



## Israel pummels south Beirut as Hezbollah targets Haifa area

BEIRUT (Agencies): Israel launched a wave of air strikes on Hezbollah bastions in Beirut and south Lebanon on Saturday, as the Iran-backed militants said they fired on several Israeli military bases around the coastal city of Haifa. Israel's military reported a "heavy rocket barrage" on Haifa and said a synagogue was hit, injuring two civilians. Since September 23, Israel has escalated its bombing of targets in Lebanon, later sending in ground troops after almost a year of limited, cross-border exchanges of fire begun by Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in support of Hamas in Gaza.



In the Palestinian territory, where Hamas's attack on Israel triggered the war, the civil defense agency reported 24 people killed in strikes on Saturday. Security services in Israel said two flares landed near Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence in the town of Caesarea, south of Haifa, but he was not home. The incident comes about a month after a drone targeted the same

residence, which Hezbollah claimed. Israel's military chief, in comments issued Saturday, said Hezbollah has already "paid a big price" but Israel will keep fighting until tens of thousands of its residents displaced from the north can return safely. "We will continue to fight, to implement plans, to go further, conduct deep strikes, and hit Hezbollah very hard," Lt. Gen. Herz Halevi said on a visit earlier in the week to the

Kfar Kila area of south Lebanon. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported a series of strikes. The Israeli military said aircraft had targeted "a weapons storage facility" and a Hezbollah "command center." The NNA also reported strikes on the southern city of Tyre, including in a neighborhood near UNESCO-listed ancient ruins. Israel's military late Saturday said it had hit Hezbollah facilities in the Tyre area.

## Israeli President Cancels Trip to Azerbaijan Over Security Concerns

Baku, Azerbaijan (Agencies): Israeli President Isaac Herzog has canceled his planned visit to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan due to security concerns. The decision was made following a situational assessment by his office, which cited "security considerations" without providing further details. Israeli media speculated that there were



concerns about possible Iranian attacks on Israeli targets in Azerbaijan,

which is hosting the COP29 talks in Baku. Herzog had previously traveled to Azerbaijan on a state visit in May 2023, recognizing the predominantly Muslim country as an important geostrategic partner for Israel due to its border with Iran. The cancellation comes amid heightened tensions and underscores the complex security dynamics in the region.

## CIA and FBI sued by family of Malcolm X

NEW YORK (Agencies): Three of Malcolm X's daughters have filed a lawsuit against the CIA, FBI, and New York Police Department, accusing the agencies of complicity in the assassination of the militant black activist. Filed in a Manhattan court on Friday, the suit alleges that the CIA, FBI, and NYPD were aware of a plot to kill Malcolm X, but did not act to stop it. It claims that the NYPD arrested his security detail days before the assassination, while the CIA and FBI's undercover agents - who were present on the night of the fatal shooting - stood by while the militant leader was gunned down. The lawsuit alleges that there was a "corrupt, unlawful, and unconstitutional" relationship between the agencies and "ruthless killers that went unchecked for many years and was actively concealed, condoned, protected, and facilitated by government agents." "We believe that they all conspired to assassinate Malcolm X, one of the greatest thought leaders of the 20th century," civil rights attorney Ben



Crump, who is representing the family, said at a press conference on Friday. The agencies covered up their involvement in the killing for decades, "blocking the Shabazz family's access to the truth and their right to pursue justice," Crump claimed. Malcolm X rose to prominence as the national spokesman of the Nation of Islam (NOI), a black Muslim sect that considers white people "devils" and advocates racial segregation. He adopted the name el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz during his time with the NOI, although he broke ties with the group in the early 1960s. Malcolm X was shot dead as he prepared

to deliver a speech in a New York ballroom in 1965. His murder was initially pinned on three members of the NOI - Muhammad Abdul Aziz, Khalil Islam, and Thomas Hagan - who were all charged, tried, and convicted for the killing. After spending over 20 years in prison, in November 2021, Aziz and Islam were exonerated and awarded \$36 million for wrongful convictions. That was after the Manhattan district attorney's offices discovered that prosecutors and the FBI had withheld key evidence that would have acquitted the two men. Unlike Martin Luther King, who campaigned for racial integration in the US, Malcolm X advocated for the complete separation of whites and blacks. He argued that black Americans deserved reparations and their own independent state in the southern US, and called on his followers to use violence to achieve this goal if necessary, although he later toned down his rhetoric and cooperated with other civil rights organizations.

## Ukraine's Zelensky says wants to end war by diplomacy next year

Kyiv (Agencies): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that Kyiv would like to end the war with Russia next year through "diplomatic means", as both countries prepare for Donald Trump's return to the White House. February 2025 will mark the third anniversary of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, with Russia's troops gaining ground in recent months against Kyiv's outnumbered and outgunned soldiers. The prospect of Trump returning to power in the United States next year has raised questions about the future of the conflict, as the Republican president-elect has been critical of US military aid to Kyiv. Zelensky spoke a day after saying the war will end "sooner" than it otherwise would have done once Trump becomes president.

## UK Government to Ban New Coal Mines, Advances Clean Energy Commitment

LONDON (Agencies): The UK Labour government announced plans on Thursday to introduce legislation banning new coal mines, furthering its goal to make Britain a leader in clean energy. The government stated that it would implement this law "as soon as possible" to curb climate change, marking it as a "crucial step." The announcement follows the recent closure of the UK's last coal-fired power station, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, making Britain the first G7 nation to completely end coal power generation. Additionally, a British court in September revoked a permit for a proposed coal mine in Whitehaven, Cumbria, which would have been the first new mine in 30 years, mining coal for steel production. Energy Minister Michael Shanks emphasized that ending coal power would create jobs and secure energy for the



future. The UK has cut coal's share in power generation from 40% in 2012 to zero today. Labour, which won the July election, aims to decarbonize the electricity grid by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 81% of 1990 levels by 2035 at a UN summit in Azerbaijan this week. The government has also lifted restrictions on onshore wind projects and ended new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea, reinforcing its climate-focused agenda.

## Pakistan and UNICEF Sign MoU to Shield Children from Climate Risks



Baku, Azerbaijan (Agencies): The Government of Pakistan and UNICEF have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at safeguarding children from the devastating impacts of climate change. The signing ceremony took place at the Pakistan Pavilion on the sidelines of the COP29 global climate conference on Saturday. Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, witnessed the signing ceremony. The MoU, titled "Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action," was signed by Secretary Ministry of Climate Aisha Humera Moriani and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director:

Addressing the event, Romina Khurshid Alam emphasized that enhancing access to education, health, and nutrition services in climate-affected areas, as well as investing in sustainable infrastructure to protect schools and communities from extreme weather, is a top priority for the government. Key representatives from the Federal and provincial governments of Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa affirmed their commitment to collaboratively protect the rights and interests of children affected by climate crises. UNICEF and the Federal and Provincial Governments will work to ensure that children's rights.

## Indian Tycoon to Invest \$10bn in US Economy Following Trump Win

New York (Agencies): Indian billionaire Gautam Adani has announced plans to invest \$10 billion into energy and infrastructure projects in the US, aiming to create 15,000 jobs. The chairman of Adani Group, one of India's largest conglomerates, congratulated US President-elect Donald Trump on his victory, noting that "the partnership between India and the United States deepens." In a post on X, Adani stated, "The Adani Group is committed to leveraging its global expertise and invest \$10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects, aiming to create up to 15,000 jobs," without providing specific details of the projects or timeline.

Founded in the 1980s as a commodity trading business, the Adani Group has diversified into various sectors, including conventional and renewable energy generation, ports and logistics, agribusiness, real estate, financial services, and defense. Gautam Adani is the second-richest individual in India and 18th globally, with a net worth of \$86.8 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Adani's announcement follows the American Petroleum Institute's policy roadmap for the incoming Trump administration, which calls for rolling back several of President Joe Biden's environment-related policies, claiming they have threatened jobs and energy security.

## 8 Dead, 17 Hurt in China School Knife Attack: Police

Yixing, China (Agencies): Eight people were killed and 17 others wounded on Saturday in a knife attack at the Wuxi Vocational Institute of Arts and Technology in Yixing, Jiangsu province. The suspect, a 21-year-old former student, has been arrested, police said. The attack occurred in the evening, and the suspect, who was meant to graduate this year but failed his exams, confessed to returning to the school to express his anger and commit the murders. Emergency services were fully mobilized to treat the wounded and provide follow-up care for those affected by the attack. Violent knife crime is not uncommon in China, where firearms are strictly controlled, but attacks with such a high death toll are relatively rare. Earlier this week,



a 62-year-old man killed 35 people and wounded more than 40 when he rammed his small SUV into a crowd in Zhuhai. There has been a spate of other attacks in recent months. In October, a man in Shanghai killed three people and wounded 15 others in a knife attack at a supermarket. The month before, a Japanese schoolboy was fatally stabbed in Shenzhen.

## Russian Forces Liberate Voznesenka, Target Ukrainian Military Infrastructure

MOSCOW (Agencies): The Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) has reported that the Tsentr battlegroup has pushed deeper into Ukrainian defenses, taking control of the settlement of Voznesenka in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR). "Units of the Tsentr Battlegroup continued their advance into the enemy's defense and liberated the settlement of Voznesenka in the Donetsk People's Republic," the MoD stated. Additionally, the Russian army launched strikes on Ukrainian airfields and energy facilities supporting the defense industry. The air defense systems intercepted six HIMARS rockets and downed 78 drones. "Operational-tactical



aviation, strike drones, missile troops, and artillery of the Russian Armed Forces' groups struck the infrastructure of military airfields, energy facilities supporting Ukraine's military-industrial complex, as well as concentrations of enemy personnel and military equipment in 142 locations," the report added.

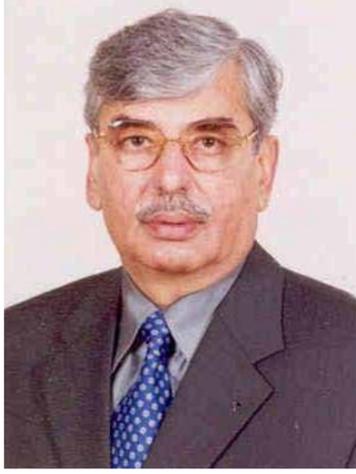
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## Former Senator Ilyas Ahmad Bilour Passes Away at 84

PESHAWAR (Khyber Mail): Awami National Party (ANP) senior leader and former senator, Ilyas Ahmad Bilour, passed away on Saturday in Peshawar at the age of 84. Bilour had been suffering from a kidney disease and had been receiving treatment at a hospital in Peshawar for several months.

