

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 323 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Monday November 20, 2023, Jamadi-ul-Awal 05, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

## PM Kakar congratulates team Australia on winning WC Travis Head shattered billion dreams as Australia wins 6th World Cup title

**Sports Desk**  
AHMEDABAD: Opener Travis Head hit a sparkling 137 to power Australia to a record-extending sixth World Cup title with a convincing six-wicket win over India in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Chasing a tricky 241 for victory in the final, Australia slipped to 47-3 before the left-handed Head hit his second century of the tournament to steer the team home with seven overs to spare.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated

the Indian team despite their loss.

"Dear Team India, your talent and determination through the World Cup was noteworthy. You've played with great spirit and brought immense pride to the nation," he said.

"We stand with you today and always," he added.

Opener Travis Head hit a sparkling 137 to power Australia to a record-extending sixth World Cup title with a convincing six-wicket win

over India in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Chasing a tricky 241 for victory in the final, Australia slipped to 47-3 before the left-handed Head hit his second century of the tournament to steer the team home with seven overs to spare.

Head's knock and his marathon stand of 192 with Marnus Labuschagne, unbeaten on 58, ended India's dominant run of 10 unbeaten matches at the event.

Head fell after his 120-ball knock laced with

15 fours and four sixes before Glenn Maxwell hit the winning runs to trigger wild celebrations in the Aussie camp.

"Just thrilled to be a part of it," man-of-the-match Head told Star Sports. "It's a lot better than seeing the World Cup on the couch at home (on his injury). I was a little bit nervous but Marnus played exceptionally well and soaked all the pressure." India's chances of ending a global trophy drought since their 2013 Champions Trophy win.



Australia's Pat Cummins celebrates with the trophy and teammates after winning the ICC Cricket World Cup.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj-ul-Haq addressing the Gaza March in front of Punjab University.

## Zardari says: PPP to emerge as majority party in upcoming polls

KARACHI (INP): Co-Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former president Asif Ali Zardari has said that the general elections in the country should be held on time.

In his statement, former president Asif Ali Zardari said that the country is moving towards transparent elections and the People's Party is fully prepared for it.

He was of the view as the conditions in the country are conducive, elections

should be held on time. He said that we have confidence in the Election Commission that it would conduct a transparent election.

The former president said that the People's Party is the only party which is capable of contesting elections in any environment and will emerge as the majority party of the country on February 8.

A day earlier, UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott called on PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House in Karachi.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan during meeting held in Karachi.

## NA Speaker says: Parliamentary Caucus on child rights to ensure well-being of children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf stressed on the significance of child rights and stated that the Parliament has always vigorously worked for the welfare and well-being of children.

He stated that the Parliament, especially the 15th National Assembly, has achieved many milestones as regards to effective legislation for child welfare and child safety. He further said, "There is a positive correlation between the socio-economic progress of a country and the state of well-being of its children".

NA Speaker expressed these views on World Children's Day which is commemorated on November 20 (tomorrow) of each year. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf expressed dismay over the poor state of welfare and well-being of children worldwide and the growing socio-economic problems.

The Speaker further elaborated on the effectiveness of the child-friendly and child welfare initiatives taken by the 15th National Assembly, namely the 1st ever Summer Democracy School, under 18 Internship Program.

## Pakistan budget insufficient to tackle climate change: IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday Pakistan had limited budget to tackle the aggravated climate condition in the country. An IMF report on public investment indicated, Pakistani economy might be affected by 9 percent by the natural disruptions.

The report said Pakistan was among the coun-

tries more likely to be affected by the climate change and earlier 30 million people were affected by the floods in 2022.

The report said Pakistan's developmental budget was 14 times more than the climate budget and every year since 2000, Pakistan was facing over \$2 billion losses due to the climate change.

## Bugti condoles death of Tariq Jameel's son

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmad Bugti condoled with Maulana Tariq Jameel the death of his son Asim Jameel, at his home in Islamabad on Sunday.

The Interior Minister also prayed for forgiveness and offered Fateha for the deceased.

While condoling the minister said the death of the son at a young age is a great sorrow and shock for the entire family.

"May Allah grant all the bereaved the courage and fortitude to bear this shock", prayed the Interior Minister.

## FIA arrests five human smugglers

GUJRANWALA (INP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested five accused for their involvement in human smuggling. The FIA has arrested Khizar Hayat, Farasat Ali, Shaukat Ali, Zain Ahmed and Hassan Tariq, accused of their involvement in human smuggling and keeping citizens in illegal captivity abroad and to extort money from their families.

Five human smuggling accused were arrested from various parts of Gujranwala and Gujrat districts, FIA officials said.

Accused Khizar Hayat received 1.13 million rupees from a citizen for sending him to abroad, FIA said.

## Chakwal seminary sealed after sexual abuse cases surface

CHAKWAL (INP): The district police on Sunday sealed a local seminary in Chakwal after cases of sexual assault and torture with multiple students surfaced.

