



Daily Islamabad POST

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Kane scripts history, leaves behind Kohli, Sachin in elite list

Detailed News On Page-06

Scholz terms Trump's Gaza plan 'scandal'

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Nawaz links progress to PML-N return

Detailed News On Page-08

Amid boycott and protest JCP elevates 6 HC judges to Supreme Court

IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb appointed as acting Supreme Court judge

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) approved on Monday the appointment of six new judges to the Supreme Court amid a boycott by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers and two senior SC judges. According to a press release issued by the JCP today, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi to consider the nominations for appointment of high court judges in the SC and, by a majority of its total membership, nominated six judges. The chief justices of all high courts, except the Lahore High Court (LHC) were among the six judges nominated. These included Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakkar, Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Justice Saliuddin Panwar, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim,

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Tarar hints changes SHC seeks govt response over PECA Act petition

Petitioner's lawyer argues the court should decide on issues like the PECA Act due to its impact on fundamental rights

NAZIR SYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court has issued a notice to the federal government and sought a response regarding a petition against the PECA Act within two weeks. The two-member bench, led by Chief Justice of Sindh High Court Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, heard the petition challenging the PECA Act. The court inquired, "What is wrong with this law? Shouldn't anyone who spreads false news face punishment?" The petitioner's lawyer, Barrister Ali Tahir, raised the fundamental question of who determines what is false or true. Chief Justice remarked that not all decisions are made by the courts; some are made by authorities.

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Briefs PM reaches Abu Dhabi to attend WGC

Premier will also meet Pakistani and Emirati businesspersons during official visit

DNA

ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has arrived in Abu Dhabi on a two-day official visit where he will address the World Governments Summit (WGS). This marks PM Shehbaz's second visit to the UAE since assuming office in March 2024. Upon arrival in the UAE, the premier held meetings with Emirati high-ups, whereas, he was also scheduled to meet Pakistani and Emirati businesspersons. During his visit, the premier will deliver a keynote address at the WGS in Dubai tomorrow, highlighting Pakistan's vision for inclusive economic growth, digital transformation and governance reforms.

Hamas halts captive release amid 'violations'

Delay will "remain in place until occupying entity complies with past obligations"

GAZA CITY: The spokesperson of Hamas' armed wing has issued a statement on Telegram saying the group will delay the release of more Israeli captives planned for Saturday "until further notice". "Over the past three weeks, the resistance leadership monitored the enemy's violations and its non-compliance with the terms of the agreement," Abu Obeida said. "These violations include delaying the return of displaced persons to northern Gaza, targeting them with shelling and gunfire in various areas of the Gaza Strip, and failing to allow the entry of relief materials in all forms as agreed upon. - Agencies

Plans to write another letter Imran Khan urges CJP Yahya Afridi to stand by law and justice

Says he wrote two letters to army chief as all democratic avenues obstructed

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has called upon Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi to stand by law and justice. In an informal interaction with journalists at Rawalpindi's Adala jail, the PTI founder addressed the CJP, saying, "The nation is looking towards you." Khan said he wrote two letters to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir "because all democratic avenues have been obstructed". His remarks came after the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), headed by the CJP, approved the appointment of six new judges to the Supreme Court amid a boycott by PTI lawmakers and two senior SC judges. "The CJP needs to stand by law and justice," said the 71-year-old cricket-turned-politician, who has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was sentenced to multiple cases following his ouster from power in April 2022.

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"Transferred judges need no new oath"

IHC CJ rejects seniority change plea

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected the representation of five judges challenging the change in their seniority. The court upheld the revised seniority list, which was updated after the transfer of judges from three provincial high courts. According to the decision, Justice Sarfraz Dogar, who was transferred from the Lahore High Court, will remain the senior justice judge of the IHC. Chief Justice Anwar Fauroq stated that Justice Sarfraz Dogar had taken the

Continued on Page 06

Vessel carrying 65, including Pakistanis sinks off Libyan coast

Foreign Office says 65 passengers were on board ill-fated boat

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A boat carrying dozens of passengers, including Pakistanis, capsized in Libya, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on Monday. The legal status of the passengers aboard the vessel has yet to be confirmed, as the ministry's spokesperson stated that Pakistani officials are working to gather details. In its statement, the Foreign Office said a vessel carrying approximately 65 passengers capsized near the port of Marsa Elat, northwest of Zawiya City, Libya. The Pakistan Embassy in Tripoli dispatched a team to Zawiya Hospital to assist the local authorities in the identification of the deceased, the ministry said. The Foreign Office added that the embassy was trying to ascertain further details of the Pakistani affectees. The ministry's Crisis Management Unit (CMU) has been activated to monitor the situation with people advised to contact at 051-9207887 helpline. Meanwhile, the relevant officials in Tripoli can be contacted on 03052185882 (WhatsApp), +218933870577 (cell-phone) and +218 91-6425435 (WhatsApp).

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All nations miss UN deadline for new climate targets

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: Nearly all nations missed a UN deadline on Monday to submit new targets for slashing carbon emissions, including major economies under pressure to show leadership following the US retreat on climate change. Just 10 of nearly 200 countries required under the Paris Agreement to deliver fresh climate plans by February 10 did so on time, according to a UN database tracking the submissions. Under the climate accord, each country is supposed to provide a steeper headline figure for cutting heat-trapping emissions by 2035, and a detailed blueprint for how to achieve this. Global emissions have been rising but need to almost halve by the end of the decade to limit global warming to safer levels agreed under the Paris deal.

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Turkish President to visit Pak this week

President Asif Ali Zardari takes up matters of mutual interest with President Erdogan during brief stay in Istanbul

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is set to visit Pakistan this week as part of his four-day trip to three Asian countries also including Malaysia and Indonesia. President Erdogan's tour, commencing from today, will see him visit Malaysia which will be followed by Indonesia meaning he will land in Islamabad last. During his visit, President Erdogan will take up various aspects of bilateral relations and his meetings will focus on improving cooperation in various fields.

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Modi uses Pakistani airspace

"India One," departed from New Delhi and entered Pakistani airspace near Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, en route to Paris for a three-day visit, once again travelled through Pakistani airspace, aviation sources confirmed. However, he did not leave any goodwill message for the Pakistani government or people. Modi's special aircraft, "India One," departed from New Delhi and entered Pakistani airspace near Lahore. The plane traveled over Sheikhupura, Hafizabad, Chakwal, and Kohat at an altitude of 34,000 feet.

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LISBON: President Asif Ali Zardari offering his condolences over the demise of Prince Karim Aga Khan with Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini Aga Khan. - DNA

Lost "true friend"

President Zardari offers condolences to Prince Rahim Hussaini

Pakistani nation mourns the loss of a "true friend" and "great philanthropist," says president

NEWS DESK

LISBON: President Asif Ali Zardari arrived in Lisbon on Monday and offered condolences to Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini on the death of his father, Prince Karim Aga Khan, according to an official statement. The statement said President Zardari expressed his heartfelt sympathies on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, saying that the nation mourned the loss of a "true friend" and a "great philanthropist". Prince Karim Aga Khan - the 49th hereditary Imam of the Ismailis - renowned for his triumphs in horse racing, immense wealth, and global development work, breathed his last in Lisbon, Portugal, at the age of 88. Prince Karim was laid to rest in Egypt's Aswan city at a private burial ceremony on Sunday, a day after his funeral was held in Lisbon, Portugal.

Pak, KSA and Malaysia call for urgent OIC meeting

Pakistan continues to engage with key international partners to advocate for a peaceful resolution to the crisis

FAYSAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar engaged in high-level diplomatic discussions with his Saudi and Malaysian counterparts, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering

Continued on Page 06

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- FEBRUARY**
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Feb 06/Uganda Army Day
Feb 11/Iran Revolution day
Feb 16/DPR Korea National Day
Feb 16/Lithuania National Day
Feb 18/Gambia National Day
Feb 19/Nepal Democracy Day
Feb 23/Uzbekistan National Day
Feb 23/Bruncei National Day
Feb 23/Guyana National Day
Feb 23/Russia National Army Day
Feb 23/Tajikistan Armed Forces Day
Feb 25/Kuwait National Day



- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051-2826121
Mona.....0334-5421812
- Turkish Airlines.....8494949
- Emergency**
Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....112 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122
& Rescue Services.....4451122
Motorway Police.....92969044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

- Enquiry**
Ethi Ambulance.....315
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Enquiry.....117
Railway Exchange/9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5554889
CAA.....9281092

- Hospitals**
CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cant Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
BGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603966

- Departments**
CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9253604-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Contention Board 9270151-3

- Water Tank**
Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pak can reduce cornea scarcity with local donations

American cornea donations go mostly to Pakistan. Pakistan's organ donation laws are helpful

DNA
RAWALPINDI: Eversight, a global non-profit eye bank, annually collects 10,000 cornea donations in the US, of which 30 percent are provided to other countries, including Pakistan. Mr. Colin Ross, vice president of Eversight, said that for over 75 years, Eversight has enabled donors and their families to give the gift of sight to people in need. Pakistan receives 1,000 donated corneas from Eversight annually, 80% of which are provided to Al-Shifa Trust (AST), the most significant partner of the non-profit in Pakistan, he added. Talking to media men, he said AST leadership's commitment to eradicating blindness, the quality of eye care, competency, the latest equipment, and the largest infrastructure is admirable. Mr. Colin Ross added that the gap between the demand and supply



tries establish their eye banks. He underlined that our primary purpose is to prepare for the launch of local eye donation programs. Trained donation coordinators will identify, screen, consent to

and coordinate cornea donation cases at one major donor hospital in each metropolitan area of Pakistan. "Pakistan regulations are helpful in organ donations, and NADRA can play a pivotal role in this regard," Mr. Colin said. According to the amended NADRA rules, citizens registering as organ donors will be issued lifetime CNICs with a donor logo. "American people donate their cornea without any benefit or greed, only on humanitarian grounds," he explained. Eversight established a state-of-the-art eye bank at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi in 2019. The bank is managed by local professionals who rely on Eversight's best practices. He said that as many as two million people are blind due to a variety of eye diseases in Pakistan, and an estimated 250,000 have corneal blindness. The driving causes are the same as Eversight's, so we will continue to enhance cooperation. He explained that cornea donations require regular efforts through media campaigns and persuasions. AST enjoys the people's trust and has a comprehensive plan. He particularly praised Dr. Wajid Ali Khan, Chief of Medical Services at AST, for his dedication. It is pertinent to mention that more than 300,000 individuals are currently on transplant waiting lists, while the demand and supply situation is unfavorable in Pakistan. Only 1 in 70 individuals requiring a transplant can avail of the facility. He said that Pakistan needs regular cornea donation campaigns and an urgent need to develop a local cornea donation system, as AST always advocates integrated donation campaigns to decrease reliance on imports. On his closing note, Mr. Colin said that AST's professional values are the same as Eversight's, so we will continue to enhance cooperation.