The news of his death was shared by ANP leader Samar Haroon Bilour on social media platform X. Bilour's funeral prayer will be held at Wazir Bagh in Peshawar at 2:00 PM on Sunday.

Ilyas Ahmad Bilour was a prominent figure in Pakistani politics, having served as a senator from 2012 to 2018. He was closely associated with the ANP throughout his political career.



Bilour was the brother of ANP leaders Ghulam Ahmad Bilour and the late Bashir Ahmad Bilour.

During his career, Bilour held various significant positions, including vice president of the Standing Committee of IPU on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for Asia Pacific, and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He was also a life member of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and served as the chairman of the Pak-Asia Business Council.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed their condolences, praising Bilour's contributions to public service and his dedication to the welfare of the people.

## US Consul General in Peshawar Calls on Advisor to Chief Minister on Information Barrister Dr. Saif



Peshawar (Khyber Mail): Shante Moore, the U.S. Consul General stationed in Peshawar, met on Thursday with Barrister Dr. Saif, the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations. The officials discussed a broad range of issues, including economic development and regional stability. Barrister Dr. Saif highlighted the significant sacrifices made by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in their

efforts to establish peace. "The people of this province have paid a heavy price for stability," he said. "Without sustainable peace, economic progress will remain a distant dream." He urged the United States to take a more active role in supporting long-term peace in the region. Consul General Moore acknowledged the challenges faced by the province and underscored the mutual benefits of a strong and stable Pakistan. "A prosperous Pakistan is in

the interest of the United States and the entire region," Moore said, reaffirming America's commitment to aid Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in achieving its development goals. Both sides agreed on the need for collaborative efforts to promote economic growth, enhance healthcare, and improve education. They emphasized their commitment to a shared vision of a secure and prosperous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and explored ways to deepen bilateral ties.

## PMA Highlights Alarming Mental Health Issues Among Diabetics in Pakistan

Peshawar (Nader Khan): The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has raised concerns about the high rates of mental health issues among individuals with diabetes in Pakistan, as revealed by the recent International Diabetes Federation (IDF) global survey. The survey found that 78% of Pakistani diabetics experience anxiety, depression, or other mental health problems due to their condition. The PMA emphasized that diabetes is a complex disease affecting both physical and mental health. The constant burden of managing blood sugar levels, fear of complications, and societal stigma significantly impact the

mental well-being of diabetics. The PMA urged healthcare providers to prioritize the mental health needs of their diabetic patients by:

- Conducting regular mental health assessments as part of routine diabetes care.
- Providing access to mental health professionals for psychotherapy and counseling.
- Offering educational programs and support groups to help patients cope with the emotional challenges of diabetes.
- Encouraging collaboration between primary care physicians, endocrinol-

gists, and mental health professionals for comprehensive care.

The PMA also called on policymakers to allocate adequate resources for mental health services, particularly for those with chronic conditions like diabetes. The government should raise awareness about the importance of mental health and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

By addressing the mental health needs of diabetics, their quality of life and overall health outcomes can be improved. The PMA remains committed to advocating for the well-being of all Pakistanis.

## NCEG and QAU Sign MoU to Advance Earth Sciences Research



Peshawar (Khyber Mail): The National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG) at the University of Peshawar and the Department of Earth Sciences at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) have formalized a strategic partnership to advance research and development in key areas of earth sciences. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on November 16, 2024, marking a significant milestone in fostering collaboration between the two prestigious institutions. The MoU focuses on leveraging the combined expertise of both institutions to address challenges in geology, geophysics, and hydrogeology. This partnership aims to strengthen the scientific community's capacity to tackle global and regional issues related to natural resource management, environmental sustainability, and climate change. Key highlights of the collaboration include:

- Exchange of Scientific and Technical Information: Facilitating knowledge-sharing and promoting collaborative research.
- Joint Supervision of Graduate Research: Offering students opportunities to work across institutions, enhancing their research exposure and skills.
- Joint Workshops and Seminars: Organizing events to disseminate cutting-edge research and foster discus-

sions on emerging challenges in earth sciences.

- Consultancy Projects and Commercialization: Converting academic research into practical applications, contributing to economic and societal benefits.

- Enhanced Collaboration in Natural Resource Exploration: Strengthening efforts in resource exploration.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Liaqat Ali, Director of NCEG, and Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Muhammad Shah, Chairperson of the Department of Earth Sciences at QAU, in a ceremony attended by faculty members and research leaders from both institutions.

"This partnership marks an exciting new chapter for both institutions, as we combine our resources, expertise, and research capabilities to make significant strides in earth and environmental sciences," said Prof. Dr. Liaqat Ali. Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Muhammad Shah echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of such collaborative initiatives in addressing the growing challenges faced by the earth sciences community globally.

The three-year agreement, with the option for renewal, is expected to foster long-term cooperation that will contribute to groundbreaking research and provide valuable insights for addressing both local and global challenges in the geosciences.

## Change of Date - Fazia Degree College Peshawar Annual Alumni Get-Together

PESHAWAR (Khyber Mail): The Alumni Management Committee of Fazia Degree College (formerly PAF Degree College) Peshawar has announced a change in the date of its Annual Alumni Get-Together. Originally scheduled for November 23, 2024, the event has been rescheduled to December 7, 2024. The decision to reschedule was made due to ongoing activities at the school premises and a planned protest by a political party, to ensure the comfort and safety of

all attendees, especially those traveling from other cities. All interested persons are requested to complete their registration by November 25, 2024. For more details, please contact Mr. Amir Aziz via WhatsApp at 0330 9368585 or 0333 9368585. The committee apologized for any inconvenience caused and expressed appreciation for everyone's understanding and continued support. They look forward to seeing all participants on the new date, December 7, 2024.

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### United Against Discord: Protecting Pakistan-China Relations from Misinformation

The Pakistan Foreign Office categorical rejection of reports claiming Beijing is pressuring Islamabad for joint security operations is a timely reminder of the need for responsible discourse. Labeling such claims as “motivated speculations” is not only accurate but underscores a broader context—one that demands careful attention from media professionals, policymakers, and the public alike.

The attacks in Pakistan, particularly in Balochistan, are not random acts of violence. They are calculated attempts to disrupt Pakistan-China relations and sabotage critical projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and resource exploration initiatives. Targeting Chinese personnel and infrastructure like Gwadar or airports represents an insidious effort to destabilize one of Pakistan’s most vital partnerships.

This partnership, often referred to as an “iron brotherhood,” has been a cornerstone of both nations’ strategies, transcending governments and global geopolitical shifts. It is no coincidence that as these global divides deepen, so too do efforts to create rifts between Pakistan and China. Such narratives aim to weaken a relationship that has been a source of strength and development for both countries.

Speculative and unverified narratives only serve the interests of those who attack Pakistan, sow discord, and exploit divisions. It is imperative for journalists, analysts, and politicians to exercise caution in their rhetoric. Irresponsible criticism risks not only harming Pakistan’s foreign relationships but also jeopardizing the prospects for national development that these alliances enable. Constructive critique is essential, but it must remain grounded in facts and aligned with the national interest.

Pakistan indeed needs to address security lapses, particularly along its borders, to safeguard its people and infrastructure. However, this effort must be accompanied by vigilance against narratives that inadvertently weaken the country’s standing or undermine crucial alliances. In this charged environment, unity and a clear-eyed focus on long-term goals are indispensable. Guarding against both external threats and internal discord is a responsibility that cannot be overstated.

### Is the US trying to use the G20 to counterbalance BRICS?

— By Ling Shengli and Li Ruoshui

The BRICS Summit has just concluded, and the G20 Summit is soon to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The back-to-back occurrence of the two major multilateral summits not only signals the potential for further growth in the cooperation mechanisms of developing countries, but also raises concerns among some developed nations. A Western scholar has written a comparison of the two summits, arguing that “the US is losing the Global South” and that the BRICS expansion is “a trendy, Sino-centric performative display of multipolarity,” attempting to stir up great-power competition and institutional struggles in global governance. In fact, while these statements seem to express dissatisfaction with China’s growing partnerships, they on the other hand reflect Western countries’ unease about the rising influence of the Global South.

The BRICS Summit marks the first full meeting of the group since its historic expansion in January 2024. Leaders from the member countries engaged in detailed discussions on how to strengthen cooperation in the face of global challenges and promote the creation of a more just and equitable international order. In contrast, the G7 has adopted a more conservative approach to reforming the international order. Some Western nations believe that the economic growth of developing countries heavily relies on support from the West, and they remain skeptical about the possibility of win-win cooperation between developed and developing nations. This narrow perspective has contributed to the West’s increasingly adversarial stance toward BRICS.

In the face of numerous challenges to global governance, the differences in positions between developed and developing countries on many international issues have become increasingly evident, presenting unprecedented challenges for the reform of the international order.

Faced with these differences and disagreements, countries are recognizing that building a more open and inclusive international order is becoming an irreversible historical trend. How to incorporate the positions and attitudes of more developing countries into global governance reform has become a critical issue for the G20 which needs to be addressed.

Since the BRICS expansion, the combined population of the “Greater BRICS” now accounts for nearly half of the global population, and its total economic output, measured by purchasing power parity, has surpassed that of the G7. As an important platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries, the BRICS mechanism

provides crucial support for member countries to optimize resource allocation and share development opportunities. This not only offers significant development opportunities to an increasing number of developing countries, but also further strengthens their voice and influence in the global governance system.

Behind the expansion of BRICS and the rise of the Global South is the growing power of developing countries and the practical need for diversification of the global governance system. Whether it is responding to climate change, narrowing the gap between rich and poor or promoting sustainable development of the global economy, developing countries will play a more active role in global governance, thus pushing the international order to develop in a more just and reasonable direction.

Moreover, global cooperation needs to be more inclusive and representative. Compared with developing countries’ efforts to enhance the diversity of global discourse, the attempts of the US and Europe to establish cooperation mechanisms under hegemonic discourse are extremely improper. With the growing momentum of the BRICS countries, there are voices emerging in the US that the G20 Summit should be exerted to offset the influence of the BRICS Summit. Instead of criticizing China and other BRICS countries, the US and some Western countries should seriously consider the G20’s original intention, that is, to solve global problems and accommodate diverse voices.

The G20, as an important platform for global economic cooperation, should play a more active role in addressing global challenges, such as food security, climate change, financial stability, public health, among others.