Two seminary teachers were arrested and a case of "unnatural offences" was registered against them following allegations that they sexually assaulted multiple minor students.

The two accused - Zeeshan and Anis - were arrested after the father and uncle of one of the victims approached District Police Officer (DPO) a day earlier.

The police claimed the ages of the victims ranged between nine and twelve and according to them, the abuse had been going on for at least three to four weeks.

## Locals welcome resumption of Sibi- Harnai train service

ISLAMABAD (APP): Residents in the vicinities of Sibi and Harnai districts in Balochistan province expressed a collective sense of relief following the restoration of train services connecting these twin cities after a 17-year hiatus.

The restoration of this vital transport link has been warmly received by the local community, heralding the resurgence of economic activities and offering prospects for enhancing the standard of living.

The renewed accessibility provided by the Sibi-Harnai train service is anticipated to not only catalyze commercial endeavors but also foster avenues for their socio-economic conditions.

"The long-awaited railway line, traversing rugged and perilous terrains, in-

cluding mountainous regions, has been hailed as a vital transportation link in the province by Muhammad Asfand Khan, a local resident told APP on Sunday.

He highlighted the restored railway track's significance, providing an affordable travel alternative and a catalyst for economic growth in the area. Originally established during the late 18th century under British rule, this railway section was deemed instrumental in Balochistan's development.

However, in 2006, a banned armed organization orchestrated bombings that extensively damaged bridges and tracks along this line.

Hikmat Khan Bugti, another resident, emphasized the absence of proper roads, making train travel a much-needed alternative.

## ECP gets 2,000 laptops from HEC for ROs, DROs

ISLAMABAD (INP): In pursuance of the agreement, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had signed with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the former has received 2,000 laptops from the latter as the general elections, 2024 are approaching fast.

As per sources, the ECP had decided to give laptops to the returning officers (ROs) as well as district returning officers (DROs) so that they could perform their duties with ease. It was after feeling helpless in the face of coalition government's reluctance to hold elections despite its order, the Supreme Court (SC) finally on November 3, 2023 said that enough was enough and ordered the government to ensure the conduct of general elections on February 8.

## Thousands attend JI's Gaza Solidary March in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): Thousands of citizens have attended Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Gaza March in Lahore to show solidarity with Palestinians in besieged densely populated strip and occupied West Bank suffering from the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) organized the Gaza Solidarity March at Lahore's Punjab University (PU) Campus Bridge today which was attended by thousands of citizens including women and children.

The massive public event was addressed by JI Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq, politicians and clerics.

Protestors chanted pro-Palestinian slogans and demanded an end to

Israeli aggression in Gaza. While addressing the Gaza March, JI Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq said that the innocent children of Gaza were waiting for the help of Muslim countries amid Israeli bombardment.

He slammed rulers of the Muslim countries for doing nothing for the relief of Palestinians except making tall claims. He also criticized that the rulers of the Muslim countries did nothing in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit except for consolation.

"A dead resolution was passed in the OIC summit, ineffective to provide any relief to the Palestinians and stop inhumane actions of the Israeli occupation forces."

## Malik paves way for enhanced collaboration in Saudia's job market

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, focused on developing the Pakistani workforce in KSA during his interactions with Saudi employers and human resource executives on his visit to the kingdom.

In Saudi Arabia, he concentrates on solidifying connections and optimizing

opportunities for the Pakistani community.

Jawad Sohrab Malik engaged in in-depth discussions with Saudi employers and human resource management executives in Jeddah.

During the meetings, SAPM emphasized the crucial role of human resource development aligned with the requirements of the Saudi market and economy.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi visiting the Palestinian stall and expressing her condolences for the martyrs of Gaza, at Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association's Annual Charity Bazar.

## Nawaz to be next PM, claims Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that her party's Quaid Mian Nawaz Sharif would be the next prime minister after February 8 elections.

Addressing a press conference here at the party secretariat, she said only free and fair election was solution to the challenges being faced by the country. The former information minister said her party's political opponents knew it well that Nawaz Sharif would become the prime minister for the fourth time, adding that the PML-N's manifesto would be provision of relief to people. About her PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif's acquittal in the Ashiana Housing Scheme reference by a Lahore accountability court, she said the former prime minister was vindicated once again. Marriyum said Shehbaz showed loy-

alty with his brother and faced various fake corruption cases. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was imposed on the country through deliberate failure of the result transmission system (RTS) in the 2018 elections. "Today's youth must know what kind of game was played and the people had to bear the brunt of it," said the PML-N leader. She added that a game was played with the opposition and the system of the country. Pakistan, after a tumultuous five years, was approaching one of the most crucial general elections of its history, which are set to take place on February 8 next year. To a question about the recent statement of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari on elections, the PML-N leader said his statement about transparent elections was encouraging.



JEDDAH: Minister Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab Malik meets with Pakistani Community, Saudi Employers and HRM Exec.