Daraz Pakistan introduces 'Choice' for consumers

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Daraz Pakistan, the country's leading online marketplace, has introduced an innovative new Choice channel on its platform, offering shoppers a curated selection of over 300,000 top-rated, value-for-money products. Previously launched as 'Any 3' a year ago, the refreshed channel will be covering a diverse range of categories, including FMCG, Fashion, Health & Beauty, and Lifestyle, and ensuring customers enjoy competitive prices while discovering quality products that meet all their needs. Additionally, shoppers can unlock free shipping when purchasing three or more items, making the shopping experience even more convenient and cost-effective for low-ticket purchases. Daraz reinforces its commitment to delivering outstanding value and service to its customers by focusing on affordability, variety, and accessibility. Beyond categories that feature trendy items, Daraz has broadened its Choice channel to include a growing range of daily essentials. This strategic expansion not only caters to the evolving needs of local consumers but also makes grocery shopping more cost-effective, further solidifying Daraz's role as a trusted, one-stop solution for all shopping needs. Consumers can enjoy delivery in as little as 1-3 days on items bought from Choice, with a flexible 14-day easy and free return policy.—APP

Samfundssind: Community spirit and collective responsibility

NAIIRA ESHAAL
There is a strong need to adapt the good moral practices which can be cultivated by looking at those countries where community spirit and collective responsibility prevail and an increased social cohesion complimented by a supportive and caring society is visible. Pakistan can learn a lot from Samfundssind, a compound noun, samfund (society) and sind (mind), a Danish concept dating back to 1936, essentially signifying a call for solidarity, which emphasizes social-mindedness and where those qualities are apparent. It is helpful in promoting a positive

social environment displaying a collective sense of responsibilities that are related with the well-being of people. It ensures a society where individuals are encouraged to act in the ways that benefit the community in totality. It promotes unity and mutual support and is concerned with paying importance to the needs of the community above personal interests, thereby leading to a common good. Samfundssind encourages people to take part in community service and local initiatives. Thus, it promotes social welfare like clean up drives, educational programs and health camps. It also integrates the values of social-mindedness in the education system. The children are taught the importance of empathy, cooperation and community service from a very tender age. It also lays importance on fostering social evenhandedness, inclusivity and support for the relegated segments hence ensuring that everyone's needs are catered for and appropriately addressed. It gives importance to launching public awareness drives that emphasize the significance of joint responsibility and care for the community as was witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic in Denmark. This idea is quite inspiring and it pays importance to unity and cooperation within a society. This idea is also helpful in firming up social bonds and encouraging the people to organize events for bringing people closer together which eventually leads to nurturing unity, belongingness and togetherness. Volunteer programs are promoted that allow citizens to contribute their time and skills to community projects. The ethical values and social goods embraced by this concept paves way for promoting the strongest social cohesion and ensuring an egalitarian society. These examples can help us nurture the same and promote in our society to ensure welfare of all and discrimination for none. The writer is at present pursuing a Master's degree in Psychology from National University of Science and Technology

CPPs provided gas for dirt-cheap prices for decades

Laws indicate the terms and conditions of providing gas to captive power plants, frequently violated as the authorities remain silent spectators

FAISAL SHEKH
ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that one of the largest obstacles to fixing the energy situation is the captive power lobby. The energy crisis continues to devastate the economy. Still, he said, the highly influential lobby of the owners of Captive Power Plants (CPPs) received gas at incredibly low prices. He said that this powerful lobby had wasted natural gas worth trillions of rupees for their profit unless it came under the radar of the IMF. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that many governments have tried to tame this powerful group but failed due to its influence in the corridors of power. The business leader said the captive power

ANF seizes over 107 kg drugs in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 9 operations across the country managed to recover over 107 kg drugs worth over Rs 110 million and arrested 9 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near the park in F-8 Islamabad, 100 grams ice and 48 intoxicating tablets were recovered from an accused netted near Khanana Pui Expressway Islamabad. In third operation, 500 grams hashish was recovered from personal possession of an accused rounded up near a college in Islamabad, 70 intoxicating tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused held near a university in Rawalpindi.—APP

Global South Month of action on heatwaves to begin on Feb 14

SALFULLAH ANSAR
ISLAMABAD: The Global South Month of Action on Heatwaves will officially commence on February 14, bringing together civil society, experts, and community leaders to raise a unified voice against the losses, and damages caused by heatwaves. Heatwaves, intensified by climate change, are becoming more

frequent, prolonged, and severe, disproportionately affecting communities with limited resources to adapt. The Global South, which contributes the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, suffers the most from rising temperatures, water shortages, crop failures, and heat-related health crises. The Global South Month of Action on Heatwaves will be marked across Africa, Asia, Europe and Far East and other regions with an objective to amplify the civil society voice urging the Global North to take necessary measures urgently to save lives in the Global South. Throughout the month, civil society organizations, activists, researchers, and policymakers will engage in various advocacy campaigns, media interactions, and community-driven initiatives to demand action on heatwaves. The campaign seeks to ensure that climate adaptation and resilience-building remain at the forefront of global policy discussions. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed has been designated as the Regional Director Asia for the Global South Civil Society on Heatwave on a voluntary-basis. Speaking on the urgency of the issue on Monday, he emphasized the responsibility of industrialized nations in addressing the crisis.

Mother & child health hospital to facilitate residents of I-14

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step toward improving healthcare access for families, the Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Nelson Azeem, announced on Monday that a state-of-the-art Mother and Child Health Hospital is being established in Islamabad's Sector I-14. The project, titled "Establishment of Mother, Neonates, and Child Health Center (MNCCH) in ICT Islamabad," is being developed under the Ministry of NHR&C and aims to provide essential primary and secondary healthcare services to the local community. During the National Assembly's Question Hour session, Azeem highlighted that the new hospital will significantly reduce the patients' burden on Islamabad's tertiary care hospitals by offering critical healthcare services closer to home for residents of I-14 and surrounding areas. The facility will serve as a referral center for nearby primary healthcare centers, delivering specialized maternal and child health services alongside general healthcare. Azeem also shared updates on the hospital's progress.—APP

JAN/FEB 2025
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YEAR IN REVIEW 2024

Silk Road Center opened
Serena Hotel, Strong Season?
Member jobs, ASUN, their ASUNs

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

Briefs

Digital Scholars Program support 3,359 students, 210 teachers

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G in collaboration with Knowledge Platform, has successfully concluded its Digital Scholars Program, transforming education across Pakistan. Spanning eight months, the program supported 3,359 students, 210 teachers, and 60 schools across 42 cities, leveraging digital learning tools and methods, said a news release. Through interactive online tutoring and teacher training, the program achieved an impressive 75% improvement in overall student performance, setting a benchmark for integrating technology into education. The program focused on grades 9 and 10, offering tailored modules aligned with national and provincial curricula. Students accessed videos, games, activities, and assessments, while teachers received extensive training in pedagogical technology, IT skills, and data-driven remedial learning. The initiative promoted inclusion by identifying student IT leaders in schools and celebrating achievements through certificates and badges, reflecting high levels of engagement and impact. "Education is a powerful catalyst for progress, and the Digital Scholars Program highlights how technology can bridge gaps and improve learning outcomes," said Andleeb Aslam, Zong's official spokesperson. "We are dedicated to empowering communities through innovation and ensuring that no student or teacher is left behind in this digital age."

Online cabs transform Capital transportation

ISLAMABAD: The advent of online cab services had brought a sigh of relief to commuters in Islamabad, providing a convenient and reliable transportation solution. For years, residents of the capital city have struggled with inadequate public transportation, relying on overcrowded buses and taxis that often refuse to use meters. However, with the launch of online cab services, commuters could now book rides with ease, using their smartphones. Sara Ahmed, a student, shared her experience of switching to online cab services saying "I was getting so frustrated with the taxi drivers who would always refuse to take me to my destination, but now with online cab service, I could just book a ride and get to where I need to go without any hassle." The online cab services had been a game-changer for her as no longer she has to worry about finding a taxi or negotiating fares adding that it's all so convenient and hassle-free, she stated. She continued that online cab services have not only provided a convenient transportation solution.—APP

Understanding skin types: Normal, Oily, Dry and combination

To manage oily skin, opt for oil-free products and gentle exfoliation to unclog pores. Sun protection is equally important for all types of skin. But for oily skin sebum control sun block should be used to avoid acne

DR MUBASHIR MUSH-TAQ DAHA

SKIN is the largest organ of the human body, which represents our outer look and personality. Taking care of it is essential for maintaining overall health and confidence. Knowing your skin type is the first step in creating an effective skincare routine. This column will break down the four primary skin types: normal, oily, dry, and combination, and provide tips for maintaining healthy skin. Normal Skin Normal skin is balanced and neither too oily nor too dry. For people with normal skin, maintaining this balance is key. Regular cleansing, moisturizing, and sun

Romina for sustainable solutions to tackle climate challenges

Alam noted that climate change is a pressing global issue, particularly for countries within AARDO, which are grappling with various environmental threats that undermine their natural resources and socio-economic stability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted the escalating climate challenges faced by developing countries, particularly members of the African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO). Addressing a training program on "Disaster Management and Climate Change Adaptation" held on Monday, she emphasized that limited financial resources and inadequate infrastructure exacerbate the impact of climate change, urging immediate global cooperation and the adoption of sustainable climate solutions. During her address, Alam noted that climate change is a pressing global issue, particularly for countries within AARDO, which are grappling with various environmental threats that undermine their natural resources and socio-economic stability. Countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh are especially vulnerable to flooding caused by glacial melt and changing monsoon patterns. Meanwhile, Kenya and Zambia are facing severe droughts, which significantly affect agriculture and water avail-



ability. Malaysia and Oman are confronted with rising sea levels that endanger coastal communities and infrastructure. Water scarcity is a recurring challenge across many of these nations. Jordan, Palestine, and Namibia are among the most water-stressed countries globally, raising serious concerns about access to clean drinking water and agricultural irrigation. Additionally, countries such as Syria and Ghana are experiencing soil degradation, further exacerbat-

ing food security risks," Ms Alam added. She pointed out that developing nations are already dealing with rising temperatures, erratic rainfall and extreme weather events such as droughts, floods and cyclones. To address these challenges, Ms Alam emphasized the urgent need for regional collaboration to manage disasters and adapt to climate change effectively. Talking to the one-week training program, initiated on January 8th, was organized by the

Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHRNCRD) in collaboration with AARDO. Alam expressed her belief that the training would equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement effective disaster management and climate adaptation strategies in their respective countries. She also stressed the importance of supporting AARDO member nations through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and fostering in-

novative solutions for sustainable development. Alam commended NCRD for its commitment to rural development and poverty alleviation, particularly in Pakistan and across other AARDO member countries, through its collaboration with AARDO. The AHRNCRD, based in Islamabad, is a capacity-building government institute that works alongside AARDO, an inter-governmental organization comprising 32 member countries from Asia and Africa. Alam further noted that Pakistan is increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive disaster management strategies and collaborative adaptation measures to build resilience. She reiterated the importance of equipping stakeholders with the knowledge needed to address the complex challenges of disaster management and climate change adaptation. The training programme, which runs for one week, is being attended by participants from 13 AARDO member countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, Oman, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Zambia.

Pak-China Friendship Hospital treats over 150,000 patients

The general surgery department provided services to 5,527 patients, including 304 who underwent surgical procedures. The orthopedic surgery OPD saw 5,229 patients, with 230 surgeries performed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Friendship Hospital, operated by the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), treated more than 150,000 patients over the past six months. The GDA reported on Monday. The hospital's emergency department handled 18,190 cases, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. The family medicine and general outpatient department (OPD) was the most frequented, serving 60,465 patients. The pediatric OPD recorded 32,875 visits, while the internal medicine OPD

treated 6,014 patients. The general surgery department received medical services to 5,527 patients, including 304 who underwent surgical procedures. The orthopedic surgery OPD saw 5,229 patients, with 230 surgeries performed. The dental OPD treated 4,636 patients during the period. Meanwhile, the urology and nephrology OPD attended to 2,822 patients, with 23 undergoing surgery. The hospital's maternity and child health department remains one of its busi-

est sections, receiving 15,437 visits. At least 1,260 labuses were delivered at the facility. Additionally, 176 patients benefited from the hospital's CT scan services over the past six months. In late January, the GDA Pak-China Friendship Hospital launched its Blood Bank Services, expanding medical care in Gwadar. Equipped with a state-of-the-art Cryo-centrifuge machine, the facility provides specialized blood components for patients with trauma, childbirth complications, liver conditions, and blood disorders.

Nasir stresses more exhibitions to boost eco growth

The ICCI President further highlighted Pakistan's vast untapped potential in various sectors, including textiles, food, sports goods, pharmaceuticals, IT services, medical equipment, and more

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), has lauded the successful conclusion of the "Made in Pakistan Exhibitions" held in Jeddah. President Qureshi expressed his satisfaction with the exhibition's positive impact, noting that it not only showcased Pakistan's diverse offerings but also brought key stakeholders together to forge stronger business partnerships. He emphasized the importance of holding similar exhibitions in other key regions, particularly the Middle East, Central Asia, ASEAN countries, and South Africa. "These regions present a significant opportunity for Pakistani businesses to expand their

market share. Exhibitions like this create valuable platforms for engagement, offering a chance to connect with potential buyers and partners to explore diverse business prospects," Qureshi remarked. The ICCI President further highlighted Pakistan's vast untapped potential in various sectors, including textiles, food, sports goods, pharmaceuticals, IT services, medical equipment, and more. However, he stressed that unlocking this potential requires strong governmental support to ease the process of doing business in Pakistan. With the right infrastructure and government-backed policies, we can expand our global footprint and attract more international markets," he added. As the leading business organization in

the capital, the ICCI has consistently worked to support investment growth and foster business expansion. Qureshi reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to building stronger public-private partnerships to drive economic progress. He also expressed optimism about the role of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in organizing similar exhibitions, in collaboration with national Chambers of Commerce, to continuously promote Pakistani businesses worldwide. "By fostering ongoing efforts and collaborations, we can open doors to more successful exhibitions and business ventures, ultimately boosting Pakistan's economic relations with the international market," Qureshi concluded.—APP

Training workshop for authors begins at AIUO

ISLAMABAD: A 15-day training workshop for authors commenced on Monday at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO). Writers of religious books from various regions of the country are participating in this workshop to enhance their writing skills. The inaugural session was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof Dr Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi, while the Director of Al-Mustafa International University, Dr. Kazim Saleem, was the chief guest. Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi emphasized that the world is undergoing significant changes, and it is crucial for authors to understand this paradigm shift. He stated that this shift has provided numerous facilities, and it is essential to comprehend how to handle and benefit from them effectively. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi further elaborated that the workshop will cover various topics, including selecting a research topic, research framework, research paper formatting, analysis of research material, thesis binding, citations, footnotes, references, bibliography, and the ethics of academic discourse. In his address, Dr. Kazim Saleem highlighted that, unfortunately, research and academic projects are scarce in Pakistan. However, due to the dedication of intellectuals, some institutions continue to organize academic events consistently, with Allama Iqbal Open University leading the way. He mentioned that Al-Mustafa International University and Allama Iqbal Open University have jointly initiated these academic activities, yielding significant results. The training workshop has been organized collaboratively by the Department of Islamic Thought, History & Culture at Allama Iqbal Open University and Al-Mustafa International University. During an open forum, the participating authors introduced themselves and shared their academic, religious, and literary contributions.—DNA

ISSI signs MoU with Uzbekistan's IICA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has formalized an institutional relationship with Uzbekistan's International Institute for Central Asia (IICA), based in Tashkent, by concluding a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership between the think-tanks aims to facilitate research and dialogue on a range of subjects — including Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations, Central Asia, infrastructure projects and connectivity, and regional stability and prosperity. The two sides had a wide-ranging exchange of views on these subjects during the meeting. The MoU was signed by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, and Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov, Managing Director, IICA, for their respective sides. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted ISSI as a premier research institution with 52 years of experience in policy research, dialogue, and outreach to partner think-tanks in Pakistan and internationally. He highlighted Pakistan's approach towards Central Asia, encapsulated in the "Tristan Central Asia," with five key pillars: political/diplomatic; trade and investment; energy and connectivity; security; and people-to-people links. He lauded the steady progress being made in bilateral relations as reflected in the establishment of strategic partnership and signing of landmark transit trade and preferential trade agreements. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also noted that Pakistan provided the shortest land access from Central Asia to the seaports of Karachi and Gwadar. Among major connectivity initiatives, he alluded to the Trans-Afghan Railway Project. He also underlined the importance of establishing synergy between CPCE and other regional initiatives. Along with hard (physical) connectivity, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the imperative of 'soft connectivity' through people-to-people exchanges, particularly in the tourism, education, and research and think-tanks domains. Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov informed that IICA, established in 2021, focuses on good neighborhood policy, and conducts research on immediate neighborhood and ways for deepening regional relationships. He highlighted that IICA research priorities include political developments and security; trade, investment and regional connectivity; climate change.—APP

General Practice HOSPITAL

General Practice Hospital is a state-of-the-art healthcare facility offering comprehensive medical services to the community. Our hospital is equipped with advanced diagnostic and treatment modalities, including specialized OPD clinics, an urgent care unit, a modern radiology unit, well-equipped IPD rooms, operation theatres, an on-site laboratory for precise diagnostics, dialysis services, and comfortable inpatient wards. We are dedicated to providing quality, easily accessible, and patient-centred healthcare in a welcoming and professional environment.

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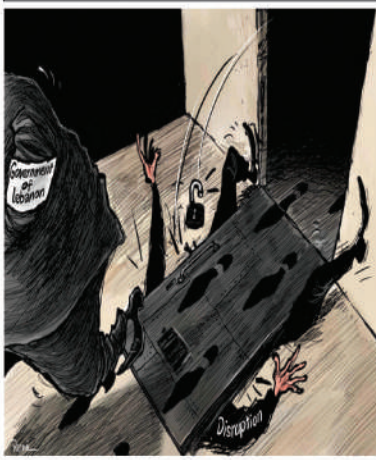
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PM Starmer and international law

In just three weeks, US President Donald Trump has shaken up the global order, rewritten it even. He has certainly flooded the zone and the world is now watching to see who will sink and who will swim. How much of what Trump has pledged will materialize remains to be seen, but even if these are the opening gambits of a negotiation, they have had allies and enemies reeling. Trump's push for the US to take over Gaza is perhaps the most jaw-dropping of all, coming not long after his "clean up" Gaza comments. Few have felt the brunt of this whiplash more than the UK, which always used to pride itself — to the point of an unhealthy obsession — on its "special relationship" with Washington. If you want to know what a special relationship with the US really looks and feels like, then check out the grinning Cheshire cat pose of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as Trump proposed ethnically cleansing Gaza. As a leadership level, it is harder to think of a more challenging time for a British prime minister. Keir Starmer is not in the inner circle of Trump's loyalists either. It took a week after the inauguration for the two to have their first conversation since Trump returned to the Oval Office. Few will read too much into Trump's statement that the two have a "very good relationship." Questions remain as to whether Trump approved of the deluge of posts against Britain — and Starmer in particular — by his ally Elon Musk in recent weeks. He has certainly never distanced himself from them. So, how is Starmer handling this and how will the relationship develop? The reaction to Trump's Middle East comments is indicative of the direction of travel. Not one British minister has directly criticized Trump's desire to empty Gaza of its population. The phrase "ethnic cleansing" will not cross their lips. Starmer dodged a direct question about Trump and Gaza at last week's Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament. Without directly criticizing the president, British ministers have outlined a position that is diametrically opposed to Trump's. "We would oppose any effort to move Palestinians in Gaza to neighboring Arab states against their will. There must be no forced displacement of Palestinians." Development Minister Anneke Dodds said last week. Asked countless times to condemn Trump's comments, she resisted the temptation. Similarly, as Trump defunds UNRWA, the UK continues to offer verbal and financial support. But what about the International Criminal Court? Again, little has been said despite the fact that the court's chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, is a British national. He will undoubtedly be one of the officials to face US sanctions. One appropriate step that states like the UK could take is to increase funding to the International Criminal Court. More importantly, member states must reiterate their support for the arrest warrants that the court issued for both Israeli and Hamas leaders. There was a joint statement from 79 state parties to the Rome Statute, including the UK, defending the court, which was welcome, but it needs leaders to step up and make such statements personally. As a human rights lawyer, Starmer should be taking that lead.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily
Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
Member APNS / ABC Certified
Vol: 05 Issue: 249
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960
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Deep Seek & fear of a new cold war

