriad potential untapped. She made these remarks while addressing members of Singapore Press Club in a gathering at Pakistan House, Singapore, according to a press release received here. The event, attended by journalists and communica-



tion specialists, featured a display of books showcasing Pakistan's tourism potential and rich cultural heritage. Participants were also served with traditional Pakistani cuisine. During her address to the journalists, the High Commissioner emphasized that both Pakistan and Singapore were committed to working together. While diplomatic ties have flourished,

the economic and trade relationship between Pakistan and Singapore still holds untapped potential, the High Commissioner said. Currently, the trade volume between the two countries stands at approximately US\$1.193 billion, which is relatively modest compared to other South Asian nations and the Halal products sector presents significant potential, she added. She further said that another promis-

ing development was Pakistan's growing presence in Singapore's fintech ecosystem. Since 2019, there has been regular participation in the Singapore Fintech Festival, showcasing the innovative potential of Pakistani startups. This engagement has led to increased participation by Pakistani companies in global fintech events, further expanding opportunities for collaboration, the High Commissioner said.

Jazz launches affordable UAE Data Roaming bundles

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has introduced affordable UAE Data Roaming Bundles, providing seamless connectivity for Pakistani travelers and the diaspora in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). According to a news release these bundles eliminate the need for expensive foreign SIMs or complex eSIM setups, offering high-speed data at competitive rates to ensure a hassle-free travel experience. The bundles come in three convenient options: 1 GB for 7 days at Rs 999, 2 GB for 15 days at Rs 1799, and 5 GB for 30 days at Rs 4499. A standout feature is the unrestricted access to VoIP audio and video calling services like WhatsApp, BiP, Messenger, and FaceTime, addressing a common challenge for users of local UAE SIMs. Customers can easily activate these bundles by dialing *7626#, through the Jazz SIMOSA app, or via Jazz's WhatsApp self-service here. Adeel Asad, Head of Carrier & International Business at Jazz, remarked, "These new UAE Data Roaming Bundles reflect our ongoing commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our customers. By leveraging partnerships with leading UAE networks like Etisalat, we are able to offer affordable, reliable, and high-quality connectivity that ensures our customers stay connected with their loved ones and work seamlessly, no matter where they are." These new data bundles complement Jazz's extensive roaming portfolio, which includes World Bundles covering over 90 countries and Saudi Bundles for data services in Saudi Arabia. Customers can also access voice and SMS services in the UAE at base tariffs, with details available here. With these affordable solutions, Jazz continues to provide smooth connectivity for its customers, whether traveling for Hajj, leisure, or business.

Citizens troubled over drain water seeped in gas pipelines

The residents have appealed to the concerned authorities to take up the issues for urgent redressal. They said they would organize a protest in case the issue is not addressed in coming days by SNGPL

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Dirty darian water and gutters' pathogenic materials have mixed in the gas pipelines creating mess for the citizens. The poisonous thick fluid has also entered in the homes through the gas connections. The worsening situation has created the environmental as well as domestic gas supply threats for the residents. The residents of the Rawalpindi Cantonment area have complained about the issue to Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), which sent its teams to flush out the drain water and other masses which have seeped into

the main gas sanctioning lines. However, the field crew of SNGPL could not do any needful. "We have registered multiple complaints to SNGPL for an urgent action, but they came after one week and left the area without conclusive output", said Tahir Malik who resides in Tench Bhatta. He further informed state media that the gas shortage has reduced to almost zero gas supply due the water dissolved masses. Sidra Aarsalan, another residents said she was facing the issue for last two weeks. "SNGPL crew came twice and pressured the main gas pipelines which flushed out black thick liquids mixed with gutter substances from the gas pipes. But they

left the area saying that they would inform their seniors", sidra said expressing her annoyance over the prevailing situation. Aziz Butt, another resident of the same area said that in addition to the gas supply stoppage, health issues could also emerge as endemic. "We are already facing the gas supply shortage, now the pollutants are entering in our kitchens spreading pungent smells and threatening our health's", he said. On the other side, SNGPL officials visiting the victims area informed APP that they were in effort to trace the spot where the gas pipelines and drain water got intermixed and would soon come up with the required maintenance.

"We gave pressure in the lines to flush out the mass present in them, we will inform the relevant department to trace the spot for needful maintenance", said one of the officials from SNGPL. Nonetheless, the issue remains stand-still which has furthered the severe gas supply facing many streets of Tench Bhatta. A considerable decades old gas connections are found mixed with drains. This has weakened the material quality and ultimately perforated the main supply line. The residents have appealed to the concerned authorities to take up the issues for urgent redressal. They said they would organize a protest in case the issue is not addressed in coming days by SNGPL.

CDA chief reviews sector C-14 development work

Chairman CDA instructed that the development work in Sector E-12 be completed promptly so that the possession of plots can be handed over to the allottees. He also directed that all encroachments on the land of these sectors be removed swiftly

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa chaired a meeting regarding sector development at CDA headquarters on Monday. The meeting was attended by CDA Board members and other senior officers. During the briefing, it was informed that 90% of the road infrastructure work in Sector C-14 has been completed while blacktop work on the roads will begin as temperature improves. It was also informed that the drainage and sewage work in Sector C-14 is progressing rapidly. The meeting was informed that there is no hurdle in the development work of Sector C-14. The meeting was informed that development work is being carried out around the clock. The meeting was further briefed that demand note for the provision of electricity in Sector C-14 has also been issued. Chairman CDA instructed that, as promised, the possession of Sector C-14 should be handed over to the allottees upon the final installment payment. The meeting also reviewed the pace of development work in Sector C-16. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa directed that all issues in Sector C-16 be resolved and development work be accelerated. A briefing was also provided to Chairman CDA regarding the development work in Sector I-12. During the briefing, it was informed that the base-level work on road infrastructure in Sector I-12 has been completed, and the Triple Surface Treatment (TST) work on the sector's roads will begin soon. It was also mentioned that possession of plots in Sector I-12 will be handed over to allottees shortly. A briefing was also given regarding the ongoing development work in Sector E-12. Chairman CDA instructed that the development work in Sector E-12 be completed promptly so that the possession of plots can be handed over to the allottees. He also directed that all encroachments on the land of these sectors be removed swiftly.—DNA

ANF recovers over 123 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 7 operations across the country managed to recover over 123 kg drugs worth over Rs 10 million and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 320 grams opium was recovered from two parcels booked for Italy and Spain through a courier office in Karachi. 60 kg hashish hidden in machines sent from Peshawar through railway cargo was recovered in Natha Khan Bridge, Karachi. 10.8 kg opium and 22.8 kg hashish were recovered during a raid conducted on a house near Nankana Sahib in Lahore and an accused was arrested. In an operation conducted in Gwadar, Balochistan, 28 kg hashish was recovered. 1.2 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up on M-1 Motorway, Islamabad. In 6th operation, 316 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of the accused netted on Adiala Road in Rawalpindi.—APP

Call for efforts to save youth from Tobacco hazards

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards combating the growing tobacco epidemic among Pakistan's youth, the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) on Monday convened a two-day dialogue titled "Discussion on Sustainable Tobacco Control Measures: Protecting Youth from Emerging Health Risks." The participants emphasized the need for strengthening policy frameworks, enhancing enforcement mechanisms, implementing higher tobacco taxes, regulating emerging tobacco products, and developing innovative public advocacy initiatives to protect the health of future generations. Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, Advisor to Chief Minister KPK on Information and PRs emphasized on the grave implications of tobacco use on public health and its pervasive impact on society. "The health of our future generations is at risk, and it is a challenge we cannot afford to ignore," he remarked. "The consequences of inaction are severe, not only in terms of health but also regarding the economic burden.—APP

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Briefs

Mian slams PTI for lack of meaningful dialogue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Mian Javed Latif slammed PTI, emphasizing that its leadership must adopt a more collaborative approach and shed its ego-driven mindset if meaningful dialogue is to take place. In a recent interview with a private news channel, Mian Javed Latif launched a blistering attack on PTI, alleging that their negotiation goals were vastly different from their initial claims, exposing a shocking disconnect between their words and actions. Mian Javed Latif strongly condemned PTI, holding them accountable for perpetuating a culture of revenge and chaos in politics over the past few years. He emphasized that PTI's leadership has consistently prioritized personal interests and vendettas over the well-being of the nation, leading to a toxic and divisive political environment. Responding to a query, Mian Latif said that the leaked call between Farah Gogi, Malik Riaz and Bushra Bibi is a damning indictment of the PTI government's corruption. It clearly shows that they were involved in corrupt practices and using their influence for personal gain, he added. To another question, Mian Javed Latif stated that the world powers currently exerting pressure on Pakistan are not opposed to Imran Khan, but rather are pursuing their own interests. According to Latif, these powers utilize financial institutions as a means to achieve their objectives, implying a form of economic coercion. Mian Javed Latif also criticized PTI for their handling of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. He alleged that PTI's leadership initially showed reluctance towards CPEC, which led to a slowdown in the project's progress.—APP

PSC launches Technovation challenge to empower girls in technology

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Science Club (PSC), the Regional Ambassador for Technovation in Pakistan since 2017, has announced the launch of the Technovation Challenge 2024-2025. This 12-week program aims to inspire and empower girls aged 8-18 to use mobile and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to solve real-world problems within their communities. As part of this global initiative, PSC will conduct 12 free sessions per week, either online or on-site, to ensure accessibility for all interested participants. On-site session locations and schedules will be announced soon. According to an official of PSC, the program is divided into three categories based on age as of August 1, 2025: Beginner Division (8-12 years), Junior Division (13-15 years), and Senior Division (16-18 years). Through the program, girls will work in teams to identify community challenges, develop innovative solutions, and build apps to address these problems. Along the way, participants will enhance their collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership skills. The free program not only teaches cutting-edge tech skills to girls but also helps develop entrepreneurship and leadership skills, guiding participants to turn their ideas into market ready prototypes. With over 20,000 girls from over 115 countries participating each year, it is a chance to learn, grow and compete globally. PSC has been running various Technovation programs since 2018 and has gained international recognition, being named Global Winners twice for the AI Family Challenge program. As a key partner of Technovation, a global organization with over 120 collaborators worldwide, PSC continues to play a vital role in fostering innovation and bridging the gender gap in technology. The registrations for the program are now open, offering young girls a unique opportunity to develop entrepreneurial and technological skills and compete on a global stage.—APP

Chinese cultural counselor stresses need for promotion of cultural ties

Chinese Cultural Counselor Chen Peng expressed his personal gratitude for the warm hospitality and emphasized the need to revive cultural cooperation between Pakistan and China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum (PCF), hosted a meeting at his residence to welcome to Pakistan newly appointed Chinese Cultural Counselor, Excellency Chen Peng who was accompanied by Zhang Li. The welcome ceremony was attended by Ahsan Bakhtawari, Chairman of Clean and Green Islamabad Movement and Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), and Waqar Bakhtawari, Former President of the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The mutual interaction between Zafar Bakhtawari & Excellency Chen Peng was held in a very cordial atmosphere and emphasized fostering mutual understanding through cultural exchange programs, artistic



collaborations, cooperation and mutual assistance to bring people of both the Nations closer to each other through cultural interaction. Chinese Cultural

Counselor Chen Peng expressed his personal gratitude for the warm hospitality and emphasized the need to revive cultural cooperation between Pakistan

and China. He highlighted that Chinese Culture Office will launch initiatives such as Chinese film festivals, martial arts events, and youth-focused pro-

grams, saying, "Our goal is to engage the younger generation, bridging gaps and fostering enduring friendships between Pakistan and China."