## Bilawal accuses PML-N of lying on PIA's privatization

KARACHI (INP): Completely throwing his weight behind the Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) employees protest against proposed privatization of the airline, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday what he had discussed with the PML-N was not the airline's privatization, but its restructuring.

Sources in the Bilawal House stated that while talking to a delegation of the PIA employees, Bilawal Bhutto alleged, "Just like the PML-N lies to the nation in political matters, it is not stating the facts about the discussions we had on the subject."

## 235,821 Afghans return to homeland

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 235,821 Afghans have so far been repatriated to their homeland, according to Radio Pakistan.

The repatriation of illegal foreign nationals, including Afghans, to their homeland is continuing. Thousands of Afghans are returning to their homeland on a daily basis through the Chaman and Torkham borders, thanking Pakistan for its generosity.

## CPEC has transformational impact on socio-economic landscape in Pakistan: Ahsan

BEIJING (APP): The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has emerged as a transformative force reshaping the socio-economic transformational impact on the lives of people in Pakistan, former Minister for Planning and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal said.

"When we started CPEC in 2013, Pakistan was suffering from a major energy crisis. We were experiencing power shortages for 16 to 18 hours per day, and we had major infrastructural bottlenecks with very poor physical infrastructure," he said in an exclusive interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN).

And because of a lack of electricity, energy was not there, and industrial and agricultural production was suffering, which meant there was more unemployment, which was a major

contributor to more poverty, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that through the CPEC, in three years, more than \$25 billion of investment came into Pakistan that modernized infrastructure and created new roads to connect many regions. It provided more than 8,000 megawatts of new power, which helped the country overcome power shortages.

"As we had energy in the economy, our agriculture and industrial outputs improved, which brought more employment for thousands of young people and also helped them come out of poverty," he added.

About special economic zones, he said that nine special economic zones have been identified in different regions of Pakistan and added, "All regions are taking part and taking benefit from CPEC, which is another indicator that it is a very inclusive project and it does not leave anyone behind."



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China Khalil Hashmi speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Pakistan's Serene Airline operations at Daxing Airport.



## KP govt decides to make universities self-sufficient

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: A high level meeting chaired by Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on Sunday decided to develop financial plans to make all public sector universities financially self-dependent. The meeting also decided to activate search committee for appointment of Vice Chancellors. The committee will submit its report within a week to the provincial minister. The CM emphasized to improve the administrative affairs and governance of the universities to solve the problems being faced by the universities. The chief minister asked to promote high standard of higher education based on the demand of market adding that priorities should also be given to quality of research work. He said the secondary and higher secondary education system should be aligned with the priorities of higher education institutions. For this purpose, the CM asked to hold consultation with the stakeholders.



KARACHI: Member of the Trans community take part in Sindh Moorat March.

## Dadocha dam to supply 35 mln gallons water per day to Rwp City

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Dadocha Dam would help overcome water shortage in Rawalpindi as after construction of the dam, it would supply 35 million gallons of water per day to Rawalpindi city, said Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chhatta. He said that water scarcity has become a global problem and different countries are considering different ways to meet the shortage. Pakistan is also one of the countries suffering from a water crisis, the Commissioner said. Due to the non-construction of dams, per capita availability of water here has decreased four times during the last 50 years, Liaquat Ali Chhatta said. Due to the shortage of dams, millions of cuases rainwater is wasted every year or causing floods, he added. The government of Punjab is giving priority to the problem of water scarcity and is paying special attention to the construction of small dams, he said and informed that the approved cost of the dam being built in Dadocha village near Rawat Industrial Estate was Rs 6492 million, which would now be estimated again.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inspecting the various stalls during culture day at Edwards College Peshawar.

## Naqvi visits Chakwal, assures madrasa students of justice

CM also visits Bagh-e-Jinnah, seeks its upgradation

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reached Chakwal on Sunday and met madrasa students who were subjected to molestation and torture by some teachers and assured them and their parents of complete justice. According to a handout issued here, the CM acquired information about the incident and remarked that those responsible would not be able to go Scot-free.

“Children are our future and it is our responsibility to provide them justice,” he said and promised that harsh punishment would be given to the culprits. The CM was informed that both the accused had been arrested after their identification through CCTV cameras. Talking to the media later on, the CM said, “We feel a lot of sorrow and shame over the incident. Every madrasa is not bad and few people had committed an evil and immoral act.” He said the inspector general of police (IGP) had been assigned the task of investigating the case and secretary prosecution would perform his duty diligently during the court proceedings. The CM ordered for taking care of privacy of the affected children. “We honour the decision of not holding a medical. I request the local media not to make public the names and pictures of the affected children,” he requested. “The affected children need to be brought out of trauma and their normal life needs to be restored. We will restore studies of the children and will also get them out of trauma,” promised Mohsin Naqvi. The CM directed the commissioner and deputy commissioner for undertaking measures for education and rehabilitation of the affected children. The IG Police, Doctor Usman Anwar, RPO Rawalpindi, Commissioner Rawalpindi, DPO Chakwal and Deputy Commissioner Chakwal were also present.