The continuous development of the BRICS cooperation mechanism is definitely not a “political performance.” It is the unanimous desire of all developing countries to have their voices heard by the world. For some developed countries, only by learning the way of win-win cooperation based on mutual respect with developing countries can they truly become a positive contributor to international order and the global governance system.

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- Courtesy: Global Times

### Why Iran is willing to pay any price for resisting Israel

— By Gowhar Geelani

Apart from flexing its military muscle as a power to reckon with in the Middle East, Iran is showcasing a robust foreign policy by becoming a full-fledged BRICS+ member. Tehran is likely to further assert itself by enhancing its military relationship with Russia and trade ties with China to end its global isolation. Slowly but surely Iran’s affiliation with the BRICS+ bloc will cause more anxiety to the United States of America and its Western allies.

At the same time, the latest Israeli attack on several Iranian military facilities on 26 October has the potential to escalate the ongoing conflict in West Asia (aka the Middle East, for the Western world). According to Iranian officials, four servicemen of the Iranian Armed Forces and a civilian were killed in the recent Israeli aggression. After Iranian drone and missile strikes on Israel in mid-April and early October, an Israeli reaction was on the cards.

Given the recent history of Iranian resistance, it is a given that Tehran will neither be cowed down nor act in anger but there will be a suitable response at some point. American security officials believe that Iran launched missile attacks on Israel on October 1 with “intent to cause destruction” but, due to Israel’s “significant air defense capabilities,” there was “minimal damage on the ground.” By moderate estimates, about 180 ballistic missiles were fired, all of these launched from Iranian soil. The West claims that most missiles were intercepted by Israel’s robust air defense system and the US-led allied forces.

For its part, Tehran maintains its earlier stance that, unlike Israel, Iran does not believe in causing harm to the civilian population. Iran also claims a higher moral ground by saying that it hit military targets and avoided civilian casualties, but that it can hit Israeli defense targets at will.

At the back of the latest escalation, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stated the obvious at a cabinet session on October 27: “We do not seek war, but we will defend the rights of our nation and country. We will give an appropriate response to the aggression of the Zionist regime.”

Here, the emphasis is on “not seeking war” but on delivering “an appropriate response” to a regime that stands accused of killing more than 42,000 people in Gaza since October 2023, the majority of identified victims being women and children. The Israeli ground and air campaign in different parts of Lebanon has also resulted in the killing of about 2,000. West Jerusalem maintains a rhetorical line that it has a “right to defend itself.”

At any rate, actions that cause widespread mayhem and inflict unimaginable pain on civilians should not go unpunished. If they did, Israeli aggression would become normalized and rationalized in the entire region. That is why Iran’s resistance to it stands out and is necessary.

Pravin Sawhney, an acclaimed author on defense and security matters, told RT that the “status of Tehran in the region has shot up.” “Israelis cannot defeat Iran. The whole idea of ‘escalation dominance’ by the Israeli military has been knocked out by Iran,” Sawh-



ney, a former officer in India’s military, said, adding that “this war will not end.”

For challenging Israel on multiple fronts, its daring foreign policy and its refusal to dance to America’s tune, Tehran continues to pay a massive cost in the shape of economic and other sanctions imposed by the US. Over three years ago, then-Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif estimated that sanctions enforced by the US had “inflicted \$1 trillion worth of damage on Iran’s economy”. Currently, Zarif is serving as Vice President for Strategic Affairs.

Sawhney feels that “Iran has reshaped the entire security architecture in the region.” According to the security expert, with Iran becoming a full member of the BRICS+ bloc, the idea is to have a military partnership with Russia and to cement its economic bond with China.

In 2021, China and Iran signed a 25-year strategic cooperation agreement aimed at extending trade, economic and transport collaboration. The agreement is said to have passed the implementation stage. Experts say that this trade cooperation will be a game changer in reshaping Tehran’s economy.

Western powers accuse Tehran of lending financial, political, military, diplomatic and moral support to armed groups such as Hamas (Palestine), Hezbollah (Lebanon) and the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The US and member states of the European Union also level criticism at China and Russia for supporting Iran.

Why is Tehran willing to pay a cost in the shape of sanctions and international isolation, for what reason, and for how long can it sustain its stance? The answer lies in what Iran’s supreme leader Ali Khamenei said in a rare sermon on October 4. Khamenei took everyone by surprise by making a rare public appearance to lead the mandatory Friday congregation in Tehran, his first sermon of this nature in nearly five years. With an assault rifle by his side, his appearance was a statement of defiance and irrefutable evidence of his mass popularity and spiritual stature in Iran and beyond.

Addressing a passionate crowd of thousands in a Persian-speaking country, Khamenei delivered parts of his sermon in the Arabic language: “The resistance in the region will not back down with these martyrdoms (referring to the killings of Ismail Haniyeh and others), and will win.” He also had advice for the rest of the Arab world: “Double your efforts and capabilities... and resist the aggressive enemy.”

In the aftermath of the latest Israeli aggression inside Iranian territory, Khamenei said that the Benjamin Netanyahu-led regime had made a

wrong move, and warned it of serious repercussions. Besides this note of caution, Iran also called on the United Nations Security Council to hold an emergency session following Israel’s missile strike inside Iran in the early hours of October 26.

Iran is perhaps the only country in West Asia that is not only challenging Israel’s hegemony and expansionist ambition in the region but also making the Sunni Arab world appear timid and lacking in the political will to have either an unambiguous stance on the issue of Palestine or to come forward to help the pulverized Palestinians in a real way.

The desire of predominantly wealthy Arab nations to appear neutral or pragmatic in the ongoing conflict involving Palestine, Lebanon, Israel and Iran is perceived as a ‘sign of weakness and corruption’ by many Muslim intellectuals of repute. At the same time, a few Arab strategists are of the view that taking sides in the current war entails an unimaginable cost, and that the idea of resistance is perhaps ‘suicidal’ in the contemporary geopolitical setting.

Currently, without a whisker of doubt, Iran has been the world’s most powerful voice against the violent Israeli aggression and its genocidal campaign against Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank. Tehran’s morals-based foreign policy is a post-1979 Iranian Revolution phenomenon, though. For most of the last 45 years or so, Iran and Israel have been sworn enemies and known as such. This wasn’t the case before the 1979 Revolution, when the Pahlavi dynasty ruled the country.

The royal dynasty ruled Iran for over five decades between 1925 and 1979. After Mohammad Reza Shah replaced his father Reza Shah Pahlavi on the throne in September 1941, he became a loyal ally of the Western powers. Iran maintained diplomatic relations with Israel during his rule, of course, at the behest of the West.

A dramatic shift took place in the early 1970s during and after the Yom Kippur War or the Ramadan War of 1973, when, surprisingly, the Shah opened airspace to Soviet planes to deliver military supplies to neighboring Egypt. Iran’s foreign policy vis-à-vis Israel witnessed a paradigm shift after 1979. Till then, Iran was only the second Muslim-majority country to recognize Israel. Turkey was the first. At the time, Iran was a major oil provider for Israel. In return, Israel helped Tehran in matters of security.

At present, Tehran is the face of resistance and defiance in the entire Muslim world.  
- Courtesy: RT

### Militancy and Mental Health crisis grip Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

— By Jehanzeb Sarhadi

The province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, once a hotbed of militancy, is now grappling with a silent crisis: a surge in mental health issues. Years of conflict, displacement, and socio-economic challenges have left a deep psychological scar on the region’s population. Exposure to violence, loss, and trauma has led to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), characterized by flashbacks, nightmares, and hypervigilance. The constant fear and uncertainty associated with militancy have triggered depressive symptoms and anxiety disorders among the residents. As a coping mechanism, many individuals have turned to substance abuse to allevi-

ate their mental distress. Additionally, the stigma surrounding mental health issues has resulted in social isolation, preventing people from seeking the help they need. To address the mental health crisis, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa needs to prioritize increased access to mental health services by expanding the availability of mental health professionals and facilities in the region. Implementing community-based interventions to promote mental health awareness and provide support is crucial. Healthcare providers should be trained to recognize and address the specific needs of individuals affected by trauma through trau-

ma-informed care. Conducting awareness campaigns to challenge negative attitudes towards mental illness will help reduce stigma. Integrating mental health screening and treatment into primary healthcare services is essential for a holistic approach. By addressing the mental health needs of its population, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can help individuals recover from the trauma of the past and build a more resilient and peaceful future. The importance of these measures cannot be overstated, as they provide the foundation for a healthier, more supportive community that can thrive despite its challenging history.



## Pakistan's Climate Change Ministry and GGGI Sign Pact to Mobilize Green Finance

BAKU (Agencies): The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination and the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI) have signed a four-year (2024-2028) Country Programme Framework agreement to advance Pakistan's sustainable development goals through targeted climate action and green growth interventions. The signing ceremony took place at the Pakistan Pavilion during the UN-led Global Climate Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, with Secretary Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry Aisha Humera Moriani and Deputy Director-General GGGI Helena McLeod in attendance. Romina Khurshid Alam expressed gratitude to GGGI for its commitment to mobilizing green finance, supporting policy frameworks, and promoting investments to achieve climate resilience and environmental sustainability in Pakistan. Aligned with GGGI's Strategy 2030, the framework focuses on strengthening climate resilience, improving sustainable agriculture, and fostering economic growth through innovative and inclusive solutions. GGGI aims to facilitate Pakistan's transition to a green economy by collaborating with national



stakeholders to address challenges like water scarcity, deforestation, and energy inefficiency, exacerbated by climate change. A joint event, 'Pakistan's NDC Technology Roadmap for the Waste and Water Sector to leverage Climate Finance,' was organized by the climate change ministry, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and GGGI at the Pakistan Pavilion. The event focused on meeting Pakistan's climate goals under the Paris Agreement and was attended by experts from various international organizations. Romina Khurshid Alam highlighted the significance of technology in implementing

climate policies and how the NDC technology roadmap links Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with large-scale investment opportunities, transforming climate targets into actionable outcomes. She also addressed crucial areas such as technology needs assessment, innovation, regulatory frameworks, and funding mechanisms for meeting Pakistan's waste and water-related targets under the Paris Agreement. The framework agreement is expected to drive progress toward Pakistan's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and enhance the country's climate commitments.