Minister stresses importance of political consensus

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh Monday expressed optimism about the ongoing negotiations between the government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, hoping that these talks will yield positive outcomes. In an exclusive interview with PTV news

channel, the Minister for Maritime Affairs stressed the need for political consensus and unity among parties. He urged politicians to rise above petty politics and prioritize the country's-being. He called upon all parties to put aside their differences and work together to address the nation's challenges. Federal Minister has commended the Speaker of the National Assembly

for taking the initiative to facilitate negotiations between the government and the PTI party. Sheikh emphasized that both parties must demonstrate flexibility to ensure successful talks. Responding to a query, Sheikh emphasized that the PTI's willingness to engage in talks should translate to their behaviour in the National Assembly. He stressed that the party should allow

parliamentary proceedings to unfold smoothly, just as they have done in these negotiations. This, he believes, is essential for serving the greater interest of the people, who are pinning their hopes on the country's political parties. By doing so, Sheikh hopes to see a more constructive and collaborative environment in the National Assembly.

HR abuses surge in IIOJK January toll sparks outrage

ISLAMABAD: The surge in violence in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) this January has sparked widespread outrage, with Indian security forces accused of committing numerous human rights abuses where bloodshed has drawn attention to the long-standing struggle of the Kashmiri people, who continue to face brutal suppression at the hands of Indian occupation forces. According to an analytical report released by Kashmir Media Service, it was revealed that 60 people were martyred on January 6, 1993, in Sopore town, on January 21, 1990, Indian forces slaughtered over 50 civilians in the Gaw Kadal area of Srinagar, 25 people on January 25, 1990, in Handwara, and 27 people on January 27, 1994, in Kupwara. Memories of these bloodbaths are still fresh in Kashmiris' minds, serving as a reminder of the criminal face of Hindutva forces. The report stated that as many as 634 people have been killed and property worth billions of rupees has been ruined in around 49 massacres carried out by Indian forces since January 1990 to date. Additionally, tens of thousands of Muslims were butchered in Jammu by the Indian Army and Hindutva RSS/Dogra forces in November 1947. The report emphasized that the aim of committing these massacres is to instill fear among the Kashmiris. Despite the fact that the BJP-led Indian regime has crossed all records of atrocities to change the Muslim-majority Jammu and Kashmir into a minority area, India has failed to crush the freedom sentiment of Kashmiris, the report noted. It urged the international community to come forward to stop the genocide of Kashmiri people at the hands of brutal Indian forces. Meanwhile, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference spokesman, Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued in Srinagar, said that Sopore, Gaw Kadal, Handwara, Kupwara, and other such massacres reminded him of the notorious Jallianwala Bagh carnage, perpetrated by the then British government in India. The spokesman, while paying tributes to over 130 victims of the January massacres, reiterated the Kashmiris' resolve to continue the martyrs' mission until its logical conclusion.—DNA

US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani export

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first six months of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-December 2024-25 were recorded at US \$3017.563 million against the exports of US \$2748.895 million during July-December 2023-24, showing an increase of 9.77 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$1286.437 million against the exports of US \$762 million last year, showing a decrease of 13.18 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$1100.425 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$1016.449 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US \$1088.99 million against US \$1000.719 million last year while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$843.722 million against US \$732.978 million last year, data said. During July-December 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$742.724 million against \$670.394 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$569.347 million against \$568.293 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$724.913 million against the exports of US \$747.933 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$504.308 million against \$262.583 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$386.562 million against US \$299.082 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$280.560 million against US \$254.122 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$298.951 million against US \$277.960 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$363.969 million during the current year compared to US \$328.232 million last year whereas the exports to Turkey stood at US \$155.544 million against US \$180.792 million. Also directed to present a detailed briefing on the selection criteria of Moavineen Hajj (Hajj assistants), their responsibilities and other arrangements. He said the best possible training facility should be provided to the pilgrims, besides ensuring selection of capable officers having good repute for Hajj duty. He also ordered to take special care of residence, travel and other facilities for the pilgrims. "Merit and transparency must be ensured in deployment of the Moavineen.—DNA

Finance minister leaves for Davos

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday departed for Davos, the Swiss city, to participate in the World Economic Forum 2025 annual meeting being held from January 20 to 24. Aurangzeb will meet with political, trade, and business leaders of various countries and international organizations and would also address various sessions and negotiations, clarifying the country's economic landscape, according to press release issued by finance ministry. The Finance Minister will participate, as a panelist, in a high-level discussion on the growing burden of global debt on developing economies during the forum and would present his perspective on establishing strong and resilient economies through fiscal

policy adjustments and debt sustainability. Aurangzeb would also participate as a panelist in a high-level discussion on the revolutionary impact of new technologies, especially AI and automation, on promoting trade and investment. He will express his thoughts on leveraging technologies to achieve accurate and profitable trade and investment. The minister is also scheduled to meet with the heads of international financial and business institutions, organizations involved in sustainable development, and investors and commercial banks, especially from the Middle East. He will participate in two separate discussions on "Digital Pakistan" and

"Investment in Pakistan", organized by the Pathfinder Group. In addition, he will also give interviews to selected international media representatives during his visit. The 55th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum is being held under the theme "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age. It brings together multiple heads of state and governments, leaders from the private sector and civil society. Over 1,000 high-level representatives from the private sector, young leaders, civil society, and educational institutions will also participate in the forum. The event aims to present solutions based on international cooperation in various economic and development sectors between governments and major international organizations and institutions.—DNA

Online shopping trend appears popular among public

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The citizens of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are getting more interest in online shopping to avoid spending more time and saving travelling expenses. According to a survey conducted, the trend of online shopping was increasing in population particularly in women. Citizens claimed that this practice is more convenience, flexibility, with time-saving benefits. "Online shopping gives me access to a global market, allowing to purchase products from retailers around the world and it's also re-

duces the need of physical stores and transportation," a customer Shahida Perveen said. She added "I prefer online shopping which is growing rapidly and social networks have become increasingly important platforms." Sundus Ali another customer said that "Online shopping has made my life so much easier. I can shop from anywhere, at any time, and have my purchases delivered right to my doorstep." She said, "Online shopping saves time and effort, allowing me to browse and purchase products quickly." Customer Zeba Hayat said "online shopping allows me to avoid crowded stores and shop-

ping malls". "I love how I can read reviews from other customers before making a purchase which helps me make informed decisions and avoid buying something that might not be right for me." She remarked. She said that online retailers frequently offer discounts, promotions, and price matching, making it easier for us to discover and purchase products. Online shopping often provides better prices and deals compared to physical stores, she added. She said online shopping enables people with mobility issues or those living in remote areas to access products easily.

Punjab tourism dept to introduce tourism app

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Tourism, Archaeology & Museums Department Punjab Farid Ahmad Tarar disclosed that department is set to launch a 'Crowd Sourcing' project, inviting vloggers to compete in showcasing the province's hidden gems, alongside a dedicated Tourism app to unlock Punjab's untapped tourism potential. In an exclusive interview with PTV News, Secretary Tourism revealed that the crowd sourcing project will feature brand ambassadors and influencers who will participate through vlogs. These participants will be given the opportunity to compete and explore the hidden gems of Punjab, showcasing their experiences and discoveries through their vlogs, thereby promoting the country's untapped tourism potential. The Punjab Tourism Department is also gearing up to launch a comprehensive database tourism app within the next few months, under the supervision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, he said. The app will also feature a range of convenient tools, including a digital map and transport services, making it easier for tourists to navigate and explore the province, he mentioned. This initiative is part of the Punjab government's efforts to promote tourism and showcase the region's rich cultural heritage, he said, adding, by leveraging technology and providing a seamless user experience, the app is expected to attract more tourists to Punjab and boost the local economy. To address concerns about tourist security, the Punjab Tourism Department plans to register all tour operators, adding, this initiative aims to ensure that tourists have a safe and enjoyable experience in Punjab. By registering tour operators, the department can better monitor and regulate their activities, thereby minimizing potential risks to tourists, he said. This move is part of the department's broader efforts to promote responsible tourism and provide a secure environment for visitors, he added. To another question, he explained that Pakistan is taking significant steps to enhance security and cultural exchange programs, with a focus on promoting religious tourism. One notable example is the introduction of one-window facilities for Sikh Yatri visiting the Kartarpur Corridor, he said, adding that this initiative aims to provide a seamless and convenient experience for pilgrims.—APP