## KP CM directs completion of digital record of patwar system

PESHAWAR (APP): As an important step to ensure public services delivery in a more efficient and transparent manner in various service delivery outlets of the provincial government, the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah has directed the concerned authorities for taking necessary steps on urgent basis to install live Internet Protocol Cameras (IPCs) at patwar kahanas, police stations and offices of DCs, ACs, DPOs, DSPs and Tehsildars across the province. He further directed to complete installation of IPCs at all aforementioned public service outlets/offices by the end of this month. He also directed the concerned high ups to set up a Centralized Monitoring Cell for the surveillance of those cameras and to put in place a mechanism for direct access of the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police offices to those cameras via IP network. He underlined the need to initiate implementation of this project without any delay and directed the quarter concerned to immediately issue proper directives in written regarding installation of IPCs at all aforementioned offices. He was presiding over a meeting of the Board of Revenue held here at Chief Minister’s House.



KARACHI: Parents of students waiting outside Expo Centre as the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2023-24 is being held.

## Ex-ministers quit PTI, join IPP

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Ali Nawaz Awan parted ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and announced joining Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP). According to party sources, Ali Nawaz met IPP Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen and President Aleem Khan in Lahore and announced joining their party. Aoun Chaudhry and other IPP leaders were also present. Jahangir Tareen and Abdul Aleem welcomed Ali Nawaz in the party folds.

## Stemming out domestic violence still a far cry

LAHORE (APP): Despite essential legislation and repeated efforts to control this menace, domestic violence still persists in societies worldwide — thanks to ignorance of people to religious and legal obligations and their deep entrenchment in primitive sociocultural norms. It persisted as an insidious issue in our society for decades that transcends geographical, economic, racial, and cultural boundaries, inflicting its impact on women through verbal abuse, physical assault, beatings, and tragically sometimes even murder. The repercussions extend far beyond mere physical injuries, reaching into the realms of compromised health, weakened psychological well-being and profound emotional distress. Unfortunately, our country is also not immune to this pervasive problem. The roots of domestic violence are deeply embedded and multifaceted with factors like women’s low education, poverty, lack of awareness, misinterpretations of Islamic teachings and adherence to customary and prevalent cultural customs contributing to this menace. Significantly, this issue disproportionately affects families in the lower socio-economic strata as men with higher education usually exhibiting a lower propensity to abuse their family women. Besides other factors, domestic violence against women is a case of failure of respective institutions in effective implementation of relevant laws,” remarked Sabahat Rizvi, Secretary Lahore High Court Bar Association. “Being a law practitioner, I can validly attribute the increasing cases of domestic violence to a general tendency of overall lethargy by such institutions and a spirit of male dominance in society,” she added. At the same time Sabahat argued that women’s welfare is not a government responsibility alone as she also pointed out a growing societal conservatism contributing to the rise in such incidents. “Men, in their personal capacity, perceiving themselves as more powerful, engage in acts of violence against women,” she explained. “Therefore, the remedy lies in proper awareness of women and rigorously enforcing relevant legislation to curtail men.” The Punjab government has taken several measures to counter this negativity on part of men folk and its detrimental consequences by establishing Punjab Women’s Helpline 1043 and Women Safety Mobile Application.

## International News

## Heavy fighting in north Gaza after hostage deal report denied

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: Fighting raged on Sunday between Hamas militants and Israeli forces in parts of north Gaza and Israeli air strikes killed dozens of Palestinians in the enclave’s centre, witnesses said, as a report of a tentative hostage release deal was denied. The Washington Post reported that Israel and Hamas had reached a tentative US-brokered agreement to free dozens of women and children held hostage in Gaza in exchange for a five-day pause in their war, citing people familiar with the matter. It said the hostage release could begin within the next several days, barring last-minute hitches. All parties would freeze combat operations for at least five days while 50 or more hostages are released in groups every 24 hours, the Post reported. Hamas took about 240 hostages during its deadly cross-border rampage into Israeli communities sheltering at two schools. Israeli forces invaded late last month after a devastating aerial blitz in response to Hamas’s attack, and say they have wrested control of large areas of the north and northwest around Gaza City.

had been hammered out yet, with a White House spokesperson saying efforts were continuing to clinch a deal. The Post’s report came as Israel appeared to be preparing to expand its offensive against Hamas militants to densely populated Gaza’s southern half after air strikes killed dozens of Palestinians, including civilians reportedly sheltering at two schools. Israeli forces invaded late last month after a devastating aerial blitz in response to Hamas’s attack, and say they have wrested control of large areas of the north and northwest around Gaza City.



Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali is welcomed by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz before the “Compact with Africa” summit in Berlin, Germany.