CHINESE tech startup Deep Seek recently shocked the world by releasing a generative artificial intelligence (AI) model that it claims, rivals US company OpenAI's ChatGPT in performance while blowing it away in cost efficiency. The announcement was a boon to China's confidence in its technological self-reliance and a blow to Washington's conviction that it could contain China's emergence as a superpower. Talk of a "Sputnik moment" resounded in the US media. Yet the Cold War analogy missed a key point: Sputnik came during the early years of a protracted, high-stakes conflict that the world managed to survive. The timeline for an AI-powered Cold War 2.0 would not be nearly so forgiving. Regardless of whether the fanfare about DeepSeek is true — and that's still a big — Washington must reconsider its failed, hegemonic approach of China and seek a more constructive approach to dealing with what is already the world's second superpower. Put more simply, it's time for the United States and China to talk. Industry experts contest DeepSeek's assertions that its AI model was built on relatively low-grade Nvidia chips for a mere US\$5 million, in contrast to the hundreds of millions spent by Western companies. Testing has reportedly shown that the Chinese model may potentially be a copy of ChatGPT. Still, DeepSeek exists, and it is already changing how we use, develop and apply AI models. The notion that Washington could effectively curb China's AI progress was always wishful thinking. China has a decades-long track record of making cheaper technology. It has even done so quite recently. Now, it also can design such technology. As a result, China dominates the global electric vehicle, solar and robotics markets. And while China does not have Nvidia's leading-edge chips, it does have an abundance of the rare earth minerals needed to produce them. China has something else critical for AI success: size. Its 1.4 billion people, integrated into a finely tuned state surveillance system, supply all the data points its three largest AI players — Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent — need to train and run large language models. Those sources include an estimated 700 million cameras installed throughout the country, mobile apps linked to government servers and millions of daily financial transactions. China also possesses a profusion of technologies that complement and augment AI. Huawei, one of the world's largest suppliers of 5G telecommunications equipment, is likely to serve as the backbone for China's AI deployment. Other huge Chinese industries, such as financial technology, factories and speech recognition, robotics and artificial intelligence, will further propel demand for home-grown AI technology. Clearly, US sanctions have not prevented China from rivaling it for AI pre-eminence. In fact, they have backfired by creating a completely new chip ecosystem in China. Just last year, Huawei itself announced a chipset that directly competes with one of Nvidia's advanced chips for AI computing. Meanwhile, the sanctions risk alienating the business interests of the US and its allies. Nvidia has seen its sales to mainland China drop from around 26 per cent of total revenue in 2021 to 12 per cent during the first half of 2024. Companies everywhere want access to affordable technology from China.

Donald Trump and Abraham accord

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



This relative deprioritization of the Middle East has raised questions about the U.S.'s long-term role as a mediator and guarantor of the accords.

Under Biden, there has been an attempt to strike a balance between advancing the accords and addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, the lack of substantial progress on Palestinian statehood remains a critical point of contention. Critics argue that the Abraham Accords sideline the Palestinian issue, potentially undermining their long-term viability if tensions between Israel and Arab nations over this unresolved conflict escalate

THE return of Donald Trump to the political spotlight has reignited discussions about his foreign policy initiatives, particularly the Abraham Accords. These landmark agreements, aimed at normalizing relations between Israel and several Arab nations, represent one of the most significant shifts in Middle Eastern diplomacy in recent decades. Analyzing their potential trajectory under a second Trump administration or another U.S. leader provides insight into the broader geopolitical implications for the region. During his presidency, Donald Trump brokered the normalization of relations between Israel and four Arab nations: the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. The accords aimed to foster peace, economic collaboration and security partnerships in a region historically plagued by conflict and mistrust. Trump heralded these agreements as a cornerstone of his foreign policy success, arguing that they had the potential to transform the Middle East into a zone of stability and cooperation. Economically, the accords have facilitated significant trade and investment opportunities. For instance, Israel and the UAE have engaged in multi-billion-dollar deals across sectors such as technology, tourism and renewable energy. These economic ties have created incentives for other nations to consider normalization, presenting the Abraham Accords as a mutually beneficial framework for regional growth and development. On the strategic front, the accords also serve as a potential counterbalance to Iran's growing influence in the region. By fostering alliances between Israel and Arab states, the accords provide a platform for coordinated security measures aimed at addressing shared concerns over Iran's military activities and its nuclear ambitions. If Trump were to return to office, his characteristic approach to diplomacy, heavily reliant on economic incentives and transactional agreements, could breathe new life into the Abra-

ham Accords. Potential candidates for future agreements include Saudi Arabia and Oman, both of which have shown cautious interest in engaging with Israel. Saudi Arabia, in particular, remains a critical player. Although it has not formally joined the accords, recent developments suggest a gradual thaw in its stance toward Israel. Factors such as shared security concerns regarding Iran and the economic opportunities stemming from normalization could encourage Riyadh to align itself with the Abraham Accords. However, domestic political sensitivities and the kingdom's historical support for the Palestinian cause remain significant hurdles. The Biden administration has expressed support for the Abraham Accords but has not prioritized their expansion. Instead, its foreign policy has focused on strengthening traditional alliances in Europe and Asia, particularly in response to the rising influence of China and Russia. This relative deprioritization of the Middle East has raised questions about the U.S.'s long-term role as a mediator and guarantor of the accords. Under Biden, there has been an attempt to strike a balance between advancing the accords and addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, the lack of substantial progress on Palestinian statehood remains a critical point of contention. Critics argue that the Abraham Accords sideline the Palestinian issue, potentially undermining their long-term viability if tensions between Israel and Arab nations over this unresolved conflict escalate. The Middle East's geopolitical landscape is undergoing significant transformations that could impact the future of the Abraham Accords. One of the most notable developments is the warming relations between Iran and key Arab states like Saudi Arabia, facilitated by Chinese mediation. This rapprochement could weaken the momentum of the Abraham Accords as Arab nations reassess their strategic priorities and alliances. Moreover, the U.S.'s gradual reduction of di-

rect involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts has created a vacuum that other powers, such as China and Russia, are eager to fill. This shifting power dynamic could influence the willingness of Arab nations to deepen their ties with Israel through the Abraham Accords, particularly if they perceive alternative paths to regional stability and economic growth. Despite the political challenges, public opinion in several Arab countries appears to be slowly shifting in favor of normalization with Israel, particularly among younger populations. This generational change, driven by aspirations for economic prosperity and a departure from entrenched ideological divides, could sustain and expand the accords in the long term. However, governments must carefully navigate domestic opposition and the broader regional consensus on the Palestinian issue to ensure lasting support for normalization efforts. The role of the United States as a guarantor and mediator will remain pivotal. Whether under Trump or another administration, sustained U.S. engagement is essential to maintaining the momentum of the accords and persuading additional nations to join. The neglect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict poses a significant risk to the long-term success of the Abraham Accords. Without meaningful progress toward Palestinian statehood or improved conditions for Palestinians, the accords may face backlash from both Arab nations and their domestic populations. The evolving dynamics of Middle Eastern geopolitics, including Iran's growing influence and the involvement of external powers like China and Russia, will shape the strategic calculations of Arab states regarding normalization with Israel. The economic benefits of the Abraham Accords, exemplified by increased trade and investment between Israel and participating Arab nations, could serve as a powerful incentive for other countries to join. Expanding these economic ties will be crucial for sustaining the accords' momentum.

The unfinished audit: Trump's quest to solve the Pentagon's fiscal mystery

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



This initiative represents a broader effort by Trump's administration to curb federal expenditures and optimize governmental efficiency. While proponents see it as a long-overdue endeavor towards transparency, critics argue that such a sweeping audit could inadvertently compromise national security or hinder critical public services

BEFORE his foray into politics, US President Donald Trump made an unexpected entry into the world of professional wrestling. On April 1, 2007, at WrestleMania 23, he participated in the widely publicized "Battle of the Billionaires," pitting his chosen wrestler, Bobby Lashley, against WWE Chairman Vince McMahon's pick, Umaga. The spectacle concluded with Trump emerging victorious, leading to the dramatic shaving of McMahon's head before a jubilant audience. This theatrical engagement was emblematic of Trump's signature style—bold, unpredictable and attention-commanding. Traits that defined his time in the wrestling ring later became hallmarks of his political career, keeping both supporters and critics ever uncertain of his next move. In a recent bid to instill fiscal responsibility within the federal government, Donald Trump, now once again at the helm of the United States, held a press conference at the White House on February 7, 2025, alongside Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. The key announcement of the day was the appointment of Elon Musk and the newly established Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to spearhead a comprehensive audit of federal spending, particularly within the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Education. Trump underscored the necessity of a meticulous review, arguing that significant inefficiencies plagued the governmental framework. "The Pentagon, education, just about everything," he remarked, suggesting that widespread fiscal mismanagement would likely be uncovered. He further alluded to the gravity of the situation, stating, "Soddy, you'll find some things that are pretty bad." With a defense budget surpassing \$800 billion annually, the Pentagon has long struggled to pass financial audits. Despite repeated attempts, only the Marine Corps has managed to secure an unqualified audit opinion, leaving other branches and the Pentagon itself grappling with longstanding accountability concerns. This deep-rooted inefficiency renders the DoD a prime target for Trump's fiscal scrutiny. Elon Musk's involvement in this initiative is particularly notable given his extensive governmental affiliations through SpaceX and Starlink, both of which hold