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Hope despite the horrors

AFTER long suffering and one of the most horrific genocides in contemporary history, the Palestinians in Gaza await a new dawn that will end their pain and deep wounds. On Sunday morning, their hearts, before their eyes, look forward to the specified date for the start of the first phase of the ceasefire. There are hopes for a new life, despite the scars left by the war, and despite cautious optimism, the hope remains that the future will be freer and safer. Since the announcement of the agreement for a ceasefire and the end of the genocide, the displaced have begun to plan for the first days after the war's end, all hopeful that the coming days will erase their pain and deep wounds, knowing all too well that Palestine's price is high—paid with blood. Citizen Mahmoud Al-Haddad, whose home was destroyed by the occupation during the major Israeli assault on Khan Yunis at the end of 2023, currently lives in a tent in the Mawasi of Khan Yunis. He confirmed to our reporter that he will remove his tent and take it to the site of his destroyed home in the Amal neighborhood to set it up there. He says he will not find a better place than his home, even if it is a pile of rubble. "It is security and safety, love and harmony," he emphasized, stating he will not leave the place and will rebuild the house despite the occupation. Meanwhile, citizen Ahmed Baris, whose home was also destroyed by the occupation and who lives under a collapsing roof in the Khan Yunis camp, says that on the first day of the ceasefire, he will go to his martyr son's grave. He added that he has been deprived of visiting it, especially since the cemetery is in a dangerous area, repeatedly targeted by occupation planes. "I will recite Al-Fatiha for his pure soul and tell him how much I miss him." Citizen Mahmoud Abu Teir confirmed that he will leave the Mawasi of Khan Yunis and will immediately go to check on his home in the eastern part of the city, where he lives near the border with the occupation. He says: "Since the start of the genocide, I have not seen my home, and I do not know what has happened to it, because the area is very remote and dangerous. But I will go there." He expects that his house has suffered destruction due to its location. "Israel has destroyed everything, but it failed to take our dignity and humility." Journalist Yahya Salem said, "Tomorrow we will start the journey to search for more than 40 martyrs from our family who are still under the rubble since December 2023. Tomorrow, emotions will mix; the absent will return, and loved ones will depart." As for journalist Hani Al-Maghari, he stated that he will begin tomorrow the journey to search for the graves of his father, three brothers, a sister, and 16 other family members, including 8 children, all of whom were buried without anyone bidding them farewell. It is expected that the ceasefire in Gaza will go into effect at 8:30 AM on Sunday, and a week later, the return of the displaced and the exchange of prisoners will commence, with planned stages. Displaced residents of Gaza City and the north will begin returning to their areas from the south on the seventh day of the ceasefire, according to specific protocols. Citizen Fadl Bseesa told our reporter that he will tear down the tent where he sold traditional foods in the Mawasi of Khan Yunis and will return to his usual shop in the Khan Yunis camp area to resume his work. He continues that he will tear down the tent, end the displacement, and return to the home that has suffered some damage, adding: "We will rebuild it."

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Donald Trump & South China Sea

THE South China Sea has long been a stage for US-China rivalry, its critical shipping lanes, rich resources and competing territorial claims making it a geopolitical flashpoint. Last year, tensions escalated as China intensified its actions in the disputed waters, including announcing baselines around Scarborough Shoal and stepping up reef patrols. Simultaneously, the United States maintained its freedom of navigation operations, signalling support for regional allies and challenging Beijing's territorial assertions. The South China Sea faces renewed challenges this year, driven by Donald Trump's return as US president. Trump's approach during his first term prioritised a transactional style of diplomacy, increasing freedom of navigation operations while fostering ties with regional allies like the Philippines. But this strategy often lacked consistency, as his focus on trade deals with China sometimes overshadowed security concerns. Trump's return could see the South China Sea potentially used as a bargaining tool in negotiations with Beijing. China is likely to be bracing for a more unpredictable US approach under Trump. Beijing's South China Sea actions are a mix of assertiveness and calculated restraint. Last year, it submitted Scarborough baselines to the United Nations while reinforcing its maritime presence and showcasing its growing naval capabilities in a counterbalance to US freedom of navigation operations. But China also sought to manage tensions through diplomacy, including regional security dialogues and negotiations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for a South China Sea code of conduct. By prioritising bilateral deals over multilateralism, Trump could upset Beijing's strategic calculations. Philippines and China trade blame over confrontation in South China Sea As a central party to the South China Sea disputes, the Philippines faces both internal and external pressures. Internally, Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio's feud with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr has exposed fractures within the government, which could undermine its ability to formulate coherent foreign policy. Externally, Manila must navigate its complex relationships with Washington and Beijing. The Marcos administration has leaned on US military support, signing the General Security of Military Information Agreement to enhance intelligence-sharing. But economic ties with China remain critical, creating a delicate balancing act. Trump's transactional diplomacy could complicate this balance. While Manila may welcome increased US military aid and arms sales, it risks deeper entanglement in the US-China competition, compromising its strategic autonomy. Vietnam, another key stakeholder, has taken a resilient yet pragmatic approach to the South China Sea. Hanoi continues to modernise its military and enhance maritime surveillance, balancing an assertive defence of its sovereignty with diplomacy. Vietnam's strategy reflects a long-term commitment to safeguarding its interests without provoking Beijing unnecessarily. Trump's return could bring further complexity. His cabinet picks, including Marco Rubio as secretary of state and Pete Hegseth as defence secretary, signal a continuation of hawkish policies on China. Rubio, a vocal critic of Beijing, is likely to prioritise strengthening alliances and curbing Chinese influence.

Ceasefire without resolution: The unfinished struggle for peace

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The war left both sides with thousands injured, many of whom will bear lifelong physical and psychological scars. The destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship on both sides symbolizes the indiscriminate nature of modern warfare. Yet, the disparity in destruction highlights the unequal capabilities...

ACEASEFIRE has finally been declared between Israel and Palestine, bringing an end to weeks of devastating conflict. This war, like many before it, has left behind a trail of destruction, immense human suffering, and deep political and social scars. While both sides claim justification for their actions, the toll on human life and infrastructure has been staggering, with the consequences of this latest conflict likely to be felt for decades. In Palestine, the losses have been catastrophic. Thousands of civilians, including women and children, lost their lives. Entire neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble as airstrikes and artillery fire targeted residential areas, markets, and shelters. Medical facilities, including hospitals and clinics, were severely damaged or destroyed, leaving the injured without adequate care. Schools were turned into piles of debris, depriving children of education and safety. The economic losses are equally devastating, with estimates running into billions of dollars. Infrastructure essential for daily life, such as water systems, electricity grids, and transportation networks, has been obliterated, plunging many areas into a humanitarian crisis. Israel, too, suffered significant losses, albeit on a smaller scale. Rocket attacks by Palestinian groups caused casualties and injuries among civilians, with many left to grapple with the trauma of living under constant threat. Residential buildings and public infrastructure were damaged, though the extent was far less than in Gaza. The Israeli government allocated substantial resources to its military operations and civil defense, straining the national economy. The war left both sides with thousands injured, many of whom will bear lifelong physical and psychological scars. The destruction of homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship on both sides symbolizes the indiscriminate nature of modern

warfare. Yet, the disparity in destruction highlights the unequal capabilities and vulnerabilities of the two parties. Questions about accountability and justice loom large. International law prohibits targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, and both sides have been accused of committing war crimes. Will the international community hold perpetrators accountable? Historically, global powers have often chosen diplomacy over justice, with war crimes investigations either delayed or abandoned due to political considerations. The United Nations and human rights organizations have, once again, faced criticism for failing to prevent the conflict and protect civilians. Despite numerous resolutions and calls for peace, the UN's inability to enforce its decisions underscores its weakened role in global conflict resolution. Will this ceasefire include measures to ensure that such wars do not recur in the future? Unfortunately, the agreement does not seem to address the root causes of the conflict, such as territorial disputes, political tensions, and the blockade on Gaza. Without clear and enforceable mechanisms to address these issues, this ceasefire risks becoming just another pause before the next eruption of violence. Are wars truly the solution to problems? This conflict serves as yet another reminder that war only deepens divisions, destroys lives, and perpetuates cycles of suffering. Every war leaves behind unhealed wounds and unresolved grievances. Diplomatic efforts and peaceful negotiations are the only viable paths to lasting solutions, yet these paths are often overshadowed by the destructive allure of military might. What lessons have we learned from these wars? The repeated outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Palestine shows the failure of political and international systems to resolve deep-seated disputes. It also highlights the resilience of ordinary people who bear the brunt of these

conflicts but continue to hope for peace. The lesson is clear: without justice, there can be no peace, and without addressing the underlying issues, temporary ceasefires are mere illusions of calm. As the dust settles, the daunting task of reconstruction begins. For Palestine, rebuilding will require massive international aid. However, previous conflicts have shown that promises of assistance often fall short, leaving Palestinians to struggle with inadequate resources. In Israel, while the damages are less extensive, reconstruction efforts will also demand significant investment. The failure of the United Nations and human rights organizations in preventing this war and mitigating its effects cannot be ignored. Their inability to enforce international law and ensure the protection of civilians highlights the urgent need for reforms in global governance. Mechanisms must be strengthened to prevent conflicts, hold aggressors accountable, and provide justice to victims. The road to peace is long and fraught with challenges. Both sides must engage in meaningful dialogue to address core issues and build trust. The international community must play an active role in mediating and supporting peace efforts. Reconstruction in Palestine should be prioritized, with transparent mechanisms to ensure aid reaches those who need it most. Ultimately, the true cost of this war cannot be measured in numbers alone. Beyond the lives lost, the injuries sustained, and the buildings destroyed, the psychological trauma, loss of trust, and deepened divisions between communities are immeasurable. This ceasefire must be seen not as an endpoint but as a starting point for addressing the fundamental issues that lead to violence. The world must collectively reflect on whether it will continue to allow wars to devastate generations or work toward building a future where dialogue and justice prevail over destruction.