## Japanese troops drill on island seen as vulnerable to China

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAPAN: Japanese marines in amphibious assault vehicles stormed an island beach at the edge of the East China Sea on Sunday in a simulated attack to dislodge invaders from territory that Tokyo worries is vulnerable to attack from China. As tensions run high with neighbours China, Russia and North Korea, the drill on the southwest island of Tokunoshima capped an 11-day series of exercises nationwide dubbed 05JX, meant to show the readiness of ground, sea and air forces to defend Japan’s territory and infrastructure, including nuclear power plants. “The goal of JX is to show that if there is an emergency situation resulting from an attack, that we are able to respond in a joint way,” General Yoshitake Yoshida, chief of staff of the Self-Defence Forces’ Joint Staff, said after observing the drill on Tokunoshima. Ground Self-Defence Force amphibious assault vehicles launched from two Maritime Self-Defence Force landing ships anchored offshore. Other troops arrived in semi-inflatable rubber boats, with heavy equipment carried to shore on military hovercraft. Unlike many of the beaches along Japan’s southwest island chain stretching toward Taiwan, the one on Tokunoshima does not have a coral reef that would make military operations more difficult. The scope and pace of military exercises in Japan are likely to increase over the next few years, including with US forces, after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in December.

## Azerbaijan, Armenia agree on principles of peace treaty

**Monitoring Desk**  
YEREVAN: Armenia and Azerbaijan have been able to agree on the basic principles for a peace treaty but are still “speaking different diplomatic languages,” Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Saturday, according to Russia’s TASS news agency. The two countries have been at odds for decades, most notably over the breakaway Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which Baku’s forces recaptured in September, prompting a mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from it. But Pashinyan said there had been some progress in talks over a peace treaty even though he was cited as saying that the two countries still often struggled to agree on some things. “We have good and bad news about the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process,” TASS quoted Pashinyan as saying in Yerevan.

## APEC divided on wars in Gaza, Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
SAN FRANCISCO: Pacific Rim leaders showed divisions over the wars in Ukraine and Gaza after a two-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum on Friday. Days of meetings involving ministers and leaders were dominated by a summit on Wednesday between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at cooling tensions between the world’s two largest economies, which have alarmed the region. The 21 APEC members, which include Russia and Muslim-majority Indonesia and Malaysia, went into the meetings divided over Russia’s war in Ukraine and the Israeli war on Gaza, and that is how they left. A statement issued by the US echoed last year’s APEC leaders’ declaration in saying that “most” APEC members “strongly condemn aggression against Ukraine.” It said the leaders exchanged views on the Gaza crisis, with some objecting to language of the chair’s statement in an accompanying “Golden Gate Declaration” covering economic issues “on the basis that they do not believe that APEC is a forum to discuss geopolitical issues.” Some APEC leaders shared the united messages of the Nov. 11 joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh, the chair’s statement said. Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia in a joint statement said they were among those who supported the messages of the Riyadh summit.

## Argentina readies to vote in likely presidential election thriller

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUENOS AIRES: Argentines head to the polls on Sunday in a delicately poised presidential runoff, with voters seeking a solution to triple-digit inflation and rising poverty and two clashing visions for the country’s future on offer. The election sees Peronist Economy Minister Sergio Massa go head-to-head with outsider libertarian Javier Milei. Massa offers continuity but has been at the helm during the worst economic crisis in two decades. Milei pledges economic shock therapy, from shutting the central bank to ditching the peso. With many voters unconvinced by either, some have characterized the vote as a choice of the “lesser evil”: fear of Milei’s painful economic medicine or anger at Massa over the economic crisis. Many Argentines say they won’t vote at all. Whoever wins, it will shake up Argentina’s political landscape, its economic roadmap, trade in grains, lithium and hydrocarbons, and its global ties with partners including China, the United States and Brazil. “The election will mark a profound rupture in the system of political representation in Argentina,” said Julio Burdman, director of the consultancy Observatorio Electoral. “I think all the political forces as we have known them are going to be transformed.” The story of the election race has been the shock rise of 53-year-old economist and former TV pundit Milei, driven by the disenchantment of Argentines with the traditional political parties on both the left and right. Milei has a slight edge in opinion polls, but most show a tight and uncertain race. Massa, 51, an experienced political wheeler-dealer, has been clawing back votes with tax cuts and campaigns highlighting Milei’s radical plans to slash state spending.



Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force’s Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) soldiers take part in a marine landing drill as a part of the country’s nationwide 05JX military exercises at Tokunoshima island, Kagoshima prefecture, southwestern Japan.

## Iran’s Khamenei urges Muslim states to cut political ties with Israel for ‘limited period’

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appealed to Muslim states with political ties with Israel to at least cut them for “a limited time,” state media reported on Sunday, weeks after he called for an Islamic oil and food embargo on Israel. “Some Islamic governments have condemned Israeli crimes in assemblies while some have not. This is unacceptable,” Khamenei said before reiterating that the main task of Islamic governments should be to cut off Israel from energy and goods. “Islamic governments should at least cut off political ties to Israel for a limited time,” Khamenei added. During a joint summit between members of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League in Saudi Arabia’s capital on Nov. 11, Muslim states did not agree to impose wide-ranging sanctions on Israel.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi inaugurating Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association's Annual Charity Bazaar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## 1,700 centers nationwide offer free TB diagnosis, treatment: Health Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government is firmly committed to fighting tuberculosis (TB) in Pakistan, offering free diagnosis and treatment at 1700 centers across the country, said Federal Secretary of Health Ifthikhar Ali Shallwani.