substantial federal contracts. Musk has, on numerous occasions, criticized exorbitant defense expenditures, including the cost of the F-35 fighter jet, advocating instead for more cost-effective, technologically advanced alternatives such as unmanned aerial vehicles. Yet, this newly granted authority to oversee government spending is bound to face resistance, particularly from legislators representing districts economically reliant on defense contracts. Concerns also linger over the extent of DOGE's reach, its access to classified information, and whether its overzealous might bypass traditional congressional oversight mechanisms. When pressed about potential exemptions in the auditing process, Trump offered a characteristically vague response, praising Musk's team as highly competent and capable of identifying financial discrepancies with ease. "They'll ask questions, and they'll see immediately... that they're either crooked or..." he remarked, trailing off ominously. He did, however, assure that Social Security would remain untouched, though he made unsubstantiated claims regarding the undocumented immigrants receiving illicit Social Security and Medicare benefits, pledging to rectify the matter. This initiative represents a broader effort by Trump's administration to curb federal expenditures and optimize governmental efficiency. While proponents see it as a long-overdue endeavor towards transparency, critics argue that such a sweeping audit could inadvertently compromise national security or hinder critical public services. The eventual outcome remains uncertain, but its implications for both the Pentagon and the broader administrative framework could be profound. This move also draws stark parallels to a historical revelation made on September 10, 2001, when then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld publicly admitted that the Pentagon could not properly account for \$2.3 trillion in transactions. The announcement, based on a prior audit from February 25, 2000, detailed extensive unsupported accounting entries in the DoD's financial records from its year 1989. Entry to widely propagated conspiracy theories, the money was neither missing nor stolen but rather lacked appropriate documentation due to outdated

accounting systems and administrative inefficiencies. However, this revelation was soon overshadowed by the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, which redirected national focus toward counterterrorism and military engagements. Consequently, the discourse surrounding Pentagon mismanagement was largely sidelined, with subsequent financial oversight efforts failing to yield substantive reforms. Decades later, the DoD continues to struggle with financial accountability, having never received a clean audit opinion despite various modernization attempts. The persistence of such issues raises significant concerns about whether the defense establishment has the structural capability or the political will to achieve genuine fiscal discipline. Donald Rumsfeld, former U.S. Navy pilot from 1954 to 1957 and an influential and often controversial figure, held the distinction of being both the youngest and oldest Secretary of Defense, serving under Presidents Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. His tenure was marked by critical historical events, including the Iraq and Afghanistan wars post-9/11. Though his legacy remains divisive, his 2001 pronouncement on Pentagon financial mismanagement remains a stark reminder of the challenges facing government accountability. Now, over two decades later, Trump's renewed focus on defense spending reform finds itself at a familiar crossroads. While his efforts might prompt newfound financial discipline, they are equally likely to meet entrenched bureaucratic resistance. The Pentagon, historically resistant to external scrutiny, may employ various strategies to dilute or redirect the audit's scope. Moreover, should unforeseen events or crises emerge, public attention might once again be diverted, as was the case in 2001. Whether this endeavor proves to be a genuine attempt at enforcing accountability or a mere political maneuver remains to be seen. If history is any indication, challenging the entrenched financial structures of the U.S. government seldom comes without consequence. Yet, if pursued with unwavering resolve, this initiative could redefine the landscape of fiscal oversight in America, setting a precedent for future administrations to follow.

Briefs

JCP elevates 6 HC judges to SC

FROM PAGE 01
Justice Shabaz Ahmad and Justice Aamer Farooq. The Commission, also by majority of its total members, nominated IHC's Justice Mirzaal Hassan Aurangzeb for appointment as the Acting Judge of the Supreme Court. Last month, the judicial commission rescheduled its meeting to Feb 10 from Feb 11 to consider filling eight vacant posts of judges at the apex court. The JCP, which approves judicial appointments, was reconstituted to include four parliamentarians under the 26th Constitutional Amendment, bringing numerous changes to the judiciary. Today's meeting was boycotted by PTI's Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Senator Ali Zafar, and two SC judges, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munsif Akhtar. The PTI chairman said that the meeting should have been postponed until the cases against the 26th Amendment were decided.

SHC seeks govt response...

FROM PAGE 01
"You also have the right to appeal against the authorities' decisions," Barrister Ali Tahir argued that such decisions should be made by the court as they involve fundamental rights. The Chief Justice responded, saying if this is a matter of fundamental rights, then the case should be heard by a constitutional bench. Barrister Ali Tahir cited the Attack Cement case, where the court had decided that regular benches could review the constitutional validity of any law. The court issued a notice to the federal government and directed that a response be submitted within two weeks, adjourning the hearing for two weeks. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), along with civil society and journalistic organisations, challenged the PECA Amendment Act 2025 in the Lahore High Court.

Imran Khan urges CJN Yahya...

FROM PAGE 01
Blasting the coalition government, the PTI founder said: "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari and federal ministers are all fake. There is no hope for parliament." It is pertinent to mention that the former ruling party alleges that their mandate was stolen during the February 8, 2024, general elections. "The parliament is not functional. It is a fraud parliament," he added. Moving on to the stalled negotiation process between the PTI and the ruling coalition, the former prime minister said that he was not expecting any breakthrough in the talks.

Vessel carrying...

FROM PAGE 01
The latest incident adds to the list of migrant boat tragedies resulting in loss of precious lives with dozens of Pakistanis drowning in multiple incidents in recent months. In January, more than 40 Pakistanis were killed after a boat carrying irregular migrants from the African nation of Mauritania to Spain capsized. The ill-fated boat departed from Mauritania on January 2 with 86 migrants on board. Moroccan authorities reported that 66 of the passengers were Pakistani nationals and noted that it had rescued 36 people after the accident. Before that, more than 80 Pakistanis drowned after boats carrying them capsize near Greece on the night between December 13 and 14, 2024.

Modi uses Pakistani airspace

FROM PAGE 01
The Indian Air Force-operated Boeing 777 exited Pakistani airspace near Parchinar, entering Afghanistan. The flight spent approximately 41 minutes within Pakistan's airspace.

Mohammad Sultan won the title of Mr. Rawalpindi

The Chief guest of the ceremony was Member of Punjab Assembly Malik Iftikhar along with special guests President small chamber Sardar Saqib SV President Dost Jan Vice president Asif Iqbal Sheikh Abrar Muhammad Mahfoz Asimullah Qureshi and Ripja President Sajjadhaider

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Mr. Rawalpindi competition was held in local hall at Saddar Cantonment, it was successfully organised by the Young Body-builders Association (YBA) and attended by 70 players of the city in both senior and junior categories. According to President Sheikh Akram, Vice President Siddique Sheikh, General Secretary Asad Ali Boby of association, the position holder will participate in the next stage of Mr. Punjab and Prime Minister's Mr. Pakistan competitions in Lahore events. Talking to the media the officials of YBA said that maintaining a healthy body and mind is the foundation for a fulfilling life, allowing individuals to enjoy activities, relationships, and personal achievements, while highlighting the negative consequences of neglecting physical and mental well-being, encouraging proactive steps like regular exercise, balanced diet, and stress management to prioritize overall health and



happiness, essentially stating that "health is wealth." In this event, Muhammad Sultan won the title of Mr. Rawalpindi 2025.

sain Shah got first positions respectively. The Chief guest of the ceremony was Member of Punjab Assembly Malik Iftikhar along with special guests President small chamber Sardar Saqib SV President Dost Jan Vice president Asif Iqbal Sheikh Abrar Muhammad Mahfoz Asimullah Qureshi and Ripja President Sajjadhaider. The speakers paid tribute to the Young Bodybuilders Association in their address and said that organizing such healthy activities is very important so that our young generation stays away from the negative effects of society and can achieve a better position. When we are healthy and fit, we are able to enjoy our life well. We can talk to our near and dear one. We can laugh, smile, travel, enjoy food, and sleep well. But when our health and fitness are not up to the mark, we are unable to do anything properly and stay behind. We can not enjoy eating, watching sports or movies. The event's chief guest, along with Sheikh Siddique, distributed cash prizes and certificates among all winners of competition.

New Zealand thump SA to reach tri-series final

Pakistan, South Africa to lock horns on Wednesday for a place in the final

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Kane Williamson scored a brisk century to lead New Zealand to a convincing six-wicket victory over South Africa and qualify for the tri-series ODI series final here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Monday. Chasing a daunting 305-run target, the Blackcaps comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of four wickets and eight balls to spare, thanks to an anchoring second-wicket partnership between Williamson and Devon Conway. New Zealand got off to a decent start to the pursuit, with their new opening pair of Will Young and Conway adding 50 runs. The opening stand culminated on the penultimate delivery of the batting overpowering when Eathan Bosch dismissed Young, who scored a cautious 19 off 31 deliveries. Following the blow, Williamson and Conway partnered strongly and added 187 runs to the total amid their second-wicket partnership. The marathon partnership concluded with an agonising end to Conway's knock, who fell just three shy of his sixth



ODI century. He scored 97 off 107 balls with the help of nine fours and a six. Debutant Senuran Muthusamy made 28 not out. New Zealand's run chase by dismissing Daryl Mitchell (10) and Tom Latham (0) on successive deliveries. New Zealand, as a result, had slipped to 251/4 in 38.3 overs, needing a further 54 runs from 69 deliveries. But Williamson got the scalp apiece. Put into bat first, the inexperienced Proteas side registered a massive total of 394/6. This decision comes after FIFA suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) due to internal conflicts. The suspension means Pakistan will miss out on the chance to qualify for the prestigious Asian Cup, dealing a significant setback to the country's football aspirations. FIFA's recent suspension of the PFF is a significant blow to Pakistan's footballing ambitions. Missing out on the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers would not only affect the team's competitive future but also impede the further development of the sport within the country.