## Polish Embassy in Islamabad Celebrates National and Armed Forces Day



Islamabad (Agencies): The Polish Embassy in Pakistan held a grand celebration in Islamabad to mark Poland's Independence Day and Armed Forces Day, commemorating the nation's restoration of sovereignty following World War I. Prominent dignitaries, including Honorable Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, attended the event, along with members of the National Assembly and Senate, government officials, diplomats, and ambassadors. In his address, Chief Guest Chaudhry Salik Hussain congratulated Poland and

highlighted the strong relationship between Pakistan and Poland, expressing hope for continued growth in their ties. The Polish Ambassador expressed gratitude to the guests, reflecting on Poland's journey to independence and the establishment of its armed forces. He emphasized Poland's commitment to international peace and security, solidarity with Ukraine against Russian aggression, and the significance of supporting humanitarian efforts in Gaza and Lebanon. Attendees enjoyed performances of anthems, including Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," as Poland prepares to assume the EU presidency on January 1, 2025. The Ambassador praised the growth in Polish-Pakistani relations, noting trade approaching \$1 billion annually and Poland's investment in Pakistan's energy sector. The event also celebrated Pakistan's membership in the UN Security Council and shared cultural history, with recognition of mountaineers Nazir Sabir and Sirbaz Khan for their collaboration with Polish expeditions. The celebration concluded with a performance by women musicians from Hunza, celebrating the bond between Poland and Pakistan.

## British Council Chief Executive Concludes Visit to Pakistan



Islamabad (Khyber Mail): Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, concluded his visit to Pakistan, which took place from November 11-15, marking the organization's 90th anniversary of fostering global connections. Throughout his visit, McDonald engaged with various stakeholders, highlighting the British Council's enduring commitment to education, culture, and social development in Pakistan. McDonald attended several impactful events, including the launch of the second phase of the Pakistan UK Education Gateway. This event aimed to enhance collaborative educational efforts between the two nations, bringing together participants from higher education institutions across

Pakistan to discuss capacity building and improving the quality of teaching and research. During his visit, McDonald oversaw the administration of O Level, IGCSE, AS, A2, and A Level examinations at Dawood Public School in Karachi, engaging with candidates and staff. He also celebrated the Scotland Pakistan Scholarship Scheme at Punjab University, which has supported over 17,000 schoolgirls and more than 2,000 young women in universities since its inception. Additionally, McDonald attended the British High Commission-funded GOAL programme, Khilo Aur Barho event, aimed at improving educational outcomes for vulnerable children in Pakistan. He also participated in a celebration of the FCDO-funded Aawaz

II programme, showcasing community engagement efforts in tackling issues such as child marriage and gender-based violence. Reflecting on his visit, McDonald stated: "This visit has deepened our resolve to enhance partnerships that open doors for young people, foster cultural understanding, and drive innovation. The British Council is dedicated to a future where education and opportunity are accessible to every generation of Pakistan." As the British Council looks forward to the future, this visit underscores the organization's dedication to strengthening ties between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, creating lasting opportunities for collaboration in education, arts, and cultural exchange.

## West African Nations Delegation Visits NADRA HQ

Islamabad (Agencies): A high-level 12-member delegation from Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, and Senegal visited the headquarters of Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on Wednesday. The delegation is on an official visit to explore Pakistan's models of social protection, focusing on institutions such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and NADRA's pioneering data management infrastructure. During the visit, NADRA officials provided an in-depth briefing on their role as the custodian of Pakistan's national data repository. The agency, responsible for maintaining

the country's civil registry, serves as the backbone of Pakistan's identity verification and data management systems. Chairman NADRA emphasized the organization's vital role in supporting social protection through technology-driven solutions. The delegation expressed interest in NADRA's locally developed technology, particularly the All-in-One Registration Kit and Mobile Enrollment Kit, which are designed to facilitate comprehensive civil registration. These innovations reflect NADRA's efforts to streamline data management and enhance access to social protection services across Pakistan.

## Ethiopian Ambassador Honored with 'Global Ambassador Award'



Islamabad (Agencies): Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to Pakistan, received the Global Ambassador Award on Wednesday for his outstanding diplomatic activities in Pakistan. The Diplomatic Insight, a global public diplomacy institution in Pakistan, honored the Ambassador for his exemplary efforts in strengthening ties between the two nations at bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums. The 6th Global Ambassador Awards Ceremony 2024, attended by ambassadors, diplomatic corps, parliamentarians, government officials, the business community, academia, media, and civil society, was graced by Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, as the chief guest. Ambassador Jemal is a seasoned diplomat with acknowledged efforts for the Ethiopian Missions in Australia, Bah-

rain, and Pakistan. He has previously received the Best Ambassador Award from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a Peace Award from the National Peace and Justice Council of Pakistan, and a COMSTECH Award for fostering fraternity between Ethiopia and Pakistan. His notable initiatives include the launch of Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi, mobilizing trade delegations, and signing MOUs between Ethiopia and Pakistan in commerce, trade, health, science, and technology. The Green Legacy Initiative, an afforestation campaign for food security in Pakistan, also stands out among his contributions. Ambassador Jemal's efforts have significantly enhanced government-to-government, people-to-people, and business-to-business relations, strengthening Ethiopia-Pakistan cooperation. This award marks another milestone in the flourishing relationship between the two countries.

## Pakistan Air Force Chief Receives Top Bahraini Honor for Defense Collaboration



Sakhir Air Base, Bahrain (Agencies): Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff of Pakistan, was awarded the Bahraini Medal - First Class by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Deputy King of Bahrain, on behalf of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The medal recognizes Air Chief Marshal Sidhu's distinguished efforts to enhance military cooperation and defense collaboration between the two

countries. The ceremony was attended by senior civil and military leadership of Bahrain. His Royal Highness acknowledged the participation of the Pakistan Air Force contingent, including JF-17 Block-III fighter jets, in the Bahrain International Airshow. On the sidelines of the airshow, Air Chief Marshal Sidhu met with Lieutenant General Derek France, Commander of the Ninth Air Force (US Air Forces Central Command), and Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force. The meetings focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation, joint training, and mutual exercises. Air Chief Marshal Sidhu expressed his gratitude for the honor and reiterated his commitment to further strengthening the partnership between Pakistan and Bahrain.

## CII declares VPNs use un-Islamic for accessing blocked or unethical content

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman, Allama Dr. Raghbir Hussain Naeemi on Friday declared the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) for accessing blocked or unethical content as un-Islamic. He, in a statement, said it is within the authority of the government and the state, in accordance with Shariah, to prevent actions that lead to immorality or facilitate access to harmful content. Measures such as restricting VPNs align with Islamic principles and the council's recommendations, and are therefore commendable, he added. Dr. Naeemi emphasized that using the internet or software like VPNs to access unethical or illegal content is prohibited under Shariah. He praised the government's initiative to block VPNs, particularly when they are used to bypass restrictions on websites blocked for moral, legal, or social reasons. According to him, such practices constitute 'assistance in sin', which is explicitly forbidden in Islam. In response to a query on whether VPN usage is permissible under Shariah, especially when used to access blocked or illegal websites, Dr. Naeemi clarified that VPNs, while technically a tool for security and privacy, are often misused to access forbidden content. These include obscene websites, platforms spreading misinformation, or those fostering anarchy within society, he said adding that VPNs are also used for online theft and fraud, making it difficult to trace cybercriminals.

## Pakistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina reaffirm commitment to further deepen bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The second round of bilateral political consultations between Pakistan and Bosnia and Herzegovina was held here on Friday, where the two sides reaffirmed their mutual commitment to further develop and deepen political, trade, economic, social, humanitarian relations. Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, led the Pakistani side, while the Bosnian side was led by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Edin Dilberovic. During the meeting, important regional and global developments came under discussion.



In an atmosphere of high trust and mutual understanding, the two sides comprehensively reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations. Ambassador Dilberovic also called on Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch. The foreign secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further expand and diversify mutually beneficial cooperation.

## 6 terrorists killed, 7 soldiers embraced shahadat at Kalat District: ISPR



RAWALPINDI (Agencies): Security Forces killed six terrorists while four others injured when they attempted to attack a security forces' post in general area Shah-e-Mardan of Kalat District on Friday night. "Own troops fought gallantly as a result of which six terrorists were sent to hell, while four terrorists were injured. However, during intense exchange of fire, seven brave sons of soil, having fought gal-

lantly, embraced shahadat," said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorist found in the area. 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 soldiers further strengthen our resolve, it further said.

## From Gaza to Islamabad: Nader Alturk's Diplomacy Lauded

Islamabad (Khyber Mail): Nader Khamis Hafez Alturk, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Palestine to Pakistan, has been honoured with the prestigious Global Ambassador Award 2024 in recognition of his outstanding efforts in strengthening bilateral ties with Pakistan. The Diplomatic Insight, awarded the diplomat with the 6th Global Ambassador Award for his groundbreaking contributions to bringing the two nations closer together at bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums within a short period of time. The 6th Global Ambassador Awards Ceremony 2024 took place in Islamabad, with the presence of Ambassadors, diplomatic corps, Parliamentarians, government officials, business leaders, academics, media, and civil society members. Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Chairperson of the Diplomatic Insight Group, welcomed distinguished guests and underscored the organization's commitment to promoting global collaboration and diplomacy. Nader Khamis Hafez Alturk, born in Gaza City, has a deeply personal connection to the Palestinian cause. His family, originally from Beersheba, was displaced to Gaza in 1948 and, more recently, lost their home in the ongoing conflict.

This experience fuels his dedication to his homeland and his career as a diplomat. With advanced studies in international law, history, and political science, Ambassador Alturk has served in various key roles. Before joining the Embassy in Pakistan in 2014, he was Deputy Head of Mission in Beijing, where he played a significant role in China's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. In Pakistan, he has focused on strengthening Palestinian-Pakistani ties, building strong connections with media, civil society, and research institutions. Alturk has shared the Palestinian story widely, participating in countless interviews, seminars, and conferences, raising awareness about the Palestinian struggle and the shared bond between Pakistan and Palestine. One of his recent achievements was organizing a Palestinian pavilion at Lok Mela, Pakistan's largest cultural festival. Supported by Pakistan's Minister of Culture, this pavilion celebrated the cultural connection between the two nations and highlighted Jerusalem's significance for Muslims worldwide. Alturk has made significant contribution in strengthening cultural, economic, and educational ties and is evident in his support for Palestinian students and his vision of mutual exchange between Palestine and Pakistan.

## Pakistan, Morocco Express Desire to Cement Bilateral Cooperation

Islamabad (Agencies): Pakistan and Morocco have expressed their deep desire to strengthen existing ties, focusing on collaborative training programs, joint military exercises, and industrial cooperation. This resolve was expressed during a meeting between Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, and Inspector Royal Moroccan Air Force Major General Mohammed Gadhi in Islamabad today. The Air Chief reiterated his commitment to enhancing military partnership through full collaboration in joint training initiatives, covering the entire spectrum of air power application, including basic and tactical level training for

Moroccan Air Force personnel. In his remarks, Major General Mohammed Gadhi praised the technological advancements of the Pakistan Air Force and expressed the Moroccan Air Force's desire to learn from Pakistan's aerospace industrial strides to enhance its operational capabilities. He also admired the state-of-the-art technological ecosystem witnessed during his visit to the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park and shared his deep interest in exploring avenues of collaboration in the industrial domain. The meeting covered a wide array of matters related to military cooperation, joint training, and industrial collaboration.

