

Blast hits Charsadda
F.P. Report
CHARSADDA: A suicide blast occurred near a mobile police van at Akhun Dheri area here on Thursday morning, however, no casualty was reported. District police said a suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up near a police van in Akhun Dheri area of Charsadda, but fortunately, the police van and officers on duty remained unharmed.

FO urges Kabul to take action against terrorists

F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday reiterated its call for the Afghan authorities to take action against the groups or individuals involved in terror activities in Pakistan and cautioned that they should not test the patience of the Pakistani people.
“We urge Afghan authorities to take Pakistan’s repeated requests seriously and ensure that action is taken against these terror groups. The patience of Pakistani people must not be tested with respect to the terror threat we continue to face from entities and individuals in Afghanistan,” Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing. She told the media that not only Pakistan but also the Moscow Format and Neighboring Countries Format states had also called it the responsibility of Afghan authorities to act against such groups and ensure that their soil was not used against Pakistan or any other neighboring country. The spokesperson rejected as “speculation” and

Major, jawan martyred, 3 terrorists killed in operation

F.P. Report
RAWALPINDI: On reported presence of terrorists, planning to target innocent civilians in Harnai District, security forces under Major Muhammad Haseeb were immediately mobilized to sanitize the area.
Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists’ location and resultantly three terrorists were sent to hell. However, during the operation, an improvised explosive device exploded on the leading vehicle of security forces, resultantly, Major Muhammad Haseeb (age: 28 years, resident of District Multan), a brave officer, who was leading his troops from the front, along with Havildar Noor Ahmed (age: 38 years, resident of District Barkhan), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadah.
Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan, and such sacrifices of our brave

Constitutional bench hears decades-old pending cases

F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: The six-member constitutional bench on Thursday started hearing cases that have been pending in the Supreme Court for years, in Court Room No 3, aiming to clear the large backlog and provide justice to petitioners.
This marks the first hearing of cases by the new bench, constituted under the 26th Constitutional Amendment. The Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan-led bench is to hear around 34 cases as per the cause list for November 14 and 15. Eighteen of these cases are scheduled for hearing today, with the remaining 16 set for Friday (today). With Justice Khan in the lead, the constitutional bench includes Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali, and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.
Owing to the unavailability of Justice Ayesha A Malik on November 14 and 15, a relevant committee decided that a bench comprising all available judges should be constituted to proceed with cases on these dates. The bench is also

Two children killed in N Waziristan house blast

F.P. Report
MIRAN SHAH: At least two children were killed and their parents sustained injuries when the roof of a room collapsed after a blast inside a house in North Waziristan on Thursday morning. Local police said an apparent explosive material blast caused the roof of a room to cave in in Tabbi village of North Waziristan, killing two children. The father and mother of the children were also injured in the blast and shifted to hospital.
Police said an investigation into the blast incident has been initiated to sort out why the explosive was stored in the house and how it exploded. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday expressed deep sorrow over the blast at a house in North Waziristan Tappi village claimed the lives of five persons and several injured. The Governor condemned the incident and prayed to Allah Almighty for the departed soul in eternal peace, early recovery of the injured and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irripable lose with fortitude.
Court rejects acquittal plea by PTI founder
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: The requests for acquittal by PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana-II case have been rejected. The hearing for the Toshakhana-II reference took place at Adiala Jail, where Special Judge Cen-tral Islamabad, Shahrukh Arjumand, announced the reserved verdict. The court rejected the acquittal of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi, and announced that charges would be formally framed against them on Monday. Bushra Bibi was not present in court during the hearing.
Meanwhile, the PTI founder Imran Khan on Thursday moved a constitutional petition in the Supreme Court, alleging violations of fundamental rights.
The federal government, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, and Cabinet Division have been named as respondents, along with all four provincial governments. As per details, Imran Khan moved a plea with the SC constitutional bench, requesting a judicial inquiry into actions “taken against the party.”
The petition seeks an investigation by a panel of three senior Supreme Court judges into measures that allegedly target PTI. The petitioner has requested court orders to uphold basic rights and prevent the alleged misuse of Section 144, which restricts public gatherings.
Additionally, the plea calls for the cessation of arrests under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) and asks for directives to ensure issuance of NOCs (No Objection Certificates) for public rallies. The SC constitutional bench has been formed under the 26th Constitutional Amendment.
14 victims of Gilgit accident laid to rest
F.P. Report
GILGIT: The 14 victims of the tragic coaster accident were laid to rest in their native areas, with a large number of people attending the funerals on Thursday. Deputy Commissioner of Astor Muhammad Tariq said that a massive search operation is underway to locate the 11 missing persons, with the help of rescue 1122 Gilgit, Diamar, and Astore, along with dozens of local volunteers, scouring the area.
He announced that the number of search teams would be increased, and the operation would continue with the assistance of boats and expert divers.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir and others carrying the coffin of Major Muhammad Haseeb Shaheed, martyred in Harnai for burial.

PML-N violating deal made with PPP: Bilawal

F.P. Report
KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has alleged that the PML-N is violating an agreement made with its leadership. Bilawal stated there was an understanding for mutual consultation on the PSDP, but while he was engaged in 26th Amendment, the government approved new canal projects without discussion.
Bilawal expressed disagreement with these new projects, criticising the government’s approach as flawed and vowing to inform the PPP’s CEC about the ground realities. He emphasised the importance of consensus and comprehensive consultation in legislation, highlighting the unfair practice of presenting bills before sharing their copies with him.
Bilawal also condemned a lack of respect and partnership shown by the federal government. Discussing Pakistan’s relations with the US, he noted that there was limited diplomatic influence through personal ties and country’s geopolitical interests are paramount. He said his family had acquaintance with Trump before he was president. He said Pakistan and US were currently not having best of ties and the situation had been so for quite some time.
He said President Zardari had multiple fractures and he was recovering but complete recovery would take time. Bilawal berated the government for clamping down on VPNs saying his party was not consulted on it either. He said those blocking the facility had no idea about its significance. Had the government consulted PPP on the issue, he said the party would have apprised them of the importance of agriculture and technology. He said the government had no idea about these sectors which could boost economy.
The PPP leader said the government lied about providing 4G service to people. “There is 3G service in the country and the internet speed has been throttled,” he added. When asked about the judicial reforms, the PPP chairman said reform is always an ongoing process and the 26th Amendment was the beginning of it. However, he said, the struggle will remain uncompleted until the reforms are implemented in the lower or provincial judiciary.
“I have requested the Sindh chief minister to approach the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP), senior puisne judge, constitutional bench head, and Sindh chief justice and seek guidance for bringing reforms in the lower judiciary,” he said. “We believe that the masses interact more with the lower judiciary,” he said, adding that they want to work on these reforms with judicial and legal input and consensus.
Responding to a question, he said “estrangement” with the federal government is out of question. “Right now, the respect is not being given in Centre and also no politics is being played,” he said. “We are sitting at treasury benches to provide moral support to the government,” he said, adding that his party never negotiate on every point “in good faith”. However, he said, they want the agreement to be implemented.
“We would also feel disrespected, when a legislation is approved by the



cabinet and tabled on the floor, and then a copy is being presented to us.” Responding to a question regarding the announcement of more canals being constructed on Indus River, Bilawal said it was another example of a violation of agreement reached between the PPP and the PML-N.
“In that agreement, we concurred that the PPP and PML-N would chalk out the PSDP of all four provinces, in collaboration,” he said. The former foreign minister noted that the canal project was greenlighted when he was busy with the 26th Constitutional Amendment. “The approval was given behind our back despite on-record reservations from the PPP members.” In response to a question regarding the restrictions on Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), he remarked neither the decision-makers use the internet nor do they know how to use it or the VPNs.

PM appeals nation to observe Namaz-e-Istisqa

F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appealed to the nation to offer Namaz-e-Istisqa (prayers for rain) and pray to Allah Almighty for His mercy in the form of rain.
The prime minister said that the federal and provincial governments should arrange Namaz-e-Istisqa in the mosques across the country. He especially urged the scholars and religious leaders to play their role in organizing Namaz-e-Istisqa.
In a statement issued by the PM Office Press Wing, the prime minister emphasized that rainfall will improve the environment and can significantly help in mitigating the diseases.
The prime minister stressed that in the current situation, there was an urgent need for Baran-e-Rehmat (rain). He called for seeking special prayers from Allah Almighty so that the human life may be relieved from the hardships.
Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif extended his heartfelt congratulations to Dr Navin Ramnoolam on his victory in general elections of Mauritius.
“Heartiest congratulations to Dr Navin Ramnoolam on your resounding victory in the general elections and subsequent oath taking as PM,” the prime minister said in a post on his official X account. He wished the newly elected prime minister of Mauritius every success in leading his country towards a brighter future. “Look forward to working with you to further strengthen the friendly & cordial Pakistan-Mauritius ties,” he added.
Moreover, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif telephoned Minister for Housing and Works Riaz Hussain Pirzada to condole the death of his brother Sajjad Hussain Pirzada.
The prime minister prayed to Allah Almighty for departed soul’s peace and strength for the bereaved family to bear this loss, according to a PM Office press release. He said that the services of the late Sajjad Pirzada as Chairman of the District Council for the people of Bahawalpur were unforgettable.

World should honor its commitments, says Tarar

BAKU (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday called upon the international community to honor the commitments made in the Paris Agreement and on the occasions of COP27 and COP28.
“The international community should honor their commitments so that the lives and property of people could be protected by building climate resilient infrastructure,” said the minister while talking to the media during his visit to the Pakistan’s Pavilion at COP29 in Baku.
Flanked by Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam and a young climate activist Zunaira, Atta Tarar said the climate change is the biggest threat to the lives and property of the people in Pakistan and the government has been taking concerted measures to protect the people and culture from its affects. The minister cited the recent flash floods due to heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan, and melting glaciers due to the global warming as an example. “The climate change is affecting our people, rendering them shelter less and damaging their crops and livestock,” he added. He said Pakistan has only been contributing 0.5 per cent to the carbon emissions, while there were other countries that had major contribution in this regard.

SC dismisses review petition filed against ex-CJ Faez Isa

F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: A constitutional bench of Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the review petition filed against the former chief justice Qazi Faez Isa.
A six-member constitutional bench headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan heard a review petition regarding the appointment of Justice Qazi Faez Isa as Chief Justice Balochistan High Court (BHC). During the course of proceeding, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail remarked that this is a review petition, the case cannot be reopened.
Justice Musarrat Hilali said that this forum is not for political speeches and back talking, they cannot deviate from the law. Justice Amin ud Din asked the petitioner’s lawyer to give reference from law that how consultation with the Chief Minister was necessary regarding the appointment. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail said that

he would request the head of the bench to refer the matter to the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC). Pakistan’s cuisine.
The court, however, dismissed the review petition filed against Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan are also included in the constitution bench.



Kundi for constitution of special committee to address merged districts issues

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday said that constitution of a special committee has been requested from Prime Minister of Pakistan to address the issues and grievances of the merged tribal districts.

This initiative aims to alleviate the sentiments of discontent that have emerged following the integration of these areas into the provincial framework.

The Governor made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the Mamozai National Alliance of Orakzai District, led by President Muhammad Zaman and General Secretary Muhammad Hanif.

The delegation visited the Governor House to discuss various concerns with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, including the plight of temporary displaced

persons (TDPs), compensation for the destruction caused by military operations, and other pressing issues. Former Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori was also present during the meeting.

Governor Kundi emphasized that the solution to the province's unrest and challenges lies in the hands of its own people.

He said, "Only we, the residents of this region, can correct our situation. No one else will resolve our issues. When peace is restored, tourism will flourish, businesses will grow, and our province will become the most prosperous in the country."

The Governor also highlighted concerns regarding the funds allocated to the merged districts after the merger of FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He pointed out that, instead of being spent on the merged districts, these funds have been diverted to

the settled districts of the province, leading to the deprivation of tribal areas' rightful share.

"I request the Prime Minister to form a committee to ensure that the funds meant for the merged districts are utilized within those areas," Kundi said.

Additionally, the Governor assured the delegation that he would personally engage with relevant authorities to address issues related to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and other concerns, and work towards their resolution.

Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, in a meeting with Jalal Hussain Bangash, Secretary of Anjuman-e-Hussainia has emphasized the importance of sincere efforts to resolve the situation in Kurram district and ensure lasting peace in the area.

He stressed that the active participation of all stakeholders is essential to

achieve this goal.

During the discussion, the Governor expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in Kurram district, saying that unrest in the area is affecting the entire province.

Governor Kundi underscored the urgent need for a joint, empowered jirga (tribal council) to address the ongoing issues and improve the situation in Kurram.

"The formation of a unified jirga with authority is crucial to resolve the problems in Kurram district. All stakeholders must come together and agree on a course of action," he said.

He also announced that an All-Parties Jirga would be established on an urgent basis to work towards finding a sustainable solution to the unrest in the district.

The Governor reaffirmed his commitment to bringing all relevant parties together to create a clear plan to restore peace and stability in Kurram.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism Zahid Chanzeb enjoying the Musical Night organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cultural and Tourism Authority. DG KPCTA Tashfin Haider is also present.

KMU hosts symposium on Climate Change, Mental Health

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU) Institute of Public Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences (IPMH&BS) organized a symposium on "Climate Change & Mental Health," focusing on the profound mental health impacts arising from climate change.

This event addressed the increasingly critical intersection of environmental shifts and mental well-being, underscoring an issue of urgent global significance.

The symposium featured keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Afzal Javed, Chairman of the Pakistan Psychiatric Research Center (PPRC) and former President of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA).

A distinguished figure in mental health, Prof. Javed is a recipient of Pakistan's Sitara-i-Imtiaz and holds the highest fellowship award from the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Alongside him, Prof. Dr. Rubina Nazli, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Basic Medical Sciences KMU, contributed her expertise.

Prof. Afzal Javed emphasized the growing need to address mental health challenges, particularly among vulnerable populations affected by climate change.

Dr. Muhammad Faraz, Director



KMU IPMH&BS, organized the event, reaffirming the institute's commitment to tackling the mental health repercussions of societal and environmental transformations.

Prof. Dr. Khalid Mufti, a pioneering figure in Pakistani psychiatry and an expert in geo-psychiatry, provided introductory remarks, highlighting the interconnectedness of mental health and environmental stability and stressing the psychological toll of climate-induced stress on communities.

The event drew a large, engaged audience, including students, faculty, and mental health professionals, who participated in discussions on the impacts of climate change on mental health and the importance of proactive mental health initiatives.

In closing, Dr. Ali Ahsan Mufti of Horizon NGO, Peshawar, extended a vote of thanks to all participants, stressing the importance of continued collaboration in mental health advocacy and research.

This symposium underscored KMU's dedication to advancing mental health awareness in the face of contemporary global challenges, fostering a proactive approach to public mental health education.

WSSP replaces water distribution network

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) has achieved a significant milestone in supplying clean and safe drinking water to 10,000 residents of University Town, Peshawar, by replacing the over-four-decade-old water distribution system of asbestos pipes with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes.

Newly installed system has been operationalized for supplying clean drinking water. WSSP is currently supplying water to 1,050 homes, markets, and shops in University Town, having 400 legal connections, while registering illegal connections drive is in process.

Worldwide research has led to the discontinuation of asbestos pipes for water supply, as these not only allow sewage water to contaminate drinking water but also pose health risks and cause diseases. Asbestos pipes are prone to breakage and have joints every six feet, which leads to water contamination.

Chief Executive Officer, WSSP, Yasir Ali Khan, stated "The replacement of water distribution network will increase the number of legal consumers and improve revenue, as complaints about insufficient and contaminated water have now been resolved". A statement issued by WSSP says after installing new distribution pipeline, the process of testing water quality has also com-

menced, while with access to clean and safe drinking water, illegal bores will be controlled to a large extent.

"Pipes have been replaced in all streets including School Road, Mulberry Road, Old Jamrud Road, Circular Road, Park Road, Jamaluddin Afghani Road, Khushal Khan Khattak Road, and Rehman Baba Road", the statement said and added that the replacement of distribution network has led to an improvement in water quality, elimination of contamination and leakage, and a one-third reduction in electricity costs for water supply. HDPE pipes have a lifespan of 30 to 40 years, and WSSP has checked the pipe material using international quality testing standards.

Students, teachers visits KP assembly

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar comprising students and teachers here Thursday visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly where they briefed about legislation process, budget preparation and its approval.

Acting Secretary, Syed Waqar Shah told the delegation that various capacity building trainings have been started for assembly staff following directives of Speaker.

He said visits of students to assembly have also been arranged to apprise them about working and significance of provincial legislature.

The delegation was told that a plan is under consideration to establish a museum in assembly to preserve its parliamentary history.

They were told that Old Jirga Hall has is a historic section of assembly that was also visited by Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

On the occasion, students were also requested to prepare a comprehensive report of women parliamentarians of the province for highlighting their contributions.

Cherat cement unit in DI Khan assured

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation led by Azam Farooq, CEO of Cherat Cement Company, met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House to discuss the province's industrial development and investment promotion.

The delegation included Ali Farooq, Deputy GM Admin Fazal Din Khan, and Senior Manager Administration Zeeshan.

The meeting focused on the potential establishment of a cement unit in Dera Ismail Khan and its anticipated impact on the region.

Azam Farooq informed the Governor that setting up the cement plant would not only boost industrial activities in the area but also create local employment opportunities.

He emphasized that the project would contribute to the province's economic growth and provide stability to the construction sector.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi commended Cherat Cement's initiative and assured full support for industrial development.

He emphasized that the provincial government would facilitate the project and resolve any issues faced by industrialists to promote investment and create job opportunities.

The discussion also touched on improving the business environment in the province and encouraging more investment.



PESHAWAR: Position holder students of The Smart School with their certificates during the Result Day.

DC inaugurates Chamkani Sports Ground

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner, Sarmad Saleem Akram here Thursday inaugurated 'Chamkani Sports Ground' being constructed under public-private partnership and said that our target is to establish 100 sports grounds in rural areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy

Commissioner commended Malik Shahab Khan for providing land for sports ground. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting healthy lifestyles and fostering social harmony.

To celebrate the opening, he joined a volleyball match and praised enthusiasm of players.

He said that Chamkani Sports Ground would help area children to develop

their skills and participate in healthy activities.

He said government was striving to create healthy environment through this public partnership project. He assured that the district administration would continue to support such public-private partnerships and take measures to provide opportunities for youth and children to participate in sports.

Power suspension on various feeders notified

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Thursday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from Rehman Baba Grid Station on 16th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 26th, 28th and 30th November from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly, consumers of Kachori, Sharif Abad, Khan Mast Colony, New Hazar Khwani, Shalozai Bala, Phandu Baba, Umar 2, Yakatoot, New Chamkani, Phandoo Road 2, Ring Road, Chairman

Daftar, Beri Bagh, Rashid Ghari, Akhoona Abad, Ring Road 2 and SIDB feeders will face inconvenience.

Likewise, it said that power supply will remain suspended from Kohat Road Grid Station on 16th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 26th, 28th and 30th November from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM, resultantly consumers of PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh, Old Deh Bhadar, Old Kohat Road, Dora Road, New Deh Bahadar, Scheme Chowk feeders will face inconvenience.

venience.

The power supply will remain suspended from Peshawar City grid station on 16th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 26th, 28th and 30th November from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM, resultantly consumers of Sikandar Pura, Lala, Hashtnagri, Chughal Pura, Chamkani, Jhagra, Radio Pak, Sethi Town, Gulbahar, Hussain Abad, Zaryab, Phandoo Road, City Home, Bana Mari, Urmur, Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Sheikh Abad, Molvi G, Nishtarabad, NHA feeders will face inconvenience.

Graduation ceremony of Climate Governance and Career Development Fellowships held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The graduation ceremony for the climate governance and career development Fellowships took place at the Business Incubation Centre, University of Peshawar. The fellowship programs run over a span of one month which hosted more than 20 sessions on Climate Governance and Career Advancement.

Mr. Tariq Shah, Chief Executive Officer, Fellows of both the programs were awarded certificates and shields.

In the program outgoing cabinet of The Mirror of Society were awarded shields and certificates. Furthermore, position hold-

er students of the National Writing Contest were awarded certificates and prizes.

Mr. Tariq Shah, CEO The Mirror of Society, Mr. Ali Imran, Assistant Professor, University of

Peshawar, Ms. Sania Siraj, Lecturer, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Mr. Shakeel Khan, University of Peshawar addressed the sessions and emphasized on the students to use the knowledge they

have gained in the programs.

Mr. Shahid Shinwari attended the event as a Chief Guest who extended his support to the team of the Mirror of Society for future collaborations.