Naseem 'hopeful' for turnaround in SA match

I have firm belief that our bowling unit will do well in coming matches, says Naseem

NAZIR SYIAL

KARACHI: Pakistan's right-arm pacer Naseem Shah on Monday, expressed his confidence in the national team's ability to perform well in their upcoming tri-series ODI series match against South Africa, scheduled to be held at the National Bank Stadium here on Wednesday. Naseem, while talking to the media on the sidelines of the team's training session at the newly renovated venue, acknowledged that the green shirts could not execute their plans as per the expectations in the series opener against New Zealand. He, however, expressed his belief that the team's bowling unit will do well in the upcoming game. "Look, after just one match, you can't just negatively as a fast bowler. In the last two series, our fast bowlers performed exceptionally well in Australia and South Africa," said Naseem. "So, it's just that I don't deny the fact that our execution was not good in the last match but as a sportsman, you learn from such games. I have a firm belief on the bowling unit that we'll do well in the coming matches and overcome the shortcomings by giving our best." When asked to share his views on the squad for the ongoing tri-series ODI series and the highly-anticipated ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, Naseem Shah emphasized that all the players selected are capable of leading the team to glory. "Whatever the team is selected, as a player we only see positive aspects and I think, everyone has the ability to win [the tournament] by playing their best cricket," said Naseem. For the upcoming tri-series, Pakistan got off to an unwelcome start to their tri-series ODI series campaign as the home side suffered a gruelling 78-run defeat in the opening match against New Zealand on Saturday. The hosts are now reliant on the outcome of the ongoing match between South Africa and New Zealand and would want the Blackcaps to emerge victorious as it would make their upcoming fixture against the Proteas a virtual semi-final.

India to not play CT warm-up matches

The former champions are set to depart for Dubai on February 15

DNA

LAHORE: Former champions India will not play any warm-up match before the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, Indian media reported on Monday. According to a report, the men in blue, who are currently hosting England for a white-ball series, will depart for Dubai on February 15, where they will play all their matches of the eight-team tournament. The report further suggested that the 2013 champions will not play any warm-up match before the tournament. The development came two weeks after it was reported that India would play at least one warm-up match against Bangladesh or UAE in Dubai but the plan has now been reportedly scrapped. 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 Dubai, India are set to kick off their campaign on February 20 against Bangladesh at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Following the campaign-spacer, India will lock horns with arch-rivals Pakistan in a blockbuster encounter, scheduled to be played at the same venue on February 23. The men in blue will conclude their group-stage fixtures with a match against New Zealand in Dubai on March 2. India has already announced their 15-member squad for the ICC Champions Trophy last month but the availability of Jasprit Bumrah remains uncertain as the right-arm pacer is currently recovering from a back injury.

Pak football team banned frok Asia cup qualifiers

USAMA ARSHAD

ISLAMABAD: In a devastating blow to Pakistan football, the national team has been barred from competing in the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers. This decision comes after FIFA suspended the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) due to internal conflicts. The suspension means Pakistan will miss out on the chance to qualify for the prestigious Asian Cup, dealing a significant setback to the country's football aspirations. FIFA's recent suspension of the PFF is a significant blow to Pakistan's footballing ambitions. Missing out on the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers would not only affect the team's competitive future but also impede the further development of the sport within the country.

Pakistan Cricket Board to induct Hanif into Hall of Fame

Former cricketer's son Shoab to receive the commemorative plaque, sources says

KARACHI: Pakistan cricket great Hanif Mohammad will be posthumously inducted into PCB Hall of Fame on February 12, with his son Shoab Mohammad set to receive the commemorative plaque and cup. PCB sources said on Saturday, Hanif, who was among the initial inductees announced in 2021, had his formal induction ceremony delayed due to various factors, including management changes and scheduling conflicts. "Yes, but due to various reasons - sometimes due to non-availabilities and sometimes due to management changes - this couldn't take place earlier," a PCB source told Reuters. The ceremony will be held during Pakistan's triseries match against South Africa in Karachi, marking the first international match in the city since May 2023, the source added. Meanwhile, the formal inductions of former cricketers Saeed Anwar and Mushtaq Mohammad will take place after the 2025 Champions Trophy, as the players were unavailable for the current series. "Saeed Anwar was not available due to his prior commitments while Mushtaq Mohammad is overseas. Their inductions will take place after CT25 as and when they are available," the source said. Last week, the PCB formally inducted former captain Inzamam-ul-Haq and Misbah-ul-Haq into the Hall of Fame, recognising their respective services towards the national men's team. The former cricketers received their commemorative caps and plaques by PCB chairman Nadeem Naryal during the ongoing first match of the tri-series ODI series between Pakistan and New Zealand. Inzamam and Misbah marched around the stadium wearing their commemorative caps and received overwhelming applause from the spectators. Notably, the two former captains were named in the PCB Hall of Fame class of 2024 alongside Saeed Anwar and Mushtaq, who are yet to be inducted formally into the prestigious list. The PCB Hall of Fame, established to honour the contributions of Pakistan's cricketing legends, already includes icons such as Abdul Qadir, A.H. Kardar, Fazal Mahmood, Hanif Mohammad, Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Wasim Khan, Waqar Younis, Yousuf Khan and Zaheer Abbas. - DNA

Bulls wins Islamabad cup 3x3 basketball final

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Bulls clinched the title of the Islamabad Cup 3x3 Basketball tournament after defeating the Timberwolves 19-15 in the final at the outdoor basketball courts of the Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. In an exhilarating final, Islamabad Bulls triumphed over Islamabad Timberwolves with a close 19-15 scoreline, securing the tournament by a four-point margin. Ahmad Raza led the winning side, scoring 10 points, while Ali Ijaz Khan scored 7 points for the Timberwolves. Rizwan Ul-Haq, Secretary General of the Islamabad Olympic Association (IOA), graced the closing ceremony as the chief guest. Ouj E Zahoor, General Secretary of the Federal Basketball Association (FIBA), Muhammad Azam Dar, and other dignitaries also attended the final. The tournament successfully brought together the best local talent for an intense two-day competition, with 20 teams participating under the banner of the Federal Basketball Association (FIBA). Rizwan Ul-Haq commended the efforts of the Fed-



eral Basketball Association in promoting 3x3 basketball and providing a competitive platform for Islamabad's players. During the closing ceremony, FIBA General Secretary Ouj E Zahoor announced the All Pakistan 3x3 Basketball Night tournament, scheduled for Ramadan 2025. This prestigious event will feature three categories: Inter-Club, Inter-Departmental, and Girls' competitions. As a FIBA-endorsed event, the tournament will contribute to Pakistan's official FIBA 3x3 world ranking, offering a unique opportunity for local players to gain international recognition. The Federal Basketball Association remains committed to promoting basketball in Islamabad and beyond, providing opportunities for players to showcase their talent at both national and international levels.

Transferred judges need no new oath

FROM PAGE 01

outh as a high court judge in 2015 and that judges transferred from provincial high courts do not need to retake their oath. The decision clarified that appointment and transfer are distinct processes. The representation of Justices Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Tariq Jahangir Babar Saad, Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, and Saman Rafat was rejected. These judges had argued that a judge taking an oath for a specific high court should retake it upon transfer, with seniority determined accordingly.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq directed the registrar's office to inform all five judges about the decision. Following the transfer of three judges from other high courts, the revised seniority list now ranks Justice Sarfaraz Dogar as the senior justice judge, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani in second place, Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb in third, Justice Tara Mahmood Jangir in fourth, Justice Babar Sattar in fifth, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan in sixth, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir in seventh, Justice Saman Rafat in eighth, Justice Khadim Hussain in ninth, Justice Azam Khan in tenth, Justice Asif in eleventh, Justice Imran Ameen Minhas in the twelfth.

All nations miss UN...

FROM PAGE 01

UN climate chief Simon Stiell has called this latest round of national pledges "the most important policy documents of this century." Yet just a handful of major polluters handed in upgraded targets on time, with China, India and the European Union the biggest names on a lengthy absence list. Most G20 economies were missing in action with the United States, Britain and Brazil - which is hosting this year's UN climate summit - the only exceptions. The pledge is largely symbolic, made before President Donald Trump ordered Washington out of the Paris deal.

President Zardari...

FROM PAGE 01

Following Prince Karim's demise, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) announced that Prince Rahim al-Hussaini Aga Khan was named the 50th hereditary imam, as per the late spiritual leader's will that was read in the presence of his family and senior community leaders. As per the statement today, President Zardari further said that he had deeply been touched by the passing of the late Aga Khan, with whom he had personal relations.

Pak, KSA and Malaysia

FROM PAGE 01

commitment to regional stability and the Palestinian cause. The high-level conversation with the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, the Deputy Prime Minister strongly condemned the Israeli Prime Minister's irresponsible remarks. He reiterated Pakistan's steadfast support for Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, along with its unflinching backing for Palestine. In response, the Saudi Foreign Minister expressed gratitude for Pakistan's consistent and time-tested support for the Kingdom's sanctity and inviolability.

Turkish President...

FROM PAGE 01

The four, also confirmed in a post on the president's social media account, comes after President Ali Zardari's return to his Turkish counterpart during a brief stop at Istanbul Airport in Turkey. During their meeting, the two leaders exchanged cordial remarks and discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

Briefs

Gold price surges by Rs 4,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 4,000 and was sold at Rs 303,000 on Monday against its sale at Rs 299,000 on previous trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 3,429 to Rs 259,773 from Rs 256,344 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went up to Rs 238,133 from Rs 234,990. The prices of per tola silver increased by Rs 43 to Rs 3,273 whereas that of ten gram went up by Rs 37 to Rs 2,891. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$42 to \$2,903 from \$2,861, the Association reported.—APP

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 1,055 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,055.03 points, a positive change of 0.96 per cent, closing at 111,377.97 points as compared to 110,322.94 points on the last trading day. A total of 415,160,931 shares were traded during the day as compared to 299,678,289 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of 24 karat gold stood at Rs 303,000 billion on the last trading day, as many as 429 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 188 of them recorded gains and 172 sustained losses, whereas the shares of 50 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 55,597,922 shares at Rs 10.29 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 34,117,748 shares at Rs 13.53 per share and Cengree PK with 31,378,841 shares at Rs 7.53 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs787.49 per share closing at Rs23,232.28 whereas runner-up was Ghandhara Industries Limited with Rs 57.88 rise in its share price to close at Rs 636.70. Bata Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 44.24 per share price, closing at Rs 1,510.00, whereas the runner-up was Faisal Spinning Mills Limited with Rs 36.15 decline in its per share price to Rs 325.96.—APP

Rupee sheds 17 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 17 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs279.21 against the previous day's closing of Rs279.04. However, according to the Interbank Association of Pakistan (IAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.75 and Rs 281.25, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 1.87 to close at Rs287.97 against the last day's closing of Rs289.84, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).—APP

Pakistan Fest held in New Delhi to celebrate heritage, cuisine

NEW DELHI: The Pakistan High Commission in India hosted a "Pakistan Fest" in New Delhi showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage and diverse cuisine. The event, which drew attendees from different walks of life, featured the display of cultural artifacts, traditional clothing, and Pakistani food. The visitors relished Pakistani delicacies and evinced keen interest in the various items on display. In his remarks, Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires, Saad Ahmad Warraich said that the bursting colors of the festival and its delectable tastes and flavors were a testament to Pakistan's proud cultural and culinary traditions.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Lawyers shouting slogans during protest in favour of their demands at D-Chowk, in Federal Capital.