How 'Israel' was forced to submit to Gaza

Robert Inlakesh

Despite the American-Israeli propaganda, which now presents the Axis of Resistance as "defeated", the outcome in the Gaza Strip demonstrates the exact opposite. Contrary to the notion of a battered and beleaguered Palestinian Resistance, it continued to fight until the ceasefire went into effect. Immediately afterwards, thousands of Hamas's al-Qassam Brigades fighters and Security Forces deployed across the besieged territory. For 15 months, the Zionist Entity committed a genocide in Gaza with the full force of not only its military, but leaned on the US for support throughout. The Palestinian armed groups fought under a total siege, with no supply lines from the outside, yet survived

IN his first speech during the Gaza Genocide, the former Secretary General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah concluded by asserting that "Hamas will not lose". Fifteen months later, the Palestinian movement has signed a prisoner and ceasefire deal, effectively forcing the Israelis into submission. Assuming that the Gaza ceasefire holds, the Israelis have been dealt a defeat from which they may never fully recover. This analysis does not come without the acknowledgment of the historic crime committed against the people of the Gaza Strip, but from a realistic look at what impact an Israeli surrender has had. The Palestinian armed groups in Gaza, including the Qassam Brigades of Hamas, were never powerful enough to decisively defeat the Israeli military and capture new territory in occupied Palestine, nor were they under any illusions about their abilities either. Although no one could have imagined the sheer scale of the human suffering and carnage that the Zionist regime would inflict, it was clear that the Palestinian Resistance prepared itself for a long war of attrition. It can be said that the mere fact that - amidst widespread starvation, the mass murder of between 47,000 to 300,000 [as per the highest estimates] people, and the destruction of over 80% of Gaza's infrastructure - the Palestinian armed groups would even continue to exist as formidable fighting forces, is nothing short of a miracle. Not only were the Resistance factions able to regroup, maintain their ability to fire long-range rockets into the likes of "Tel Aviv" and occupied Jerusalem but Hamas was able to conclude a favourable ceasefire/prisoner exchange. The Zionist regime's two key goals were to completely "destroy" Hamas and to return their captives by force, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly asserted he was going to achieve. Even on January 18, the day before the implementation of the ceasefire deal, the Israeli premier still repeated these goals and vowed to achieve them. As it turned out, the Palestinian armed groups never had to achieve military parity or superiority over the Israelis, they only needed to continue to possess the capability to resist them. While the Palestinian Resistance managed to inflict casualties on the Zionist forces until the very last day before the ceasefire, it was obvious that the regime was hiding many of its soldier deaths and injuries from the Israeli public. Some analysts have attempted to downplay the importance of the Palestinian armed factions in securing the ceasefire/prisoner-exchange agreement, either out of a lack of understanding of the nature of the war or in order to dismiss the effectiveness of the fighters. There are a combination of factors that brought about the ceasefire and prisoner exchange. Most of the focus in the corporate media has been placed upon the negotiating team of US President Donald Trump, which was certainly a crucial factor, yet it is much more complex than the will of the Republican leader. By the admission of American President Joe Biden himself, the ceasefire deal that has been signed is almost identi-

cal to the one that Washington had put on the table back in May of 2024. Therefore, there have been allegations against the Biden administration that they needlessly refused to pressure the Israelis to sign that same deal some 8 months ago, prolonging the genocide instead. Yet, the reality is much darker than this. The Hamas-led October 7 attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, not only dealt an enormous blow to the Israelis, but also the United States. The key foreign policy goal of the Biden administration was to secure a normalization deal between Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime, which would then enable them to launch their India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor that aimed to help Washington in its ongoing competition with Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. The October 7 assault also collapsed the image of American power in West Asia, along with that of the Israelis, making Iran appear as the regional military powerhouse. Under such circumstances, the US permitted its Israeli allies to commit a genocide in the Gaza Strip and to work on a project to cripple the Iranian-led Axis of Resistance. It was therefore clear, that eventually, the war was going to expand onto other fronts beyond Gaza. Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who had ordered his fighters to open a support front for Gaza since October 8, 2023, openly announced that Hezbollah would not give up on the Palestinian people "no matter what direction the region goes in" and that the some 100,000 settlers who had fled their homes in northern occupied Palestine would not return until the end of the Gaza war. In September of 2024, the entire equation changed regionally. The Zionist regime hatched its infamous explosive-laden pager terrorist attack that wounded thousands of Lebanese citizens, before launching a series of assassination strikes that murdered most of Hezbollah's senior leadership. These actions severely weakened the perception of Tehran's power regionally, which was then partially won back through Iran's successful Operation "True Promise 2" missile attack on October 1. Hezbollah suffered a serious blow, especially after the assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, then being forced to fight a defensive battle in a way they had not anticipated. Understanding that without launching a full-scale war, the battle was only going to end in a stale-mate, it prevented any significant ground advance from the Zionist regime's forces, then agreed to a ceasefire on November 27. Lebanon had managed to fight the Israelis to a standstill under the worst possible circumstances. Then, as the ceasefire went into effect and the Zionists immediately began violating it, the beginning of the fall of Bashar al-Asad's government in Syria would commence. Although these regional developments may not have been favorable to the Axis of Resistance, they were crucial in order to permit any US government to allow a ceasefire in Gaza to occur. While the Israelis were going to face defeat through the signing of a ceasefire deal with Hamas, the United States no longer shared in the image of defeat that

would have befallen them in May. At this point, Washington has the ability to use its propaganda to spin the regional war results as a triumph for its imperialist interests. The United States has attained a series of tactical victories, in addition to what appears to have been a strategic victory in Syria; as per the current outcome. This may have been enough to sufficiently convince its Arab allied nations of its power and relevance in the region, which is of vital importance to American policy makers. The US hopes to scare nations like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) into submission, while also demonstrating that their power can ensure a sense of security. Despite the American-Israeli propaganda, which now presents the Axis of Resistance as "defeated", the outcome in the Gaza Strip demonstrates the exact opposite. Contrary to the notion of a battered and beleaguered Palestinian Resistance, it continued to fight until the ceasefire went into effect. Immediately afterwards, thousands of Hamas's al-Qassam Brigades fighters and Security Forces deployed across the besieged territory. For 15 months, the Zionist Entity committed a genocide in Gaza with the full force of not only its military, but leaned on the US for support throughout. The Palestinian armed groups fought under a total siege, with no supply lines from the outside, yet survived. Given this fact, it would be rather ridiculous to assume that Hezbollah in Lebanon would not prove capable of achieving the same result, given the will of the Lebanese people to resist and remain steadfast. Regardless of these facts, the popular perception actually worked in favour of the ceasefire in Gaza, as the US appears strong. This allowed for them to force the Zionists to end the war against the people of Gaza. One thing that has to be kept in mind is that the war is not completely over, because it is currently a regional conflict. Therefore the ceasefire represents the closure of one front. Still to be concluded is the situation in southern Lebanon, where the Zionists continue to violate the ceasefire and also the West Bank. In order to keep his coalition together, the Israeli Prime Minister will need to follow through on his pledge to annex portions of the occupied territory, something that the Trump administration appears ready to permit. If it wasn't for the unbelievable steadfastness of Gaza's people, the relentlessness of its armed resistance, combined with the sustained efforts of the support fronts in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq, victory would not have been possible. The sacrifices were tremendous, from the people, the fighters and leaders of movements. It can be confidently stated at this stage that Hezbollah's Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah died to ensure victory in the Gaza Strip, as his pledge that "Hamas will not lose" was fulfilled despite his absence. A complex combination of factors made this ceasefire possible, not all of them positive by any means, yet what is truly the primary reason for the war's outcome is the spirit of Gaza's people, who never gave up despite losing all their worldly possessions.

Briefs

No judicial commission, govt tells PTI

FROM PAGE 01
The parties within the government's committee are consulting their leadership for guidance, and it may take another week to finalize the response, he added. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has directed his party's negotiation team to withdraw from further talks with the government if a judicial commission is not formed within seven days, according to Barrister Gohar. Speaking to media outside Adiala Jail, Gohar emphasised that the establishment of the judicial commission is critical for meaningful dialogue. "If the government does not move forward on forming the commission, there is no point in continuing negotiations," he said.

Conviction aimed at forcing...

FROM PAGE 01
has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in the Toshakhana Case-I, one of the dozens of cases registered against the former premier since his ouster from power in April 2022. During her interaction with journalists today, Aleema said that Khan views the verdict as a pressure tactic aimed at coercing him into striking a deal [on government's terms]. She reiterated that her brother would face legal cases rather than making any deal. Responding to a question, she said that the verdict in the £190m case had become a "joke" in the world. She also slammed Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for her remarks and intentions about Al-Qadir University.

Ex-CJP assured Clinton...

FROM PAGE 01
The book is published in Urdu under the title "Maidan-e-Amal." Regarding President Clinton's visit to Pakistan, he revealed that Clinton went to the restroom during a luncheon hosted by Musharraf. Moments later, ex-CJP Irshad also went to the restroom, where they spoke for five minutes. President Clinton asked the CJP whether Nawaz would be sentenced to death, to which Justice Hassan assured him that it would not happen. This incident can be considered a significant and eye-opening historical event. Dr Ashraf noted that Dr Musadik Malik, a member of Shabbaz Sharif's cabinet, left a lucrative job in the US to return to Pakistan and work in human development, emphasising that he is a highly patriotic Pakistani. He described former prime minister Imran Khan's 2019 visit to the US as successful, stating it strengthened Pakistan-US relations.

PM warns negligence in Hajj...

FROM PAGE 01
the government's top priority. Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal and Chaudhry Salik Hussain and senior officials attended the meeting. They were briefed on the progress of the Hajj Fund, which is now in its final stages. Officials informed the prime minister that, like the previous year, SIM cards for pilgrims will be provided from Pakistan, and the Hajj Mobile Application will continue to function to assist them during their pilgrimage. During the briefing, the prime minister directed that a comprehensive report on Hajj preparations be presented in the coming days. He also stressed that highly reputed officers should be appointed for Hajj duties, ensuring transparency and efficiency in the process. Shehbaz Sharif further instructed authorities to provide top-tier training facilities for Hajj 2025 pilgrims, ensuring that they are well-prepared before their journey. The prime minister emphasised that pilgrims' housing, transportation, and other facilities should be meticulously planned and executed.

Sinner, Iga Swiatek and Svitolina reach last eight

Iga Swiatek said she has not yet reached her "peak" after she ruthlessly moved past lucky loser Eva Lys in 59 minutes to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open

SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: Defending champion Jannik Sinner came through a tough physical battle against Holger Rune to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals. In a match disrupted by medical timeouts and a broken net, both Sinner and Rune seemed to struggle with the 32C heat on Rod Laver Arena. Sinner, towards the end of the second set and into the third, was visibly shaking during the changeovers as he wrapped ice towels around his neck. But the world number one prevailed to win 6-3 3-6 6-3 6-2 against the Dane. "I was not feeling really well," said Italy's Sinner. Speaking on court after his win, the 23-year-old said: "I knew in my mind even before the match I would struggle today. This morning was a very strange morning because I didn't even warm up today, trying to go on court as fit as I could." Iga Swiatek said she has not yet reached her "peak" after she ruthlessly moved past lucky loser Eva Lys in 59 minutes to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open. The five-time major winner dropped just one game as she ended Lys' historic run with a 6-0 6-1 victory on Rod Laver Arena. It is the first time Swiatek, the second seed, has reached the last eight in Melbourne since 2022. "I'm still 23 years old, so there is a lot to improve always," Swiatek said. "I don't feel like I'm in my peak yet but matches like that definitely give me confidence. I feel like I'm playing a good game."