In brief

Residents facing viral infection F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: The intensity of smog in District Toba Tek Singh and its surrounding areas has made life increasingly challenging, with a noticeable rise in throat and eye patients in hospitals. Smog levels have continued to increase, making breathing difficult. The constant smog is causing health issues across different areas of the city, leading to a significant increase in cases of throat, respiratory, and eye infections in hospitals. The Chairman Mian Hospital Kamalia, MBBS, FCPS Doctor Mian Kamran Saleem Talking to The Frontier Post, said that smog's harmful effects are causing symptoms like flu, cough, respiratory issues, and eye irritation among citizens. The medical practitioners advise the public to take precautions by staying indoors unless necessary, keeping windows and doors closed, and consulting a doctor immediately if they experience difficulty breathing. He further said that the harmful particles in smog directly affect the lungs and eyes, worsening health conditions and spreading diseases.

World Diabetes Day marked F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: District Health Department Lower Dir here Thursday arranged awareness walk in Balambat to mark World Diabetes Day. The walk was led by District Health Officer Dr. Muhammad Nisar and participated by large number of locals. Awareness walk was aimed to inform people about reasons about diabetes, its complications and the measures that can reduce to occurrence of aliment. It is worth mentioning that more than seven million people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are suffering from diabetes and its cases are increasing day by day.

Steps to prevent power theft F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Chief Operations Officer of PESCO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr. Gul Nabi Syed on Thursday chaired a meeting to review measures to prevent power theft in Dera Ismail Khan district. The meeting was attended by Engineer Fida Muhammad Khattak, SE PESCO Dera Circle, Assistant Director Technical PESCO Headquarters Engineer Shaukat Ullah Khattak, DCM, XENs, SDOs, Line Superintendents, and MRS. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various matters related to PESCO Dera, including preventing electricity theft, recovering outstanding dues, and improving the combing process. Following the meeting, Chief Operations Officer Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Gul Nabi Syed, and SE PESCO Dera Circle, Engineer Fida Muhammad Khattak, visited the ongoing combing operation at the PESCO Topanwala feeder. They reviewed the process, gathered information from the staff, and checked the installed meters. Engineer Gul Nabi Syed directed that the combing process should be expedited by increasing the staff and replacing as many meters as possible on a daily basis. He emphasized speeding up the recovery process and filing cases against electricity thieves. He also instructed that line losses be reduced by December 30, 2024, to minimize load-shedding.

Humayun: KP govt transforming prisons department

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Prisons Humayun Khan has said that under the direction of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, work is being done on concrete steps to develop the prison system on modern lines and to make the prisoners and detainees in the prisons skilled. The food menu of the prisoners has been improved while the prisoners in different jails of the province are being trained in various technologies and skills including computers, marble industry, and the system of e-marketing of the products made in the jails are also being devised. He was discussing with Provincial Food Minister Zahir Shah Toru and members of Provincial assembly Iftikhar Ali Mashwani, Abdul Salam Afridi, DDAC Chairman Zarshad Khan and Ameer Farzand Khan on the occasion of visiting Central Jail Mardan.

Inspector General Prisons Usman Mehsud was also accompanied by the Special Assistant for Prisons. On reaching the

prison, Superintendent Jail Najam ul Hasan Abbasi welcomed the Special Assistant. The Jail Police force gave a salute. Special Assistant Prisons opened Model Interview Room, Model Prisoners Call Center and Computer Training Center in the jail. On this occasion, it was informed in the briefing that Mardan Jail has the facility to appear in the courts on video link, provide treatment and teach various skills including jail-to-jail virtual meetings. On this occasion, Humayun Khan said that work is in progress on the project of transferring prisons to solar energy across the province, which will save crores of rupees per month in terms of electricity bills. He said that the marketing system of the products made in the jails is being made online. He said that this will significantly increase the income of the province, while the income of these products will also increase the share of skilled prisoners.

Paramedics demands fulfillment of their demands till 25th: The paramedics staff demanded fulfillment of their legitimate demands till 25th

November across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa otherwise they will be compel to arranged sit-in at provincial metropolis Peshawar, on Thursday.

The paramedics who are busy day and night serving the suffering humanity in all small and big hospitals. The officials and rulers of the health department are humiliated due to lack of interest in their unsolved problems and have proved unable to solve the accepted demands. The provincial government is not missing out on the call of the Provincial Paramedical Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 25th November.

The province of Pakhtunkhwa is busy trying to become a champion by promoting its governance as an ideal and fair government throughout the country. In this regard, the All Pakistan Paramedical Staff Federation warned the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and threatened that the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the officials of the health department should accept the legitimate demands of the paramedics and implement their promises.

Mayor lauds Madrassa's role for society

F.P. Report

BANNU: Mayor Bannu Irfan Durrani has said that religious madrassas are the fortresses of Islam and the centers of peace-making. Terrorism is not possible here. Those who graduate from here are the guarantees of security, development and good name of the country along with religious education. Paying attention to contemporary studies is the most important need of the hour.

The role of the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Commission for Humane is very important to adapt the new generation to the demands of the modern world. He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of the school from the sixth class to the eighth class organized by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training National Commission for Human

Development in Zia Al-Qur'an, a well-known religious seminary of Bannu district.

On this occasion, Director of Madrasah Zia Al-Qur'an and Senior Vice President of Muttahida Dini Madrasas Hafiz Qari Muhammad Ismail, Islam Ali Khan, Malik Asghar Ahmad Zai, Deputy Director of NCHD Mahmood Sabir Marwat, Deputy Director Education Khushdal Khan Wazir Assistant Director Lettersee Gul Tiaz Khan and other officers were also present. Meanwhile, Mayor Bannu Irfan Durrani launched classes for modern sciences in three different Madrasas Zia Al-Qur'an, Jamia Nizam Uloom, and Jamia Rehmaniya by the federal government, in which two hundred classes have been launched.

JUI-F mobilizing activists against Israeli crimes: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUIF), in con-

nection with the preparations for the Israel Mardabad conference, workers and officials from the southern districts will leave in the form of caravans for the conference, where the former deputy speaker of the National Assembly, the main leader of the JUI, Zahid Akram. Khan Durrani will welcome the caravans of Bannu Division, Dera Division and Kohat Division.

Nazim Engineer Malik Ehsan Khan while addressing the administrative meeting held at Mandan House Bannu Shah, on this occasion JUI leader Khalid Nawaz Khan Tughal Khel, JUI Tughal Khel General Secretary Malik Tajamal Khan, Malik Shakir Khan Mandan along with Other leaders were also present and said that Israel is the biggest terrorist country in the world, which has massacred millions of Muslims by imposing a war against the Muslims of Palestine.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan Students Organization holding a protest for acceptance of their demands.

Construction of studs on Chenab's river approved

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Divisional Development Working Committee Gujranwala have accorded approval to construct studs in bank of the River Chenab with the cost of Rs.200 million to save six villages including Mahmood Pur from erosion in the Chenab in area of district Hafizabad.

Commissioner Syed Naveed Haider Sherazi presided over the meeting while Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Abdul Razzaq join the meeting through video-link. He said that six villages of district Hafizabad was affecting badly due to erosion in the River Chenab and experts of irrigation

department was given proposal to construct structure at different places the River Chenab to save thousand acres agricultural land and population of more than six thousand people situated at the bank of the River Chenab.

He said that the Punjab government was allocated Rs. 200 million for this project in current fiscal year budget to accept the proposal of experts. He directed the concerned officers to complete tendering process and started construction work at the earliest.

MPA blames govt for manipulated cases: Member Provincial Assembly Zameer-ul-Hassan Bhatti has said that

present government is registering fake cases against our family and demolishing our homes while we were not allowed to reap our own crops but we would not afraid of coward tactics of the government.

He said that we were elected Members Parliament on the tickets of Imran Khan with votes of the people of Hafizabad and people of Hafizabad were our power. MPA said that some elements were blaming and making falls propaganda to support in 26th constitutional amendment. He said that we were standing with Imran Khan firmly and would not bow before present government at all.



HARIPUR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur School of Paramedical Sciences and Technology Park.

Admn official's residences tube well unoperational F.P. Report

BUNER: Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan Colony Daggar, the hub of district administration residences and offices, water supply main tube well motor has been out of work for three months and the poor employees residing in the colony are facing severe difficulties in getting clean water for drinking and other needs.

While senior officials residing in this colony have fulfilled their water requirement by digging small tube well for their homes and offices. It should be noted that residences and offices of DC, DPO, ADCs, ACs and other officers, district secretariat, DEO female, RDD, Social Welfare, Zakat, Rescue Headquarter and Officer's Bachelor Hostel are also established in Dr. A. Q. Khan Colony. The higher authority holders have dug small tube well for their residences and offices and supplied water to other officers through pipelines.

But hundreds poor employees residing in two dozen quarters in this colony mostly class IV, drivers, security guards are facing worst and according to them have been tired of pitching water from here and there. They told they have been requesting the media time and again to become their voice on this important humanly issue and bring in to the notice of higher authorities.

On their request when this journalist visited this colony, every employee came out as a cry, but Ghani Khan, the operator of the out of work tube well, told the truth in a short conversation that this tube well is the property and responsibility of C&W, but officers mourn for unavailability of funds.

Cold weather spreading viral diseases F.P. Report

WANA: The intense drought and cold weather resulting from climate changes in Wana, Lower South Waziristan, have had serious effects on the health of the local population. Due to the drought, humidity levels have decreased, leading to a rise in various viral and bacterial diseases, according to the Department of Health.

According to details, respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia, flu, and whooping cough have intensified in the region. The lack of humidity in the air and the harsh cold have increased the risk of these diseases, especially among children and the elderly. These illnesses pose a greater threat to poorer segments of society, as inadequate healthcare facilities and insufficient cold-weather protections add to their challenges.

According to public and social circles, the lack of proper healthcare centers and awareness in the district means that patients do not receive timely treatment. People in remote areas, in particular, face difficulties in accessing adequate medical services.

There is a need for awareness programs related to health issues so that people can recognize symptoms early and seek timely treatment. Healthcare centers in the area should be improved, and basic facilities should be provided to ensure that more people have access to medical assistance.

PTI to march for release of Imran: Ministers

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Provincial Ministers Fazal Hakim Khan Yousafzai and Dr. Amjad claimed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) isn't anti-state institutions but against those who refuse to abide by the country's laws. They vowed to take actions against such individuals. The ministers praised founding chairman, stating that he is enduring hardships for the nation and has taught them to stand against injustice, on Thursday.

The ministers claimed this while addressing Insaf Student Federation divisional convention at Saidu Sharif area of Swat and announced that on 24th

November, millions of people from Malakand Division will head to Islamabad in response to Imran Khan's call. They assured that they will do everything in their power to ensure Imran Khan's release and provide protection to Murad Saeed. The patience of workers has reached its limit, and keeping Imran Khan imprisoned will be a danger signal for the ruling authorities.

Other speakers at the convention included Provincial Minister Saeed Afridi, Assembly members Salim Rahman, Saeed Sultan, PSF Swat President Saifullah Khan, and other leaders. Swat City Mayor Shahid Ali Khan, Chairman Kabal Saeed Khan, and

other leaders were also present. The workers at the convention chanted slogans demanding Imran Khan's release and protection for Murad Saeed.

The provincial ministers emphasized that founding chairman will soon be among the people. Workers are now out on the streets, demanding Imran Khan's release and ensuring Murad Saeed's protection. They reiterated that founding chairman has given a final call for November 24, and they will respond with "Labbaik" (Here I am) and reach Islamabad. On November 24, Murad Saeed will also be brought forward, and they will not return without securing PTI founding chairman release.

Funeral prayers of martyred ASI Wali offered

F.P. Report

MALAKAND: The funeral prayer of martyr Assistant Sub Inspector Wali Muhammad Khan, who sacrificed his life for the nation, was performed with full state honors in his native area. According to details, the funeral prayer of martyr ASI Wali Muhammad Khan held with state honors in his native village of Shingrai Sakhakot, Malakand district.

On this occasion, DSP Shergarh Ajab Khan, DSP Takhtbhai Shakeel Khan, DSP Faqeer Gul, along with SHOs of relevant police sta-

tions, police officers, personnel, local residents, and family members attended in large numbers. A well-prepared police contingent presented a salute to the martyr, paying tribute to his bravery and great sacrifice.

DPO Mardan described the sacrifice of Shaheed Wali Muhammad Khan as a bright chapter in the history of Mardan Police. He stated, "The great sacrifice of the martyr further strengthens our resolve to be ready to make every sacrifice for the protection of people's lives and property." He added that Wali Muhammad Khan set an example by sacrificing his

life in the line of duty, which will always be remembered.

It should be noted that Wali Muhammad Khan was martyred last night during duty at the Garu Shah checkpoint when a firing incident took place. After the incident, the police launched a search operation in the area, and efforts are ongoing to apprehend the culprits. Earlier, the funeral prayer was also held at Mardan Police Lines, where RPO Mardan Najeeb-ur-Rehman Bagvi, DC Mardan Dr. Azmat Wazir, DPO Zahoor Afridi, and other officials attended in large numbers.

Action against absent govt employees

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah has under the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Program "Awami Agenda", made a surprise visit to various government departments and institutions in Kohat and Karak districts today. He on this occasion, ordered immediate disciplinary action against more than 2 Dozen Government Employees, including some officers, for absenteeism.

As per details, Commissioner Kohat paid surprise raids on the offices of Service Delivery Center Lachi, Service Delivery Center Karak, Assistant

Commissioner Lachi, Assistant Commissioner Karak, TMAs Karak and Lachi, ASDOE Education Karak, C&W Karak, Public Health Karak, District Secretariat Karak and NHA Karak, in which more than 2 dozen officials, including some officers, were found absent from the offices. Commissioner Kohat also visited Government High School Jarma on his way to Karak and expressed satisfaction over its cleanliness, performance and attendance of teachers.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Kohat also visited Dar-ul-Kafala, Drug Rehabilitation Center, Welfare Home and Deaf and Dumb School in Karak dis-

trict, where he met the children and distributed gifts among them.

Motasim Billah Shah, along with the Deputy Commissioner Karak Shakeel Ahmed Jan, also made a special visit to Tehsil Banda Daud Shah Zinka and listened to the concerns and complaints of the local people there and assured them of their early redressal. Later, Commissioner Kohat also visited Makori Deep-III Oil Field and reviewed the ongoing work there and had a detailed discussion with the concerned officials on their problems and other issues faced by them and assured all possible cooperation from the divisional and district administration.

Residents hold protest against failure in redressal of issues

F.P. Report

LARKANA: The residents are forced to protest against the failure of governance due to inefficient public servants to address problems facing city and rural areas in Larkana district, on Thursday.

A protest demonstration was held in front of the press club against the non-release. On that occasion, addressing the demonstration, Ahmed Nawaz Bhutto, Ali Murtaza Memon, Muhammad Ramzan Gabol and others said that even though thousands of posts of teachers are vacant in the schools of Sindh, the district. The administration does not issue offer orders to the IBA test passed candidates, which is completely unfair to us, so that we will again be forced to file a case of contempt of court in the

court.

Addressing the demonstration on the occasion, the labor leader Mumtaz Ali Panhwar, Rajab Ali Jat and others said that the brick owners are not giving rights to the workers, that is why they have stopped making bricks for a few weeks. They appealed to the owners to give them suitable wages and demanded justice for the poor attitude of the owners towards the workers, while the residents of Larkana protested in front of the press club against the house surveying staff.

Demonstration was held on this occasion, women Taslim Shaikh, Aftab Murtaza Shaikh and others protested and said that The wedding of my son Nadeem Sheikh was planned, due to which the guests at home are worried about the sudden disap-

pearance of my son. The IG Police strongly appealed to the Larkana division and said that they should take necessary steps for the recovery of our young man and save us from worry.

Protest against murder held: A protest was held in front of the press club against the non-arrest of the accused involved in the murder of his son. Speaking to the journalists on that occasion, he said that during Shawal 2097, my son Ali Akbar Abaro was killed along with the influential accused Abdul Razzaq Mojai, Al-Hadno Mojai and other accused from a relationship dispute.

The case has also been registered at Baqran Police Station. However, despite the passage of 17 years, the police have failed to arrest the accused involved in the murder.



Mexican legislators reelect head of human rights agency

MEXICO CITY (AP): Legislators from Mexico's ruling party reelected the head of the National Human Rights Commission despite widespread opposition and her failure to call out the government for abuses.

The reelection of Rosario Piedra in a party-line Senate vote appeared to be another example of the ruling Morena party's attempts to weaken independent oversight bodies. Morena has proposed eliminating a host of other oversight, transparency and freedom-of-information agencies, claiming they cost too much to run. Mexico's civic and non-profit rights groups have been almost unanimous in their criticism of Piedra's reelection.

"This is an undeserved prize for a career marked by inaction, the loss of independence and the weakening of the institution," the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez human rights center wrote on social media. Piedra is a committed supporter of former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who left office on Sept. 30, and she once affirmed that none of the deaths caused by the armed forces under his administration were illegal or unjustified. She shared the former president's delight in attacking and criticizing other independent human rights groups. Since her first election in 2019, Piedra has done little to investigate allegations of massacres or extrajudicial killings by soldiers and members of the militarized National Guard, to whom López Obrador gave sweeping powers.

Despite receiving over 1,800 citizen complaints against the armed forces between 2020 and 2023,

her commission issued only 39 recommendations, and most of the few military cases her commission did follow up on involved abuses committed under previous administrations. The rights commission has the power to make non-binding recommendations to government agencies. If they do not agree to follow the recommendations, they are at least required by law to explain why. Piedra has almost exclusively focused the commission's work on issuing recommendations in cases where people have not received proper health care at government-run hospitals. Those recommendations accomplish little, because they don't address the underlying problem of underfunded, poorly equipped hospitals forced to handle too many patients.

At times Piedra acted as if human rights violations no longer existed under López Obrador. In 2019, she expressed disbelief when asked about the killing of journalists, despite the fact that almost a dozen were killed in López Obrador's first year in office. "Are they killing journalists?" she said with an expression of disbelief. Piedra comes from a well-known activist family: Her mother founded one of Mexico's first groups to demand answers for families whose relatives had been abducted and disappeared by the government in the 1960s and '70s. But even her mother's group, the Eureka Committee, did not support Piedra's reelection.

"Her actions appear to support impunity for the perpetrators of governmental terrorism, and the government's line of obedience and forgetting" rights abuses, the committee wrote in

a statement. Piedra broke with two important traditions: she was a member of the ruling party up until she was elected to her first term in 2019. The job has usually gone to nonpartisan human rights experts.

And she has openly endorsed and supported government policies and actions. Previous heads of the commission had a more critical relationship with the government. Piedra also failed to make the final cut for candidates for the post this year in a congressional examination of their qualifications, but was put on the ballot anyway.

That's important, since similar evaluation committees will decide who gets on the ballot in judicial reforms that make federal judges stand for election next year. Activists worry that the same kind of favoritism will come into play in the election of judges. "This decision comes after a selection process in which she (Piedra) wasn't found to be the most qualified," a coalition of rights groups said in a statement. "That reveals the political, partisan considerations that put her onto the ballot."

She also apparently falsified a letter of recommendation, after a bishop and human rights activist said a letter she presented to support her reelection had not been signed by him. Piedra will serve under new President Claudia Sheinbaum, another devoted follower of López Obrador, who took office Oct. 1. On Sheinbaum's first day in office, the army killed six migrants near the Guatemala border; 10 days later, soldiers and National Guard killed three bystanders in the northern border city of Nuevo Laredo while chasing suspects.

Gaza surgeon describes drones targeting children

GAZA (BBC): A retired surgeon who volunteered at a hospital in Gaza has told MPs that Israeli drones would target children who were lying injured after bombings. Prof Nizam Mamode, from Brockenhurst, Hampshire, worked at Nasser hospital for a month in August and September.

Giving evidence to the parliamentary International Development Committee, he broke down as he described children's accounts of being shot by quadcopters. Labour MP Sarah Champion, who chairs the committee, said his evidence was "profound and deeply chilling".

The 62-year-old surgeon told MPs: "What I found particularly disturbing was that a bomb would drop, maybe on a crowded, tented area and then the drones would come down." His face shook with emotion as he paused for several seconds to compose himself. He continued: "The drones would come down and pick off civilians - children.

"We [were] operating on children who would say: 'I was lying on the ground after a bomb had dropped and this quadcopter came down and hovered over me and shot me.'" That's clearly a deliberate act and it was a persistent act - persistent targeting of civilians day after day." Prof Mamode, former clinical lead of transplant surgery at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, said it was a "very consistent story". He added: "The bullets that the drones fire are these small cuboid pellets and I fished a number of those out of the abdomen of small children. I think the youngest I operated on was a three-year-old. "These pellets were in a way more destructive than bullets. "With the drone pellets, what I found was they would go in and they would bounce around so they would cause multiple injuries. "I had a seven-year-old boy... He had an injury to his liver, spleen, bowel, arteries, so quite extensive destruction from

a single entry point. "He survived that and went out a week later." In a statement after hearing, Ms Champion said: "On this evidence, the UK needs to take seriously the prospect of international humanitarian law having been egregiously broken in Gaza. "The Committee will do all we can to act on Professor Mamode's extraordinary testimony and ensure his experiences are heard loud and clear."