Ahsan highlights policy continuity, SOE restructuring as key to growth

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Chaudhry has said that Pakistan is prepared for a major economic transformation, emphasizing that good governance and policy continuity are essential for progress. Speaking at a three-day training session for directors of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) at the Executive Development Institute (EDI) of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP), he highlighted the government's commitment to reforms, transparency and modern technology adoption. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he expressed confidence that Pakistan would soon emerge as a global economic force. The federal minister said that organising a Directors' Training Programme to professionalise the leadership of SOEs and enhance their performance is a significant step. He congratulated the administration of NSPP and the EDI for the initiative, which will improve governance in the public sector and help align SOEs with international standards. He mentioned that SOEs are crucial economic assets to the country, providing services in energy, transportation, finance and public utilities. Currently, there are 212 active SOEs in Pakistan, but their financial performance lags behind global standards. He mentioned that the government introduced the SOEs (Governance and Operations), Act 2023 to strengthen transparency, accountability frameworks and reduce financial irregularities, which often lead to financial burdens. The goal is to cut financial losses related to SOEs by 30% within five years and enhance their contribution to economic development. He expressed optimism that the performance of SOEs would improve by 20-25% in the next three years. He also indicated that, if necessary, poorly performing SOEs would be privatised or restructured. Additionally, public-private partnerships (PPPs) would be established to improve their operational efficiency. Ahsan shared his personal experience working with SOEs, emphasising that proper governance training can lead to cost savings and service improvements. Citing an example, he recalled that in 1986, when the Ghee Corporation of Pakistan faced intense competition from the private sector, it was successfully reorganised within just six months under the leadership of then-chairman Dr. Hassan. The strategy is now studied as a case at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). He emphasised that the success of any institution—public or private—depends on how it is managed and a well-managed public sector can even outperform the private sector in gaining public trust. The minister stressed that continuity of policies is vital for national development, and every citizen must play their role in nation-building. He warned that history would not forgive if necessary steps were not taken. He reiterated that Pakistan has no shortage of talent or resources, with a vast pool of skilled young individuals capable of transforming the country's destiny. He urged reflection on how nations that once lagged behind Pakistan have now surpassed it, despite Pakistan being a nuclear power. Without serious introspection and corrective measures, the country will continue to fall behind in global competition. Recognising strengths and leveraging them is essential. According to the latest census, the population growth rate has increased from 2.0% to 2.55%, making Pakistan the fifth most populous country in the world. If this trend continues, the population will reach approximately 400 million in the next 25 years. This will put immense pressure on national resources, agriculture, food security and infrastructure. Development and government changes should not disrupt policy continuity. Prof Ahsan Iqbal emphasised that developed nations have maintained their status through consistent policies, regardless of government transitions. He urged Pakistan to follow the same approach. He highlighted that the world is witnessing a digital and technological revolution, and adopting modern technologies in agriculture, water resources, and various other sectors is imperative. The minister pointed out that Pakistan's rapidly growing population is another major challenge. According to the latest census, the population growth rate has increased from 2.0% to 2.55%, making Pakistan the fifth most populous country in the world. If this trend continues, the population will reach approximately 400 million in the next 25 years. This will put immense pressure on national resources, agriculture, food security and infrastructure.

Pakistani startup 'atomcamp' makes mark at KSA's LEAP

RIYADH: A Pakistani startup 'atomcamp' has successfully featured as a training platform at the premier technology meet LEAP 2025 being held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, unlocking the opportunities with artificial intelligence and data science. The startup has made an impact as an AI training pioneer, so-bolting its role in the Kingdom's grand experiment of realising its workforce for an AI-driven Vision 2030. As a strategic expansion, the startup is announcing the launch of 'atomcamp arabia' in Saudi Arabia on the main stage of LEAP on Feb 11. With Vision 2030 as its backdrop, the Kingdom is making a big bet on AI, and atomcamp is following the lead to make that bet pay off, said a statement issued by atomcamp. The startup is training Saudi youth in AI, software development, and emerging technologies. It will set up a shop within the Kingdom, developing AI products locally, for a global start. The startup is tapping into Saudi talent, Saudi resources, and Saudi momentum to develop AI solutions that transcend borders. At LEAP, the atomcamp has been powered by atomcamp, which allowed participants to scan a code and receive a personalised roadmap to AI mastery, tailored to their existing skills and career trajectories. "It's a decidedly simple premise: instead of overwhelming learners with a firehose of AI jargon, atomcamp meets them where they are—guiding a software engineer, a doctor, or a finance professional on how to seamlessly learn and integrate AI into their field," the statement mentioned. For Pakistan, it said, atomcamp's success at LEAP 2025 is a proof that Pakistani startups are no longer just consumers of global tech trends, but creating them.—APP

Scholz describes Trump's Gaza proposal as 'scandal' in polls debate

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described President Donald Trump's suggestion that the US could take ownership of the Gaza Strip, advocate its population and re-development it as a "scandal" in a pre-election debate Sunday. His main challenger also voiced unease but suggested there's "a lot of rhetoric" coming from Washington. The conservative Scholz and centrist challenger Friedrich Merz, the frontrunner in the Feb. 23 election, discussed top domestic issues such as Germany's struggling economy and migration, and also addressed foreign policy three weeks into Trump's new term. Asked what he made of Trump's proposal to redevelop Gaza into "the Silicon of the Middle East," Scholz replied: "A scandal. Besides that, a really terrible obligation," given the extent of the destruction that is now visible there.—APP



ISTANBUL: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting with the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during his brief stop-over in Istanbul.—DNA

Iran marks 46th anniversary of revolution President says Pezeshkian Iran will thwart all enemies' plots

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the Islamic Republic will strive to thwart all plots hatched by the enemies. The Iranian president made the remark while addressing a huge crowd of people marking the 46th anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Tehran on Monday. He criticised US President Donald Trump's recent claim that he wishes to hold talks with Iran while simultaneously issuing a presidential memorandum that instructs the US Treasury and State Department to implement a campaign aimed at "driving Iran's oil exports to zero." "Trump says let's have a dialogue, and then ... he signs and announces all possible measures to bring the Islamic Revolution to its knees," the president said. Trump claims that Iran is disrupting regional security but "it is Israel that, with the support of the United States, is the root cause of insecurity and bombs the oppressed people of Gaza, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iran and wherever it wishes," he added. The US president claims to defend peace and tranquility but is defying a criminal who has been convicted by international organisations. Pezeshkian said, referring to Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Pezeshkian warned that the enemies and unwishers seek to sow discord in Iran and install the belief of Iran's weakness in the minds of the people and pretend that today is "the best time to harm the country." "However, they are unaware that, under the leadership of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and with the constant presence and sacrifices of the [Iranian] people, they will bring all these dreams and wishes to grass," he emphasised. He said Iran has powerfully resisted bullying and will stand up to conspiracies aimed at sowing discord and division. Pezeshkian said Iran has never sought to wage a war against any country and would never bow to the enemies. He added that the enemies are afraid of Iran's unity and cohesion, noting that Iranians would be able to solve all of the problems if they forge national unity. Iran would never allow enemies to implement their ominous objectives, the president asserted. He reiterated Iran's resolve to have peaceful coexistence with its neighbours based on fraternity and mutual respect. "We defend Gaza and Palestine, we do not defend the oppressed. If you seek [to promote] peace in the region, do not defend oppression, aggression and injustice," he said. Mezmehk, Khalil al-Hayya, head of the Hamas in Gaza, says the plans of the West, the United States and President Donald Trump for the Gaza Strip are "doomed." "We will bring them down as we brought down the projects before them," he said during a commemoration of the 46th anniversary of the Islamic revolution of Iran in Tehran. Trump said on Sunday he was committed to keeping and owning Gaza but could offer sections of the land to help rebuild by other states in the Middle East. Khalil al-Hayya also said: We stand here before the world and before the Iranian nation to tell you that Op. Al-Aqsa flood was a prelude to the liberation of Palestine. "We are certain that Iran will continue to support Palestine and our right to resistance in order to be together in Al-Quds Inshallah," he added. Operation Al-Aqsa Flood dented the fear that blood can't conquer the sword, he said, adding that Al-Aqsa Flood is the first stage on the way to liberate Palestine and end the occupation.