Speaking at the Union Conference on Lung Health in Paris, Shallwani mentioned that the Government has allocated significant resources for the diagnosis and quality treatment of the disease. The Government has pledged \$33 million for this cause, supporting 1,700 state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities across Pakistan.

Shallwani emphasized that the Government of Pakistan is firmly dedicated to eradicating tuberculosis (TB), and comprehensive efforts are underway towards this goal.

In the year 2022, more than 424,566 TB cases were effectively treated nation-

wide, with a treatment success rate of 94% compared to the TB cases reported in 2021. The diagnostic services comprise a network of 1,800 microscopy labs, 420 GeneXpert molecular diagnostics, 17 Culture labs, and 3 DST labs.

The Health Secretary revealed that 3,684 cases of Drug Resistant TB were registered for second-line anti-TB treatment, targeting an estimated 15,900 DR TB cases through 50 DRTB healthcare services.

He mentioned that a TB/HIV Collaboration included screening 61% of registered TB patients for their HIV status. Additionally, enrolled patients received social support in the form of cash incentives, totaling PKR 12,000 per month during their treatment. It was conveyed that over 7,500 healthcare workers have undergone training through an online training course designed for both

doctors and paramedics. The Federal Secretary of Health disclosed that the National TB Control Programme in Pakistan, with backing from the Global Fund, WHO, and other collaborators, is executing a national strategic plan (NSP) from 2020 to 2023 aimed at eradicating TB in the country. Additionally, an NSP for the years 2024-26 has been formulated.

The Global Fund has earmarked over USD 185 million for tuberculosis (TB) in Pakistan, covering the implementation period from January 2024 to December 2026. Looking ahead, there are plans to enhance the scale of rapid molecular diagnostics, increasing GeneXpert machines from 420 to 774 in the year 2024. Other initiatives include expanding Digital X-ray and Artificial Intelligence (AI) machines for TB diagnosis from 12 to 136, fortifying 37 Divisional Laboratories.

## IRCRA distributes aid to Afghan refugees at Torkham Border

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) on Sunday persistently carried out the distribution of aid and gifts to Afghan refugees at the Torkham border.

Supported by a select-group of philanthropists, IRCRA initiated the assistance process for Afghan refugees from the very outset. Concurrently, various charitable organizations, including local tribal elders, actively participated in aiding and supporting the departing refugees.

Participants among the Afghan refugee community expressed gratitude towards IRCRA and the Pakistani community for this compassionate gesture.

Talking to media, IRCRA President Muhammad Israr Madani emphasized that a prosperous and stable Afghanistan was the shared aspiration

of our nations and to achieve this goal, the organizations, institutions, and citizens of both countries must collaboratively contribute. President Madani underscored the need for Pakistan and Afghanistan to formulate a unified strategy addressing common concerns, such as terrorism and extremism, to foster economic stability in both nations. He stressed the importance of fostering strong working relations between the two fraternal nations to address these challenges effectively.

He expressed gratitude to the Afghan refugees for their continual contributions to the development of Pakistan. In return, the Afghan refugees acknowledged the generosity of the Pakistani people in keeping their doors open during challenging times and providing them with ample opportunities.

## CDA initiates studies for recycling of capital's solid waste

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated studies for recycling and disposal of the capital's solid waste intending to reduce environmental pollution which is posing a threat to the health of the general public.

"The detail of studies included waste characterization studies, waste generation studies, situational analysis report, municipal solid waste (MSW) collection, haulage, treatment and disposal, rapid assessment report of landfill sites Islamabad and communication and behaviour change strategy," an offi-

cial told APP.

The Urban Unit Lahore carried out studies during the period from January to March 2023 with a total cost of Rs. 21.926175 million. However, this is an unfortunate fact that CDA has been unable to develop an international system for solid waste disposal, in the capital owing to land availability and legal issues. The authority is working on developing a system whereby it will be initiating a mechanism of solid waste minimization, reuse, segregation at source and recycling of waste keeping in view the standards for optimum disposal.

## Fog, smog to engulf plain areas of Punjab: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Fog with smog is likely to develop in plain areas of Punjab at morning hours during the next 24 hours as per the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast on Sunday.

Mainly dry weather for most parts of the country, while partly cloudy in upper parts.

As per the synoptic situation, a shallow westerly wave was present over western parts of the country.

The weather will remain dry in most parts of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

## 10 outlaws held; drugs, liquors and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 10 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs, liquors and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directions the Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Kashif Iqbal and recovered 190 gram heroin from their possession.

The Margalla police team arrested an accused namely Zeeshan and 20 liters of liquor from his possession.