Hamas gunmen attacked Israel on 7 October last year, killing about 1,200 people and taking 251 others as hostages. The incursion was to become the deadliest attack in Israeli history and as of November 2024, more than 100 hostages remain unaccounted for. Israel then launched a military campaign in Gaza that has now killed a total of 43,712 people, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. The Israeli military insists it does not target civilians and has accused Hamas of using the population as a human shield.

Russia sends military instructors to Equatorial Guinea

MOSCOW (BBC): Russia has reportedly sent up to 200 troops to Equatorial Guinea to protect the presidency, as it continues to expand its presence in Africa. Media reports say that the Russians are training elite guards in the country's two main cities - the capital Malabo and Bata.

Reports of Russian troops deployed in the country first surfaced in August. Russia, which has been seeking to gain more influence in Africa, has in recent years sent thousands of mercenaries to West and Central Africa to protect military regimes and help them fight insurgents. The Reuters news agency quoted sources saying that between 100 and 200 Russians were estimated to have arrived in the past two months. It said some were likely to be part of the Corps Africa, a paramilitary force previously known as Wagner before being renamed and official-

ly coming under Russian military control. There have been other reports of sightings of the mercenaries in both Malabo and Bata, also indicating that they were there to protect the president and his family. The tiny country with a population of 1.7 million is led by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the world's longest-serving president who has been in power since 1979.

His son, Teodoro Obiang Mangué, who is known for his lavish lifestyle, is the country's vice-president. He has been at the centre of scandals around the world, and has been the subject of criminal charges and sanctions. The Equatorial Guinean administration has faced criticism for its human rights record, including arbitrary killings and torture, according to a US government report. The country has been trying to broker military deals as well as gas and mineral

exploration agreements with Russia and Belarus. It has had similar deals with China in the past. Both the Equatorial Guinea president and the vice-president have made several visits to Russia in the recent past.

In September, President Obiang thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin for sending instructors to strengthen Equatorial Guinea's defence, according to state news agency TASS. Tutu Alicante, a US-based human rights activist from Equatorial Guinea, told US state broadcaster VOA that the alleged military presence in the country could undermine US geopolitical interests. He said that the Russia was "definitely flexing its military and economic muscles on the ground" through the physical presence of troops in the country. The US has in the past had investments including in the country's energy sector but the interest has waned.

Man with explosives dies trying to enter Brazil SC

BRASILIA (AFP): A man with explosives died trying to enter Brazil's Supreme Court in what appeared to be a suicide, officials said. "This citizen approached the Federal Supreme Court, tried to enter, failed, and the explosion happened at the entrance," Brasilia governor Celina Leao told reporters.

Early indications are that this was a suicide, and no one else was hurt, she said. The man's body was found outside the court after two explosions occurred. The first one was from a car in the square outside the court. The second one happened when the man tried to enter the court, and this blast killed him, the governor said. The incident occurred ahead of a G20 summit taking place next Monday and Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro that will gather leaders from around the world. After that summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to stay on in Brazil, going to Brasilia for a state visit. The supreme court said in a statement that two loud explosions rang out at the end of session and that the judges were safely evacuated. The court is located in the Praca dos Tres Poderes (the Place of the Three Powers), which also fronts onto the presidential palace and the Congress. The presidential palace was sealed off as a large police contingent patrolled the plaza. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was not in the palace at the time of the explosions, a spokesman said.

Federal police referred to the blasts as "attacks" and said they were investigating. The identity of the man killed was not immediately identified because his body still had suspicious objects around it, the governor said. She added that "we confirm that it appears to be a lone wolf" incident. The area involved was the scene of high drama last year.

On January 8, 2023, the seats of power in Brasilia were hit by an insurrection a week after Lula defeated the right-wing incumbent president Jair Bolsonaro at the polls. Thousands of Bolsonaro supporters angry over his defeat stormed the government buildings, causing major damage.

Bali flights cancelled due to dangerous volcanic ash

BALI (BBC): Several airlines have cancelled flights to and from Bali due to dangerous ash clouds from a volcano near the Indonesian holiday island. Qantas, Jetstar and Virgin Australia advised passengers of the disruptions, saying the ash from Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki made it unsafe to fly.

The volcano spewed a 9km (6.2 miles) ash column into the sky over the weekend, one week after a major eruption killed 10 people. Australia's Bureau of Meteorology has also warned that the volcanic ash might drift to parts of the country's north. Jetstar said all flights to and from Bali until 12:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time Thursday (04:00 GMT) have been cancelled. Other airlines which have followed suit include Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific, India's IndiGo, and Malaysian carrier AirAsia. Virgin Australia, which cancelled all its flights to and from Bali, said in a statement: "Safety is always our highest priority, and our meteorology team is closely monitoring the situation."

Singapore Airlines and its low-cost carrier Scoot have similarly cancelled some flights - though Singapore's airport website shows that other flights to and from Bali have continued to run. The general manager of Bali's international airport Ahmad Syaqui Shahab, told Reuters that 22 international flights and 12 domestic ones had been affected, but did not provide details about flights. Activities in Indonesia have also been affected by the volcanic ash. A jazz festival in Labuan Bajo town, some 600km from Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki, was postponed to next year due to safety concerns. Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an area of high seismic activity atop multiple tectonic plates, and has about 130 active volcanoes.

Málaga evacuates thousands as Spain issues more flood alerts

MADRID (BBC): Thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes in the Costa del Sol region of southern Spain as extreme rain and flooding drenches the area. National weather office Aemet has placed both Malaga and the northeastern Catalonia region on the highest alert for strong rain expected to last until Friday.

The Malaga area, including the tourist resorts of Marbella, Velez and Estepona, is expected to take the brunt of the extreme weather phenomenon known as a "Dana". Parts of the eastern Valencia area have also been placed on the highest alert, weeks after the area was devastated by flash floods that killed more than 220 people. Several other regions in Spain remain braced for more heavy showers and low temperatures.

Up to 180mm of rain could fall in Catalonia in north-eastern Spain in just 12 hours, accompanied by thunderstorms along the coast near Tarragona, forecasters say. Schools in the entire southern province of Málaga have been closed while many supermarkets have kept shutters down. Footage circulating on social media showed the city's normally busy areas deserted as water flooded the streets. Around 3,000 people living in close proximity to the Guadalhorce River have been told to leave their homes, the Regional Government of Andalusia has said.

Regional government's Minister of the Presidency Antonio Sanz said: "We have not evacuated entire towns, but rather specific areas linked to the riverbank. "This decision has been communicated to the government of Spain in order to receive collaboration from the state security forces and bodies." The severe weather alert in Málaga has also led to the opening tie of the Billie Jean King Cup between Spain and Poland being postponed, the International Tennis Federation said. The two nations were set to play in Malaga. Spain's meteorological agency Aemet has placed parts of the Andalusia region and the Balearic



Islands on orange alert from now until Thursday. Aemet warns of rain-fall and storms that could be "very strong to torrential". In other parts of Spain precautions are being taken - with eastern and southern Mediterranean areas the most vulnerable.

That orange alert is the second highest and it signals a significant meteorological event "with a degree of danger for normal activities". In Valencia, school classes and sports activities were suspended in some areas and sandbags piled up to protect the centre of the town of Aldaia. However this second Dana weather system is not expected to be as dramatic as the red alert on 29 October, when the Valencia region in particular suffered an unprecedented loss of lives and material damage. Elsewhere, rescue teams searching for the bodies of two young brothers who were swept away in the Valencia floods two weeks ago said their bodies had been found. Izan Matías, 5, and Rubén Matías, 3, were pulled from their father Víctor Matías's arms when the torrent ripped through their home in Valencia on the evening of 29 October. Their aunt Barabara Sastre confirmed to the BBC the boys had been found. Their bodies were recovered in different locations. "My little angels, we have finally found you" one family friend, David Garcia, wrote online. "Two stars shine

brighter in the sky."

Yesterday, search teams had focused on part of the River Pollo about 6km (3.7km) from the family home. The boys' uncle Iván had told the BBC he was hugely grateful for all the support they had received and hoped his nephews would be found. Volunteers from the Canary Islands and other parts of Spain had joined recovery specialists from Mexico, who normally work in the aftermath of earthquakes. The family dog was found dead in a garage in the town of Paiporta, more than 12km (7.4 miles) from their house in La Curra, a neighbourhood of Mas del Jutge. Dana weather systems are formed when an area of low pressure gets "cut off" from the main flow of the jet stream. This means that instead of moving through a region relatively quickly, they get blocked over the same area leading to persistent rainfall for several days.

Colder air high in the atmosphere meets warmer air flowing in from the Mediterranean which intensifies the storm. On the first day of the COP29 climate summit, the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organisation Celeste Saulo said the recent floods in Spain were a strong message to the world. "The incredible amount of rain in Spain was a wake-up call (about) how much more water a warmer atmosphere can hold," she said.

Biden is a 'lame duck' president - but can he still put pressure on Israel?

WASHINGTON: With fewer than 70 days left in office, United States President Joe Biden has officially entered the "lame duck" phase of his presidency - the period of time between administrations when a president's influence and ability to shape policy dwindle as his successor prepares to take office.

But with the looming end of Biden's five-decade political career comes a final chance to define his legacy - particularly when it comes to foreign policy, which Biden has long viewed as one of his signature issues. For those opposed to the current administration's unwavering support for Israel during its more than yearlong war on Gaza, this lame duck period is a final opportunity "to try to push Biden to move past a legacy of genocide", said Annette Sheline, a former US Department of State official who resigned in March in protest against the Biden administration's Israel policy.

But it is unlikely that the administration will back-track on its multibillion-dollar support for Israel's war after a year of deepening humanitarian crisis and

large-scale evidence of mass war crimes in which the US is deeply implicated. "Now that there's less of a political price to pay, Biden could choose to do good things," Matt Duss, executive vice president at the Center for International Policy, told Al Jazeera. "But it's never been entirely political; it is ideological. This is just how he believes the US-Israel relationship should work, and that's with basically zero pressure on Israel about anything." "I have no hope whatsoever that they'll do anything meaningful, constructive, helpful or courageous in these last months," Duss added.

Robert Hunter, a former US ambassador to NATO, said Biden should stop all arms shipments to Israel "tomorrow" but would never do so. "Biden has throughout his career been a strong supporter of Israel," Hunter told Al Jazeera. "But it means that whenever he's had a serious chance to influence things, first as vice president and now as president, he has never - except for one pause [on shipments of heavy bombs] - been willing to go against what Israel, and in particular [Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu, wants him to do."

"It is something that he believes in," Hunter added. As Democrats assess the impact of their foreign policy on Donald Trump's presidential election victory, there are practical things that the administration can - and critics argue should - do before Trump takes office on January 20.

While some of those measures may be later reversed by the Trump administration, they would still have the ability to halt or at least slow down Israel's escalating attacks on northern Gaza as well as send a message to the public and the incoming administration that the US does have leverage on Israel, even though it has so far declined to use it. The Biden administration had the opportunity to ensure that Israel faced consequences for its actions after a 30-day deadline that the administration had set on the delivery of aid to Gaza expired. However, as Biden met Israeli President Isaac Herzog at the White House, reiterating Washington's "ironclad" support for its ally, the US said there would be no change to military assistance to Israel, even as the Middle Eastern

country failed to carry out the steps requested by Washington.

"There were a lot of people who said things like, 'Well, politically, the Democrats have to continue to support Israel, or this could be an election issue for them,'" Sheline told Al Jazeera. "And now that the election is in the rear-view mirror, clearly, this is what they want. They say things like, 'We're saddened by what's happening,' but clearly, they're not going to use any leverage." "Even now, when they won't suffer politically for it, they fully support everything that's happening," she added. "Otherwise, they would actually do something about it."

With more than 40,000 Palestinians killed and Israel's wars in the region only widening, the Biden administration choosing to withhold arms, issue more sanctions or clear the way for full inclusion of the state of Palestine at the United Nations would do little to reverse the immense human cost of its support for Israel so far. But those measures could pave the way for a change in approach and force the hand of the Trump administration. — Aljazeera

Entire generation in Gaza would lose education if UNRWA collapses, UN says

NEW YORK: An entire generation of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip would "be denied the right to education" if the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) collapses in the enclave under new Israeli legislation, the head of the agency has warned.

The Israeli parliament last week adopted two controversial bills banning UNRWA from operating on Israeli territory, closing its offices in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. UNRWA's chief Philippe Lazzarini said that implementation of the legislation is due to take effect in late January, "will have catastrophic consequences".

"Glaringly absent from discussions about Gaza without UNRWA, is education," Lazzarini told a UN General Assembly committee. "In the absence of a capable public administration or state, only UNRWA can deliver education to more than 660,000 girls and boys across Gaza. In the absence of UNRWA, an entire generation will be denied the right to educa-

tion," he said, warning that this would sow "the seeds for marginalisation and extremism". He again pushed UN member states to act to prevent the implementation of the Israeli legislation.

The UN agency provides education, healthcare and other basic services to Palestinian refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation and their descendants, who now number nearly six million people. Refugee families make up the majority of Gaza's 2.3 million population.

Aid groups have warned that Israel's ban on UNRWA could create further obstacles to addressing a severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Israel has said other UN agencies and aid groups can fill the gap, but those organisations have insisted UNRWA is essential. Israel's ally the United States has described the role of UNRWA in Gaza as "indispensable."

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that it was of urgent importance that Israel pause implementation of the law. The legislation is

due to take effect just days after US President-elect Donald Trump takes office for a second four-year term. Some observers expect Trump to pursue a strongly pro-Israel approach to the Middle East region, going even beyond the solid support given by President Joe Biden.

The UN Security Council has backed UNRWA and "strongly warned against any attempts to dismantle or diminish" it. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has told Israel that replacing UNRWA in Gaza and the West Bank would be Israel's responsibility as the occupying power. The UN views Gaza and the West Bank as Israeli-occupied territory. "We left Gaza completely in 2005. We disengaged, we gave the keys to the Palestinian Authority," Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon told reporters after Lazzarini's briefing.

"Now, we are in a war after we were attacked and we act according to international law; that's why we provide humanitarian support and we cooperate with many UN agencies," he

said. "We are willing to cooperate, but not with terrorists." In January, Israel accused dozens of UNRWA staff of having taken part in the Hamas-led October 7 attack where more than 1,100 people were killed and about 250 taken captive by Palestinian armed groups. Israel responded to the attack by launching its continuing assault on Gaza, killing at least 43,712 people and wounding another 103,258, according to Palestinian authorities.

The UN launched an investigation into Israel's allegations which resulted in the termination of contracts of nine staff members against which "the evidence - if authenticated and corroborated - could indicate that the UNRWA staff members may have been involved" in the attack. In July, Israel alleged that another 100 UNRWA employees were members of Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups. The agency asked Israel to provide more information to take action. UNRWA last week told Al Jazeera it had not yet received a response. — Aljazeera

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‘Chip war’ disturbs global industry and supply chains

TSMC and Samsung face new US restrictions on exports of advanced chips to the Chinese mainland. And Tokyo Electron and ASML have been also subject to mounting US pressure to plug all the loopholes in the ban on exports of their high-end chipmaking equipment to the Chinese mainland.

Although the ramping up of the Joe Biden administration's "chip war" was initiated at the height of the US presidential election, the latest pressure applied during the power transition period suggests that the Biden administration expects the next administration to carry on the efforts to build a "chip iron curtain" against the Chinese mainland, just as the Biden administration did when it accepted the baton of the outgoing administration's tariff war against China.

The Biden administration released a large-scale government support policy in September, CHIPS Incentives Program's Funding Opportunity for Commercial Fabrication Facilities, with the aim of catalyzing long-term economically sustainable growth in the domestic semiconductor industry in support of "US economic and national security".

But US allies, such as the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Netherlands, are all complaining about their companies being the ones to bear the cost of the US' "chip war".

And all the signs point to the US continuing its "chip war" against China. That explains why the affected ally companies appear to be much more cooperative this time than before in the face of the latest demand from the Biden administration that they restrict key exports to China. By acquiescing, they hope to leave a good impression for the incoming US administration.

Those taking part in the US' "chip alliance" should bear in mind that there is little likelihood that the next administration will recognize their sacrifice for the US' cause by compensating them for their losses. The incoming US administration, meanwhile, should be aware that unless it is able to help the companies find substitutes for the Chinese mainland, the politically motivated "chip war" will ultimately be unsustainable.

Even if the US could somehow emerge victorious in its "chip war", it would bear a heavy cost as it would not only affect China's tech development, to some extent, but also deprive the vast majority of developing countries of their right to scientific and technological progress and normal development, and subject those countries to forever remain at the low end of the value chain, a colonial practice they will naturally bear a grudge against.

It is to be hoped that the US side can see reason and work in the same direction with China, view China's development in a rational and positive light, seeing it as an opportunity rather than a challenge, and work with China to find a way for the two countries to get along.

The selfish bullying exemplified by the "tech war" undermines the stability of the global industry and supply chains, and will eventually backfire on the US.

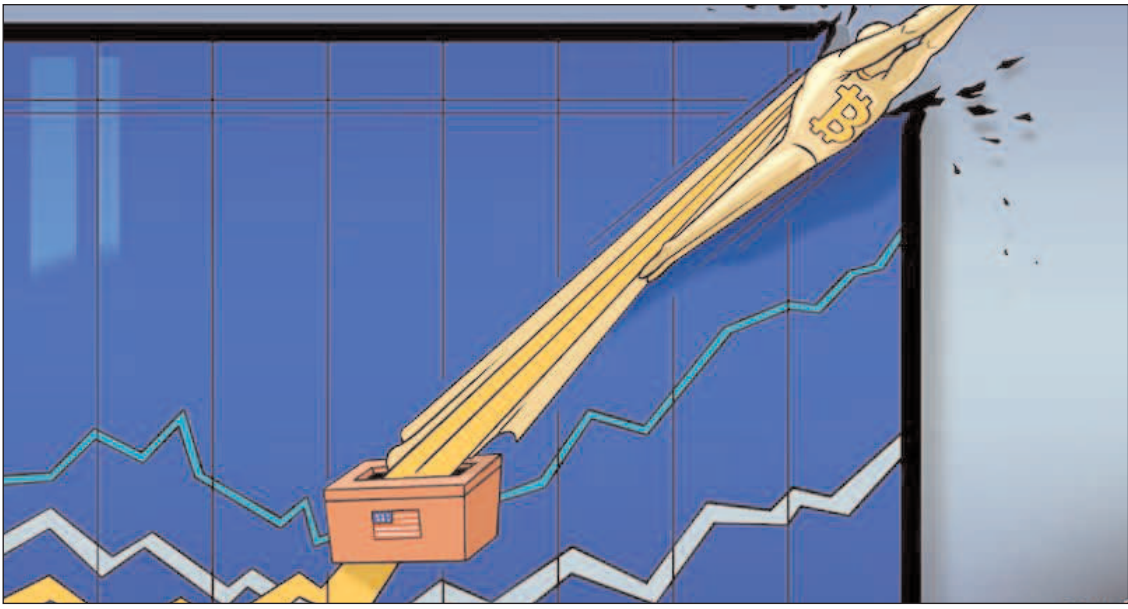
China opposes decoupling and supply chain breaking and "small yard, high fence", resists protectionism and unilateral sanctions, and promotes the establishment of a fair, reasonable and transparent international economic and trade rules system.

In addition, China will push technology-related development issues back to the core of the international agenda, so that developing countries can better integrate into the international division of labor and make the fruits of development more and more equitable to benefit the people of all countries.

In the face of the unilateral bullying of sanctions and blockades, China firmly supports all countries in defending their legitimate rights, maintaining the fairness and openness of the international system, enhancing inclusive and coordinated global development, jointly opposing technological blockades, and jointly resisting decoupling and disconnection. Containing China will not solve the US' own difficulties.

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What the Gulf wants from the incoming Trump

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

THE speed with which Donald Trump is assembling his team indicates that he wants to hit the ground running come his inauguration on Jan. 20. Choosing Steve Witkoff, a close adviser and confidante, as special envoy to the Middle East could mean that the president plans to be hands-on when it comes to this region.

During Trump's first term (2017-2021), the Gulf Cooperation Council, collectively and bilaterally through its member states, enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial relationship, ever since Trump broke with tradition by choosing Saudi Arabia for his first trip abroad and meeting with GCC, Arab and Muslim leaders in Riyadh in May 2017. Although at times there were differences of opinion between the two sides, especially on the Israel-Palestine conflict, their strategic partnership continued through Trump's last days in office. Most likely, that spirit of cooperation will continue and strengthen over the next four years.

What the Gulf wants from Trump's second term can be summarized under three main headings: political, economic and cultural. Trump's motto of "ending all wars" is appealing and so is his prioritizing of economic objectives. We share an interest in combating illegal migration and predatory trading practices, although we may differ on the means. We would also like to join hands in combating hate and intolerance.