## Secretary Defence Launches CBCare Mobile App and Portal



RAWALPINDI (Khyber Mail): In line with the Government of Pakistan's Digital Pakistan Policy and the mission of the Military Lands and Cantonment (MLC) Department, a new digital interface has been launched to provide streamlined access to civic services for residents of cantonment areas. Secretary Defence, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Muhammad Ali, inaugurated the CBCare mobile app and CBCare portal in Rawalpindi, marking a significant step forward in e-governance and digital transformation. At the inauguration ceremony, Secretary Defence commended the department's proactive efforts in modernizing service delivery and making it more accessible to the public. He praised the MLC Department for embracing e-governance

solutions that empower residents of cantonment areas with efficient, transparent, and user-friendly access to local government services. The CBCare mobile app and CBCare portal serve as a comprehensive platform for residents to interact with their respective cantonment boards digitally. Through the CBCare mobile app, now available on both Android and iOS devices, residents can apply online for a variety of civic services, including the registration of birth and death certificates, property tax exemptions, downloadable bills, payment verification, and status checks on registered complaints and applications. The complete list of features is available on the CBCare portal at [cbc.cantonment.gov.pk](http://cbc.cantonment.gov.pk).

## Khushal Khan Khattak University Inaugurates Energy Center Academic Block and Hosts International Conference

Peshawar (Khyber Mail): Khushal Khan Khattak University (KKKU) celebrated the inauguration of its state-of-the-art Energy Center Academic Block on Saturday. The event coincided with the second day of an international conference held in collaboration with KUST University and ILMIA Foundation. Prof. Dr. Naseer Ud Din, Vice Chancellor of KKKUK, welcomed participants, including Higher Education Minister Meena Khan Afridi, Agriculture Minister Major Sajjad Barakwal, MNA Shahid Khattak, and MPA Khurshid Khattak.



The vice chancellor highlighted the university's commitment to academic excellence and research. The conference brought together facul-

ty and scholars from KKKU and Kohat University to discuss social science topics and explore innovative solutions for Pakistan's challenges. Minister Meena Khan Afridi emphasized the government's focus on youth development and praised KKKUK's dedication to energy research and education. "This facility will provide a conducive environment for cutting-edge research and sustainable energy solutions," she said. The new Energy Center Academic Block is set to become a hub for innovation and research at KKKU.

## Delegation of Indonesian Embassy Visits GCWUS

Sialkot (Agencies): A delegation from the Indonesian Embassy visited the Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS) on Thursday. The delegation included Ferry Junigwan Mardiansyah, Heryanto, and Andi Irawan Shamil. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zarrin Fatima Rizvi, Additional Director ORIC Dr. Muhammad Umair Ashraf, and Controller Examinations Malik Gulshan Aslam. Representatives from GCWUS, including Dean Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Professor Dr. Yasir Nawaz Manj, Manager ORIC Sohaib Saleem, Dr. Syeda Sadia, Dr. Sabina Awais, Dr. Asma Waheed Qureshi, Dr. Ayesha Farid, Dr. Shagufta Firdous, Dr. Yaseen Munir, Dr. Muhammad Usman Ashraf, and others, were also present. The meeting focused on mutual activities between educational institutions of both countries and student development programs. Future agreements were also discussed to enhance collaboration.

## 80% Hari Card Registration Completed in Sanghar: DC



Hyderabad (Agencies): The Deputy Commissioner of Sanghar, Imran ul Hassan Khowaja, announced that 80% of the Hari Card registration process in the district has been completed, with full registration expected within the next two days. He shared this update while speaking to media following a review meeting on Hari Card registration in Tando Adam. During the meeting, the deputy commissioner assessed the progress of the registration process and emphasized that there was no specific target for registration. He assured that all farmers meeting the criteria under the government scheme would be registered. The Sindh Government's Hari Card Scheme provides farmers with access to agricultural benefits, including seeds, fertilizer, and support in case of natural disasters. Khowaja urged farmers who have not yet registered to visit the Mukhtiarkar office to complete their registration. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Tando Adam Hanain Tariq Shahani, Mukhtiarkar Tando Adam Gulam Shabbir Sahito, and other relevant officials. Earlier, the deputy commissioner also visited the taluka hospital to review the medical facilities provided to patients.

## CDA Board Greenlights Major Upgrades in Emergency Services, Cybersecurity

Islamabad (Agencies): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board, in its 16th meeting on Wednesday, announced significant upgrades for emergency services and cybersecurity. The meeting, chaired by CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa at the CDA Headquarters, saw all board members in attendance, discussing a range of agenda items leading to several key approvals and decisions. One of the primary decisions was to fully operationalize the Capital Emergency Services. It was also decided that the Directorate of Emergency and Disaster Management and 1122 Care units would come under the authority of the Director General of Capital Emergency Services. Additionally, specialist

staff will be recruited on a contract basis to enhance the capacity of this department. Chairman Randhawa emphasized the importance of expediting the promotion process for all officers and employees who meet the eligibility criteria for advancement. In terms of digital infrastructure, the board approved the hiring of a cybersecurity firm on a running contract to safeguard digital assets and services. The IT Directorate will also be strengthened with the recruitment of additional professionals. The board further approved the Rehabilitation Regulations 2024. Under these regulations, compensation for acquired land and houses will be provided strictly in financial terms.

## PTA conducts QoS surveys for Fixed-Line broadband in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: 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 surveys, 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 to users. 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>

## Pakistan to Have 62 Million Diabetics by 2045; Experts Call for Urgent Policy Action

Islamabad (Agencies): Health experts have raised alarm over the surge of diabetes in Pakistan, attributing it to the consumption of ultra-processed foods laden with trans fats, sugar, and salt. They warned that Pakistan is on track to have 62 million diabetics by 2045, with the current number of people living with diabetes jumping from 6.3 million in 2011 to approximately 36 million in 2024, and an additional one million as pre-diabetic. During a walk organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA), Heartfile, Pakistan Youth Change Advocates, and the Center for Peace and Development Initiative (CPDI) in front of the National Press Club Islamabad on World Diabetes Day, experts emphasized the urgency of policy action to prevent further deterioration. Country Coordinator for Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), Munawar Hussain, highlighted that sweet drinks are the largest source of sugar intake, promoting type 2 diabetes and other diseases. He pointed out that several studies link sugary

drinks to a 30% increase in diabetes risk, which can be mitigated by reducing their consumption. General Secretary of PANA, Sanaullah Ghumman, noted that higher taxes on sugary drinks have effectively reduced diabetes prevalence in about 50 countries, including Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar. CEO of Heart File, Dr. Saba, underscored the well-documented link between sugar-sweetened beverages and diabetes, advocating for increased excise taxes on sweetened drinks. Mukhtar Ahmed Ali, Executive Director of CPDI, called for the elimination of industrially produced trans fats from the food system, linking them to rising diabetes rates. PFUJ President Afzal Butt pledged support for the taxation campaign and other regulatory measures. The walk saw participation from students, civil society representatives, health experts, and public health advocates, all calling for necessary policy steps to reduce the consumption of ultra-processed foods and sugary drinks.

## Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ambassador Calls for Global Recognition and Justice at Republic Day Reception in Pakistan

Islamabad (Adnan Hameed): The Embassy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) in Pakistan marked the 41st anniversary of the establishment of the TRNC with a vibrant reception in Islamabad. The event, hosted by Dilsad Senol, Ambassador of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, brought together dignitaries, diplomats, parliamentarians, and members of the press to celebrate this momentous occasion. Fahd Haroon, Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister and Head of the Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit, and Mohammad Aamir Khan, Direc-

tor General of the Afghanistan, Iran, and Türkiye Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, were among the distinguished attendees. The ceremony commenced with the national anthems of both the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and Pakistan, setting a tone of mutual respect and camaraderie. In her keynote address, Ambassador Senol highlighted the historical significance of the establishment of the TRNC, emphasizing the Turkish Cypriot people's resilience and their unwavering commitment to safeguarding their sovereignty and identity. She also underscored the pivotal role of Türkiye as a staunch supporter



of the TRNC in ensuring peace and stability on the island. "The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus stands as a beacon of progress in democracy, economy, social equality, and human rights, with notable achievements in higher education and tourism," said Ambassador Senol. She reiterated the

TRNC's commitment to international cooperation through organizations like the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organisation, and the Organisation of Turkic States. Addressing the ongoing Cyprus issue, Ambassador Senol called for the international community

to acknowledge the sovereign equality of the Turkish Cypriot people and to end the decades-long injustices faced by the TRNC. She emphasized the need for a new vision that moves beyond the failed parameters of past negotiations. Ambassador Senol also cited President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's address at the 79th United Nations General Assembly, urging the global community to recognize the TRNC's sovereignty and establish diplomatic, political, and economic ties with the Turkish Cypriot people. The event also featured a cake-cutting ceremony, during which a traditional cake adorned with the flag of the TRNC was cut by Ambassador Senol,

## Bluesky Adds 1 Million Users Since US Election

Los Angeles (Agencies): Social media site Bluesky has gained 1 million new users in the week since the US election, as some X users look for an alternative platform. Bluesky announced on Wednesday that its total users surged to 15 million, up from roughly 13 million at the end of October. Championed by former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Bluesky was an invitation-only space until it opened to the public in February. The platform resembles Elon Musk's X, with a "discover" feed and a chronological feed for accounts that users follow. Users can send direct messages, pin posts, and find "starter packs" with cu-



rated lists of people and custom feeds to follow. Despite Bluesky's growth, X posted last week that it had "dominated the global conversation on the US election" and set new records. Representatives for Bluesky and X did not respond to requests for comment. Bluesky has referenced its competitive relationship with X through tongue-in-cheek com-

ments, including an Election Day post on X referencing Musk watching voting results with President-elect Donald Trump. New users, including journalists, left-leaning politicians, and celebrities, have posted memes and shared their excitement about using a space free from advertisements and hate speech. On Wednesday, The Guardian announced it would no longer post on X, citing "far right conspiracy theories and racism" on the site. Television journalist Don Lemon also posted on X that he is leaving the platform but will continue to use other social media, including Bluesky.