## NH&MP issues updates regarding road closures and traffic diversions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway (NHMP) on Sunday issued traffic advisory for travelers across Pakistan for the awareness about closures of several road and traffic diversions till next updates.

Moreover, on the Motorway Central-II, the M4 Motorway (Pindibhatiya to Abdul Hakeem), three sections are closed due to road work, from NFC Society (KM 1231) to NFC Society (KM 1231) in the southbound lanes, from Kehror Chowk (KM 862) to Evershine pump (KM 861.5) in the southbound lanes and from Adda-5 Faiz (KM 908 to 909 SB) in the southbound lanes, while the spokesman added. He said that IMDC, N-75 Highway (Islamabad to Murree), two sections are closed due to road work, from 41 (KM Nursery) to 42 (KM Lakot) in the northbound lanes, from 13 (KM 17mile) to (KM Due to asphalt work) in the northbound lanes and the drivers are advised to plan their trips accordingly and allow extra travel time.

The NHMP authorities warned that Motorway Central-I that it one section will be closed from (Kot Momin to Lahore) due to road work.

The NHMP authori-

ties said that the western bypass Sahiwal (KM 1099) to western bypass Sahiwal (KM 1099) in the northbound lanes will be closed due construction work.

Moreover, on the Motorway Central-II, the M4 Motorway (Pindibhatiya to Abdul Hakeem), three sections are closed due to road work, from NFC Society (KM 1231) to NFC Society (KM 1231) in the southbound lanes, from Kehror Chowk (KM 862) to Evershine pump (KM 861.5) in the southbound lanes and from Adda-5 Faiz (KM 908 to 909 SB) in the southbound lanes, while the spokesman added. He said that IMDC, N-75 Highway (Islamabad to Murree), two sections are closed due to road work, from 41 (KM Nursery) to 42 (KM Lakot) in the northbound lanes, from 13 (KM 17mile) to (KM Due to asphalt work) in the northbound lanes and the drivers are advised to plan their trips accordingly and allow extra travel time.

## Search, combing operation conducted against illegal foreigners

Independent Report  
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital Police Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a search and

Following these directives, a search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Bani Gala and Sabzi Mandi police stations jurisdiction by



combing operation against illegal foreigners at Bani Gala and Sabzi Mandi police station jurisdiction, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the search and combing operations are being conducted in different areas of the city, to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens.

CTD, FC, QRF and local police teams under the supervision of SP CTD.

During the search and combing operation 48 houses and 111 individuals were thoroughly checked, while 05 suspects were shifted to the police station for further verification purposes.

ICCP Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that the purpose of the search and combing operations was to heighten the security in the Federal Capital.

## Cutting educational expenses through novel methodologies

ISLAMABAD (APP): As continuously increasing education expenditures were reaching beyond parents capacity, experts believe that modern and novel teaching methodology could be one of panacea to address this issue.

In a tug of war between the parents and owners of private educational institutions, either the students miss the opportunities of quality education or the lives of their parents become miserable.

The owners, despite earning significant profit, are often seen complaining of extra expenditures in running their institutions due to the price hike of essentials. If, for a moment, their claims were accepted, there could have been no justification for them to continue with this business if they go with it, and the easy way to recover their expenditures is to shift the burden to parents through an increase in fees.

Therefore, educational experts have come up with the notion of adopting proper planning, the use of the latest technologies, and a systematic approach to reducing education costs at

ferent schools use bulk paper to maintain records of teachers and students and prepare reports, timetables, syllabuses, and much more. "Imagine how much money is spent on maintaining this physical record. But, by going paperless and moving databases to the cloud, they can cut down on a sizeable amount of money."

He regretted that non-formal education had been a deprived area since 1974, as after AIOU, only Virtual University was established to provide distant education. "Virtual or distant learning is an easy source for students to access quality education on lesser fees than to physically approach the educational institutions."

"Then there is another dilemma of the number of books and notebooks," he mentioned and said, "it is unkindness to our babies, seen carrying kilos of books on their backs."

"Why do we overload our primary-level students with books and notebooks?" he stated. "Can't we reduce the

number of books and shift them to the latest modes of learning in this era of the latest technologies?"

He said the formal universities are converting to an online system, which will surely reduce the cost of education.

Keeping in view the hardships of parents, Vice Chancellor Islamia University Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, came up with the idea of amending the laws and creating a corporate cluster by using the physical assets of education departments to earn money and provide cheaper education to students.

"We can use science and technology parks as money-making hubs, and by cutting extra expenses, we can establish 'endowment funds' at colleges and universities to support needy students," he stated.

Recently, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project conducted an extensive capacity-building session for public sector universities on financial

autonomy and revenue generation.

This meeting was aimed at encouraging higher education institutions (HEIs) to develop projects for generating funds and revenue to meet their needs. 75 vice chancellors, treasurers, and registrars from public sector HEIs discussed the possibility of resource generation.

As, for decades, education has remained a neglected sector, the expert strongly pleads to enhance the budget for the education sector.