At the political and strategic levels, the GCC wants to dial back raging conflicts and return to diplomacy and the pacific resolution of disputes, as the UN Charter calls for. There is little doubt that the international system

is broken because of the intense disagreements between the permanent members of the UN Security Council, which render the organization unable to play its key role in maintaining peace and security around the world, as is evident in its inability to stop Israel's war on Gaza and Lebanon.

On Gaza and the underlying Israel-Palestine conflict, the GCC would like to work more closely with the US on ending the conflict. The international community has spoken clearly about the parameters of the solution, based on the UN Charter and resolutions. There are only a handful of countries that still tolerate Israel's genocidal war in Gaza and its maximalist approach to the underlying conflict.

Last month, the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, of which the US is a member, together with about 90 other countries, articulated the global consensus on these issues. This includes an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, reunifying it with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority and embarking on an irreversible path toward an independent and viable Palestinian state along the 1967 borders.

The extraordinary summit held in Riyadh last week expressed the unified voice of the Arab and Islamic worlds on the conflict and called for accountability for the unspeakable atrocities committed by Israel in both Gaza and the West Bank.

So, what is needed in the region is de-escalation and for the way to be prepared for sustainable solutions in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and elsewhere. Diplomacy should also be the starting point in dealing

with Iran and its regional network of supporters and allies.

At the economic level, the GCC shares Trump's interest in combating predatory economic practices but believes that this should be done by fixing the global trading system, which has pitted industrialized countries against developing countries. Because that system is dysfunctional, major trading nations have abandoned cooperation and engaged in a mutually destructive cycle of actions and retaliations. The first Trump administration imposed a long series of protectionist tariffs, including on GCC exports to the US.

To go by Trump's election rhetoric, his new administration may initiate additional punishing tariffs against China, which could spark another cycle of retaliation.

The best way to deal with trade disputes is through the World Trade Organization, by doubling efforts to reenergize the organization and strengthen its dispute resolution mechanism.

Finally, we want the new White House to lead on cultural reconciliation and mutual understanding. Cultural estrangement has led to a rise in hate speech and hate crimes in many parts of the world. Some of the pernicious outgrowths of this intolerance can be found in rising racist rhetoric, Islamophobia and antisemitism. The Trump administration would find ready partners in the GCC and the wider Arab and Islamic worlds to work together on toning down the rhetoric of cultural war and to reinforce cultural and religious tolerance.

Fortunately, there exists an extensive framework for cooperation under the GCC-

US Strategic Partnership, which includes engagement at the heads of state level, as well as at the ministerial and technical levels. There are more than 10 working groups covering many aspects of this partnership, including political and defense issues, cyber threats, maritime security, air defense and counterterrorism. There are also working groups dedicated to specific issues, such as Iran and Yemen.

The GCC states and the US are active members of the US-led Combined Maritime Forces, a coalition of 46 nations that operates out of Bahrain through five task forces covering the Gulf, the Red Sea and areas in between.

The long-standing GCC-US Trade and Investment Dialogue and the 2012 framework agreement on economic cooperation provide appropriate channels for coordinating trade policies. As the US and GCC countries are major producers of energy, they have overlapping interests in both conventional and renewable energies. They have an abiding imperative to coordinate on both types of energy. As most GCC currencies are pegged to the dollar, it is important to continue to coordinate closely on monetary policy, as decisions taken by the Fed affect GCC economies and have a direct impact on monetary policy.

On culture, the framework of the GCC-US Strategic Partnership allows for engagement to promote mutual understanding, although this area was in the past dealt with bilaterally with member states. Rising cultural tensions in the US and elsewhere make it necessary to develop and grow cooperation at the regional level to deal with this phenomenon.

Remembrance is a grave matter, not a spectator sport

Ross Anderson

WAR is futile, with no winners, only losers. No war ever solved a problem that could not have been better solved by other means, and no war ever solved a problem without creating another one.

The First World War was supposed to end German militarism, but the subsequent Treaty of Versailles humiliated and impoverished Germany and fueled the rise of Hitler. Another consequence was the infamous Sykes-Picot Agreement, which carved up the territory of the Ottoman Empire and bequeathed those of us who live in the Middle East the strife that many endure today.

The Second World War did indeed rid the world of Hitler, Mussolini and a nationalist imperialist Japan, but it also gave us the Iron Curtain, the Cold War and a global division between East and West that shows no sign of diminishing. War in Iraq led to the demise of Saddam Hussein, but also to the rise of Daesh; and you would struggle to find an Iraqi who believes his country is in a better place now than it was before all that.

"War! What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!" Say it again..." A reminder that those of us who detest war have all the best tunes — from the visceral anger of Bob Dylan's "Masters of War" to the elegiac, haunting beauty of "No Man's Land" by the Scottish Australian songwriter Eric Bogle. We do quite well for movies too: there's the powerful dignity of "All Quiet on the Western Front" and the satire of "Dr. Strangelove" and "Catch-22," their madness perfectly encapsulating the deranged

lunacy of war itself.

Despite all that, it is right that, as many around the world do, often at this time of year, we should remember and honor the sacrifice of those who gave their lives while serving their country in war. With a few notable exceptions, people who start wars rarely die in them. It's the little people who pay the price. The US reveres its military veterans, both those who survived and those who did not (although I do wish they would not call them "vets" — I can't be the only visiting Brit to cause confusion while seeking medical assistance for a sick animal). Since 1868, Americans have gathered at cemeteries and memorials on the last Monday of May to mourn military personnel who died in the line of duty. Memorial Day is especially moving at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, where more than 400,000 servicemen and women have been laid to rest.

Six months later, on Nov. 11, the US observes Veterans' Day with memorial ceremonies, parades and salutes at military cemeteries. Nov. 11 is also Remembrance Day in the UK and in member countries of the British Commonwealth. At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month — when the armistice that ended the First World War came into effect in 1918 — Britain falls silent for a period of reflection on its war dead and a ceremony to honor them. The main event takes place at the Cenotaph, the monumental Lutyns-designed war memorial that has stood on Whitehall in central London since 1920. The great and the good, from the royal family to senior politicians and armed

forces chiefs, lay wreaths of red poppies and look somber. It is partly performative: any British public figure who fails to display a symbolic red poppy on their clothing from early October onward will be subject to the sort of vilification usually reserved for MPs caught fiddling their expenses.

The Cenotaph itself is a largely undistinguished lump of Portland stone. Except on Nov. 11, you would pass by without particularly noticing it: in fact, I often did, when I lived there. However, not all war memorials are equal. At least once in their life, everyone should visit Thiépvall, the UNESCO World Heritage Site cemetery and memorial in northern France that commemorates 73,337 officers and men killed in the bloodbath of the Somme between 1915 and 1918, and to whom, as the inscription on the monument says, "the fortune of war denied the known and honored burial given to their comrades in death." You would need a heart of stone not to be affected.

As Bogle writes: "Here in this graveyard it's still No Man's Land, the countless white crosses in mute witness stand, to man's blind indifference to his fellow man, to a whole generation that was butchered and damned." It is profoundly moving and, quite literally, awful. All of which brings me to a question that has been puzzling me since last weekend: what does any of this have to do with football?

At six Premier League grounds in England last Saturday and a further four on Sunday, they held mini "remembrance" events. Uniformed representatives of the three military services

marched on to the pitch and laid wreaths of poppies on the center circle. There was a brief period of silence, respectfully observed by usually vociferous crowds. Giant screens showed graphic art of tumbling red poppies.

At each stadium, a bugler sounded the "Last Post" (with varying degrees of competence: the one at Anfield in Liverpool was distinctly wobbly and one felt for the clearly nervous old boy tasked with delivering it). At Old Trafford in Manchester, a stadium announcer more accustomed to reading out the names of substitutes, or informing the crowd that "the fourth official has indicated a minimum of four minutes' added time," instead deployed his sonorous tones to deliver a reading of the famous fourth stanza from "For the Fallen," the ode to remembrance written by Laurence Binyon after the British defeat at the Battle of Mons in 1914: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them." Doubtless it was all intended to be somber and respectful, but it wasn't: it was absurd and preposterous and reeked of self-importance — as if it were out of the question to hold any public event in Britain without the involvement of those who run Premier League football. People who took part in remembrance ceremonies last weekend at war memorials in cities, towns and villages the length and breadth of the UK did not break off halfway through to hold a football match: why should the reverse occur?

The complex reasons behind Kamala's election loss

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

KAMALA Harris's recent election loss can be attributed to a variety of interconnected factors. While her late entrance into the race against Donald Trump may have been one consideration, it was the broader strategy or lack thereof that significantly impacted her campaign. From missed opportunities to address critical international issues to a strategic misalignment with key voter concerns, Harris's candidacy faced substantial hurdles that her team was unable to overcome.

One of the primary challenges Harris encountered was her late entry into the election. This delay afforded her limited time to establish a robust campaign strategy and cultivate meaningful connections with the American electorate. Unlike Trump, who had already laid significant groundwork with a fervent base and clear campaign agenda, Harris was still developing her platform. Her late start meant she faced an uphill battle in gaining the traction necessary to challenge an opponent with years of consolidated support. Trump's early involvement also enabled him to present a cohesive and consistent narrative, resonating with voters already familiar with his positions, while Harris struggled to establish a comparable level of familiarity and rapport.

However, more than the timing of her entry, Harris's party appeared to adopt a cautious, perhaps even overly restrained, approach on several pressing issues. Chief among these was the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis affecting Palestine and Lebanon. For decades, the United States has been closely aligned with Israel, a position that has garnered both domestic and international critique, especially as conflicts have intensified and images of suffering have circulated widely on social media. In this age of instantaneous digital communication, the American public has access to a near-constant stream of updates, videos, and images capturing the realities of conflict. Social media platforms have provided an unfiltered view of the atrocities occurring in these regions, sparking significant public discourse on human rights and the United States' role in addressing or failing to address these injustices.

Harris's silence, as well as that of her party, on the treatment of Palestinians and Lebanese civilians by Israeli forces did not go unnoticed by the American public. Historically, the Democratic Party has positioned itself as a champion of human rights, and its inability to unequivocally address these issues seemed incongruous with its stated values.

Many voters, particularly younger and more progressive individuals, voiced disappointment with the party's unwillingness to take a firm stance against what they perceived as human rights abuses.

By remaining silent, Harris's campaign missed an opportunity to rally support among those passionate about social justice and international humanitarian concerns. Her stance, or lack thereof, may have left voters feeling disillusioned with the party's commitment to genuine human rights advocacy.

Another misstep was the overall strategic direction of Harris's campaign. Rather than focusing on a few core issues that deeply resonated with the American public, her campaign often felt fragmented. Issues like the economy, healthcare, and domestic social justice movements undoubtedly remained central to her platform, yet there was a perceived lack of cohesion in how these policies were presented. In contrast, Trump's campaign capitalized on a simpler, albeit more polarizing, message that was easily digestible and designed to activate his loyal base.

Harris's team, by contrast, struggled to crystal-

ize a narrative that resonated as strongly, making it difficult for her to cut through the noise in an already crowded political landscape.

Moreover, Harris's party failed to fully grasp the powerful role social media now plays in shaping public opinion. American citizens, known for their strong convictions on human rights, are not only passive observers of global events but also active participants in discussions through social media. During the crises in Palestine and Lebanon, the immediacy of shared stories and images amplified the public's empathy and outrage. Many expected Harris's party to reflect these sentiments and provide clear positions and solutions, not just for international matters but for pressing domestic issues as well. The lack of a clear, outspoken response on these topics from Harris's team may have left voters questioning the sincerity of her leadership and the principles of her party.

Additionally, Harris's campaign struggled to counter Trump's narrative effectively. His bold, often controversial statements garnered significant media coverage, shaping public perception in ways that Harris's more measured approach could not. This gave Trump a platform where his policies and opinions, however polarizing, reached a wide audience quickly. For many undecided voters, Trump's directness, despite its divisiveness, appeared to offer clarity and strength. Harris's campaign, aiming perhaps for caution and inclusivity, lost out on opportunities to connect with voters who sought decisive leadership in uncertain times.

Another dimension worth noting is the growing frustration among American voters with political establishments. Harris, as a prominent Democratic figure, was often seen as part of the political status quo that some Americans believe has failed to deliver tangible improvements to their daily lives.

This perception was particularly strong among voters impacted by economic instability, rising costs of living, and concerns about national security. Trump, despite his own record, managed to tap into this sentiment by portraying himself as an outsider willing to challenge the "Washington elite."

This portrayal, though arguably inconsistent with his own history, resonated with many who felt that the traditional political system no longer represented their interests.

Finally, the complexity of today's media environment posed yet another obstacle. With so many avenues of information, from traditional media to independent online outlets and social media influencers, shaping public opinion has become an increasingly nuanced task.

Harris's campaign struggled to maintain control over its narrative, and as a result, her messages sometimes seemed to get lost amid competing voices. The rapid pace of information flow also meant that any missteps were swiftly amplified, leaving her campaign in a constant state of damage control rather than focusing on advancing a proactive vision for the nation.

In the end, Harris's loss cannot be attributed to a single factor but rather a culmination of strategic missteps, delayed decisions, and an inability to connect with an electorate looking for authentic representation.

Her campaign's hesitance to address critical international and domestic issues, combined with a perceived disconnect from the prevailing sentiments of American voters, cost her the trust and support she needed to secure a victory. The election results reveal a complex narrative about the expectations of American voters, the importance of timely and authentic communication, and the pressing need for leaders who can adapt to the evolving dynamics of public opinion in a digital age.

The Gaza genocide may not be in the news, but it hasn't stopped

“ALL the world is a stage,” Shakespeare wrote. But on this stage today, there seems to be no place for one part of the world – Gaza. Instead, the lights are shining brightly on Donald Trump for his victory in the US presidential election and the Democrats for their defeat.

As the world's attention focuses on American politics, the world media has stopped reporting that people are being exterminated in Gaza. Looking at media headlines, one would think the genocide has stopped, but it hasn't.

Palestinian journalists and the barely functioning medical authorities continue reporting: 54 people killed on November 5, 38 people killed on November 6, 52 people killed on November 7, 39 people killed on November 8, 44 people killed on November 9, 49 people killed on November 10.

And these are just the bodies that have been found. Countless victims lie in the streets or under the rubble in levelled neighbourhoods.

The Palestinians of Gaza are being exterminated at a steady pace by US-made Israeli fighter jets, tanks, drones, quadcopters, bulldozers and machineguns.

In recent weeks, the genocide has taken yet another wicked turn, with the Israeli army implementing what the Israeli media have called the “General's Plan” – or the ethnic cleansing of northern Gaza.

As a result, entire communities are vanishing in a campaign that transcends military goals, targeting the very existence of the Palestinian people.

The towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya were traditionally sleepy villages once cherished for their agricultural bounty and quiet lifestyle. They were renowned for the sweetness of their strawberries and oranges and their sandy dunes full of grazing sheep and goats.

Nearby stood the behemoth of Jabaliya, home to the largest and most densely populated refugee camp among Gaza's eight camps, with more than 200,000 residents. It is where the first Intifada began in 1987 after an Israeli driver mowed down and killed four Palestinian labourers.

All areas of northern Gaza have been subject to repeated destruction since the second Intifada. But today, they face a level of violence and devastation that are as unimaginable as they are unprecedented, “a genocide within a genocide” as described by Majed Bamyá, a senior Palestinian diplomat at the

United Nations. The mass death, mass displacement and mass destruction are carried out with shocking ferocity, rendering the entire north a wasteland.

At the start of this latest campaign, about 400,000 Palestinians remained in the north, down from a population of one million. These people were given an ultimatum by Israel to leave but no guarantees of safe passage or an alternative place to shelter. Many decided to stay. Those who have tried to leave have often been targeted by Israeli forces and killed in the streets. Others who have made it have been tormented along the way.

In one harrowing scene related by a witness to journalist Motasem Dalloul, who posted it on social media, Israeli soldiers separated children from their mothers and pushed them into a pit. Then an Israeli tank circled around the pit, covering the children in sand and terrorising them. Eventually, the soldiers started taking children from the pit and throwing them over to the women.

According to the post: “Whoever caught a child was ordered to carry him and move away quickly, with no guarantee that the child would be their own. Many mothers carried children who were not their own, and were forced to leave with them, leaving their own children in the hands of other mothers. This marked the beginning of a new chapter of suffering, with mothers searching for their children in the arms of other women, trying to calm the children they held until they found their real mothers.”

For those Palestinians who decided to stay or are unable to leave, the horror continues. To force them out or just to eliminate them, Israel has deployed a deliberate policy of forced starvation. Its forces are systematically blocking humanitarian aid from reaching the north, including food, bottled water and medical supplies.

To accelerate mass death, the Israeli army is also preventing medical staff and rescue teams from reaching the wounded and others in need of medical help. Those who manage to get to a hospital often discover upon arrival that it can provide neither medical care nor safety. Many succumb to their injuries due to a critical lack of medical supplies and personnel.

The Israeli army has repeatedly attacked the barely functioning hospitals in the north. This led the UN special rapporteur on health, Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, to label Israel's actions as “medicide” on October 25. According to a

Ghada Ageel

recent UN report, Israel has engaged in a “concerted policy to destroy Gaza's healthcare system”, including “deliberate attacks on medical personnel and facilities” – actions constituting war crimes.

During the most recent Israeli assault on Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya, its remaining medical equipment, supplies, oxygen cylinders, generators and medicines were destroyed. Thirty healthcare workers, including Dr Mohamed Obeid, head of orthopaedic surgery at al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia, were detained while providing care at Kamal Adwan. An unknown number of patients and displaced civilians sheltering nearby were also detained. The Israeli army dismantled tents, stripped men of their clothing and transported them to undisclosed locations.

The hospital's director, Dr Hussam Abu Safiyeh, was interrogated and eventually released, only to discover that his teenage son had been executed. The haunting sound of his voice leading the Janazah prayer for his son pierces the soul and serves as a reminder of the brutal toll exacted by the occupation on Gaza's medical professionals and their families.

With few hospitals and schools able to provide safety, the remaining Palestinians are crowding into residential buildings. As a result, the indiscriminate Israeli bombardment of residential areas is taking a staggering human toll, sometimes erasing entire extended families.

As I write this, the Abu Safi home in northern Gaza has been struck, killing at least 10 members of the family and injuring many others. Those wounded and trapped beneath the rubble are calling out for help, but rescue teams are prevented from reaching them.

On October 29, the Abu Nasr family's multistorey home in Beit Lahiya, which had become a sanctuary for more than 100 displaced individuals from the same extended family along with the nearly 100 residents of the building, became the scene of a horrific massacre when Israel bombed it.

No ambulance or rescue crew was permitted to reach them, leaving neighbours — some wounded themselves — to dig through the rubble with their bare hands, clinging to the desperate hope of rescuing survivors. Of the more than 200 people sheltering there, only 15 survive, including 10 children, according to witnesses. More than 100 remain

under the rubble.

The Abu Nasr family was known for their generosity, always opening their doors to anyone in need and sharing the limited resources they had. After the massacre, a neighbour shared how the family had been supporting displaced families who had settled nearby with nothing for their children. Despite the severe shortages in the north and the ongoing siege, the family's grandmother offered them blankets, food and water, checking on them each day until that tragic day when they were targeted.

This mounting toll captures a genocide in real time in which lives are not merely lost but extinguished without a trace, each one irreplaceable in a web of relentless and interconnected loss.

While Israel is trying to erase Palestinian life in northern Gaza, it has not slowed down its genocidal assaults in the rest of the strip. Palestinians continue to face bombardment even in so-called safe zones.

My own family felt the anguish of this reality two weeks ago.

That day, just as I was preparing to leave for work, my son cried out, “Mom, mom, that's Aunt Majdiya on the news!” I rushed to the TV room, where the screen showed Majdiya — an enduring survivor of the 1948 Nakba — sitting beside the body of her daughter Suzan, 47, and clutching the lifeless form of her five-month-old great-grandson, Tamer. Family members encircled them.

The report relayed that Suzan and Tamer had been killed in a strike on Nuseirat camp, an attack that took at least 18 lives. Later, we learned that another of Suzan's grandchildren, four-year-old Nada, was also killed as she lay sleeping beside her. Majdiya is now mourning the sixth loss in her family. The sight of Suzan's still body and baby Tamer in Majdiya's arms, her face etched with grief, her hands trembling while she describes her loss, breaks the heart.

The silent sorrow of Suzan's children and siblings, gathered around the bodies, is unforgettable. The image of Bisan, Suzan's daughter-in-law and the mother of Tamer and Nada, taking the last photographs by mobile of her children's lifeless bodies is unbearably haunting. And then Suzan's 17-year-old son, clinging to his mother's body and pleading to be buried with her, a depth of sorrow that defies description.

Just a few months before her own death, Suzan had

suffered the painful loss of her eldest son, Tamer, a 29-year-old taxi driver who helped displaced people move from place to place. Tamer's son was born just a few days after his death and named after him. Baby Tamer lived for five months before being killed last week while sleeping next to his grandmother.