Shortly after the conclusion of her match on Monday, the World Anti-Doping Agency announced it will not appeal against the ban given to Swiatek for a positive test. She tested positive for heart medication trimetazidine in an out-of-competition sample in August 2024. The International Tennis Integrity Agency accepted the test result was caused by contamination and Swiatek served a one-month suspension, which ended on 4 December. Ukraine's Elena Svitolina recovered from a sub-par first 20 minutes to charge past Russian Veronika Kudermetova 6-4, 6-1 on Monday and reach the last eight of the Australian Open for the third time. The 30-year-old was 4-1



down in the first set but upped her aggression to rattle off the next five games and put one foot in the quarterfinal at a Grand Slam for the 12th time. Kudermetova had medical treatment at the end of the first set but could not stop the rot as Svitolina broke for 3-1 in the second stanza with a volley at the net. The Ukrainian was by now charged with confidence and soon set up a tie against American Madison Keys, who secured a hard-fought 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 victory over sixth seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan. There was no handshake at the net as Svitolina continued the boycott of the post-match tradition that Ukrainian players have maintained when facing



Russians and Belarusians since the 2022 invasion of their country. Svitolina, who is 7-0 against Russian players since the invasion and wrote the message "the Spirit of Ukraine" on the camera before she left the court, last reached the quarterfinal at Melbourne Park in 2019. "I feel it was a lifetime ago. To come back again and again, after the pregnancy, after the surgery, starting from zero, it's not easy, I can tell you. For me, it's a really amazing feeling to go deep in this kind of tournament, in the Grand Slams," she said. Svitolina said she would be at Margaret Court Arena later on Monday to cheer on her husband Gael Monfils in his fourth-round tie against American Ben Shelton.

Nigeria upset NZ by 2 runs in U19 T20 WC

Nigeria can secure a Super Six spot with a win over South Africa in their final group match

WEB DESK

MALAYSIA: Nigeria on Monday pulled off one of the biggest upsets in cricket history by defeating New Zealand by just two runs at the Borneo Cricket Ground in Kuching during the ongoing 2025 ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup. The Nigerian Women's U19 Cricket Team continued their historic journey after becoming the first team, across genders and age divisions, to qualify



for an International Cricket Council (ICC) event. After their opening game against Samoa was washed out, this clash against the White Ferns marked their first completed match in the prestigious tournament. The rain-affected match was reduced to a 13-over contest, with New Zealand winning the toss and choosing to bowl first—a decision that ultimately backfired. The Women in Green and Yellow posted a modest total of 65 runs, with captain Lucky Piety top-scoring with 19 runs. Lilian Udeh was the only other player to reach double figures, contributing 18 runs off 22 balls. In response, New Zealand's chase came down to a thrilling last-ball finish. Needing nine runs in the final over, Nigerian skipper Piety held her nerve and delivered a stunning over, conceding just four runs off the first five balls. With five runs required off the last ball, the Kiwi batter ran two runs before Tash Wakeelin was run out, sealing Nigeria's victory in dramatic fashion. Piety bowled two overs, remaining wicketless but giving away only 13 runs. Usen Peace, Adeshola Adedokunle and Udeh each took one wicket. This marks New Zealand's second consecutive defeat in the tournament, having lost their opening match to South Africa by 22 runs. With their hopes of advancing to the next stage on the line, New Zealand must secure a commanding win against Samoa in their final group match on Wednesday (January 22).

Sinner, Swiatek named world champions

The ITF also named Marcelo Arevalo of El Salvador and Mate Pavic of Croatia

MELBOURNE: The International Tennis Federation (ITF) on Monday named Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek as its world champions of 2024 in recognition of their performances at the Grand Slams and other top events last season. World number one Sinner, who has a potential ban of up to two years hanging over his head after failing two drugs test last year, won his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open and followed that up with another at the U.S. Open. He also lifted the ATP Finals title, finishing the season with a 73-6 win-loss record, and guided Italy to their second successive Davis Cup triumph in Malaga. Sinner failed two drug tests in March but was cleared of wrongdoing year by a doping tribunal after it accepted his explanation that a banned substance had entered his system from his former physio through massages. The World Anti-Doping Agency has appealed that decision and the 23-year-old faces a hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in April. Swiatek edged out world number one Aryna Sabalenka to take the women's prize for the second time after the 23-year-old Pole won her fourth French Open title, four WTA 1000 trophies and also collected a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics. However, she also fell foul of doping rules and served a one-month ban after a tribunal accepted that her failed test for trimetazidine had been the result of a contaminated batch of sleeping drug melatonin. — Agencies

ICC delegation visits Gaddafi stadium for CT 2025 preparations

Key members of the visiting team included ICC Head of Events Sarah Edgar and GM Cricket Wasim Khan

DNA

LAHORE: A high-level delegation from the International Cricket Council (ICC) visited Gaddafi Stadium as part of the preparations for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025 next month. The delegation inspected the main building, including the offices and pavilion, to review facilities and infrastructure. Key members of the visiting team included ICC Head of Events Sarah Edgar and GM Cricket Wasim Khan, along with officials from broadcasting and event management teams. The PCB's Director of Infrastructure, Jawad Qazi, provided a comprehensive briefing to the ICC delegation. He assured the timely completion of all remaining work at the venue by January 30. It is pertinent to mention that the eight-team tournament, comprised of 15 matches, will run from February 19 to March 9, across three venues — Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi — in Pakistan and Uba. The eight teams are divided into two groups. Group A features Pakistan, India, New Zealand, Bangladesh, while Group B is comprised of Afghanistan,

South Africa, England and Australia. Hosts Pakistan will take on New Zealand in the curtain raiser on February 19 in Karachi, while the blockbuster clash between arch-rivals Pakistan and India is scheduled for February 23 in Dubai.

Champions Trophy Schedule:

- 19 February, Pakistan v New Zealand, Karachi, Pakistan
- 20 February, Bangladesh v India, Dubai
- 21 February, Afghanistan v South Africa, Karachi, Pakistan
- 22 February, Australia v England, Lahore, Pakistan
- 23 February, Pakistan v India, Dubai
- 24 February, Bangladesh v New Zealand, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- 25 February, Australia v South Africa, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- 26 February, Afghanistan v England, Lahore, Pakistan
- 27 February, Pakistan v Bangladesh, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- 28 February, Afghanistan v Australia, Lahore, Pakistan
- 1 March, South Africa v England, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2 March, New Zealand v India, Dubai
- 4 March, Semi-final 1, Dubai
- 5 March, Semi-final 2, Lahore, Pakistan
- 9 March, Final, Lahore (unless India qualify, when it will be played in Dubai)
- 10 March, Reserve day.

England beat Pakistan in Women's U19 T20 WC

The defeat dents Pakistan's Super Six qualification hopes

DNA

JOHOR: A combined bowling effort, followed by wicketkeeper batter Katie Jones's brisk cameo, powered England to a resounding six-wicket victory over Pakistan in the 13th match of the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup here at the Johor Cricket Academy Oval on Monday. Put into bat first, Pakistan's batting unit failed against a disciplined England bowling attack and could accumulate 66 runs before getting bowled out in 18.5 overs. Middle-order batter Zoofishan Ayyaz top-scored for the green shirts with a cautious 15 off 13 deliveries, followed by skipper Komal Khan (12) and Quratulain-Ahsen (10). Besides them, no other Pakistani batter could amass double figures. Amu Surenkuma was the pick of the England bowlers as she took three wickets for just 17 runs in three overs, while Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Olivia Brinsden and Eve O'Neill bagged two wickets each. Chasing a



modest 67-run target, England comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of just four wickets and 64 balls to spare. Leading the way for them was wicketkeeper batter Jones, who top-scored with a blistering 20 off 16 deliveries, studded with one four and a six. Skipper Abi Norgrove (14) and opening batter Davina Perrin (10) were the other notable run-getters. Mahnoor Zeb led the bowling charge for Pakistan with two wickets, while Fatima Khan and Quratulain chipped in with one scalp apiece. The six-wicket victory lifted England to the second position in Group B of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup with three points in two matches, while Pakistan are in third with one point in as many matches. The thumping defeat massively dented Pakistan's Super Six qualification hopes. They now need to win their last group-stage fixture against Ireland by a massive margin to pip either England or the United States of America and finish second in the Group B standings.

SC judge questions...

FROM PAGE 01

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), in November 2024, constituted a seven-member constitutional bench under Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan. The bench, formed by a 7-5 split decision, also includes Justice Ayesha, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Musarrat Hilali. During the hearing today, Justice Ayesha further criticised the practice, saying: "Are we now to be told by a research officer where a particular case should be heard? The committee has no authority to transfer a case." She also remarked, "Under the 26th Amendment, this case should go to the constitutional bench, and this discussion could have been held in our court as well." Meanwhile, Justice Mansoor, the senior puisne judge, added that the case had been moved to the administrative committee, and if Justice Irfan Saadat was busy, another judge could take his place on the bench.

Justice Mandokhail raises...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakhtunkhwa rigged," Justice Mandokhail questioned. He asked advocate Hamid Khan to approach the relevant forum if he thinks that the Election Commission of Pakistan is biased. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar directed Hamid Khan to come after complete preparation in next hearing. "Do you want separate inquiry for every constituency," Justice Mandokhail questioned. Advocate Hamid Khan said that it is weakness of this court that it couldn't take suo motu notice in the case. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail asked Hamid Khan to select his words carefully in the court.

Iran's top general calls on COAS

FROM PAGE 01

He was warmly received, including a guard of honour presented by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army. Earlier today, Major General Dr Mohammad Bagheri called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr and exchanged views on matters of bilateral importance. During the meeting, both sides highlighted the longstanding and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Iran and emphasised the need to promote trade and economic relations for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

2 additional judges sworn in at IHC

FROM PAGE 01

notification confirming the appointment of the two judges as additional judges of the IHC for one year. It is noteworthy that the Judicial Commission, chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi, had recently approved the nominations of Sessions Judge Azam Khan and former Islamabad High Court Bar President Raja Inam Amin Minhas.

Donald Trump...

FROM PAGE 01

"Welcome home," Mr. Biden told Mr. Trump and his wife as they arrived at the executive mansion. At the beginning of his speech, Trump thanked several of the former presidents in attendance and outgoing President Joe Biden. "From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer," Trump said. "The golden age of America begins right now," Trump said in his inaugural address. "The scales of justice will be rebalanced. The vicious, violent and unfair weaponization of the Justice Department and government will end," Trump said. Donald Trump said he is returning as the 47th president "confident and optimistic that we are at the start of a thrilling new era of national success."