"First of all, the government should take education as a top priority and allocate at least 5% of the GDP for this sector," said Renowned educationist Murtaza Noor. "As per law, education is free from Grade 1 to 16, and the state should ensure facilities for such students, especially scholarships for those in dire need." He suggested establishing students' alumni to support poor students, control the cost of education, and award scholarships to kids from marginalized segments through charity.

## Late breast cancer diagnosis causes 44,000 deaths annually in Pakistan: Begum Alvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi said on Sunday that nearly 44,000 women die of breast cancer every year in Pakistan due to late diagnosis and stressed that thousands of women and their families could be saved if it was diagnosed at an earlier stage, with chances of survival up to 98 percent.

However, she regretted that there was a lack of awareness about the early symptoms of this disease in Pakistan. As a result, the disease kept spreading silently and proved fatal.

The first lady was addressing the Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association's (PFOWA) annual charity bazaar.

The spouses of Islamabad-based diplomats organized stalls on the occasion depicting the culture, cuisine, and artifacts of their respective countries. The proceeds of the charity bazaar will be used for the welfare of the low-income staffers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Begum Alvi said that they had started a comprehensive, inclusive, and nationwide breast cancer awareness campaign.

"One of the major challenges before us was to convey our message to women living in far-flung areas of the country. Most of the cancer cases in Pakistan were reported in the

third or fourth stages, which not only made the treatment painful and expensive but also reduced the chances of survival. Apart from this, mammography, ultrasound, and screening facilities are either lacking in our country or these facilities are very expensive," she added.

Referring to autism, children with disabilities, and the importance of early detection of breast cancer issues, she said that these initiatives hold immense importance, as they have the potential to save many lives.

About progress on public awareness, Begum Alvi said that they had reached out to millions of

mobile users across the country with the help of ring-back tone and messages, and in this year, over 140 million SMS on breast cancer had been sent to mobile users in Pakistan.

She said that now the number of cancer cases in the third and fourth stages has decreased in different hospitals in Pakistan, while the reporting of cancer cases in the first and second stages has increased.

Now, mammography, ultrasound, and screening facilities are being provided at subsidized rates in different hospitals across the country, and the number of these facilities has also increased, she added.

## ECP to settle delimitation disputes for thirteen districts in next two days

ISLAMABAD (APP): The two benches assigned by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) are set to address representation filed in connection with delimitation of constituencies in thirteen districts on Monday and Tuesday.

According to the timetable provided by the ECP spokesperson on Sunday, Bench No. 1 will handle objections pertaining to Mandi Bahauddin and Khanewal districts, while Bench No. 2 is designated for objections related to Kech and Gujrat districts.

The proceedings of the ECP (Election Commission of Pakistan) Bench will commence with Bench No. 1 focusing on addressing objections pertaining to districts DG Khan and Sahiwal on Tuesday.

Concurrently, Bench No. 2 will be dedicated to hearing representations concerning the delimitation of constituencies in districts Jhal Magsi, Jaffarabad, Nasirabad, Kachi, Sohbatpur, Usta Mohammad and Harnai on the same day.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) is installing artificial green grass alongside Constitution Avenue in Federal Capital.

## 37th annual general meeting of PSDE to be held today

Independent Report  
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) is organizing 37th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) to deliberate on how international financing aligns with domestic growth agendas on Monday.

## NDRMF working out plan to transform IIA into 'zero emission' EV-based airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), a dedicated financial entity focused on investments in disaster risk reduction, risk financing, and climate change, is working on a plan to transform the Islamabad International Airport (IIA) into an emission-less electric vehicle (EV)-based airport, which will be the first of its kind and an environmentally friendly initiative.

Pakistan approved its EV policy back in 2019 with its global nationally determined commitments (NDCs) pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting of its conference of the parties to the convention (COP) forum to convert 30 percent of transport over EVs by 2030. An official of the NDRMF told APP that it was a unique initiative to set a model of EVs replicable across the country and enable the key players to initiate steps for rolling out better options for introducing electric vehicles in the market.

He added that it was a tedious task, and the fund

was making dedicated efforts in this regard to achieve its objective.

"Moreover, the Fund is also working on the country's first ever risk financing strategy, which will be tabled at the highest-level forum of the federal cabinet for approval."

The fund, he said, had redefined its role as a financial intermediary working to strengthen the fiscal space of the country in terms of dollar value by promoting carbon markets, saffron, and olive oil harvesting-like initiatives, whereas it was also venturing into updating the oceanographic data of the country, which was also done back in 1986.

The country has huge knowledge gaps in disaster and climate risk modeling that need to be addressed through modern and advanced technological solutions providing informed and real-time data. To address that issue, the Fund has established a special data center with the assistance of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), which will be rolled out in January 2024 and will be accessible to all.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese children performing traditional dance during Pakistan foreign office Women's Association (PFOWA) annual Charity Bazaar 2023 at a local hotel in Federal Capital.