In search of safety, Suzan and her family had been forced to flee multiple times. First, they sought refuge with my brother-in-law in the Hay al-Amal neighbourhood of Khan Younis. When Hay al-Amal came under attack, they moved to al-Mawasi, but shelter was hard to find in the overcrowded area. Their next stop was Rafah and then back to Khan Younis when Rafah was destroyed.

Exhausted but resolute, Suzan declared, “If we are to die, then let it be in Nuseirat near our home. We will live there, or we will die there, but I will not die far from home.” So she and her family made the impossible journey from Khan Younis to Nuseirat camp, miraculously making it past Israeli forces blocking off the way between al-Zawaida and Nuseirat.

Perhaps Majdiya's only consolation in her unimaginable grief was that she was able to offer Suzan and her two great-grandchildren a dignified burial, wrapping them in white shrouds.

So many families, especially in the north, have been denied even the basic means for honouring their dead. Some have been forced to wrap their dead loved ones in blankets, others in plastic garbage bags.

This inability to provide loved ones a respectful farewell makes the pain and grief much more unbearable. This, of course, is an intentional erosion of dignity. The Israeli army appears to be following the words of retired General Giora Eiland, the author of the “General's Plan”, who said at a Knesset meeting: “What matters to [Hamas leader Yahya] Sinwar is land and dignity, and with this manoeuvre, you take away both land and dignity.”

This is the painful reality of Gaza — a reality hidden from global view, yet demanding urgent attention and action. While the world may be absorbed by the political drama in the US, Gaza faces systemic extermination, dehumanisation and brutality. To ignore this suffering is to be complicit in the erasure of a people and their history. Palestinian people will neither forget nor forgive.

— *Aljazeera*

World leaders heading to major summits are wary of Trump

Simone McCarthy

As leaders from across the world gather for two major summits in the coming days, the uncertainty brought by Donald Trump's impending return to the White House is expected to loom large.

Many will be grappling with what Trump's “America First” agenda will mean for the global economy and the grinding conflicts in Europe and the Middle East.

China, perhaps more than most countries, will be bracing for fractious relations ahead with the United States. But for Chinese leader Xi Jinping, the upcoming gatherings provide an opportunity in the wake of Trump's election victory to advance Beijing's own objectives: driving a wedge between the US and its allies and presenting China as an alternative, stable leader.

How well Beijing makes its case at the APEC summit of 21 Asia-Pacific economies in Peru this week, followed by a meeting of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies in Brazil next week could be critical to China weathering the anticipated coming storm.

In his first term, Trump unleashed a trade and tech war with China and reframed the rising power as an American rival — a path largely followed by his successor Joe Biden, who further irked Beijing by bringing US allies and partners along on his China policy.

And with Trump's second term raising the threat of further heavy tariffs and uncertainty, Xi and his delegation will be carefully calibrating their diplomacy at the two meetings.

President Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese are among the leaders also expected to attend both summits, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G20.

“It makes sense for Chinese officials to use these big events to try and shape some of the international narratives right now,” said Li Mingjiang, an associate professor of international relations at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. “Since there's not much time before January 2025.”

Driving the wedge Trump has proposed hitting all Chinese imports to the US with upwards of 60% tariffs and could deepen Biden-era policy constraining Beijing's access to sensitive high tech. He also appears to be looking to fill his cabinet with China hawks, asking Congressman Mike Waltz to be his national security adviser, according to CNN reporting, and Marco Rubio to join the administration as secretary of state.

Xi's congratulatory message to Trump last week appeared to show some of Beijing's concerns. The Chinese leader warned that the two countries “will both benefit from cooperation and lose from confrontation,” according to China's Foreign Ministry.

Xi may look to underscore that message during a final meeting with Biden that senior US officials said would take place Saturday in Lima. Beijing would use such a meeting to signal that it wants communication and stability in the relationship, observers say.

But as questions loom over how tense US-China ties could become, Beijing sees good relations with a wide range of other countries — and unrestricted access to their markets — as key to protecting its economy. That's especially as it grapples with slowing growth, weak consumer demand and high unemployment at home.

And in Beijing's eyes, global uncertainty about Trump creates an opening for it to chip away at what, under Biden, had been increasing coordination between the US and its allies in trade, security and other areas to counter the perceived threat from China.

Many of the leaders that worked alongside Biden will be watching warily how Trump, known for his erratic and transactional brand of diplomacy, may alter their relations when he starts his term in January.

The president-elect has threatened 10% tariffs on goods imported to the US from all countries, including close partners. He's called on US allies in Asia to pay more to host American troops — and said he would encourage Russia to do “whatever the hell they want” to any NATO member country that doesn't meet spending guidelines on defense.

“China wants to signal that it's not going to be very wise to completely side with the US — and to consider working with China as well,” said Liu Dongshu, an assistant professor of international affairs at the City University of Hong Kong.

Beijing has already taken steps to improve its relationships with America's key allies and partners in recent months, for example opening visa-free entry to China for citizens of multiple European countries and resuming a trilateral summit with Japan and South Korea.

Xi and another close US partner, Indian leader Modi, met for their first formal bilateral meeting in five years in October, after reaching an agreement on military disengagement along their contested border — a significant step to ease tensions.

Earlier this month,

Chinese Premier Li Qiang pledged to leaders and executives at a trade expo that China would open its market further to create “great global opportunities.”

A hard sell?

Xi and his delegation are likely to continue to telegraph such messages to US partners during the summit meetings in Lima and Rio de Janeiro, while also looking to project China as a leading power that's dedicated to global stability.

“For G20 and APEC, China's message will be ‘There is major uncertainty ahead, but China is the certainty and will remain committed to peace and development,’” said Yun Sun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center think tank in Washington.

Chinese leaders, however, will face an uphill struggle to win the trust of US partners across both Europe and Asia, observers say.

Regardless of any frictions with the future US president, those countries have watched with alarm as Xi has ramped up his aggression in the South China Sea and toward Taiwan, while backing Russian leader Vladimir Putin as he wages war on Ukraine.

Still, they may have no choice but to collaborate with China more, should Trump repeat decisions of his first term to retreat from organizations like the World Health Organization or international agreements like the Paris climate accord.

Such moves would also bolster Xi's long-standing aim to reshape the international liberal order he sees as unfairly skewed toward the US — and pitch China as its alternative leader. His vision has so far found most support in the Global South, where China's Belt and Road Initiative and other development efforts have already expanded Beijing's clout.

“If America is withdrawing from the global system, there is a space for someone else to step in — and China is one of the very few countries who both have some capacity and some intention to fill in that gap,” said Liu in Hong Kong.

China's capacity to do so, however, is linked to the strength of its economy — and how it copes with potential further pressure from the US, he added.

As such, Beijing may proceed with care both in its diplomacy in the days ahead and its broader international efforts, according to Sun in Washington.

“Beijing does worry about Trump's wrath and what he could do to damage China's interest on a bilateral level,” she said. “China will have to balance its advancement for global leadership with considerations of relations with the US, and to avoid poking Trump in the eye.”

New start or old patterns for the two largest economies?

ACCORDING to US media, the American people have elected Donald Trump as the 47th president of the United States, a momentous event that is significant for not only Americans but also the entire world. The role of the US in global affairs makes every presidential election a matter of great international interest.

As the leader of the world's largest economy with unparalleled military and diplomatic reach, the new US administration's policies and direction will reverberate far beyond the country's borders. One area where the impact of this election will be felt most acutely is the US-China relationship, which stands as the most consequential bilateral relationship of our time.

It is a fact that the Sino-US relationship has evolved into a complex rivalry that encompasses economic, technological, military and ideological dimensions. This is not a rivalry likely to fade any time soon, and it risks becoming a source of greater global division. At its core, this rivalry is rooted in differing visions of global leadership and national identity, with both

countries vying for influence on the world stage.

Hence, true change in this dynamic would require a major paradigm shift: a reassessment of the US' understanding of China's strategic intentions.

Much of the tension between the two major powers stems from a perception in Washington that China's rise poses a direct threat to the US' prosperity and the American way of life. This belief fuels a tendency toward defensive and adversarial policies, which only serve to heighten tensions.

Yet Trump should recognize that the inevitable renaissance of China does not have to be viewed through a lens of threat or antagonism. While China's economic and political influence continues to grow, it does not necessarily follow that this growth will come at the expense of the US or its global standing. In fact, it is not only possible but highly necessary for China's power to harmonize with the US' power for the sake of global stability and peace.

To navigate this evolving landscape, the new US administration must reconsider its approach to China. Viewing China's rise as an opportunity for cooperation

rather than as a zero-sum game is crucial. However, a reassessment of China's strategic intentions should begin with an acknowledgment of the peaceful nature of China's rise.

China's peaceful rise, coupled with its massive domestic market and growing technological prowess, can be seen as complementary to global growth rather than as a destabilizing force. The challenge for the US will be to change its mindset from one of containment and confrontation to one of engagement and partnership. By doing so, the US can help shape a future where both nations contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world. A critical step toward realizing this goal is through dialogue and diplomacy. Working with China to address common global challenges such as climate change and public health, and to maintain economic stability is essential. Both countries have an interest in addressing these issues, and cooperation in these areas could serve as a foundation for building trust and reducing tensions. Moreover, addressing the areas where US-China competition is most intense — such as technology and trade — requires a nuanced approach that balances national interests with the broader need for global stability. The risk of escalating rivalry between the US and China is real but not inevitable. While competition between the two major powers will likely persist, it does not have to devolve into outright conflict. The new US administration has the opportunity to take a bold step in reassessing its understanding of China's strategic intentions and in crafting a more forward-thinking and cooperative approach to managing the Sino-US relationship. In doing so, the administration can maximize the chances of a peaceful and prosperous future for all mankind. At this pivotal moment in history, the world is watching. How the US chooses to engage with China will have profound implications not only for the future of the two countries but also for the future of the global order. Now more than ever, the US must rise to the challenge of leadership by embracing diplomacy, fostering cooperation, and striving for a future where the rise of China does not signal the decline of the US but rather an opportunity for shared progress.

Over the past few decades, China has demonstrated a largely non-interference approach to foreign policy, focusing on internal development and economic growth rather than expansionist or imperialist ambitions. The Belt and Road Initiative is emblematic of China's

strategy to enhance its global influence through economic ties and infrastructure development rather than military might.

However, the rise of

David Gosset

Nonetheless, this moment in history presents an opportunity for the US to redefine what leadership means in a truly multipolar

world. The US can still demonstrate leadership by fostering a global order that prioritizes cooperation, diplomacy, and mutual respect, rather than one rooted in rivalry, conflict and a zero-sum game mindset.

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— *China Daily*



PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 836 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 836.47 points, a positive change of 0.90 percent, closing at 94,191.89 points as compared to 93,355.43 points on the last trading day.

A total of 1,084,344,207 shares were traded during the day as compared to 807,067,924 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs32.680 billion against Rs31.688 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 465 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 262 of them recorded gains and

147 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 56 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 177,393,273 shares at Rs1.38 per share, Hascol Petrol with 59,224,094 shares at Rs8.21 per share and Tree Battery Limited with 47,940,702 shares at Rs15.81 per share.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs299.00 per share price, closing at Rs7,900.00, whereas the runner-up was PIA Holding Company Limited with Rs68.74 rise in its per share

price to Rs899.98.

Pakistan Engineering Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs67.74 per share closing at Rs707.26 followed by Philip Morris (Pakistan) Limited with Rs37.45 decline to close at Rs790.22.

Rupee gains 11 paise against dollar: Pakistani rupee on Thursday appreciated by 11 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.85.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood

at Rs277.40 and Rs278.90 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.53 to close at Rs293.07 against the last day's closing of Rs294.60, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs1.78, whereas a decline of Rs1.42 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs352.43 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs353.85.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 03 paise each to close at Rs75.61 and Rs73.92, respectively.



FAISALABAD: A vendor displaying fish to attract customers at Novelty Bridge Fish Market.

Turkish envoy meets Industries Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu on Thursday met with the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and discussed bilateral relations and areas mutual interests.

Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the agricultural and industrial sectors, according to a news release.

Rana Tanveer highlighted the historic and brotherly relation between Pakistan and Turkiye, emphasizing the need to increase trade volume between the two countries.

He also invited Turkish companies to invest in Pakistan's electric vehicle manufacturing sector.

Both sides expressed their commitment to working together to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, MSC Positano, Mol Presence, Maersk Cairo, CMA CGM Pelleas, White Fin, Amir Gas and Crimson Delight scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, LPG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Sui Southern Gas Terminal and Multi-Purpose Terminal 3-4 respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile six more ships, GFS Ruby, Tolten, Golden Sun, Jag Aanchal, Al-Diab-II and Kouras Queen carrying Container, Palm oil, Gas oil, LPG and Coal are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Fourteen ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Positano, Mol Presence and Maersk Cairo are left the port on today morning, while five more ships, CMA CGM Pelleas, GFS Ruby, Amir Gas, Falmouth Bay and Nave Estella are expected to sail on today.

Cargo volume of 200,766 tonnes, comprising 137,778 tonnes of import cargo and 62,988 tonnes of export cargo carried in 5,809 Containers (2,478 TEUs Imports & 3,331 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

‘Pakistan can join leading economies’

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday expressed confidence that Pakistan could join the ranks of the world's leading economies by 2047 through the active participation of youth, especially women entrepreneurs.

“The country's progress and prosperity are closely linked with the development of youth and women entrepreneurs. Their active role and participation in national development can make it possible for Pakistan to join the world's top economies by 2047,” he said.

He made these remarks while addressing the fifth edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Conference titled “Mumkin Hai”(It is possible), organized by the National Incubation Centre at the National University

of Modern Languages (NUML) here.

The conference featured panel discussions on aligning entrepreneurial goals with the digital economy in Pakistan.

Addressing the participants, the minister assured that the recommendations made by experts at the conference would be “put into implementation” because the incumbent government believed that the future of the nation was in the hands of youth and women. “It is our job to make everything possible for them,” he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said the intellect and innovation of youth and women could help establish start-ups, introduce made-in-Pakistan products and effectively compete in international markets, contributing billions of dollars in revenue to the national exchequer.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government hoped that, in 23 years, when both Pakistan and India celebrate their 100th year of independence, Pakistan's youth would celebrate it with pride, without any excuses for lagging behind in development.

The minister highlighted the importance of continuity in policies, peace, stability and a continuous reform process to achieve the national goals of development and prosperity, citing examples of countries that made progress by ensuring at least a decade-long stability and consistency in their policies.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that Pakistan could no longer afford chaos and anarchy, emphasizing the need for greater unity and a peaceful environment to attain national progress.

Most Asian markets drop as traders weigh Fed

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Asian markets mostly fell Thursday as investors digested US inflation data that supported the case for another interest rate cut next month, while worries over the next Donald Trump administration continued to cloud optimism.

Bitcoin eased just below the \$90,000 level it broke for the first time Wednesday when it hit a record \$93,462, with observers expecting it to soon top \$100,000 following pro-crypto pledges from the US president-elect.

Wall Street provided a tepid lead after news that US consumer prices had picked up pace last month from September, which was in line with forecasts but highlighted the slow progress in bringing inflation under control. The figure lifted hopes that the Federal Reserve will cut rates again next month.

“This is a business-as-usual print for the Fed. Inflation is moving sideways on a year-on-year basis, but there is nothing in (the) report that would alarm the Fed,” said Bank of America Global Research in a report.

“A 25-basis-point cut in

December firmly remains our base case.”

Still, officials at the US central bank trod a careful road. Minneapolis Fed boss Neel Kashkari said: “Right now, I think that inflation is headed in the right direction. I’ve got confidence about that, but we need to wait.”

“We’ve got another month or six weeks of data to analyse before we make any decisions,” he said in an interview with Bloomberg Television.

His Dallas counterpart Lorie Logan added that she saw more reductions to borrowing costs but that the neutral level -- one which supports growth but keeps inflation in check -- was uncertain.

“I think it behoves us to proceed cautiously at this point,” she said.

Still, there are worries about the impact of Trump's plans to slash taxes, ease regulations and impose huge tariffs on imports -- particularly from China -- which observers say could reignite inflation.

Some players are now scaling back their bets on how many cuts the Fed will make in 2025 in response to that.

After Wall Street's flat

day, Asia struggled.

Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Mumbai, Taipei, Manila, Bangkok and Jakarta all fell, though Sydney, Seoul, Singapore and Wellington eked out gains.

The dollar built on advances against its peers on the prospect that Trump's policies will keep the Fed from cutting as much as initially expected.

The greenback topped 155 yen for the first time since July, putting focus on Japanese authorities who have said they are prepared to support their unit if they consider moves to be one-sided or speculative.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Iftexhar Ahmed Civil Judge XI Kohat. Suit no. 156/1 Date of hearing. 10-12-2024, Titled:- Matloob Hussain Vs Haider Raza(etc) Notice against:- (1)Haider Raza S/o Muhammad Rafiq R/o Ustriezi Bala District Kohat. presently R/o (now in Abroad) (Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you defendant in which date of hearing 10-12-2024 is fixed for your appearance. Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 10-12-2024 ?otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law. order issued on 07-11-2024 (Court of C.J. XI Kohat)

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Jawad Bin Dawood Civil Judge II. Alaga Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No. 347/1? Institution 16/11/2021. Date of hearing. 18/11/2024. Dawood VS Mian Hassan Shah. Notice to No.1/1. Hazrat Suleman 1/2.Mian Nuran Shah sons of Mian Hassan Shahresident of Balokhan thesel Gadezal district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned casethe mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 18/11/2024 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

PTA completes QoS surveys for fixed-line broadband services

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has successfully completed Quality of Service (QoS) surveys for fixed-line broadband services across 36 major cities in Pakistan, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

According to news release issued by the PTA here on Thursday these sur-

veys, conducted over the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2024, were designed to assess the network performance of Broadband Service Providers (BSPs) and ensure the delivery of high-quality internet services.

Survey results indicate that most BSPs comply with essential KPIs, including Network Availability, Network Latency, and

Jitter.

However, a notable number of BSPs were found to be underperforming in Bandwidth Utilization, a critical KPI that impacts user experience and can affect service quality during peak traffic hours. PTA has issued directives to these operators to take corrective action and improve their QoS.

The objective of PTA

with these surveys is to enhance fixed-line broadband quality and ensure a better internet experience for consumers nationwide. Detailed survey results for Q1 and Q2 of 2024 are available on PTA's website for public reference <https://www.pta.gov.pk/category/qos-survey-of-fixed-line-broadband-service-providers-2020-1403945254-2023-05-30>.

Chinese-invested solar project provides clean energy

BEIJING (INP): The 350kW rooftop photovoltaic (PV) project at Super Modern Cold Store in Lahore, supplied by CHINT Solar, has been successfully commissioned at full capacity.

This marks a significant milestone for CHINT Solar's clean energy solutions in Pakistan, contributing to the country's sustainable development goals while providing a reliable source of clean, efficient energy.

According to project manager Muhammad Yousof, once connected to the grid, the system is expected to generate approximately 498,225 kWh annually.

This will save about 200 tons of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 497 tons each

year, demonstrating substantial environmental benefits.

The project utilizes CHINT Solar's ASTRO N5 series modules, which incorporate the company's independently developed N-type TOPCon 4.0 battery technology. Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

This cutting-edge technology offers enhanced performance in terms of power output, temperature coefficient, low-light efficiency, and resistance to LID (Light Induced Degradation) and LETID (Light and Elevated Temperature Induced Degradation).

These features ensure long-term and stable energy generation, with a lifespan of about 30 years.

With Pakistan's average

annual temperature around 27°C and high summer electricity demand, the potential for solar power is immense.

For example, in Balochistan, a region with favorable sunlight conditions, a 1kW residential PV system can produce 1,990 kWh annually, outperforming solar output in cities like New Delhi and Shandong by 41% and 59%, respectively. However, in the past, the high cost and technological limitations of solar power have hindered its widespread adoption in Pakistan.

CHINT Solar has consistently recognized Pakistan's renewable energy potential and has proactively engaged with local stakeholders to understand the market's needs.

In addition to this project, CHINT Solar has held the Astronomy World Tour in Pakistan to discuss energy transformation with local partners, boosting the brand's visibility and influence.

This year, Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai, Hussain Haider, visited CHINT Solar's headquarters in Haining, leading to the signing of strategic cooperation agreements with two key Pakistani energy firms—Bahum Associates and Pantera Energy.

The successful completion of the Super Modern Cold Store rooftop PV project is a testament to CHINT Solar's commitment to expanding its footprint in Pakistan and contributing to the country's clean energy future.

China-Pak medical institutions sign MoU

KASHGAR (INP): Medical institutions from China and Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance bilateral cooperation in the health sector, focusing on medical services, research, and technology.

The agreement, facilitated by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Hospital Cooperation Alliance, aims to improve healthcare services, foster deeper exchanges in fields like liver echinococcosis treatment, medical imaging technology, and the transformation of research outcomes.