Briefs

Rupee gains 06 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Monday appreciated by 06 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs278.65 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.71. Pakistani cuisine recipes However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.60 and Rs 281.10, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 36 paise to close at Rs287.33 against the last day's closing of Rs286.97, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.78, whereas an increase of 09 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs340.03 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs339.84. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 paise each to close at Rs75.86 and Rs74.26, respectively.—APP

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 572 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 572.73 points, a positive change of 0.50 percent, closing at 115,844.82 points as compared to 115,272.08 points on the last trading day. A total of 675,046,602 shares were traded during the day as compared to 549,584,585 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs37.533 billion against Rs.35.931 billion on the last trading day. As many as 454 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 241 of them recorded gains and 157 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 56 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Lotte Chemical with 59,473,543 shares at Rs 23.23 per share, Bank Makramah with 57,800,421 shares at Rs.3.40 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 56,891,848 shares at Rs.1.87 per share.—APP

Gold price increases by Rs500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.500 and was sold at Rs 282,900 on Monday against its sale at Rs 282,400 on previous trading day, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.429 to Rs.242,541 from Rs 242,112 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat also went up to Rs.222,337 from Rs 221,944. The prices of per tola silver decreased by Rs.09 to Rs3,372 whereas that of ten gram silver went down by Rs08 to Rs.2,890. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$5 to \$2,708 from \$2,703, the Association reported.—APP

UN ramps up food deliveries for hungry Gazans

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the start on Sunday of the ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza, as UN aid convoys brought in urgently needed food aid to begin pulling the war-ravaged territory back from starvation. "We stand ready to support this implementation and scale up the delivery of sustained humanitarian relief to the countless Palestinians who continue to suffer," the UN chief said in a social media post. He added: "It is imperative that this ceasefire removes the significant security and political obstacles to delivering aid." According to news reports, three Israeli hostages held by Hamas were released and transferred by the Red Cross back to Israel.—APP

German chancellor urges 'stable ties' with US

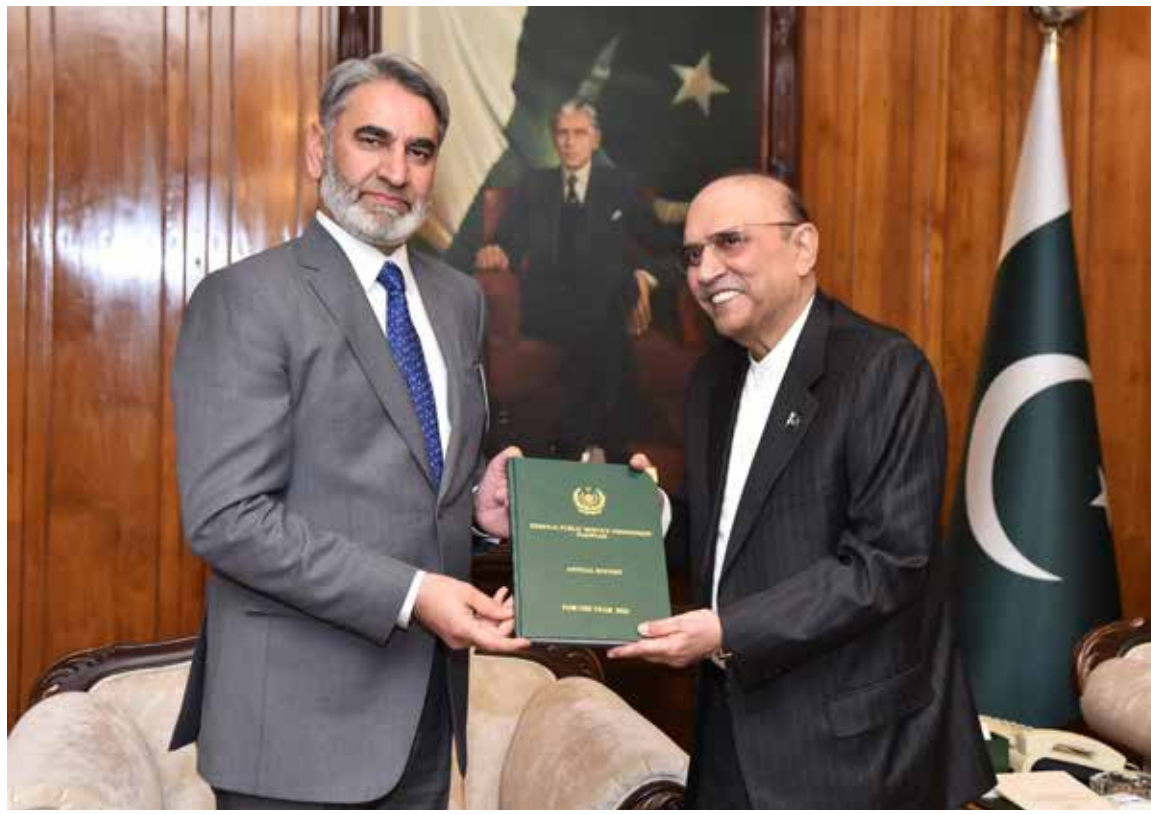
Referring to Trump's recent territorial claims towards Greenland, Canada and the Panama Canal, Scholz said that Europeans stand for rules that have long been agreed upon internationally

DNA

BERLIN : German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday called for "stable ties" with the US ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration amid Berlin's accusations that Trump advisor Elon Musk is trying to interfere in Germany's upcoming general elections. "The transatlantic relations are of utmost importance for Germany and for Europe. And NATO is the guarantor of our security. That's why we need stable relations with the USA," Scholz told the daily Rheinische Post newspaper. The chancellor pointed out that he had already spoken to Trump on the phone twice. "Those were

very friendly and good conversations. Our advisors have also met several times. So, we're not starting from scratch with the new administration," he added. Referring to Trump's recent territorial claims towards Greenland, Canada and the Panama Canal, Scholz said that Europeans stand for rules that have long been agreed upon internationally. "One rule is: Borders must not be moved by force," the German chancellor reiterated. Scholz's remarks came only a day after Andreas Michaelis, Germany's ambassador to the US, expressed fears of a fundamental change in the US political system under Trump. "Trump is pursuing an agenda of 'maximum disruption,'" Michaelis warned in a confidential document. Relations between Berlin and Washington have been strained as Musk, who is set to serve as an advisor to the incoming president, reiterated his strong support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party ahead of the Feb. 23 general elections in Germany. "If you are unhappy with the situation, you must vote for change. And that is why I'm really strongly recommending that people vote for AfD. That's why that's my strong recommendation. And I think this is simply the sensible move," Musk said in an online talk on X with AfD leader Alice Weidel. "In fact, I, as I've said publicly, I think only AfD can save Germany.

And I just want to be very clear about that: Only AfD can save Germany, end of story. And people really need to get behind the AfD, otherwise things gonna get very, very much worse in Germany," he added. Musk triggered strong criticism within Germany's political establishment over his AfD support, particularly after he also insulted President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The German government has accused Musk of attempting to influence the country's election campaign by showing his support for AfD. While he is free to express his opinion, "Elon Musk is trying to influence the federal election through his statements," deputy government spokeswoman Christiane Hoffmann said at a press briefing in Berlin. Musk, who also owns social media platform X, had also written a guest editorial in the daily WELT newspaper voicing his support for the AfD. Hoffmann said Musk had suggested voting for a party that was being monitored by the country's domestic intelligence agency as a potential right-wing extremist case. The AfD is currently running second in nationwide surveys and might be able to thwart either a center-right or center-left majority. However, Germany's mainstream, more centrist parties have vowed to refuse to form a coalition with the AfD at the national level.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Public Service Commission Lt General (Retd) Akhtar Nawaz Satti presenting FPSC's Annual Report to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Khalida wins freedom from Israeli detention under Gaza deal

ANKARA: Israel released 90 Palestinian prisoners under a ceasefire and prisoner swap agreement that suspended Tel Aviv's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. Leading among the freed prisoners is leftist Palestinian politician and human rights advocate Khalida Jarrar. Born on Feb. 9, 1963 in the West Bank city of Nablus, Jarrar is a leading member in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). A mother of two, she has a master degree in political science from Birzeit University, north of Ramallah in the West Bank. She was the director of Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association from 1994 to 2006. Jarrar was elected a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council during the last parliamentary elections held in 2006. During her tenure, she served as the head of the assembly's Prisoners Commission. Jarrar was also appointed to the Palestinian National Committee for the follow-up of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Jarrar and her husband, Ghassan Jarrar, have spent long years in Israeli prisons under Tel Aviv's notorious policy of administrative detention. According to local sources, Jarrar has been active in support of Palestinian rights against the decades-long Israeli occupation since the late 1980s. Jarrar was arrested by the Israeli army several times on accusations of affiliation to an "outlawed" party and for her role in activities supporting Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. On June 3, 2016, she was released from Israeli jail after serving 15 months in detention. However, she was rearrested again in the summer of 2017 and was released on Feb. 2019. In the same year, the leftist politician was arrested in October, and after spending two years behind bars, she was freed in September 2021. The repeated arrests and restrictions by Israel, however, did not change Jarrar's position on defending rights of Palestinian prisoners. Jarrar was again detained on Dec. 26, 2023 after the start of Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip and languished in Israeli prisons until she was freed on Jan. 19. She was also banned from travel several times by the Israeli authorities due to her support for Palestinian rights.—APP

Green SEZ development under CPEC opportunity for Pakistan to raise climate competitive industry