## EU Orders Meta to Pay \$800 Million Fine

Brussels (Agencies): The European Commission has fined Meta Platforms €797 million (\$842 million) for breaching EU antitrust rules. The fine was imposed due to Meta's alleged abusive practices that benefited its online classified ads service, Facebook Marketplace. The EC stated that Meta tied Marketplace to its social network and imposed unfair trading conditions on other online classified ads service providers. Meta has announced plans to appeal the



fine, arguing that the ruling ignores the fact that Facebook users have the option

to choose whether or not to engage with Marketplace. The EU had originally accused Meta of violating antitrust laws in 2021, with concerns raised again in December 2022. This latest development is part of a broader effort by EU regulators to curb the dominance of big tech companies and ensure fair competition in the digital market. Meta's fine is one of the highest imposed by the EU on a tech giant, highlighting the ongoing scrutiny faced by major players in the industry.

## OMV Warns of Potential Gas Supply Halt Amid Contract Dispute with Gazprom

Vienna, Austria (Agencies): Austria's leading oil and gas company, has issued a warning that its ongoing dispute with Gazprom could lead to a potential halt in gas supplies. The conflict stems from OMV's recent decision to pursue damages from Gazprom over irregular gas supplies, which has resulted in a \$243 million arbitral award. Despite the warning, OMV has assured that it can continue to meet its customers' gas needs by tapping into its storage facilities, even if supplies from Russia are disrupted. OMV receives Russian



gas under a long-term contract with Gazprom that is set to expire in 2040. However, Austria has been striving to reduce its dependency on Russian gas, a goal that has proven challenging due to the higher costs of imports from other countries. Austria's Energy

Minister, Leonore Gewessler, responded to OMV's warning by stating that the country's gas supplies are secure. She emphasized that Austria has been preparing for a potential supply disruption for a long time and that its gas storage facilities are currently full. The situation remains tense as OMV continues to enforce the arbitral award, which could further strain its relationship with Gazprom. Despite these challenges, OMV remains confident in its ability to deliver gas to its customers without interruption.

## UK Must Rebuild Post-Brexit Relations with EU, Says Bank Boss

London (Agencies): The UK must "rebuild relations" with the EU "while respecting the decision of the British people" who voted to leave in 2016, according to Andrew Bailey, the Governor of the Bank of England. In his Mansion House speech to investors, Bailey made some of his strongest comments yet on Brexit, highlighting that one of its consequences has been weaker trade.



Bailey, who has previously avoided commenting on Brexit due to the Bank's independence from Westminster politics, stated that the changed relationship with the EU has "weighed" on the economy. "As a public official, I take no position on Brexit per se," he said. "But I do have to point out consequences."

He noted that the impact on trade seems to be more significant in goods than services, emphasizing the need to rebuild relations while respecting the decision of the British people. Chancellor Rachel Reeves echoed this sentiment in her Mansion House speech, stating that while the government remains opposed to rejoining the EU, there could be a closer relationship.

"Our biggest trading partner is the European Union. We will not be reversing Brexit, or re-entering the single market or customs union. But we must reset our relationship," she said. Bailey also warned about "geopolitical shocks and the broader fragmentation of the global economy," urging the UK not to focus solely on the effects of Brexit. He made a similar comment last week regarding US President-elect Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs of up to 20% on imports. Vicky Pryce, chief economic adviser to the Centre for Economics and Business Research, questioned whether the UK could maintain a special relationship with the US while still trading substantially with Europe if such tariffs were imposed.

## Saudi Arabia's Official Reserves Reach \$457 Billion

Riyadh (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's official reserve assets reached SR1.71 trillion (\$456.97 billion) in September, marking a 4 percent increase year-on-year, according to the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA). These holdings include monetary gold, special drawing rights (SDRs), the International Monetary Fund's reserve position, and foreign reserves. Foreign reserves, which comprise currency and deposits abroad as well as investments in foreign securities, made up 94.5 percent of the total, amounting to SR1.62 trillion in September—a 4.11 percent increase during this period.



The data also indicated that SDRs rose to SR79.86 billion, a 4.18 percent increase, reaching the highest level in two and a half years. SDRs now account for 4.66 percent of Saudi Arabia's total reserves. Created by the IMF, SDRs supplement mem-

ber countries' official reserves and derive their value from a basket of major currencies. The IMF reserve position totaled around SR12.64 billion, but decreased by 11.45 percent. This category represents the amount a country can draw from the IMF without conditions. Saudi Arabia's official reserves have been a fundamental pillar of the nation's economic stability, closely tied to its strategic investments in foreign securities. The Kingdom's reserves include an extensive portfolio of foreign assets, ensuring a robust financial buffer against global economic uncertainties.

## Ford Faces \$165 Million Fine for Delayed Backup Camera Recall

Washington, D.C. (Agencies): The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has fined Ford up to \$165 million for moving too slowly to recall cars with faulty rearview cameras. The ruling comes three years after the NHTSA began investigating whether Ford delayed its 2020 recall of 600,000 vehicles, which was related to defective rearview cameras that sometimes showed a blank screen. The NHTSA stated that Ford violated federal regulations by not immediately notifying the agency of the defect and failing to submit timely quarterly reports on the recall's progress. The consent order requires Ford to pay \$65 million upfront, with an additional \$55 million contingent on compliance with the order over the next three years.



The remaining \$45 million must be invested in advanced data tools and a new testing facility for rearview camera components. The models affected by the recall include the 2020 Ford Edge, Escape, Expedition, Explorer, F-150, Mustang, Ranger, Transit, and Lincoln Corsair and Nautilus. Ford's quality communications manager,

Maria Buczkowski, confirmed that no fatalities or injuries were related to the recall. NHTSA Deputy Administrator Sophie Shulman emphasized the importance of timely and accurate recalls to ensure road safety. Ford has committed to working with the NHTSA to resolve the issue.

## European Crime Ring Busted in 520 Million Euro VAT Fraud Investigation

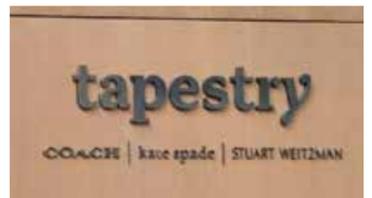
ROME (Agencies): Italian prosecutors announced Thursday the dismantling of a mafia-linked VAT fraud network spanning multiple European countries, seizing assets worth 520 million euros (\$548 million). Around 40 arrests were made as part of the operation, codenamed "Moby Dick," following a Milan judge's order to crack down on the criminal enterprise. The ring is accused of issuing false invoices totaling an unprecedented 1.3 billion euros, facilitating large-scale VAT fraud through cross-border sales of computer and IT equipment. Italian investigators coordinated with law enforcement across Europe, including in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Spain, as well as in the United Arab Emirates, to execute raids and seize assets. Nearly 200 people and 400 companies are under investigation. In addition to pre-trial detention for 34 suspects and house arrest for nine



others, seven European arrest warrants have been issued for key figures located outside Italy. Authorities linked the network to mafia groups in Sicily and Campania, which heightened the severity of charges. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni praised the operation as a testament to Italy's dedication to curbing tax evasion, estimated to cost the nation 80 billion euros annually. European chief prosecutor Laura Kovesi highlighted the case's demonstration of organized crime's deep involvement in EU budget fraud, noting that these criminal worlds are increasingly intertwined.

## Tapestry Abandons \$8.5 Billion Capri Acquisition After FTC Blocks Merger

NEW YORK (Agencies): Tapestry, owner of Coach, has dropped its \$8.5 billion acquisition bid for Capri Holdings, parent company of Michael Kors and Versace, after a U.S. regulatory challenge. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) blocked the merger, arguing it would reduce competition, a move reinforced by a U.S. court's finding that Tapestry and Capri are close competitors. The FTC's intervention, surprising in the fragmented fashion sector, underscores the agency's recent focus on preventing mergers that may harm competition. Tapestry and Capri mutually agreed to terminate the deal, citing little chance of obtaining regulatory approval before the February deadline.



Capri chairman John Idol expressed confidence in Capri's growth potential, citing new strategies to drive expansion. Tapestry CEO Joanne Crevoiserat confirmed the company's strong financial footing and announced a \$2 billion share repurchase plan. Tapestry also agreed to cover \$45 million of Capri's deal-related expenses, though no official break fee applies.

## Riots break out at Audi plant

Brussels (Agencies): Police were forced to disperse protesters after riots erupted on Wednesday at a plant belonging to German carmaker Audi in the Belgian capital, Brussels, Reuters has reported. Around 150 people, some of whom wore masks, breached a negotiating room during discussions on a severance plan between unions and the administration of the factory, which is being closed, an Audi spokeswoman told the agency. The invaders set off fireworks and prevented the participants of the talks from leaving the premises, she added. Police intervened and forced the protesters to disperse, according to the spokeswoman, who said one union member had been slightly injured in the melee. Earlier this year, Audi, which is a subsidiary of the Volkswagen Group, announced that it will stop vehicle production at the facility in Brussels in March 2025. The plant is now facing closure after failing to find new investors and Volkswagen could not find an alternative use for the site. Some 3,000 employees and several hundred subcontractors are



at risk of losing their jobs. In September, 5,000 people took to the streets of Brussels in solidarity with the workers. "We are literally being eaten up and I do not know if we are in a position to do anything about it," an Audi employee told Euronews at the time. The EU's automotive industry is facing multiple challenges amid high energy prices and other economic hurdles faced by the bloc. Competition from cheaper Chinese electric vehicles is also a concern. Late last month, Volkswagen Group announced that it plans to close at least three plants in Germany and downsize its remaining factories. The move could mean thousands of job losses and entire departments being shut down or relocated abroad.

## US hacker sentenced over Bitcoin heist worth billions

NEW YORK (Agencies): A hacker has been sentenced to five years in a US prison for laundering the proceeds of one of the biggest ever cryptocurrency thefts. Ilya Lichtenstein pleaded guilty last year in the case involving the Bitfinex cryptocurrency exchange being hacked in 2016 and the theft of almost 120,000 bitcoin. He laundered the stolen cryptocurrency with the help of his wife Heather Morgan, who used the alias Razzlekhan to promote her hip hop music. At the time of the theft, the bitcoin was worth around \$70m (£55.3m), but had risen in value to more than \$4.5bn by the time they were arrested. At today's prices they would be worth more than double that. The \$3.6bn worth of assets recovered in the case was the biggest financial seizure in the Department of Justice's history, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said at the time. "It's important to send a message that you can't commit these crimes with impunity, that there are consequences to them," district judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly said. Lichtenstein, who has been in prison since his arrest in February 2022, expressed remorse for his actions.