During the signing ceremony, representatives from the Kashgar Health Commission, along with officials from the First People's Hospital of Kashgar Prefecture and other local healthcare facilities, engaged in detailed discus-

sions with medical leaders from Pakistan's Gilgit Provincial Hospital, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

Key topics included international medicine, telemedicine, infectious disease control, artificial intelligence, big data applications, and the promotion of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

On the occasion, officials with the Kashgar Health Commission emphasized their commitment to advancing international telemedicine platforms, combining “smart hospital” initiatives with multilateral online consultation services.

The move aims to overcome geographical barriers and facilitate academic exchanges and personnel visits, furthering the goal of empowering healthcare systems along the Belt and Road.

Reon Energy and FrieslandCampina Engro sign solar partnership

F.P. Report

KARACHI: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited, a leader in Pakistan's dairy industry, has announced a 3.4 MW solar power project in a significant partnership with Reon Energy, a leading Intelligent Renewable Microgrids company, to strengthen sustainability across its operations.

The plant will be installed at FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan's manufacturing facility in Sahiwal. The system is designed to generate 5,013.6 MWh of clean energy annually, significantly reducing CO2 emissions by approximately 2,506 tonnes each year.

This initiative underscores FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan's dedication to environmental stewardship and represents a significant advancement in the dairy industry.

Irregular migration perpetuates human rights abuses including exploitation, trafficking & discrimination; NCHR launches report



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) has called for addressing root causes of migration through sector-specific programs and local development initiatives.

The recommendation was made in a study titled “Perilous Journeys: Unravelling Irregular Migration from Pakistan,” launched by NCHR in collaboration with International Organi-

sation on Migration (IOM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

The report calls for dedicated awareness units in smuggling-prone areas, awareness campaigns, special investigation units within districts, investment in training systems to enhance human capital development and fiscal benefits and improved coordination and data sharing

among the stakeholders.

The report also recommends clarity on responsibilities among law enforcement agencies, establishment of well-defined pathways for regular migration, inter-institutional coordination, poverty alleviation and literacy promotion among vulnerable communities, enhancing the prospects of safe, orderly and regular migration accommodation diverse skills and provision of incentives to retain high-skilled professionals in the country.

Speaking on this occasion, Chairperson NCHR, Rabiya Javeri Agha said that the Commission, through this report, aims to comprehensively examine the landscape of irregular migration originating from Pakistan. “It starkly underscores the perils associated with irregular migration, often facilitated by unscrupulous agents exploiting vulnerable individuals.”

Senator Quratulain Marri

appreciated the efforts of NCHR and said that “it is Imperative to view the issue of irregular migration with a humanitarian lens because it has a profoundly human cost.”

On behalf of IOM, Mr. Suhail Hussain said that The World Migration Report 2024, recently launched by IOM, highlights that 281 million people are international migrants. Today's report launch, brings to light the human stories behind irregular migration. It urges us to move beyond seeing migration only through a security lens and instead recognize the human rights at stake.

The report says that the primary driver of migration from Pakistan is economic opportunity, along with factors such as job availability, education access, social network influencing destination choices. It says that a significant portion of Pakistan's population expresses a desire to leave the country, particularly in

Urban areas.

In his closing remarks, the Honourable Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry commended the NCHR report on irregular migration for its in-depth insights, he said that “while a legal framework exists, cohesive and targeted efforts are essential for effective implementation. This report provides a valuable foundation to strengthen action against irregular migration and protect vulnerable communities.”

The report mentions that Pakistani authorities, while noting the complexity in measuring irregular migration, have highlighted a new route via Dubai to Egypt or Libya leading to Europe. In the first half of 2023, around 13,000 left Pakistan for Libya or Egypt. Notably, about 10,000 of these migrants have not returned.

The report further states that in 2022, Pakistan was not even among Europe's top ten countries

for migration. “However, by mid-2023, it became the tenth most prominent, with arrivals reaching 8778 December. This surge reflects factors such as political and economic uncertainty, terrorist attacks, inflation, and declining education and job opportunities. Furthermore, the devastating floods in 2023 worsened economic prospects, with forecasts predicting a slowdown to 2.8% growth,” says report.

It recommends that efforts to address irregular migration requires a multifaceted approach involving collaboration among government agencies, civil society organisations, and international stakeholders. It says that by addressing the underlying factors driving migration and ensuring the protection of migrants' rights, policy makers can work towards creating a more secure and prosperous future for individuals and communities affected by irregular migration.



Maxwell sets up Australia win in seven-over thrash

B R I S B A N E (ESPNCricinfo): It was a shortened game at the Gabba, and Australia made short work of it. After persistent rain and lightning delayed the start by nearly three hours and reduced the game to a seven-over shootout, Australia inflicted a crushing 29-run defeat upon Pakistan. Glenn Maxwell, who struggled in the preceding ODI series, blasted his way through the innings with 43 off 19, before Pakistan slumped to 24 for six in the first four overs before finishing with 64 for nine.

Mohammad Rizwan called correctly at the toss and unsurprisingly put Australia in. But the hosts had a clarity of purpose from the outset, looking to

hit a boundary off every ball, aware that wickets didn't really matter as much. Shaheen Shah Afridi was plundered for 16 off his first over to set the tone, and though Haris Rauf's tight first over had Maxwell flailing, the tide would turn soon.

Maxwell deployed the reverse slog expertly, using the bowlers' pace to get his shots away. Afridi was spectacularly dismissed over third man for six, before he ripped into Rauf, his ODI tormentor, smashing 19 off his second over. When he holed out to Abbas Afridi, Tim David and Marcus Stoinis picked up the baton, with Stoinis' 20 off Naseem in the final over seeing Australia surge to 93.

Pakistan began the innings with Sahibzada Farhan biffing two boundaries off the first two balls, but that's as good as the chase got for the visitors. Spencer Johnson got him two balls later.

It began a remarkable passage of play where five wickets fell in 12 balls for eight runs. Mohammad Rizwan sliced Xavier Bartlett to backward point for a duck, and Usman Khan sent one down deep third man's throat later in the over.

Babar Azam - who came in at number three - miscued a half-volley down to long-off off Nathan Ellis' first ball, with Irfan Khan joining him two balls later. When Salman Ali Agha, debutant and vice-captain,

skied one off Ellis, Pakistan were staring down the barrel of an enormous defeat, despite the heavily curtailed nature of the game.

But Pakistan managed to restore some respectability to the scoreline in the final three overs, primarily when Haseebullah Khan and Abbas managed 18 off the fifth over. Wickets would continue to fall, though, with Ellis snaring Haseebullah for his third wicket.

When Adam Zampa came in to bowl the final over, Shaheen managed to smear one over long-on for six, but in an innings characterised by clumps of wickets falling quickly, that Zampa signed off with consecutive wickets of his final two balls was a fitting end.



BRISBANE: Glenn Maxwell plays a reverse shot during the first T20 international against Pakistan.

India denies permission to its Kabaddi team to tour Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indian government has denied permission to its Kabaddi team to participate in a series of friendly matches scheduled to be held in Pakistan, Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF) said on Thursday.

Talking to APP, the secretary of PKF Muhammad Sarwar Rana expressed disappointment over India's decision to cancel its Kabaddi team's tour to

Pakistan. "Our counterparts in India have conveyed inability to send their team to Pakistan. We regret this decision, as we had eagerly anticipated hosting them here," he said.

The Indian team was set to play against Pakistan at Kartarpur on November 19, followed by matches in Lahore on November 21 and Bahawalpur on November 23.

According to Rana, fol-

lowing this setback, the PKF is planning to arrange some alternative exhibition matches.

The move comes after India's refusal to participate in the ICC Champions, scheduled to take place in Pakistan early next year.

India's blind cricket team is also facing similar challenge as it awaits final government approval to participate in the upcoming

4th edition of the T20 World Cup, scheduled to run from November 23 to December 3 in Lahore and Multan.

According to media reports, despite securing a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the sports ministry, the Indian blind team has yet to receive final approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs.

Ranieri ends retirement to become Roma manager



ROME (BBC): Claudio Ranieri has been appointed head coach of Roma until the end of the season - six months after announcing his retirement.

Ranieri has also taken on a role advising the Italian club's owners and will help in the search for a permanent manager.

At the end of the season the 73-year-old will "transition into a senior executive role", the club said.

Ranieri, who has managed his hometown club twice before including a temporary stint in 2019, retired in May after guiding Cagliari to survival.

His appointment comes after the sacking of Ivan Juric on Sunday.

Croatian Juric lasted just 12 matches after replacing Daniele de Rossi four games into this season. Former Italy midfielder De Rossi was manager for

eight months following the departure of Jose Mourinho in January.

Ranieri has coached 18 clubs during his 37-year managerial career, as well as the Greece national team.

The crowning achievement of his career was the Premier League title he won with Leicester City in 2015-16.

Roma were linked with former Manchester City

manager Roberto Mancini, who recently left his position as Saudi Arabia head coach.

Despite spending more than £80m during the summer transfer window, Roma are 12th in Serie A with 13 points after 12 games, and are 20th in the Europa League table with five points after four matches.

Roma's next Serie A match is at Napoli on 24 November.

Paul tries to goad Tyson at baffling news conference



NEW YORK (BBC): Mike Tyson spoke just a few words, Jake Paul made crude references and Briton Tony Bellew was escorted out of the arena by security at a baffling news conference in Texas.

Former world heavyweight champion Tyson, 58, will face YouTuber-turned-fighter Paul, 27, at Dallas' AT&T Stadium on Friday.

Tyson has not fought as a professional in 19 years and appeared disinterested as Paul dominated the microphone.

Paul tried to goad Tyson by asking him about comments made in a documentary where the former champion described himself as "natural born killer".

Tyson refused to play ball. "That's what I said," he replied.

Perhaps the most bizarre moment at Wednesday's event at the Toyota Music Factory in Irving came when Liverpool's Bellew inaudibly shouted into a

microphone - which he had brought along - from the press area.

The chaos was quite fitting for an event criticised by many boxing purists, but it was given some credibility by the presence of pound-for-pound greats Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano.

Light-welterweight champion Taylor edged her rival to win by split decision in an all-time classic in 2022. The pair - who will compete for the undisputed title in the chief support - conducted themselves appropriately to build up to the richest fight in female boxing.

About 70,000 fans are expected on Friday in a fight which will be streamed live on Netflix, and a healthy crowd of more than 1,000 - mostly Tyson fans - attended the news conference.

There were jeers for Ohio's Paul, who wore a diamond spiked ear cover and referenced the infa-

mous title fight where Tyson bit a chunk out of Evander Holyfield's ear in 1997.

When Paul called his opponent's comments "cute", Tyson was either not listening or chose to ignore him. One of the most controversial and volatile figures in sporting history having been undisputed champion and served three years in prison for rape, Tyson became animated when a reporter asked him about potentially being defeated by Paul. "I am not going to lose, did you hear what I said?" he shouted.

BBC Sport caught up with former cruiserweight champion Bellew as he was ushered out by a few men dressed in black.

Bellew, in what appeared to be a stunt for a betting company, was joined by an older man.

"He's the champion of the care home. [Jake] is fighting a grandfather so why not fight a great-grandfather who has had two new

hips and is 106," he said.

After Bellew's ejection, the news conference quickly turned into a one-man show.

Paul - who has mainly fought ex-UFC stars in an 11-bout career - cursed at a journalist who asked him when he would face "a real fighter".

Promoter Eddie Hearn, who said he plans to leave before the main event, was also in the firing line with Paul calling him a "clout chaser". All fighters on the undercard were asked to predict the outcome of Tyson-Paul. An offended Paul approached all those who went against him and asked them how much they wanted to bet.

The range went from Paul's purse - rumoured to be \$40m (£31m) - to \$20.

Rather surprisingly, the obligatory face-to-face between Tyson and Paul ended without any drama, but there was already enough of that in the hour and half that preceded it.

Suleman, Zaryab propel Pakistan Shaheens to 7-wicket win

RAWALPINDI (APP): A 158-run third wicket partnership between Mohammad Suleman and Ali Zaryab helped Pakistan Shaheens defeat Sri Lanka 'A' by seven wickets on the fourth and final day at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Suleman was dismissed after scoring 86, while Ali returned unbeaten on 83 as Pakistan Shaheens achieved the 222-run target in 53 overs.

Earlier, Test fast bowler Khurram Shahzad picked up the last Sri Lanka wicket on the fourth ball of the day without any addition to the overnight score of 364 to finish with impressive figures of five for 70 and match figures of nine wickets for 102 runs.

Suleman and Ali had joined hands after Pakistan

Shaheens slipped to 32 for two following the departures of Mohammad Hurraira (9) and Abdul Faseeh (22). When Suleman departed at the score of 190 after hitting 11 fours in a 129-ball knock with Shaheens requiring 32 runs for victory, Haider Ali belted two sixes and a four in a rapid 14-ball 19 not out.

Ali returned 83 not out from 125 balls with 11 hits to the fence. The highly-rated batter had scored 55 in Pakistan Shaheen's 258 in response to Sri Lanka 'A' 115.

While Suleman and Ali took the second innings honours, Test fast bowler Khurram Shahzad was in sparkling form throughout the match. In his third competitive match since returning from injury after suc-

cessful completion of his rehabilitation at the National Cricket Stadium, the fast bowler returned figures of 10.1-3-32-4 and 25.4-4-70-5.

Khurram's fellow new ball partner, Kashif Ali, also had a good match, recording figures of five for 31 and two for 79.

The second and last four-day match will commence at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on November 18.

Scores in brief (day 4 of 4):

Pakistan Shaheens beat Sri Lanka 'A' by seven wickets

Sri Lanka 'A' 115 all out, 33.1 overs (Sonal Dinusha 30, Pasindu Sooriyabandara 28; Kashif Ali 5-31, Khurram Shahzad 4-32) and 364 all out, 96.4 overs (Wanuja

Sahan 73, Pasindu Sooriyabandara 64, Sonal Dinusha 62, Pavan Rathnayake 60, Ahan Wickramasinghe 53, Nipun Dhannanjaya 28; Khurram Shahzad 5-70, Mohammad Suleman 2-21, Kashif Ali 2-79)

Pakistan Shaheens 258 all out, 82.1 overs (Hussain Talat 56, Rohail Nazir 55, Ali Zaryab 55, Abdul Faseeh 26, Mohammad Suleman 24; Vishwa Fernando 4-44, Isitha Wijesundara 2-49, Nisala Tharaka 2-57) and 222-3, 53 overs (Mohammad Suleman 86, Ali Zaryab 83 not out, Abdul Faseeh 22, Haider Ali 19 not out)

Player of the match - Ali Zaryab (Pakistan Shaheens)

Next match: 18-21 (2nd four-day, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium)

Does Kane's criticism expose England cracks?

LONDON (BBC): England captain Harry Kane's diplomacy skills are almost as carefully crafted to the point of perfection as the marksmanship that has made him his country's all-time record goalscorer.

So when Kane diverted from his trademark non-controversial messaging to deliver what amounted to a very public slap down on England team-mates for missing the forthcoming Uefa Nations League games against Greece and the Republic of Ireland, it was a moment of wide significance.

This final England camp under interim manager Lee Carsley before new coach Thomas Tuchel takes charge on 1 January has been chaotic even before a ball is kicked here in Athens, with eight players withdrawing from the original 26-man squad.

Even one of those replacements, Everton defender Jarrad Branthwaite, did not make it on to the plane to Greece before he was forced to return to his club for injury treatment.

One of the characteristics of Gareth Southgate's eight years as England manager was his restoration of the joy of representing the country, a basic willingness to turn up - something Kane's harsh words for the no-shows suggested was already in danger of being lost.

Kane told ITV: "I think the joy to play for England - he [Southgate] brought that back. Every camp people were excited and wanted to play for England.

"That is the most important thing, England comes before anything. It comes before club. It is the most important thing you play for as a professional footballer. Gareth was hot on that and not afraid to make decisions if that started to drift from certain players.

"It's a shame this week. It's a tough period of the season and maybe it's been taken advantage of a little bit. I don't really like it, if I'm totally honest. I think England comes before any club situation."

Here, Kane makes the assumption that every player - perhaps more pertinently every club - shares this unwavering commitment to England as the top priority above all else. This may not be so. Indeed, it may be some blue-sky thinking from a player, no matter how brilliant, who has not won a trophy in his career for club or country.

This isn't the first time Kane has gone on the front foot to the media, having spoken up against team criticism from pundits during Euro 2024.

But this is the first time he has criticised his own team-mates.

The mood around England seems increasingly gripped by a sense of drift, a holding operation with Carsley as the front man while Tuchel strangely waits in the wings before taking charge. The Football Association (FA) has led England, and as a result Carsley, into a situation where it looks like they are treading water until the new man takes office.

Increasingly questions

are being asked as to why Tuchel is not starting his role here in Greece, and why he is not even in Athens casting his eye over the players the FA hopes he will guide to World Cup glory in 2026, as his 18-month contract suggests is the sole objective of his appointment.

Carsley has been quick to play down Kane's words, insisting there was no rift between club or country. He also pointed to November always being a "challenging" month for injuries.

It should also be stated that those missing will insist they are absent for genuine reasons. Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold lasted only 25 minutes of the 2-0 win against Aston Villa before going off with a hamstring injury. Arsenal's Declan Rice could only play 71 minutes of the draw at Chelsea with an already broken toe, while Bukayo Saka also went off injured. It is impossible to think any of those players would not want to have completed such important games.

Chelsea's Cole Palmer was an injury doubt before the game at Stamford Bridge but played the full match, while Manchester City's Jack Grealish eventually pulled out after being included - much to manager Pep Guardiola's obvious irritation - despite missing seven games through injury.

Southampton goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale reportedly fractured his finger at Wolverhampton Wanderers, while reasons for the withdrawals of Chelsea defend-

er Levi Colwill and Manchester City's Phil Foden are unknown, although they both played 90 minutes at the weekend.

It will be intriguing to see how Kane's words, which are sure to be interpreted as a thinly-veiled suggestion of some lead-swinging, are received by those who are in his crosshairs.

One of Southgate's other big qualities was an ability to foster a fierce sense of unity in England's squad, not something that will be helped by suggestions from the captain that some may be more interested in club than country.

A sub-plot is also clear. Would some of those players not here in Athens have been more minded to report had this been Tuchel's first game in charge as opposed to the dying embers of the Carsley interim regime?

It also adds to the sense that the games in Greece on Thursday and against the Republic of Ireland on Sunday do not carry meaning. Tuchel's willingness to simply take a watching brief from elsewhere only adds fuel to that fire.

There is some significance to the results, though.

If England beat Greece and then finish top of their Uefa Nations League group, Tuchel's opening matches in March will be either World Cup qualifiers or friendlies, depending on the size of their qualifying group. If they finish second, England will instead face a two-leg play-off and a potential return to the top tier of the Uefa Nations League.



In brief

DIG hold meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Syed Ali Raza held a meeting with Islamabad Police investigation officers on Thursday and issued directives to the officers to ensure the arrest of missing members of criminal gangs and to compile data of accused released in property cases over the past three months. A police spokesperson told APP on Thursday that DIG Raza has directed that the released accused in property cases should be monitored, and if they commit any other crime, they should be immediately arrested. DIG also directed, to ensure the arrests of accused involved in car and motorcycle thefts, and also ensure the arrest of wanted absconders and proclaimed offenders. Effective investigation of cases, timely submission of challan, and effective prosecution can ensure the conviction of accused, DIG Raza said and added that the working reports of investigation officers should be made to assess their performance. Ali Raza emphasized that the protection of citizens' lives and property is our top priority, and any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

109,300 cusecs water released

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 109,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 54,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1513.18 feet and was 115.18 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,400 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1172.30 feet, which was 122.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 5,000 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 65,200, 47,300, 38,500 and 4,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 13,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

World Diabetes Day organized

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, experts stressed the importance of early diagnosis, effective management and lifestyle changes to combat diabetes and urged policymakers to make diabetes care more affordable. Renowned General Physician Professor Dr. Javed Akram in an exclusive interview with a private news channel expressed deep concern over the growing epidemic of diabetes in Pakistan. He warned that diabetes is a silent killer that can damage kidneys and other vital organs. However, he said this debilitating disease can be controlled by a 35-minute walk, a healthy weight, a balanced diet and an active lifestyle. Maintain healthy blood sugar levels, balance carbohydrate intake and physical activity and monitor blood pressure and cholesterol, he added. Additionally, every 1 kg weight loss reduces diabetes risk by 16%, and physical activity reduces diabetes risk by 30%. Consult healthcare professionals and join diabetes support groups for guidance, he mentioned.

Pak-Lebanon shares historical relations: Rana Mashhood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Thursday expressed hope that peace would be restored soon in Lebanon.

During a meeting with the Lebanese Ambassador Ghassan El Khatib to discuss various initiatives and collaborations aimed at empowering the youth of both countries, he said that Pakistan and Lebanon shared a history of friendly and cooperative relations rooted in shared cultural and religious values.