ISLAMABAD: The experts on Monday emphasized the significance of enhanced collaboration between Pakistan and China to learn from the latter's experience in developing green special economic zones (SEZs) to raise climate competitive industry aligned with global sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) under the auspice of Green CPEC Alliance hosted a pivotal webinar titled "Development of SEZs under CPEC: Learning from China's Green Model," exploring strategies to create sustainable Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan by drawing on China's expertise in green industrialization, said a press release issued here. The session brought together prominent experts and policymakers to discuss integrating environmental sustainability with economic growth in the SEZ framework under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Dr Erfa Iqbal, Executive Director General/Additional Secretary, Board of Investment highlighted the ongoing efforts to accelerate Pakistan's SEZs development, including satellite imaging, marketing plans, and incentives for foreign and local investors. She highlighted the importance of integrating environmental considerations into economic planning and welcomed collaboration with Chinese experts to guide the transition to eco-friendly SEZs. "Of the nine SEZs under CPEC, four are already operational, with progress on the remaining zones moving at full throttle," Dr Iqbal stated. She underscored that the SEZ model, proven globally and in China, is being applied in Pakistan to create centers of excellence for economic development. "Government-to-government, government-to-business, and business-to-business initiatives are all underway to strengthen our SEZ framework. The first one-stop service office for foreign investors will soon be operational in Islamabad," she revealed. She emphasized the inseparability of economic and environmental progress, asserting that Pakistan's economic development must align with global carbon emission reduction goals. In his keynote address, Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute, emphasized the need for eco-industrial parks as the next step for Pakistan's industrial growth. He noted the importance of green innovation supply chains, robust research and development initiatives, and financial markets to drive sustainability. He underscored the necessity of starting with small-scale successful industrial parks that could evolve into green eco-industrial parks. Stressing the importance of strategic site selection for SEZs, Sayed criticized the location of Rashakai SEZ, terming it politically motivated rather than strategic. Engr Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, Head of Energy Unit at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) mentioned that Pakistan is currently the leading market for Solar PV growth. In 2024, Pakistan-China collaboration led to import of around 16 GW of solar PV capacity in Pakistan, worth over USD 2 billion. Similarly, Pakistan's Electric Vehicle market has started developing, again through China's support. Mr Ubaid mentioned that the SEZs under CPEC serve as a key opportunity for localization of Pakistan's Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Market, which would support its low-carbon development. He further urged the Chinese private sector to come and invest here. Prof Dr Peng Wang from the Guangzhou Institute of Energy Conversion shared Guangdong Province's success as a low-carbon industrial zone. Highlighting initiatives like green manufacturing audits, energy optimization, and sectoral carbon peaking plans, he demonstrated how policy alignment and technological innovation have enabled Guangdong to exceed its carbon reduction targets. Dr Wang suggested similar structured reforms for Pakistan, including city- and sector-level carbon neutrality plans. Dr Muhammad Abid underlined Pakistan's energy transition gaps as opportunities for innovation. He called for joint research initiatives with Chinese institutions to localize energy solutions and fast-track technological transfers through regional cooperation. Prof Dr Saeed Badshah from IIUI outlined challenges facing Pakistan's SEZs, such as high costs of renewable energy infrastructure, land procurement difficulties, and a lack of skilled labor. He urged the establishment of a strong regulatory authority for renewable energy (RE) in SEZs and highlighted RE's potential to provide long-term cost savings and create job opportunities. Commodore Dr Imran Ul Haque from Bahria University emphasized the role of eco-industrial practices in transforming SEZs. Drawing inspiration from Guigang Sugar's success as China's first eco-industrial park, he advocated for adopting circular economy principles, including industrial water reuse and solid waste management.—DNA

Israeli regime's despicable record of breaching ceasefire agreements

GAZA STRIP : A historic ceasefire agreement took effect on Sunday morning, bringing to an end 15 months of relentless Zionist genocidal war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. However, serious doubts remain about the Tel Aviv regime's commitment to upholding the truce, given its long-standing pattern of disregarding agreements that require it to halt attacks. In a televised speech on Saturday, a day before the much-anticipated truce came into effect, Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu said Netanyahu hinted that the agreement was only temporary. He said US President-elect Donald Trump "emphasized" to him that the ceasefire was "temporary," and the apartheid regime would have the "full backing" of the incoming US administration to

resume the war. He further stated that Trump had decided to "lift all the remaining restrictions" on US munitions, allowing his regime to resume the war against Palestinians in Gaza with "tremendous force." His remarks followed inflammatory comments by his ministers including Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, both of whom are fiercely opposed to the ceasefire with the Gaza-based Hamas movement. Smotrich on Sunday threatened to overthrow the Netanyahu regime if it did not occupy the Gaza Strip, calling the ceasefire agreement a "very serious mistake" and "surrender to Hamas." It came after Ben-Gvir announced his party's withdrawal from the ruling coalition in Tel Aviv, which left Netanyahu with only 62 parliamentary

seats in the 120-seat Knesset. Between Wednesday, when the ceasefire deal was announced and Sunday, when it came into effect, Israeli aggression on Gaza killed over 120 Palestinians, including 32 women and 30 children. According to experts, given the past experience and mounting pressure on the embattled Israeli premier, the ceasefire agreement is less likely to hold, especially since it has been described as the emphatic victory for the Hamas resistance movement in Gaza after 470 days of genocide. In December 2024, the Israeli regime brazenly violated its 1974 Agreement on Disengagement with Syria, seizing a 266-square-kilometer demilitarized buffer zone along with additional Syrian territories to the east of the occupied

Golan Heights—areas designated after the October 1973 War. For years, Tel Aviv covertly supported Syrian militants in that region, supplying them with weapons and medical assistance. But when Bashar al-Assad's government in Damascus collapsed, the Tel Aviv regime abruptly labeled those very groups as dangerous terrorists and occupied more Syrian territory. By taking control of ten crucial dams, their reservoirs, and the valleys of three strategically significant rivers, Tel Aviv appears to be advancing its longstanding Zionist strategy of plundering foreign water resources—simultaneously undermining the 1974 water agreements with Jordan. In neighboring Lebanon, since November 27—when a ceasefire agreement with the Hezbollah

resistance movement was brokered—the Israeli regime has already violated it more than 500 times, leaving over 30 dead and more than 40 wounded. During a high-level meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Saturday, Lebanon's newly elected President Joseph Aoun condemned the continued Israeli attacks on Lebanese border villages, declaring them to be in direct violation of the ceasefire terms. Israeli aggression on Lebanon has also drawn sharp criticism from UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, who described the situation as "fragile." He said the Israeli occupation forces must withdraw immediately from the Lebanese territory and acknowledged Lebanon's full commitment to the ceasefire agreement.—DNA

Envoy invites Pakistan business community to grab new opportunities in Bangladesh

MULTAN: Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Pakistan, Md Iqbal Hussain Khan on Monday invited the business community to invest in his country for cementing business ties between the two countries. "Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) has a lot of potential to be engaged with Bangladesh. Pakistan produces high quality and variety of cotton which is not being produced in even its neighbouring countries. We have ready-made garments industry," he said while addressing the MCCI executive here. He informed that both the countries had a common history, adding "we support each other and have strategic interests. Bangladesh is considering importing live calves from Pakistan for better food security besides dates, the High Commissioner said and added that both governments had signed a MoU of 50,000 metric tonnes Pakistani rice". In the last 10-14 years, our relations have suffered. Now in 2024, new doors have opened for both countries, business fraternity should grab the new opportunity.—APP

TikTok back online after Trump promises executive order to 'save' it

NEW YORK: TikTok said Sunday it was restoring service to users in the United States after the popular video-sharing platform went dark in response to a federal ban that President-elect Donald Trump said he will issue an executive order Monday to keep it up and running. "In agreement with our service providers, TikTok is in the process of restoring service," TikTok wrote in a post on X. "We thank President Trump for providing the necessary clarity and assurance to our service providers that they will face no penalties providing TikTok to over 170 million Americans and allowing over 7 million small businesses to thrive. It's a strong stand for the First Amendment and against arbitrary censorship. We will work with President Trump on a long-term solution that keeps TikTok in the United States." Trump, who issued executive orders banning TikTok during his first presidential term, announced his decision Sunday on Truth Social.—APP

Overseas, Kashmiri communities hold Istehkam-e-Pakistan rally in Brussels

BRUSSELS: A remarkable display of unity and patriotism unfolded at Central Station, a prominent landmark in Brussels, as the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora came together for the Istehkam-e-Pakistan rally. Organized by community leader Fared Khan in collaboration with members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities, the event drew a diverse group of men, women, and children who gathered to express their solidarity and unwavering support for Pakistan. The rally highlighted the unity of the diaspora while acknowledging the sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces and rejecting negative propaganda. Participants carried Pakistani flags, displayed posters, and chanted slogans in support of the Armed Forces and their leadership, particularly the Chief of Army Staff. The attendees also condemned calls for civil disobedience, emphasizing the need for national stability and resilience. This significant gathering showcased the collaboration between the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities, uniting them under shared causes and strengthening their ties abroad. By holding the rally at Central Station, a high-visibility location in Brussels, the organizers effectively demonstrated the patriotism and engagement of the diaspora in European capitals.—APP

Briefs

SC issues notices to govt for student unions

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has issued notices to the Federation of Pakistan regarding restoration of students unions in universities and adjourned the hearing for a date to be fixed later. A six-member constitutional bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan and comprising Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan was hearing constitutional petition against ban on students of universities to form association and anion and indulging in politics. The petitions are filed by Hamza Muhammad Khwaja vs Federation of Pakistan through Secretary Federal Education and professional training Islamabad and others and Muhammad Usama Amir, General Secretary, Islami Jamiat Talaba Pakistan vs Federation of Pakistan through Secretary, Ministry of Interior and others. The Court, after initial proceedings, issued notices to the respondents and observed that the Quaid-e-Azam University had announced schedule for holding elections of the students union. It can be a rule model for rest of the universities in the country.

Pakistan Navy and Turkish Navy conduct bilateral exercise

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy and Turkish Navy successfully conducted bilateral exercise TUR-GUTREIS-XI in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The TURGUTREIS series of bilateral exercises is named in honour of the great Ottoman Admiral Turgut Reis, symbolizing a shared maritime legacy and strong naval ties between the two brotherly nations. Pakistan Navy's recently commissioned ship, PNS YAMAMA, participated in the exercise during her maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan. The ship was joined by Turkish Navy vessels TCG BUYUKADA, TCG DERYA, and TNF SH-70 helicopter. The exercise was meticulous to enhance interoperability between the two navies, as participating units engaged in a variety of maritime operations and tactical maneuvers. Throughout the exercise, both navies reaffirmed their mutual commitment to strengthening cooperation in addressing emerging maritime challenges and ensuring regional maritime security. The collaboration underscores the shared objective of maintaining safe and secure global commons for the benefit of all.