He also said that he hopes to apply his skills to fight cybercrime after serving his sentence. Morgan also pleaded guilty last year to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. She is due to be sentenced on 18 November. According court documents, Lichtenstein used advanced hacking tools and techniques to hack into Bitfinex. Following the hack, he enlisted Morgan's help to launder the stolen funds. They "employed numerous sophisticated laundering techniques", the Department of Justice said in a statement. The methods included using fictitious identities, switching the funds into different cryptocurrencies and buying gold coins. Lichtenstein, who was born in Russia but grew up in the US, would then meet couriers while on family trips and move the laundered money back home, prosecutors said.

## Paul beats Tyson, 58, on points in drab contest

Texas (Agencies): Youtuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul left a permanent stain on two-time heavyweight champion Mike Tyson's boxing legacy with a tedious points win in front of 70,000 frustrated fans in Texas - and millions watching the controversial bout on streaming powerhouse Netflix. Tyson, as you might expect from a man aged 58 and having not competed professionally in 19 years, was a shadow of his old self.

Paul, 27, is a boxing novice but was too young and too athletic. He kept Tyson at range, landing jabs and accurate punches in an eight-round contest of two-minute rounds. Tyson was slow



and sluggish. He received a hero's reception before the fight, but there were huge boos as the fight drew to a close. Some fans left before judges' scores of 80-72, 79-73 and 79-73 were

announced. In an uncomfortable moment post-fight, Tyson, after his seventh pro loss in 57 bouts, called out Paul's brother Logan and suggested he could fight again.

## Cristiano Ronaldo's Bicycle Kick Propels Portugal to Nations League Quarter-Finals

Lisbon, Portugal (Agencies): In a stunning display of skill and athleticism, Cristiano Ronaldo's spectacular bicycle kick helped Portugal secure a dominant 5-1 victory over Poland, advancing them to the Nations League quarter-finals. The match, which saw Portugal take control in the second half, began with Rafael Leao heading in the opener. Ronaldo then stepped up to convert a penalty, awarded after a foul by Arsenal defender Jakob Kiwior, to make it 2-0. Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes added a third with a powerful strike, and Chelsea winger Pedro Neto sealed the win with a strong finish. Ronaldo capped off the match with his second goal, an acrobatic bicycle kick, to bring his tally to five goals in five Nations League games. Despite a late consolation goal from Dominik Marczuk, Poland couldn't recover from Por-



tugal's dominant performance. The victory means Portugal progresses as Group A1 winners, while Poland is eliminated from the competition.

Ronaldo's exceptional form continues to impress fans and solidifies his legacy as one of the greatest footballers of all time.

## Rozner Rekindles Dubai Romance to Lead DP World Tour Championship

Dubai, UAE (Agencies): Antoine Rozner posted a stunning seven under par round of 65 to lead the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates. The Frenchman, who previously won the 2020 Golf in Dubai Championship, leads by one on nine under par, with Tyrrell Hatton and Rory McIlroy just a shot behind. "I putted really well. It's one of those days where everything goes in, and I had a ton of fun out there," Rozner said. Rozner was one under through his first eight holes, before a trio of birdies from the ninth and another three from the 14th moved him into the lead. Victory for Rozner could see him climb to second on the Race to Dubai and secure dual membership with the PGA TOUR for 2025. McIlroy, with a three under par 69, strengthened his grip on the Harry Vardon Trophy. Despite a strong start, bogeys at the eighth and tenth allowed Rozner to seize the advantage. "A little disappointed that I didn't kick on after such a great start, but the rough is so thick, and you lose all control of your



golf ball if you hit it in there," McIlroy said. Hatton, matching McIlroy's round of 69, bounced back from a bogey at the fourth with birdies to stay in the mix. Chilean Joaquin Niemann sits in fourth place on seven under par, with Denmark's Rasmus Hojgaard, Irish-

man Shane Lowry, and Swede Jesper Svensson tied for fifth on six under. The English trio of Tommy Fleetwood, Matt Wallace, and Paul Waring are tied ninth, with Waring continuing his quest for back-to-back Rolex Series titles after his victory at Yas Links last week.

## Asma Alhosani Becomes First Emirati Woman to Reach Black Belt Finals at Abu Dhabi World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Championship

Abu Dhabi (Agencies): Emiratis Zayed Alkatheeri, Khaled Al-Shehhi, Mohammed Alsuwaidi, and Asma Alhosani have secured their spots in the finals of the professional black belt division at the 16th Abu Dhabi World Jiu-Jitsu Championship. The finals, taking place on Saturday at Mubadala Arena, will feature four Emirati athletes for the first time in the championship's history. Representing Banyas Club, Alhosani made history by becoming the first Emirati woman to qualify for the professional finals in the women's brown/black belt category. She achieved this milestone after defeating France's Lina Grosset from School of Champs in the 55 kg division. "I am very proud to be the first Emirati woman to reach the final in the women's brown/black belt division at this world championship," Alhosani said. "This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the support of our wise leadership and the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation. I eagerly look forward to the final, where I aim to win gold and stand on the podium." In the men's 62 kg division, Al-Ain Club's Khaled Al-Shehhi secured his place in the finals after defeating Ecuadorian Enrique Guerrero. "Reaching the final for the second



consecutive year is a significant step in my career," he said. "I'm determined to give my best performance and win the gold medal and the championship belt. Last year's silver medal motivated me to improve my skills, refine my strategy, and work harder throughout the year. My goal tomorrow (Sat-

urday) is to take gold." Zayed Alkatheeri, representing Abu Dhabi Police Academy, also advanced to the finals. Alkatheeri, who made history in 2022 as the first Emirati to win gold in the black belt division, defeated Armenian Rafayel Kostanyan from Legacy Jiu-Jitsu Armenia.

## ICC Announces Champions Trophy Tour Itinerary for Pakistan-Hosted Tournament



ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Agencies): The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Saturday announced the Global Trophy Tour for the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, starting in Islamabad. The trophy, after traveling across eight participating countries, will reach host Pakistan — the defending champions — on January 27, 2025. This announcement comes amid tensions between India, the runners-up of the last iteration, and Pakistan over India's refusal to visit Pakistan for the tournament. The PCB had revealed northern towns such as Murree, Hunza, Skardu, and Muzaffarabad as venues, but the ICC schedule includes only Murree and six other Pakistani venues. "The popular landmarks where the trophy will be displayed on the opening day of its tour in Islamabad are Daman-e-Koh, Faisal Mosque, and the Pakistan Monument where it will be accompanied by Pakistan cricket icon Shoaib Akhtar," read a statement from the ICC. After Islamabad, the tour will visit cities and venues in Pakistan such as Karachi, Abbottabad, and Taxila before continuing its journey. The tour includes physical and digital engagements traversing iconic destinations and key battles in the international

cricket calendar. ICC Chief Commercial Officer Anurag Dahiya expressed excitement about the tour: "We are delighted to launch the Trophy Tour with DP World ahead of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy, where another action-packed program of activity is available to fans across the world." Amid political tensions, the PCB has sought clarification from the ICC on the BCCI's decision not to send the Indian team to Pakistan, potentially complicating the tournament's prospects. Key dates of the Trophy Tour include:

- November 16: Islamabad, Pakistan
- November 17: Taxila and Khanpur, Pakistan
- November 18: Abbottabad, Pakistan
- November 19: Murree, Pakistan
- November 20: Nathia Gali, Pakistan
- November 22-25: Karachi, Pakistan
- November 26-28: Afghanistan
- December 10-13: Bangladesh
- December 15-22: South Africa
- December 25-January 5: Australia
- January 6-11: New Zealand
- January 12-14: England
- January 15-26: India
- January 27: (event starts) Pakistan

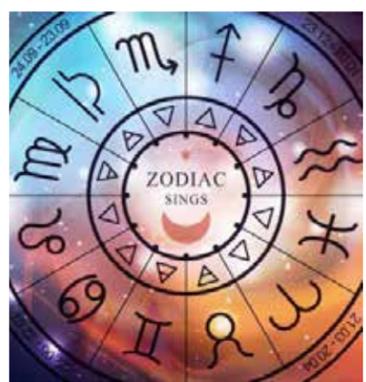
## Ranieri Comes Out of Retirement to Lead Hometown Club Roma

Rome (Agencies): Claudio Ranieri has come out of retirement to take charge of his hometown team, Roma, becoming the Serie A club's third coach this season. Ranieri, who famously led Leicester City to the Premier League title in 2016, signed a deal until the end of the season. After the season ends, the 73-year-old will transition into a senior executive role, advising the club on sporting matters. The search for a future coach will continue, with Ranieri having input in the decision. Ranieri replaces Ivan Juric, who was dismissed following a 3-2 home defeat to Bologna, leaving Roma 12th in Serie A, just four points above the relegation zone. Ranieri previously announced



his retirement after guiding Cagliari to safety last season but has returned to help Roma out of a crisis. This is Ranieri's third stint as Roma's coach. He previously led the team to Europa League qualification in 2019 and nearly clinched the league title in 2009-10. He will face tough challenges ahead, with matches against Napoli, Tottenham Hotspur, and Atalanta.

## DAILY HOROSCOPE: NOV 17, 2024



exactly clear about their intentions, and you need those hunches to clear the path.

- **VIRGO**: Try harder to meet people on their own ground today. It's certainly much easier for you than on other days. You can score points with them by showing your concern, and anything can happen.

- **LIBRA**: Lie low and let others take the heat today even if you can't tell when or where the heat is coming! You need to make sure that you've got your own bases covered, as things shouldn't take long.

- **SCORPIO**: Put that big brain of yours to use today. It needs some exercise! You're full of great energy, so you should be able to solve tough problems or dream up some creative ideas for home or business.

- **SAGITTARIUS**: Your philosophical musings are keeping people rapt today, so keep them coming! You may not get much work done at the office or at home, but you should dream up a few new ideas!

- **CAPRICORN**: Try to deal with the changes coming your way. You can see them coming, and that's at least half the battle. Your energy is just about right for getting friends and family to adjust their ways too.

- **ACQUARIUS**: You can't tarry too long with chores today. You need to just deal with them and then move on. If things start to get bogged down, leave them behind if possible and move to the next on the list.

- **PISCES**: Keep up the creative energy. You've got plenty to spare today! You may find a new way to get work done faster or discover a new inspiration for your artistic drives. Don't deny yourself.