He emphasized his longstanding commitment to

youth affairs, having served in this domain since 2002. He added that though Lebanon was currently experiencing a difficult period, the miseries of the Lebanese people would soon be resolved.

Mashhood said that Pakistan attaches special importance to Lebanon and that both countries enjoy excellent cooperation at various multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the OIC.

Lebanese Ambassador Ghassan El Khatib expressed his admiration for Pakistan's cooperation and said that Pakistan always expressed solidarity

with its Muslim brethren country.

Moreover, Khatib expressed a keen interest in enhancing cooperation in different sectors highlighting the importance of collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme to implement strategic initiatives.

The meeting concluded with both leaders expressing optimism about future collaborations that would foster closer ties between Lebanon and Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by key officials including the focal Person for PMYP's international relations Syeda Aamna Batool.

Pakistan rallies for food security on World Food Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan observed World Food Day 2024 with a major event at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) here Thursday, where leaders highlighted the country's dedication to ensuring access to safe and nutritious food.

The event was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) along with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), in partnership with Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR).

Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain attended as the chief guest, along with Mohamed Yahya, the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, and Florence Rolle, FAO Representative in Pakistan.

The participants included high-ranking government officials, representatives from academia, research bodies, UN agencies and students from various schools and universities.

Federal Minister Rana

Tanveer Hussain emphasized the government's priority to improve food security and collaborate with global organizations.

He assured that Pakistan is fully committed to supporting initiatives that address hunger, poverty, and climate issues through strong food policies. He said, "Our goal is to ensure every citizen has access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food." The minister reiterated Pakistan's dedication to working with both national and international organizations to advance food security for all.

UN Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya stressed the day's theme of food as a fundamental human right, saying it is crucial for survival, health, and dignity. He pointed out that 40 percent of Pakistan's population currently faces food insecurity, calling for immediate actions to address the issue.

Yahya also mentioned the potential of students, who make up over 60 percent of Pakistan's population, to drive significant change in the country's food security landscape.

Florence Rolle, FAO's Representative in Pakistan,

emphasized the need for sustainable practices, joint policies, and active community involvement to build a stronger food system. She noted that 783 million people around the world are struggling with food insecurity, underscoring the value of events like World Food Day in promoting collaboration and awareness. "We must work together to create a future where everyone has enough food," Rolle said.

The nationwide World Food Day campaign in Pakistan concluded with an event to promote food security and sustainable agricultural practices.

Students, local farmers, and community members participated in activities such as awareness walks, interactive sessions, and food-related competitions, aiming to foster partnerships among government agencies, the private sector, and communities.

The event highlighted the importance of a multi-sector approach in tackling food security issues. It called for policies that protect food rights, promote fair resource distribution, and provide support for vulnerable communities.

RWU holds 3rd Int'l Conference of Sciences

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Women University organized the 3rd International Conference of Sciences titled "Revamped Scientific Outlook of 21st Century-2024".

The conference was attended by academia, researchers, experts, faculty, students and civil society members from diverse scientific fields, including Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, IT, Mathematics, Statistics and Zoology to present their research on modern scientific issues and solutions.

Various sessions and panel discussions featured research papers and presentations, where new scientific ideas and solutions were explored. Researchers, including the international academia, shared their findings and experiences, contributing valuable insights to modern scientific inquiries.

Speaking on the occasion, experts stressed that academic research plays an important role in technological development and reshaping human behaviour.

Executive Director, Higher Education Commission, Dr. Zia-ul-Qayyum during his address on the second and

final day of the conference observed a gap between the academia and the policymakers and underlined the need for policy-driven research. He highlighted that 30% of HEC's National Research Program funds were being awarded to basic level research, whereas 70% of the funds were fixed for applied research.

Vice Chancellor GC University Faisalabad, Dr. Rauf-i-Azam in his address highlighted the importance of computing in data compiling and analysis in the research. He said that scientific collaboration and diplomacy have also served societies better. Giving examples of International Space Station and Global Climate Initiative, Dr. Rauf highlighted the role of collective scientific research in transcending borders and political divides.

"Science has a unique ability to unite us as we have experienced during COVID-19, scientists and researchers across the world collectively put their effort into vaccine research, data sharing and public health strategies", he said and added that the science has advanced knowledge and also fostered solidarity and peace

in the societies.

He urged the researchers to collectively counter the challenges of harnessing the revamped science outlook.

In her welcoming remarks, Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal shed light on the contribution of the Rawalpindi Women University in providing a platform for the academia and the students to explore innovative ideas in the field of research and development.

She said that empowered women would enhance the quality and quantity of the human resources available for development.

The VC RWU said that the university invited brilliant minds to share knowledge, exchange ideas and explore innovative solutions to pressing global challenges.

Dr. Anila further highlighted that the theme of the conference resonated deeply with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by bringing together experts from diverse fields for interdisciplinary collaboration.

In the closing ceremony, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed and VC National Skills University, congratulated the organizers on the event's success.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communication, Privatisation and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan presiding over a meeting of NHA.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal delivering a keynote address at WECON2024 Conference at NUST.

Ayaz urges govt, media to work together

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday called the government, civil society, and media to work together in raising awareness and educating the public about diabetes.

In a message on World Diabetes Day, Sadiq said alarming rise in diabetes rates worldwide, including in Pakistan, is a matter of great concern.

He emphasized the primary reason for the spread of diabetes is lack of awareness among the public. Raising awareness and educating people on diabetes prevention and its adverse effects on health is essential, he added.

Sadiq highlighted that the widespread consumption of unhealthy foods and lack of physical activity are accelerating the spread of diabetes.

He stressed that timely medical check-ups and precautionary measures are crucial to avoid the negative impacts of diabetes.

"By adopting a healthy lifestyle and timely treatment, individuals with diabetes can lead fulfilling lives," the Speaker said.

He advised that balanced diet and regular physical activities should be a part of daily routine. Regular medical examinations are necessary to prevent the harmful effects of diabetes.

Through preventive measures and awareness campaigns, the spread of this disease can be curtailed, he said.

Action against NHA corrupt officers, staff

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has directed for strict action without discrimination against corrupt officers and staff of National Highway Authority (NHA). Abdul Aleem Khan chaired a session where federal secretary communication and NHA chairman briefed the federal minister about the departmental affairs.

During the session, projects related to construction of highways for Bela to Awaran and Zhob to Loralai were considered.

NHA's under construction projects across four provinces were reviewed and directed to accelerate the progress on the projects.

Matter pertaining to corrupt officers in the NHA was discussed and the federal minister for communications gave a deadline of one week to the NHA chairman for strict action against corrupt officers.

Abdul Aleem Khan directed NHA chairman for operation 'clean-up' on a large level in the authority saying officers involved in corruption must be sacked and no would be given leniency.

Federal minister instructed that Lahore, Sialkot, and Kharian to Islamabad motorway must be constructed of six lanes instead of four. He stressed that highly qualified and honest officers must be appointed.

Aleem Khan also called for swift action on projects related to removal of barriers from motorways and establishment of electronic toll plazas.

It was suggested that provinces could also cooperate with NHA for construction of new roads and highways.

Over 600 suspects nabbed in PS Noon's anti-crime drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police's Noon Police Station teams have carried out an extensive crackdown against criminal elements in the federal capital over the past 10 months to maintain peace and security.

A police spokesman told APP on Thursday that during this period, the Noon police teams arrested a total of 626 accused involved in various criminal activities and recovered cash and valuables worth over Rs 23.5 million from their possession.

He said as part of the

ongoing "Nasha Ab Nahi" movement in the federal capital, Noon police teams arrested 54 drug dealers and seized 22-kilogram hashish, 06 kilogram of heroin, 345 gram of ice and 306 liters of liquor from their possession.

Additionally, Noon police teams also conducted extensive operations against those possessing illegal arms and arrested 99 accused and recovered 13 rifles, 81 pistols and 696 rounds of ammunition from their possession.

Moreover, 47 cars and bikes were also recovered

from vehicle lifters.

DIG Ali Raza emphasized that the Islamabad Police are utilizing all available resources to eliminate drug dealers and criminal elements from the federal capital.

DIG also added that those involved in the heinous crimes of drug and alcohol trafficking would be brought to justice.

Citizens are urged to report drug peddlers, suspicious individuals, or activities to their respective police stations or the emergency helpline "Pukar-15".

Kashmiri folk tunes and heritage enliven Lok Mela

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Azad Kashmir Department of Culture held a captivating music concert at Lok Virsa's Open Air Theatre on Thursday, showcasing Kashmiri folk tunes that resonated through the evening.

The event, as a part of Lok Mela, featured performances by renowned folk artists from Azad Kashmir, including Badr Khan, Altaf Ahmed Mir, Ashiq Butt, Sohail Abbasi, Dilawar Abbas, Hina Abbasi, Shakeel Ahmed Mir, Nader Ali, Sajjad Shah, Babar Panjkoti, Bano Rahmat, Abdul Basit, Noman Saleem, and Raja Anwar.

Lok Mela 2024 has provided a platform for celebrating the diverse cultural heritage of Pakistan's provinces.

Kashmir's vibrant traditions displayed today drew significant attention.

Alongside musical performances, the festival highlighted Kashmir's handicrafts, rituals, and traditional skills.

Over 25 artisans and artists from Azad Jammu and Kashmir showcased their talents, representing the region's deep-rooted cultural heritage.

Among the standout artisans was Zulfiqar Ghazi, celebrated for his mastery in Kashmiri papier-mâché and miniature art.

His creations also span stained glass, fabric design, and traditional furniture painting, often featuring motifs inspired by nature, animals, and Mughal emperors. With his commitment to pre-

serving the Mughal artistic legacy, Ghazi has represented his craft both nationally and internationally, earning recognition and awards.

Ghulam Nabi, a skilled woodcarver originally from Kashmir Valley, has brought his ancestral craft to Pakistan, where he now teaches wood carving to young students.

His work, along with that of Irfan Ghulam Nabi, whose intricate wood carvings on walnut, cedar, and shesam were a festival highlight, showcasing the exceptional skill and artistry of Kashmiri artisans.

Lok Mela will continue at Lok Virsa till November 17, offering visitors a chance to experience Kashmir's rich cultural heritage firsthand.

Police arrest 5 drug dealers with 8 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police have arrested five drug dealers and recovered 1100 grams heroin, seven kg charras and other items from their possession, said a police spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that Naseerabad, R.A.Bazaar, Wahn Cantt, Taxila and Gujar Khan police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and arrested Faisal with 1100 grams heroin, Toqeer for having 3500 grams charras, Shahbaz for carrying 1620

grams charras, Ayaz with 1240 grams charras and Habib for having 580 grams charras.

Separate cases have been registered against all the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

Police bust street criminal gang; arrest two

Police have busted a street criminal and bike-lifting gang by arresting two members of the gang allegedly involved in street and other crimes and recovered cash of Rs 10,000, eight stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Morgah police held two street criminals namely, Saim alias Shama and Haider and recovered Rs 10,000, eight stolen motorcycles, and other items.

A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process.

Superintendent Police, Potohar Nasir Nawaz said that police are making efforts to net other members of the gang.

AIOU to hold convocation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will hold its Sindh chapter convocation on November 17 in Karachi as part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations.

According to AIOU, Federal Minister for Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui will grace the event as chief guest.

Heads of educational institutions across Sindh, prominent journalists, and notable political and social figures will attend the event.

Degrees and gold medals will be awarded to graduates of AIOU from Fall 2004 to Spring 2022 semesters belonging to Sindh Province. Students'

families are also invited to join them.

Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood will distribute gold medals and degrees among the students.

It is to be mentioned here that Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has designated 2024 as the Golden Jubilee year of AIOU and decided to hold events throughout the year.

To facilitate students, Dr. Nasir has directed to hold convocation chapter-wise in all four provinces and the federal capital, Islamabad.

The Islamabad chapter's convocation was held on January 31.

Police return lost cash to its owner

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Motorway Police demonstrated exceptional honesty by returning lost cash to its owner at M5.

Rs847,000 cash was found at the Jalalpur Interchange restroom, left behind by a citizen traveling from Rahim Yar Khan to Multan. Upon receiving the report of the missing bag via helpline 130, patrol officers promptly located the bag and returned it to the owner.

The grateful citizen praised the Motorway Police's integrity, calling it exemplary. Additional IG Ali Ahmed Sabir Kayani commended the patrol officers for their dedication and honesty.

ANDMA signs agreement

KABUL (BNA): Alhaj Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, Acting Director of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, signed a cooperation agreement with Cora Bitting, Head of GP Organization, and Mohammad Abed Tayyib, the organization's Communications Officer. During the meeting, Mullah Turabi emphasized that aid organizations should increase their assistance as winter approaches and consistently deliver aid to affected families to ensure timely support.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 12 1446 — Friday, November 15, 2024

2m migrants return home

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United States Agency for International Development released a report stating that over the past year, 2.2 million Afghan migrants have returned to Afghanistan from Iran and Pakistan. USAID, quoting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, reported that these returnees arrived between August 15, 2023, and September 2024. According to the report, 734,817 Afghan migrants returned from Pakistan alone.

Ministry of Education builds 125 schools and 38 *madrasas* in 6 months

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Education has built 125 schools and over 30 *madrasas* across the country in the first six months of this year.

Mansoor Ahmad Hamza, spokesperson for the Ministry of Education, stated that these schools and *madrasas* were constructed with financial support from charitable organizations and national businessmen, amounting to over 1.224 billion Afghanis.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Education said about the construction of these schools: "At a cost of

1.224 billion and 233 thousand Afghanis, approximately 125 schools and 38 *madrasas* have been constructed and are now operational."

Mansoor Ahmad Hamza added that nearly 11 million students across the country are currently engaged in education.

Regarding the number of students in the country, the Ministry of Education spokesperson said, "Currently, 10 million 914 thousand and 38 students are studying in Emirate and private schools throughout the country."

Shir Agha Rohani, a uni-

versity professor, commented, "Schools are the foundation of a country's development and progress, relying on the strength of its education system. If the education sector stands strong, the country will stand strong in every way."

According to officials at the Ministry of Education, projects valued at 200 million Afghanis have been implemented to build boundary walls, establish electrical systems, dig wells for drinking water, and provide additional facilities for students nationwide.

Taliban publicly lash 11 people

JALALABAD (Amu TV): In a continuation of public corporal punishment, the Taliban on Thursday flogged 10 men and one woman in the eastern province of Nangarhar, the Taliban-run Supreme Court said.

According to a statement from the court, the men received between 30 and 39 lashes each, while the woman was lashed 39 times.

The individuals had been convicted of offenses including "sodomy, adultery, and illicit relationships," the statement said.

The punishments were carried out in the presence of Taliban officials, court authorities, and members of the public.

Since October 22, the Taliban have publicly lashed at least 85 people across various provinces, according to local reports.

The recent cases include:

In Bamian, two individuals were flogged.

In Khost, seven individuals were flogged for "illicit relationships," while 10 others were punished for theft. In Kabul and Faryab, individuals convicted of adultery were sentenced to both lashes and prison time.

In Parwan, four people, including a woman, were flogged for "eloping and illicit relations."

Other incidents were reported in Paktika, Ghazni, Takhar, Wardak, and Jawzjan, with crimes ranging from theft and "moral corruption" to alcohol sales.

The Taliban's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, issued a decree in November 2022 authorizing the enforcement of certain Sharia punishments, including public lashings. Since then, hundreds have reportedly been flogged in Taliban-controlled areas.

The United Nations and numerous human rights organizations have repeatedly condemned these practices, urging the Taliban to halt corporal punishments, which they consider violations of international human rights standards.

Direct flights from Khost to Saudia started

KABUL (Khaama Press): Officials in Afghanistan's Ministry of Transport and Aviation have announced the launch of a direct flight route from Khost Airport to Saudi Arabia.

The ministry released a statement confirming that the first direct flight from Khost province to Saudi Arabia took place.

Officials added that this inaugural flight from Khost Airport was destined for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. According to the ministry, the flight was operated by the private airline Kam Air.

Ministry officials also stated that with the launch of this direct route, there will now be a weekly flight from Khost to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

This new flight route represents a significant step for Afghanistan's connectivity and opens up more opportunities for Afghan citizens, especially those undertaking religious pilgrimages or seeking work in Saudi Arabia.

Increased international flights from regional airports like Khost may further boost economic ties and enhance Afghanistan's transport infrastructure, improving access for travelers and contributing to the local economy.

Minister holds talks with DACAAR head on projects



KABUL (BNA): Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Omar Akhundzada, Deputy Minister of Energy and Water, met with Johan Paul Morris, the Head of the DACAAR organization, in his office. The two sides discussed

providing drinking water and recharging groundwater in the country.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Energy and Water, representatives of DACAAR expressed their interest in

supporting Afghanistan with drinking water supplies and groundwater recharge initiatives.

In response, the Deputy Minister welcomed their interest and highlighted the ministry's plans regarding

groundwater recharge. He assured DACAAR of cooperation in this area.

In the end, both sides emphasized the need to sign a cooperation agreement to initiate practical work on these efforts.

Ministry disputes UN projections of maternal mortality rates

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Public Health, in response to SIGAR's citing of a United Nations projection of a 50% increase in maternal mortality rates in Afghanistan by 2026, has stated that this report is not accurate.

Sharafat Zaman Amarkhil, the spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health, stated that 26,000 midwives and 20,000 female nurses are working within the ministry to provide services to mothers in the country.

Amarkhil told TOLONews regarding the SIGAR report: "Fortunately, we have 26,000 midwives and more than 20,000 nurses. It seems that what has been said about Afghanistan's situation does not reflect the real reality of the coun-

try and is something that has been perceived from afar. According to our plan, the establishment of 320 new health centers at the district level and an increase in the workforce are on the agenda."

Earlier, the United States Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), citing the UN, projected a 50% increase in maternal mortality by 2026 in Afghanistan, attributing this rise to the deprivation of girls and women from education, early marriages, and a shortage of female nurses and specialists.

The report stated: "UN Women predicts that by 2026, the impact of leaving 1.1 million girls out of school and 100,000 women out of university

will correlate to a 45% increase in early childbearing and a 50% increase in maternal mortality in Afghanistan."

At the same time, the head of the Afghanistan Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said that it is important to increase female doctors to reduce maternal mortality rates in Afghanistan.

"It is crucial that female health personnel are available in sufficient numbers. With the high birth rates we have in Afghanistan, how much Afghan families want to have many children—this high birth rate and the abundance of obstetric and gynecological diseases will raise maternal mortality rates in Afghanistan," said Najmu Sama Shefajo, a physician.

"Only by training skilled health cadres and providing advanced facilities can we prevent women's mortality. Of course, the culture, traditions, and customs of our society are such that people usually do not want their women to visit male doctors," said Fatana Nazir, another physician.

It has often been said that maternal mortality in Afghanistan is frequently due to a lack of health centers, a shortage of female doctors, especially in remote areas, and the challenging accessibility of roads.

Previously, the United Nations Population Fund stated that every two hours, a mother dies in Afghanistan due to preventable pregnancy and childbirth-related causes.

Water transfer project from Panjshir to Kabul finalized

KABUL (TOLONews): The acting Minister of Energy and Water has announced that the plan for transferring water from the Panjshir River to Kabul has been completed and a specific budget has been allocated.

Abdul Latif Mansoor, speaking at an event on efficient use of water resources held at the Academy of Sciences, emphasized the need for optimized water resource management and the mechanization of the country's agricultural sector.

The acting Minister of Energy and Water said, "We discussed this matter with the leadership of the Islamic Emirate. About two months ago in Kandahar, we raised this issue with the esteemed Amir-ul-Momineen. Due to a lack of water, people in Kabul are compelled to migrate. He promised us, 'I approve of this; you may proceed with the work.'"

Meanwhile, representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also stressed the importance of water resource management and urged researchers to conduct further studies in this field.

The head of the Foreign Ministry's office stated that the interim government has collaborated with neighboring countries on the fair allocation of water from shared rivers.



Mohibullah Waseeq, the acting Foreign Ministry chief of staff, said, "The Islamic Emirate has taken some steps regarding water resources shared with neighboring countries, believing that water, like other resources, plays a crucial role in fostering good relations."

Abdul Sattar Saeed, the deputy head of the Prime Minister's Office, remarked, "Research institutions

must prioritize the management and reuse of groundwater, while the relevant ministries should implement experts' recommendations."

The shortage of drinking water is not a new issue for Kabul residents; it has plagued them for years. Despite repeated efforts to resolve this issue, it remains unsolved on a fundamental level.

MOT reduces internet and domestic call rates



KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology has announced a reduction in internet and domestic call rates.

Najibullah Bayat Haqqani, the acting head of the ministry, stated that starting from the new calendar year, the price of one gigabyte of internet will drop to 95 Afghanis, the cost of each minute of calls to domestic networks will decrease from 3.50

Afghanis to 1.30 Afghanis, and the cost per minute of calls to foreign networks will reduce from 4 Afghanis to 1.40 Afghanis.

The acting minister explained: "In 2021, the cost per minute of on-net voice calls was 3.50 Afghanis, but this has now been reduced to 1.30 Afghanis."