Gazans begin searching for people under rubble

GAZA/CAIRO: Palestinians began searching on Monday for thousands of Gazans believed still buried under rubble, as residents expressed shock at the devastation wrought by 15 months of war on the enclave on the second day of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. The truce in the 15-month-old conflict, which has laid waste to the Gaza Strip and inflamed the Middle East, took effect on Sunday with the release of the first three hostages held by Hamas and 90 Palestinians freed from Israeli jails. Now attention is starting to shift to the rebuilding of the coastal enclave which the Israeli military has demolished in retaliation for a Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. That assault killed 1,200 people with around 250 hostages taken into Gaza, according to Israeli tallies. - Agencies

History through heritage: an exhibition celebrating the past

A similar exhibition also took place in Islamabad Serena Hotel on Thursday January 18, 2025. A large number of diplomats witnessed the exhibition and praised the work of Farooq Raiz



Ambassador of Romania takes interest in antique items

DR. MUHAMMAD KASHIF ALI

GUJRAT: The Hayatian Historical Society of the Department of History & Pakistan Studies at the University of Gujrat, recently organized a highly anticipated exhibition titled "History through Heritage." This event took place at the prestigious Hafiz Hayat Campus and showcased an extraordinary private antique collection owned by Farooq Raiz, a passionate collector from the district of Gujrat. The exhibition provided a unique opportunity for students, faculty members, and the public to immerse themselves in centuries-old history through the lens of material culture, offering a rare glimpse into Pakistan's rich cultural legacy. A similar exhibition also took place in Islamabad Serena Hotel on Thursday January 18, 2025. A large number of diplomats witnessed the exhibition and praised the work of Farooq Raiz. The exhibition featured an impressive array of historical arti-

facts spanning several eras, including rare locks, intricate timepieces, vintage swords, pots, firearms, postcards, stamps, and historical documents. These artifacts serve as tangible links to the past, preserving the essence of local culture and society. They allow visitors to engage with the everyday lives, technological innovations, and artistic achievements of people who lived hundreds of years ago. In doing so, the exhibition reinforces a community's sense of identity and continuity, fostering a deeper connection to Pakistan's multifaceted heritage. Artifacts like manuscripts, old passports, and postcards are invaluable for documenting the political, social, and economic developments of earlier times. For historians and scholars, these items offer rare insights into the evolution of trade, governance, and legal systems over centuries. Historical documents on display provided a direct link to past events and societal shifts, helping trace the trajectory of Pakistan's regional interactions, commerce, and diplomacy.



Ambassador of Austria being briefed by Farooq Raiz

Among the most striking exhibits were weapons like swords, guns, and spears, which offer an essential perspective on military history and the power dynamics of various civilizations. These pieces not only represent the conflicts, conquests, and defence mechanisms of past societies but also serve as symbols of authority and prestige. In particular, the variety of swords displayed illuminated the craftsmanship and prestige associated with military leaders and warriors of past centuries, highlighting the cultural significance of weaponry in various regions of Pakistan. Locks, pots, and other everyday objects further illustrated the skilled craftsmanship of earlier generations. The locks in particular captured the attention of many visitors, with Farooq Raiz's collection standing as the largest in Pakistan. The variety of locks, ranging from those made during the Mughal era to British colonial times and modern periods, demonstrate the technological advancements and ingenuity involved in their creation. Locally produced in regions like Kotli



Ambassador of Japan pens down his comments

Loharan (Sialkot), Hajiwala (Gujrat), and Aligarh (India), the locks range from intricate number pattern locks to magnetic mechanisms. The largest lock in the collection weighs over 5,000 grams, while the smallest was less than 50 grams, showcasing the diversity in both form and function. Such objects reflect the skill and dedication of artisans, whose techniques have been passed down through generations, preserving the legacy of craftsmanship in Pakistan. Farooq Raiz's personal collection is a testament to his lifelong passion and dedication to preserving Pakistan's heritage. Over the course of more than thirty years, Mr. Raiz financed his own expeditions across the country, meticulously collecting artifacts from remote corners and forgotten markets. His collection, particularly the impressive assortment of locks, stands as a valuable contribution to the preservation of history and culture in Pakistan. His efforts demonstrate the importance of individual contributions in safeguarding our collective heritage for future generations.

S. Korea dismisses 4 military commanders

SOUTH Korean authorities on Monday dismissed at least four senior military commanders from their positions over last month's short-lived martial law decree by impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol, Yonhap news reported. Lt. Gen. Yeo In-hyung, head of the Defense Counterintelligence Command; Maj. Gen. Moon Sang-ho, head of the Defense Intelligence Command; Lt. Gen. Lee Jin-woo, head of the Capital Defense Command; and Lt. Gen. Kwak Jong-keun, chief of the Army Special Warfare Command, were dismissed from their positions, according to Defense Ministry. They are suspected of taking part in martial law operations on Dec. 3, 2024 and the decision was taken in view of the ongoing legal review of possible disciplinary measures for Army Chief of Staff Gen. Park An-su, who served as the martial law commander. Authorities are expected to officially notify the four commanders of the decision on Tuesday, when it takes effect. Earlier, South Korean police raided the presidential office Monday to secure documents related to Yoon's declaration of martial law. The impeached president, meanwhile, was moved to a solitary cell at the Seoul Detention Center after his formal arrest. Yoon was transferred to the 12-square-meter cell at the detention center in Uiwang, south of Seoul, on Sunday after the Seoul Western District Court issued a warrant for his formal arrest, according to Shin Yong-hae, commissioner general of the Korea Correctional Service. - Agencies

First commercial flight lands at New Gwadar int'l Airport

The aircraft, used for the airport's first flight, was an ATR which also received a water salute upon landing

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The New Gwadar International Airport, a key project of CPEC has been finally operationalised after receiving its inaugural flight on Monday (today). Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-503 landed at 11:14am at the new airport and was welcomed by Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti, Aviation Minister Khawaja Asif and other officials. The aircraft, used for the airport's first flight, was an ATR which also received a water salute upon landing. The flight's departure was slated for 9:14am but the plane eventually left for Gwadar from Karachi at 10am following a 46-minute delay. The New Gwadar International Airport has replaced the old airport on flight tracking platforms, with its location now tagged on flight radar. Spread across 4,300 acres, the airport is Pakistan's largest in terms of area. Located 26 kilometres from Gwadar city in the Gurandani area, the airport features a single runway measuring 3,658 metres in length and 75 metres in width. The runway is capable of accommodating large aircraft such as the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747. Constructed at a cost of approximately Rs50 billion, the airport's symbolic inauguration was carried out by former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on October 14, 2024. In another positive development, PIA was allowed to resume its long-awaited flights to Europe last month, marking a major milestone for the national carrier after more than four years of hiatus. The national carrier's authorisation to operate in Europe was suspended in June 2020 over concerns about the ability of Pakistani authorities and its Civil Aviation Authority to ensure compliance with international aviation standards. Debt-ridden PIA was banned in June 2020 from flying to the European Union, United Kingdom and the United States, a month after one of its Airbus A-320s plunged into a Karachi street, killing nearly 100 people.

Pakistan committed to address issues with Kabul

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: It will take political commitment and sincerity on both sides to steer Pakistan and Afghanistan out of the current tensions and chart the way for a better future. This was the take-away from a day-long civil society dialogue involving representatives from both countries. Nearly two dozen participants drawn from the two countries, also underscored the need for easing restrictions on visas for Afghan citizens, which they agreed, are breeding animosity and negativity among Afghans. The participants of the dialogue, organized by the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) pointed out the losses worth millions of dollars that farmers and traders have been enduring due to abrupt border closures and political tensions. These disruptions, coupled with the corruption of officials, hit traders and farmers of both countries. Robust mechanisms and consistent policies can help minimize such disruptions and the ensuing losses, the participants suggested. Intensive discussions centred on girls' education, terrorism, obstructions in the way of transit and bilateral trade, and visas for Afghan nationals. They also called on both governments to keep politics and trade separate and engage in meaningful dialogue on issues that are of primary concern to both countries. The civil society dialogue took place to the context of a spike in TTP-led terrorist violence and the consequent bombing of the terrorist outfit's camps in eastern Afghanistan in December. Special representative for Afghanistan, Mohammad Sadiq also attended the session and listened to presentations from both sides. He promised to look into the visa-related complaints and issues encountered by common Afghans, and also informed the audience of the multiple steps the government is taking to smooth-en visa processes and facilitate traders on both sides of the border. "Only through mutual consultations can we overcome problems that are hindering peoples' and goods movement between the two countries", delegates proposed. One way of rubbing off bilateral acrimony, would be to involve a third party like China or Qatar, delegates said, adding such a trilateral dialogue has been helpful in various other instances too.

LHC summons top officials in rape case

A rape occurs every 15 minutes in Punjab, report

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has summoned the Attorney General, Advocate General, Prosecutor General, and IG Punjab again in a rape case. A three-member bench, headed by Lahore High Court Justice Aalia Neelum, heard the bail application of Wajid Ali, arrested on rape charges. The bench also included Justice Farooq Haider and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa. Upon the court's orders, Advocate General Punjab Khalid Ishaq, Prosecutor General Punjab Syed Farhad Ali Shah, and IG Punjab, along with FIA officers, appeared in the court. During the hearing, Chief Justice

Aalia Neelum inquired why the Attorney General, who had been summoned, had not appeared. She said that this is a national issue, and the Attorney General should have been present. In response, Advocate General Punjab Khalid Ishaq informed the court that since the Anti-Rape Act was enacted, 150,000 cases had been registered. Justice Ali Zia Bajwa remarked that according to their report, a rape occurs every 15 minutes in Punjab, and by their account, Pakistan has surpassed India, which is ranked third, with a rape occurring every 15 minutes there as well. The Advocate General Punjab clarified that not all these cases are related to rape and that women are appointed at every center in Punjab for such cases.

Pakistan-Netherlands agree to enhance collaboration

Pakistan and the Netherlands hold 11th round of the Bilateral Political Consultations at Islamabad

KHAYAM ABBASI



ISLAMABAD: The 11th Round of Pakistan-Netherlands Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held in Islamabad today. Foreign Secretary Ms. Amna Baloch and Mr. Christiaan Rebergen, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, led the respective sides. The two sides discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. They expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in bilateral cooperation and resolved to maintain the ongoing engagements in a range of areas including political, economic, trade and investment, climate change, agriculture, water management, dairy & livestock, education and culture. Underscoring the importance of enhanced trade and economic ties between the two countries, the Foreign Secretary appreciated the role of Netherlands as a major trading partner of Pakistan and encouraged greater Dutch investment in Pakistan. The two sides also discussed the challenges posed by climate change. It was agreed to maintain close contacts for further enhancement of Pakistan-Netherlands bilateral relations.

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