Iraq president sues PM over unpaid Kurdistan salaries

BAGHDAD: Iraq's president has sued Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani over unpaid salaries for civil servants in the autonomous region of Kurdistan, bringing into focus a rift in the country's leadership. President Abdul Latif Rashid, a Kurd, filed the lawsuit against Sudani and Finance Minister Taif Saun last month, but his adviser, Hani Tarfiri, only announced it on Sunday. The case, submitted to Iraq's top court, seeks an order to ensure salaries are paid "without interruption" despite ongoing financial disputes between Baghdad and Irbil, the regional capital. Iraq's public sector is wracked with inefficiency and corruption, and analysts say Sudani and Rashid had long had disagreements. While public sector workers received their January salaries, they were still waiting for their December pay. Tarfiri said the lawsuit was only disclosed now due to protests over missed payments in Sulaimaniyah, Kurdistan's second-largest city and the president's hometown. Kurdistan regional president Nechirvan Barzani recently thanked Sudani for his cooperation on financial issues, including arrears. On Sunday, hundreds of people from Sulaimaniyah attempted to protest in Irbil, but police used tear gas to disperse them. Local media reported, others have staged a sit-in for two weeks in Sulaimaniyah, with 13 teachers resorting to a hunger strike. Last year, Iraq's top court ordered the federal government to cover the public sector salaries in Kurdistan instead of going through the regional administration — a demand employees in Sulaimaniyah have long called for.—APP

UN chief welcomes formation of new Lebanon govt

UNITED NATIONS, Antonio Guterres has welcomed the formation of a new government in Lebanon, affirming the international body's commitment to that country's "territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence," a spokesman said Sunday. "The United Nations looks forward to working in close partnership with the new government on its priorities, including the consolidation of the cessation of hostilities," said a statement from spokesman Stephane Dujarric. Dujarric was referring to a ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel signed on November 27, with Beirut's military due to deploy in the country's south alongside UN peacekeepers as Israel withdraws from those areas over 60 days. Fighting between Israeli forces and long-dominant Hezbollah since October 2023 has weakened the group, helping bring a new Lebanese government to power after almost two years of caretaker authorities being in charge. New Prime Minister Nawaf Salam now faces the daunting task of overseeing the fragile Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire and rebuilding the country. Salam said Saturday that he hoped to head a "government of reform and salvation," pledging to rebuild trust with the international community after years of economic collapse, mismanagement, corruption and mismanagement. Long the dominant force in Lebanese politics, Hezbollah suffered staggeringly from Iran with Israel that saw its leader Hassan Nasrallah killed in a massive air strike in September. Hezbollah suffered another seismic blow from the outset on December 8 of Bashar Assad in Syria, which it had long used as its weapons depot from Iran. After more than two years of political stalemate, the weakening of Hezbollah allowed former army chief Joseph Aoun, widely believed to be Washington's preferred candidate, to be elected president and Salam approved as his premier.—APP

Briefs

China's tit-for-tat tariffs on US take effect

BEIJING: China's tit-for-tat import taxes on some American goods came into effect on Monday, as the trade war between the world's two biggest economies escalates and US President Donald Trump threatens to hit more countries with tariffs. Beijing announced the plan on 4 February, minutes after new US levies of 10% on all Chinese products came into effect.

On Sunday, Trump said he would impose a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports into the US, with a full announcement to come on Monday. Speaking to reporters on Air Force One en route to the Super Bowl, he also said he was planning reciprocal tariffs on other nations - but did not specify which ones would be targeted. China's latest tariffs on US goods include a 15% border tax on imports of US coal and liquefied natural gas products. There is also a 10% tariff on American crude oil, agricultural machinery and jet-engine cars. Last week, Chinese authorities launched an anti-monopoly probe into technology giant Google, while PVH, the US owner of designer brands Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfeger, was added to Beijing's so-called "unreliable entity" list. China has also imposed export controls on 25 rare metals, some of which are key components for many electrical products and military equipment. - Agencies

Businessmen oppose trade bodies elections

DNA
ISLAMABAD: SM Tamiz, Patron of the UBG group has opposed Federal Government's decision to hold fresh elections for Trade Bodies in 2025. This decision is unjustified and unnecessary, as the business community has already conducted elections in September 2024, electing representatives for a two-year term until September 2026. He added, holding another election after the last one, which took place in September 2024, is unfair and will create instability in the business sector. Instead of focusing on governance continuity and economic reforms, trade bodies will be forced into another electoral process, which will only divert attention from pressing economic challenges. "Today, I have urged FPC-CI President Mr. Atifkhan Sheikh to immediately engage with all Associations and Chambers to devise a joint strategy on the issue in the larger interest of Pakistan's economic stability." He said continuity was key to ensuring businesses, investors, and political confidence. Let us stand together for the stability and progress of our business community.

Govt considers political workers as terrorists

DNA
LAHORE: PTI leader Zartaj Gul held a media talk outside the Anti-Terrorism Court, holding the PML-N responsible for the country's deteriorating situation. She accused the current government of targeting journalists, lawyers, and political workers, stating, "The government considers political workers as terrorists." Gul claimed that after the 26th Constitutional Amendment, even the judiciary has been divided. She also voiced her support for the lawyers' movement, stating, "I respect the black coat and commend the lawyers for standing up for justice." She further remarked that nothing is safe from the PML-N-led government and that today's protest by lawyers was a step towards restoring the judiciary's dignity.

Portuguese envoy witnesses antiques' exhibition in Gujrat

Farooq Riaz'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. Riaz financed his own expeditions across the country, meticulously collecting artifacts from remote corners and forgotten markets



DNA

GUJRAT: The Ambassador of Portugal Frederico Silva visited Gujrat to witness an exhibition of antiques collected by Farooq Riaz. The ambassador took keen interest in the items displayed on the occasion and appreciated the great work of Farooq Riaz. Former provincial minister Mian Inran Masood was also present on the occasion and briefed the ambassador about the history of Gujrat. The exhibition

featured an impressive array of historical artifacts spanning several eras, including rare locks, intricate timepieces, vintage swords, pots, figurines, postcards, stamps, and historical documents. These artifacts serve as tangible links to the past, preserving the essence of local culture and society. 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 insights into the evolution of trade, govern-



ance, and legal systems over centuries. 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. 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 Riaz's collection standing as the largest in Pakistan. Farooq Riaz'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. Riaz 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.

SC adjourns military trial case

COURT REPORTER
ISLAMABAD: The hearing of the case against the trial of civilians in military courts has been adjourned until tomorrow (Tuesday) due to the absence of lawyers. A seven-member constitutional bench, led by Justice Aminuddin Khan, heard the intra-court appeal against the trial of civilians in military courts. Rana Waqas, the associate of Salman Akram Raja, informed the court that he could not reach due to traffic, as Margalla Road was the only open route to the Supreme Court. Justice Jamil Mansifkhal responded by saying that other lawyers, including Khawaja Haris, had arrived, and if Advocate Raja had left half an hour earlier, he would have been present as well. He remarked that it seemed the lawyers wanted people to remain in detention indefinitely, and if the lawyers didn't want to attend, there was little that could be done. Subsequently, the court issued a brief order, stating that since Advocate Raja was not present in court, the hearing of the case was adjourned until tomorrow.

Nawaz links progress to PML-N's return to power

MPs praise Maryam for reforming the system

BUREAU REPORT
LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has said that the country's development is linked to the return of the PML-N to power. Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz discussed public welfare projects and future political strategies during a meeting with Punjab Assembly members from the Lahore division. Speaking to the assembly members, Nawaz Sharif stated that had the progress of the 1990s continued, Pakistan would have been far ahead in development. He noted that a reduction in inflation had brought some relief to the people, and the policy rate dropping from 22% to 12% is a sign of economic improvement. He hoped they could "talk off" again, praising Shehbaz Sharif's hard work. He also mentioned that after a long time, happiness and satisfaction are visible among the people of Lahore and Punjab. "I have witnessed many ups and downs in life, but whenever PML-N comes to power, the country progresses. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and CM Nawaz have set a new standard for Pakistan's development and public service," Nawaz added. On this occasion, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz stated that when the names of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif are mentioned, it symbolizes public service. Assembly members expressed that under PML-N's governance, the country had always experienced progress, prosperity. They praised Maryam Nawaz for reforming the system, introducing a transparent e-governance system, and ensuring equal and high-quality development based on merit.

PTI reveals plan B after Minare-Pakistan

DNA
LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced an alternative strategy after being denied permission for its planned rally at Minare-Pakistan. According to sources, the party has devised "Plan B," focusing on widespread protests across Punjab in the event the rally location remains inaccessible. PTI leadership has decided not to hold the rally at any alternate venue within Lahore. Instead, they will organize protests in various districts of Punjab. Sources within the party revealed that instructions will be given to party members and leaders to hold demonstrations in their respective constituencies. In Lahore, protests are set to be held at key locations, including Liberty Chowk, Azadi Chowk, and Mall Road.

Pakistan & Turkiye discuss regional terrorism threats



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The second round of Pakistan-Turkiye Counter-Terrorism Consultations was held in Islamabad on 10 February 2025. The Pakistan delegation was led by Director General for Counter Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abdul Hameed, and the Turkish side was headed by Director General for Intelligence and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Ambassador Kenan Yilmaz. Both sides reviewed the global and regional terrorism landscape and exchanged views on threats posed by terrorist entities in the

region and beyond. They shared their best practices and reviewed the ongoing Pakistan-Turkiye cooperation in the field of counterterrorism. It was highlighted that the international community needs to address the root causes of terrorism by resolving long protracted conflicts. Both sides vowed to continue the ongoing collaboration and mutual learning from each other's experiences. It was agreed to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation in areas of the countering financing of terrorism, preventing the use of Internet for terrorist purposes and the prevention of radicalization. The next round of the consultations would take place in Ankara on mutually convenient dates.

9 additional judges take oath at LHC

DNA
LAHORE: Nine newly appointed additional judges of the Lahore High Court took their oath of office on Monday. Lahore High Court Chief Justice, Justice Aftab Neelum, administered the oath in a simple yet dignified ceremony held at the court's central lawn. Registrar Akhbar Gul Khan conducted the proceedings. Senior judges, including Justice Shujaat Ali Khan and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, along with court officials, attended the ceremony. The judges who took the oath included Justice Hassan Nawaz Makhdoom, Justice Malik Waqar Haider Awan, Justice Sardar Akbar Ali, Justice Syed Ahsan Raza Kazmi, Justice Malik Javed Iqbal Verjee, Justice Muhammad Jawad Zafar, Justice Khalid Ishaq, Justice Malik Muhammad Owais Khalid, and Justice Chaudhry Sultan Mahmood. Provincial and federal law officers, senior lawyers, and the families of the newly appointed judges were also present at the event.

SHC rejects Sarim Burney's bail plea

NAZIR SYAL
KARACHI: Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday rejected the bail plea of rights activist Sarim Burney, in a human trafficking and document tampering case, with allegations of illegally aiding the adoption of over 25 children in the US. Following a complaint from the US government, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in June 2024 arrested Sarim Burney upon his return from the US on human trafficking charges. During today's hearing, defence lawyer Amir Mansoor Qureshi argued that the case dates back to 2019, yet FIA only registered the FIR in 2024. Advocate Qureshi further contended that the charges framed against Burney did not correspond with the legal provisions mentioned in the case, asserting that no forgery was committed in the documents presented by the accused. However, the prosecution claimed that the names of allegedly trafficked baby girls had been altered in official re-

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