Haqqani also mentioned that the ministry's gross domestic revenue has reached 50.5 billion

Afghanis this year.

During the announcement, the General Director of IT Infrastructure at the Ministry of Telecommunications stated that 13 various projects, valued at 250 million Afghanis, have been implemented across the country, including projects for security equipment, power and UPS systems, provincial equipment, and other essential projects.

Sayed Mansoor Rahimi, the General Director of IT Infrastructure, added: "The security equipment project was implemented at a cost of 80 million Afghanis, and the power and UPS equipment project at a cost of 10 million Afghanis."

Previously, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology had announced that to expand internet services, 26 provinces have been connected to the fiber optic network.

Support to disability education programs pledged

KABUL (Amu TV): Representatives from various aid organizations, including the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee, at a two-day symposium in Kabul pledged support for vocational and technical education programs to empower people with disabilities in Afghanistan.

The two-day event, titled as part of the first "South-South-North" Symposium on Inclusion and Diversity in Education and streamed to locations in Norway and Indonesia, aimed to end isolation, stigma, and discrimination of persons with disabilities.

The symposium, held on November 12 and 13, was organized by the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) and Afghanistan's Technical, Vocational, Education and Training Authority (TVET-A).

With parallel sessions at the Indonesian University of Education in Bandung, at Netlinks in Kabul, and at the University of Oslo, the event attracted more than

150 key stakeholders in person across these locations and drew a large virtual audience worldwide.

Key sponsors and participants included a range of Afghan, British, Indonesian, and Norwegian organizations, universities, and research institutions.

The symposium's goal was for experts, planners, donors, and organizations of persons with disabilities to create inclusive educational, community, and workplace settings, underscoring that the exclusion of people with disabilities "knows no boundaries." "Our collective aim is to end isolation, stigma, and discrimination of persons with disabilities in the Global South and to ensure that future humanitarian and development programs are inclusive of women, men, children, and youth with disabilities," the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) said.

Tariah Magnuson Waterdal, head of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), empha-

sized that the event facilitated direct collaboration among officials from Norway, Indonesia, and the Taliban to advance educational and professional opportunities for disabled Afghans. Some participants attended virtually, according to Taliban officials. Waterdal stressed that expanding education and employment for Afghanistan's disabled population would help address the social isolation and discrimination they face.

Participants also urged Afghan authorities to include people with disabilities in development projects overseen by the Taliban-led Ministry of Economy, advocating for their involvement in every project stage, from planning to execution.

Afghanistan's four decades of war have left hundreds of thousands of people disabled, with many having lost limbs in conflicts involving the Taliban, foreign forces, and the former Afghan government.

Islamic art, civilization exhibition organized



KABUL (BNA): The National Museum, under the Ministry of Information and Culture, held an Islamic Art and Civilization exhibition on Thursday, Wednesday at the museum's auditorium, coinciding with the celebration of International Museum Workers' Day.

Speaking at the event, Sabrullah Abed, the

Director of the National Museum, stated that the museum is currently in good condition and emphasized that Afghanistan, with its rich civilization, has a long and significant history on the global stage.

At the same time, Atiqullah Azizi, the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture at the Ministry of Information and Culture,

noted, "Our responsibility is to ensure attention to all sections of the National Museum. The historical artifacts here reflect Afghanistan's shared heritage with regional and global communities, and they serve as evidence of the nation's enduring ties with the world."

"There is no doubt that a nation may claim to be civilized, but without art or preserved heritage as evidence, such claims lack foundation. Afghanistan is one of the countries that possesses many historical artifacts and pieces of evidence from its past civilization," Azizi further said.

It is noteworthy that various historical artifacts from the Ghaznaviyan period were displayed at the Islamic Art and Civilization exhibition.

Herat hosts exhibition

HERAT (Khaama Press): Officials in Herat province report that an exhibition has been opened to showcase Herat's saffron and promote its market potential.

Hayatullah Mohajer Farahi, the Deputy Governor of Herat, stated on Thursday, November 14, that this exhibition aims to introduce Herat's saffron and support its marketing.

Farahi emphasized, "This success is the result of our farmers' relentless efforts and highlights Afghanistan's significant agricultural and economic potential, especially in Herat."

According to him, "Afghanistan saffron ranks first in global markets in terms of quality, demonstrating the unique agricultural strength of Afghanistan, particularly in Herat."

Accused murderer executed in Paktia

PAKTIA (TOLONews): A retribution sentence was carried out on a man in Gardez city, the center of Paktia province.

The accused person was executed in Gardez stadium in the presence of several officials from the Islamic Emirate, including Sirajuddin Haqqani, the acting Minister of Interior, as well as many Paktia residents.

Abdul Rahim Rashid, the spokesperson for the Supreme Court, stated that since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate, six individuals have faced retribution sentences.

The Supreme Court spokesperson said: "The divine sentence of retribution was carried out on a murderer in Paktia. This killer had murdered a person using a Kalashnikov weapon."

Hasibullah Hanifi, a religious scholar, commented on the retribution law, saying: "Implementing Islamic laws in an Islamic system, including Hudud (fixed punishments), Tazir (discretionary punishments), and Qisas (retribution), is a principle and must be enforced. However, it is essential to take conditions into account, such as ensuring judges have complete religious knowledge, examining criminal cases meticulously, and considering circumstances."

Witnesses of this event believe that if retribution and other Islamic rulings are applied justly, the current challenges in society will diminish, and crimes will be prevented.

"Today, what was commanded by God and decreed in the Holy

Quran was carried out on this individual. People gathered today for this reason; when the killer was brought out, the plaintiff killed him with three shots," said Mohammad Ajan, a Paktia resident.

"He should have been forgiven; however, when forgiveness was not granted, the Quran gives the right of retribution. The benefit of retribution is that no one in the country will commit such acts," said Abdul Wahab, another Paktia resident.

According to the information provided, the man's name was Asad Ayaz, a resident of Mirzaka district, and he was sentenced to retribution for killing Habibullah, a resident of Tsamkani district in Paktia. Around three and a half years ago, he killed Habibullah with gunfire.

Province needs Chief Minister’s attention: PHC Chief Justice observes

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah extended protective bail of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur till 17th December, on Thursday.

The chief minister Gandapur had filed a petition seeking protective bail in various cases registered against him, citing concerns about his safety and potential harassment as well as arrest by law enforcement agencies. The cases, filed in different parts of the country, allegedly pertain to allegations of corruption, misconduct and other offenses.

Additional Attorney General Sana Ullah and Additional Advocate General Inam Yousafzai appeared on behalf of federal and provincial governments respectively. The counsel Alam Khan Adeenzai advocate argued that the chief minister's pres-

ence was required in Islamabad for an important International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim observed, the province needs the chief minister's attention, and he cannot come to court daily. However, Justice Sahibzada Asadullah added, "as chief minister, Gandapur has other responsibilities and cannot be expected to appear in court regularly."

During hearing, the additional attorney general requested for provision of three weeks to submit report in this regard. He informed the court that Ministry of Interior has been asked for provision of record as well as for compliance to PHC's decisions.

PHC's divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asadullah directed the federal government to submit its response to Gandapur's petition by 17th December.

Chief Minister Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur vowed to continue his fight against the cases, which he described as politically motivated. He announced plans to stage a protest in Islamabad, asserting, we will exercise our right to peaceful protest as guaranteed by the Constitution.

ATC rejects bail in terrorism finance: Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Peshawar Judge Muhammad Iqbal Khan rejected the interim bail applications of two accused, Qadir and Umair, allegedly involved in financing banned organizations.

The accused were charged with providing millions of rupees in funding to terrorist groups operating across the border. Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) had arrested the central accused and was seeking custody of Qadir and Umair. The court has directed the authorities to take the accused into custody and ordered them to be transferred to the relevant police station.



BEIRUT: Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli air raid on the Ghobeiry neighbourhood, Lebanon.

Two security men martyred in Ziarat

F.P. Report

ZIARAT: Two personnel of security forces, including one major rank officer, embraced martyrdom while three security men sustained injuries when a vehicle of Frontier Corps Balochistan came under improvised explosive device attack in Mangi dam area of district Ziarat on Thursday.

According to a report, vehicle of Quick Response Force of 85 Wing of Frontier Corps Balochistan was struck by improvised explosive device in Mangi dam area of Ziarat, resolutely, FC Major Haseeb and Havaldar Noor Ahmed embraced martyrdom while three other personnel of security forces NK Hafeez, NK Usman and LNK Nazaqat sustained injuries.

It is pertinent to mention that the previous night unidentified armed men kidnapped two men of Punjab and their threw their bodies in Mangi dam area of Ziarat on Thursday after gunning them down.

Saif greets Insaf Students Federation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Saif congratulated Insaf Students Federation (ISF) on its 17th anniversary, praising its significant contributions to PTI and Imran Khan's vision.

Barrister Dr. Saif said that ISF playing pivotal role in promoting young leadership in Pakistan adding that ISF always stood firmly against the oppressive rulers throughout the history. "ISF(Insaf students Federation and Overseas Pakistanis are very close to imran Khan's heart" he added.

Barrister Dr. Saif applauded the crucial role of ISF against the fascist regime adding that form 47 fake govt would be bring down soon with the efforts of ISF. He also applauded ISF's unwavering commitment to democracy and its struggle for the restoration of stolen mandates and the release of Imran Khan along with other political prisoners. Barrister Dr. Saif expressed confidence in ISF's ability to fulfill its responsibilities and called upon its members, students, and the public to join final call of protest on November 24 in Islamabad to surround the illegitimate government.

Kh Asif files report with London Police

LONDON (APP): Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Thursday arrived at the Pakistan High Commission in London and filed report with local police following an incident of harassment, verbal abuse and murder threats earlier this week.

He informed the police about the threats of murder with a knife and the harassment he faced during the train incident. The London Transport Police is investigating the matter. On the occasion, Khawaja Asif said the unfortunate incident occurred on November 11, 2024, around 3:30 PM on the Elizabeth Line.

Strike hits Beirut after Israel evacuation warning

BEIRUT (AFP): Air strikes hit the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Thursday after an Israeli warning to evacuate parts of the Hezbollah bastion, AFTTV images showed. A plume of grey smoke rose over the area after the latest strike since Israel sharply intensified its campaign against the Iran-backed militant group in September.

Shortly before the strike, Israel had issued a warning to residents to evacuate their homes. "You are located near Hezbollah facilities and interests against which the (Israeli military) will operate in the near future," army spokesman Avichay Adraee said. His post on X included a map identifying buildings in the Shouaifat Al-Omrousiya and Ghobeiry areas.

Israel carried out two strikes on Ghobeiry and a large one on Shouaifat Al-Omrousiya, which lies on the southern outskirts of Beirut, the state-run National News Agency reported. Repeated Israeli air strikes on south Beirut have led to a mass exodus of civilians, although some return during the day to check on their homes and businesses. NNA also reported heavy Israeli bombardment of the southern town of Bint Jbeil on Thursday. Several blocks of

flats in the town barely three kilometers (two miles) from the Israeli border were destroyed by air strikes or shelling, it said.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army expanded its airstrikes on neighborhoods in the southern suburbs of Beirut, as part of a relentless campaign that has continued day and night over the past 48 hours. Israel's policy of maximum pressure against Hezbollah, targeting displaced individuals from the south and the Bekaa Valley, has increasingly resulted in mass fatalities.

Egypt's foreign minister, Badr Abdel Atti, said during a visit to Beirut on Wednesday that "the current priority is to achieve a ceasefire and halt the Israeli aggression." He stressed "the importance of preserving Lebanese state institutions, particularly the presidency, and the necessity of selecting a consensus president for Lebanon, one who is supported by all Lebanese sects and the entire Lebanese populace." The office of president has been vacant since Michel Aoun's term ended in October 2022, as rival political factions have been unable to agree on a successor.

Abdel Atti said: "The resolution of the presidential vacancy should not be a precondition for the cessa-

tion of hostilities. It must be a national issue (dealt with by) the Lebanese people." During his visit, the minister held long talks with Lebanese officials, the commander of the Lebanese Army, and the grand mufti.

Meanwhile, Israeli airstrikes on the suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday night and throughout the day on Wednesday caused significant damage that reportedly altered the very landscape of several neighborhoods. The most recent attacks struck several suburban areas of the city, including Ghobeiry, Haret Hreik, Bir Al-Abed, and Lailaki. A medical center in Haret Hreik that contained clinics and laboratories was among the buildings completely destroyed. Even cemeteries serving both the Sunni and Shiite communities have been hit, and the Musharrafieh area was targeted for the first time.

The Tayounch roundabout, marking the border between Beirut and Shiyah, has become an impromptu refugee camp. Residents gather there after being forced from homes they had only recently reluctantly returned to after previous Israeli attacks. Many have exhausted their life savings on temporary accommodation after finding government shelters filled to capacity.

UN resolutions back Palestinian sovereignty

LONDON: The UN Economic and Financial Committee has approved resolutions calling on Israel to compensate Lebanon and Syria for an oil slick, and to hand sovereignty to the Palestinians over their natural resources. The US, Argentina, Canada, Israel, Micronesia, Nauru and Palau voted against both resolutions.

The slick occurred after the Israeli Air Force struck storage tanks near the Jiyah electric power plant in 2006, covering two-thirds of Lebanon's coastline with oil. The draft resolution was introduced by Uganda's representative, who highlighted the disastrous impact the slick has had on biodiversity and the local economy.

It reiterated the UN General Assembly's "deep concern" over the negative impact the incident has had on Lebanon's long-term

sustainable development, and reaffirmed a UN report that damage to the country caused by the slick amounted to \$856.4 million in 2014. The resolution was passed by 161 votes in favor to seven against, with nine abstentions. It called for "prompt and adequate compensation" from Israel to Lebanon and Syria, which was also affected by the slick. Lebanon's representative thanked his country's supporters at the UN, the World Bank and elsewhere.

He said the slick had hindered Lebanon's ability to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and Israel's use of chemical and toxic substances in its ongoing military campaign could cause long-term agricultural, economic and biodiversity damage. He called for an investigation into Israeli war crimes in Lebanon and for further compensation.

The Ugandan representative also introduced a draft resolution calling on Israel to "cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan." The draft also recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to seek compensation for any illegal activity by Israel or Israeli settlers that exploits or damages their natural resources. It cited an International Court of Justice advisory opinion from July 19, and reaffirmed "the principle of the permanent sovereignty of the peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources and the applicability of the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war." — Aljazeera

Israel's warfare in Gaza consistent with genocide: UN

NEW YORK: Israel's methods of warfare in Gaza, including the use of starvation as a weapon, mass civilian casualties and life-threatening conditions deliberately inflicted on Palestinians in the territory, are consistent with the characteristics of genocide, the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices said in a report published on Thursday.

"Since the beginning of the war, Israeli officials have publicly supported policies that strip Palestinians of the very necessities required to sustain life: food, water and fuel," the committee said. Statements from Israeli authorities and the "systematic and unlawful" blocking of humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza make clear "Israel's intent to instru-

mentalize life-saving supplies for political and military gains," it added.

The committee, the full title of which is the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, was established by the UN General Assembly in 1968 to monitor the human rights situation in the occupied Golan heights, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. It comprises the permanent representatives to the UN from three member states, currently Malaysia, Senegal and Sri Lanka, who are appointed by the president of the General Assembly. Its latest report, which covers the period from October 2023 to July

2024, mostly focuses on the effects of the war in Gaza on the rights of Palestinians.

"Through its siege over Gaza, obstruction of humanitarian aid, alongside targeted attacks and killing of civilians and aid workers, despite repeated UN appeals, binding orders from the International Court of Justice and resolutions of the Security Council, Israel is intentionally causing death, starvation and serious injury, using starvation as a method of war and inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinian population," the committee said. The "extensive" Israeli bombing campaign has wiped out essential services in Gaza and caused an "environmental catastrophe" that will have "lasting health impacts," it adds. — Aljazeera

KP govt focus on health and education: CM

F.P. Report

HARIPUR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, visited the Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology in Haripur on Thursday, where he formally inaugurated the newly established School of Paramedical Sciences and the Technology Park. Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Umar Ayub Khan, provincial ministers Meena Khan Afridi and Arshad Ayub, and other officials accompanied the Chief Minister.

The School of Paramedical Sciences, established at a cost of Rs. 283 million with the support of the provincial government, currently offers 38 bachelor's, 18 master's, and 8 PhD programs in various health education fields. Additionally, it provides diploma courses in 20 different disciplines. The Technology Park, developed at a cost of Rs. 992 million, was also inaugurated

ed during the visit.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister announced a Rs. 300 million grant for the School of Paramedical Sciences. He highlighted the school as a reflection of the provincial government's commitment to improving the healthcare sector through collaboration. "This institution will serve as a milestone in meeting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's demand for skilled paramedical manpower," he stated.

The chief minister also termed the newly established Technology Park, as a historic step toward promoting advanced technology in the province. "The park will play a crucial role in fostering a technology-driven economy, encouraging research commercialization, and supporting small and medium enterprises," he remarked.

The Chief Minister commended the Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute for its excellence, noting that its graduates are making a mark both nationally

and internationally. He lauded the administration and faculty for their efforts in transforming the institute into a premier educational facility.

Ali Amin Gandapur reiterated the government's focus on health and education, emphasizing substantial investments in developing a skilled workforce. "Investing in youth will transform them into valuable assets," he said, adding that the government is committed to the vision of its founding chairman by prioritizing human development.

Emphasizing the importance of women's empowerment, the Chief Minister asked parents to invest in their daughters' education and to guide their children toward fields aligned with their interests for better career prospects. Addressing the youth, he urged them to set ambitious goals and work diligently, stating, "Success and recognition in life demand hard work, which has no substitute."



BAKU: An activist speaks into a megaphone at a protest during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), in Azerbaijan.

Iran willing to ‘resolve doubts’ about its N-plan with IAEA

TEHRAN: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has told the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that his government was willing to resolve doubts about its atomic programme, ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump's arrival in office.

"As we have repeatedly proven our goodwill, we announce our readiness to cooperate and converge with this international organisation to resolve the alleged ambiguities and doubts about the peaceful nuclear activity of our country," Pezeshkian told Rafael Grossi. Grossi said achieving "results" in nuclear talks with Iran was vital to avoid a new conflict in the region already inflamed by Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

His visit to the Iranian capital Tehran, comes just days after Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said Iran was "more exposed than ever to strikes on its nuclear facilities" giving Israel "the opportunity to achieve our most important goal". Grossi stressed that Iranian nuclear installations "should not be attacked".

Earlier, the UN nuclear watchdog chief met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi who described their interaction as "important and straightforward" in a post on X. Grossi told the Iranian officials that the UN watchdog wants to see "concrete, tangible and visible results" during discussions on Iran's nuclear programme. After the meeting, Araghchi — who served as

Iran's chief negotiator in the talks that led to a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers — said his country "has never left the negotiation table on its peaceful" nuclear programme. "The ball is in the EU/E3 court," Araghchi wrote, referring to the United Kingdom, Germany and France. Iran was "willing to negotiate based on our national interest & our inalienable rights, but NOT ready to negotiate under pressure and intimidation", he posted on X.

In a joint news conference with Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Grossi said that given the "serious circumstances in the region", he was determined to make the talks "successful". The IAEA chief's visit comes weeks before United States President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January.

During Trump's previous term as president, the US unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 agreement that saw Iran scale back its nuclear programme in exchange for a lifting of international sanctions against its economy. Eslami said he looked forward to "mutually constructive and effective talks under the present circumstances". But he warned of "immediate countermeasures" against any resolution by the IAEA's board of governors that interfere with Iran's nuclear programme.

Grossi said, "The fact that international tensions and regional tensions do exist — this shows that the space for negotiation and diplomacy is

not getting bigger, it is getting smaller." Before his trip, Grossi had appealed to Iran's leaders to take steps to resolve longstanding issues with his agency, including a push for more monitoring cooperation at nuclear sites and an explanation of uranium traces found at alleged undeclared sites. But little has come from his efforts and with the return of Trump, who is widely expected to restore a maximum pressure policy on Iran, Grossi's trip should provide indications of how Iran wants to proceed in the coming months.

Reporting from Tehran, Al Jazeera's Resul Serdar said that while a lot was at stake during Grossi's visit, the possibility of a breakthrough was "quite low". "There are major sticking points" between the two parties, he said, adding that the "mistrust" is also significant. Aside from issues about monitoring, the IAEA is also accusing Iran of denying UN nuclear inspectors accreditation, Serdar reported.

"In turn, Iran is accusing the IAEA of politicising the process and behaving like they are acting on behalf of third parties, particularly on behalf of Israel," he added. "Today we are not expecting this mistrust to be overcome." Iran's work on uranium enrichment has been seen by the West as a disguised effort to develop nuclear weapons capability. Tehran is now enriching uranium up to 60 percent fissile purity, close to the roughly 90 percent required for a nuclear bomb. — Aljazeera