## HEC and British Council Launch Phase II of Pak-UK Education Gateway

Islamabad (Agencies): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and the British Council jointly launched Phase-II of the Pak-UK Education Gateway at a ceremony held at the HEC Secretariat. The event, attended by Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal as the chief guest, aimed to strengthen bilateral collaboration in the higher education sector between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Building on the achievements of Phase-I, launched in 2018, the second phase seeks to fortify academic connections and joint research initiatives. Scheduled to begin in June 2025, Phase-II introduces six key components: Research for Impact, Transna-

tional Education and Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, Leadership and Governance, Scholarships, Women in Higher Education, and Faculty Development. Phase-I, valued at approximately PKR1.97 billion, yielded significant achievements, including funding for eight collaborative research grants, training of 275 PhD supervisors, and leadership development programs for over 40 Vice-Chancellors. Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the need for further collaboration between the UK and the Government of Pakistan to raise the country's tertiary education enrollment rate. He proposed initiatives such as customized training programs for faculty and increasing the number of UK-qualified PhDs in Pakistani uni-

versities. HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed highlighted the longstanding collaboration with the British Council and the project's impact on developing a revised HEC Quality Assurance Framework and new policies for Open and Distance Learning and Transnational Education. Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, announced a commitment of £5 million to support Phase-II, emphasizing the importance of deepening the UK's connection with Pakistan to address critical challenges like climate change and the educational emergency. UK's Deputy High Commissioner Andrew Dalglish expressed appreciation for the collaboration and looked forward to positive outcomes from the initiative.

## The Aga Khan University Hospital Introduces Groundbreaking 3D-Printed PEEK Implant Procedure, Revolutionizing Healthcare in Pakistan

KARACHI (Khyber Mail): The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) has announced the successful implementation of 3D-printed PEEK implants, meticulously designed and manufactured by AKUH's experts. This transformative leap in medical innovation aims to improve healthcare access, affordability, and outcomes for patients needing complex bone replacement surgeries in Pakistan. 3D-printed PEEK implants are high-performance, customized devices that can replace bones in various parts of the body, including the skull, jaw, and spine. These implants stand out due to their strength, lightweight nature, and compatibility with the human body, which reduce the risk of infection and improve long-term success rates. By offering a cost-effective, high-quality option, designed and manufactured in-house, the Aga Khan University Hospital has set a new standard of care now accessible to patients requiring bone replacement at a fraction of the earlier cost of imported implants. Dr. Shahzad Shamim, Professor and Section Head of Neurosurgery at AKUH, commented on the impact of this innovation: "3D-printed PEEK implants are a game-changer in surgery, not only improving the accuracy of surgeries but also offering better integration with the human body, leading

to faster recovery times and improved patient outcomes." AKUH is currently the only hospital in Pakistan that designs and manufactures 3D-printed PEEK implants in-house, using a state-of-the-art facility which has been formally approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). The process followed to manufacture these implants meet GMP standards which means these implants are of the same standards as available anywhere in the world. Additionally, the PEEK material used in these implants is FDA-approved, a testament to their adherence to international safety and quality benchmarks. With DRAP approval and internationally recognized PEEK material, AKUH guarantees that patients receive implants that meet rigorous global quality standards. Dr. Saleem Sayani, Director of the Technology Innovation Support Centre at AKU, added, "With in-house production, we can customize implants with precision, offering world-class treatments that were previously unavailable in Pakistan." Local manufacturing at AKUH also significantly lowers patient costs by eliminating dependency on expensive imports. This development makes high-quality treatments more accessible, providing much-needed relief especially for low- and middle-income patients.

## Rescue 1122 and Muslim Hands Host Capacity-Building Training Workshop

Mirpur (Agencies): Rescue 1122 Mirpur, in collaboration with UK-based NGO Muslim Hands International, hosted a day-long capacity-building training workshop on Thursday. The workshop aimed to enhance the technical skills of volunteers and staffers to handle comprehensive emergency situations. Dozens of volunteers and staff members from the Muslim Hands Mirpur AJK Chapter participated successfully. Seasoned field staffers from Rescue 1122, including Senior Rescue Officer Wajid Rasheed and his colleagues, provided training on handling emergencies such as fires, road mishaps, boating and fishing accidents, and other recreational activities at water sites. Qamar Atta Raja, Media Manager of Muslim Hands, highlighted the importance of such sessions for community resilience and effective emergency preparedness. "The event covered vital life-saving skills, including CPR techniques, fire extinguisher use, and emergency response protocols," he said.

## Megaport Opens Up Latin America to Chinese Trade as US Looks On

Chancay, Peru (Agencies): As the world anticipates how Donald Trump's return might reshape US-China relations, China has taken decisive action to strengthen its position in Latin America. President Xi Jinping attended the inauguration of the Chancay port on the Peruvian coast this week, signaling China's commitment to the development. The \$3.5 billion project, led by China's state-owned Cosco Shipping, has transformed the once-sleepy fishing town into a logistical powerhouse. The port is expected to create new trade routes bypassing North America entirely, enhancing China's influence in a region traditionally seen as the US's sphere of influence. "The US has been absent from Latin America for so long, and China has moved in so rapidly, that things have really reconfigured in the past decade," said Monica de Bolle, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Peru's President Dina Boluarte described the megaport as a "nerve centre" providing a connection to the Asian market. Once operational, the port will facilitate the export of goods from Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, and Brazil to Shanghai and other Asian ports, reducing shipping times from 35 to 23 days.

## Japanese Princess Yuriko, oldest member of imperial family, dies at 101

Tokyo (Agencies): Japanese Princess Yuriko, the wife of wartime Emperor Hirohito's brother and the oldest member of the imperial family, has died after her health deteriorated recently, palace officials said. She was 101. Yuriko died Friday at a Tokyo hospital, the Imperial Household Agency said. It did not announce the cause of death, but Japanese media said she died of pneumonia. Born in 1923 as an aristocrat, Yuriko married at age 18 to Prince Mikasa, the younger brother of Hirohito and the uncle of current Emperor Naruhito, months before the start of World War II. She has recounted living in a shelter with her husband and their baby daughter after their residence was burned down in the US fire bombings of Tokyo in the final

## Delegation from National Defence University, Saudi Arabia visits NUST



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): A fifteen-member delegation of the National Defence University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by Commandant War College, Major General Badar Bin Muneef Al-Otobi, visited the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) on Friday. The delegation was warmly received by the rector of NUST, Lt General Javed Mahmood Bukhari. During one-day-visit, the delegation was given a detailed briefing on various dimensions of NUST, including an overview of the university, the academic governance, quality ecosystems of NUST, the research re-

gime, NUST's think tank, and knowledge diplomacy. The delegation also visited the ongoing 28th Annual Conference of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC), being held for the first time in Pakistan. Pakistan's cuisine The delegation was taken for a brief visit of the expo arranged for 28th IAPTC members in which various indigenously developed products were displayed. The delegation took deep interest in the various academic and training activities and highly appreciated the highest global standards achieved by NUST.

## Pakistan Launches First National Carbon Market Policy to Attract Green Investment

Baku (Agencies): Pakistan has launched its first national carbon market policy aimed at attracting green investment. The launch took place on the sidelines of the COP29 global climate conference at the Pakistan Pavilion on Saturday. The event, titled "Pakistan's Carbon Market Policy and Panel on Coordinated Access to Net Zero Development Financing Through Paris-Aligned Carbon Markets," featured prominent speakers and was attended by members of international civil society organizations, delegations from various countries, academia, researchers, policymakers, and media. Prime Minister's

Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, addressed the event and emphasized Pakistan's commitment to developing this market for sustainable development. She highlighted that Pakistan is eager to collaborate with partners and collaborators in jointly setting up carbon markets. The new policy is expected to play a pivotal role in facilitating Pakistan's transition to a low-carbon economy by promoting sustainable practices and attracting investments in green projects. It marks a significant step forward in Pakistan's efforts to address climate change and achieve net-zero emissions.

## CIA Official Arrested for Leaking Secret Docs on Israel's Plans for Iran Attack

Washington (Agencies): The FBI has arrested a CIA official, Asif William Rahman, for allegedly leaking classified documents detailing Israel's preparations for a strike against Iran. Rahman, who was stationed overseas, was taken into custody in Cambodia and is due to appear before a court in Guam. The leaked documents, which appeared on a Telegram channel last month, included satellite imagery and assessments from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) about the movement of Israeli military assets and predictions about the planned attack. These documents were reportedly shareable with members of the 'Five Eyes' intelligence alliance, which includes Australia, Britain, Canada, New



Zealand, and the US. Rahman, who had top-level security clearance, was indicted on two counts of willful transmission of national defense information. This arrest follows the sentencing of former US Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira to 15 years in prison for disclosing classified documents about the Ukraine conflict.

## Bullet strikes Southwest Airlines plane as it prepares to depart from Dallas airport



Dallas (Agencies): Dallas police are investigating after a Southwest Airlines flight was struck by a bullet as it was preparing to depart from Dallas Love Field Airport in Texas Friday evening, authorities said. The bullet apparently struck the right side of the plane just under the flight deck as the plane was taxiing for takeoff from Dallas to

Indianapolis just before 10 p.m., according to Southwest Airlines. No injuries were reported and the flight safely returned to the gate, where passengers deplaned, according to authorities. It's unclear where the gunfire originated from or if the plane was the intended target. No arrests had been announced as of early Saturday.



months of the war in 1945. Yuriko raised five children and supported Mikasa's research into ancient Near Eastern history, while also serving

her official duties and taking part in philanthropic activities. She outlived her husband and all three sons. Her death reduces Japan's rapidly dwindling imperial family to 16 people, including four men, as the country faces the dilemma of how to maintain the royal family while conservatives in the governing party insist on retaining male-only succession. The 1947 Imperial House Law, which largely preserves conservative pre-war family values, allows only males to take the throne and forces female royal family members who marry commoners to lose their royal status. The youngest male member of the imperial family, Prince Hisahito — the nephew of Emperor Naruhito — is currently the last heir apparent, posing a major problem for a sys-

tem that doesn't allow empresses. The government is debating how to keep succession stable without relying on women. Yuriko had lived a healthy life as a centenarian before suffering a stroke and pneumonia in March. She enjoyed exercise in the morning while watching a daily fitness program on television, the Imperial Household Agency says. She also continued to read multiple newspapers and magazines and enjoyed watching news and baseball on TV. On sunny days, she sat in the palace garden or was wheeled in her wheelchair. Yuriko was hospitalized after her stroke and had been in and out of intensive care since then. Her overall condition deteriorated over the past week, the Imperial Household Agency said.

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