Tehran tells Hamas it won't enter war with Israel

TEHRAN (Agencies): Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, has reportedly told Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh that Tehran won't get directly involved in the militant group's war with Israel after being surprised by the October 7 attacks that triggered the conflict. Khamenei and Haniyeh discussed the war during a face-to-face meeting earlier this month in Tehran, Reuters reported on Wednesday, citing senior Iranian and Hamas officials with direct knowledge of the talks. Iran, which wasn't forewarned of the Hamas raids that killed an estimated 1,200 Israelis, would only enter the conflict if it was attacked by Israel or the US, according to the report. Barring such an attack, Iran's involvement in the conflict will be limited to political and moral support, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Khamenei directed Haniyeh to silence the Hamas leaders who have called for Iran and its Lebanese ally, Hezbollah, to fully join the battle against Israel. Mohanad Hage Ali, an expert on

Russia and India sign deal on Igla-S missiles – TASS

MOSCOW (Agencies): Moscow and New Delhi have signed a contract for the supply and licensed manufacturing of Igla-S portable anti-aircraft missile systems (MANPADS) in India, according to Russia's main arms export body, Rosoboronexport. The Igla-S, which is designed to bring down an enemy aircraft or smallsized air targets like cruise missiles, was adopted by the Indian Army last year under emergency procurement from Russia in small quantities, while a larger procurement was pending. "We have already signed the relevant document and now, together with an Indian private company, we are organizing the manufacturing of Igla-S MANPADS in India," Alexander Mikheyev, CEO of Rosoboronexport told TASS on Tuesday, on the sidelines of the Dubai Airshow 2023. India has decided to procure the latest version of Igla-S MAN-PADS to replace the outdated Soviet-era Igla-M systems used by the army since the 1980s, Economic Times reported in 2018. The deal was estimated at \$1.5 billion, adjusted for inflation.

Pentagon Quietly Ramps Up Ammo for Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies): As Israel continues its operation to eliminate Hamas in the Gaza Strip whatever the costs, the Pentagon has reportedly been tacitly boosting military aid to its biggest non-NATO ally. Despite publicly voicing concern over the surging civilian death toll in Gaza, Washington is maintaining a "weapons pipeline" to cater to Israel's military aid requests, reported Bloomberg.

Thus, Israel has asked for over 57,000 155 mm high explosive artillery shells, 20,000 M4A1 rifles, 5,000 PVS-14 night vision devices, 3,000 M141 hand-held bunker-buster munitions, 400 120 mm mortars, and 75 army vehicles, specifically, the Army and Marine Corps' new Joint Light Tactical Vehicle. Israel has also ostensibly requested 200 armor-piercing Switchblade 600 dive-bombing drones made by AeroVironment Inc., which the US Army does not have in its inventory. All of this is contained in an internal Defense Department list seen by the outlet. The catalogue of weapons shipped to Israel is reportedly contained in a Pentagon document, "Israel Senior Leader." dated late October. Some of the weapons are already being delivered, while others are in the process of being provided by the US Defense Department from both American and Europe-based stockpiles, it was added.



Hezbollah at the Carnegie Middle East Center think tank in Beirut, said the October 7 attacks forced allies of Hamas to make tough choices on confronting foes with superior firepower. "When you wake up the bear with such an attack, it's quite difficult for your allies to stand in the same position as you," he told Reuters. More than 11,000 Palestinians have reportedly been killed since the war began, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to "demolish Hamas." He has also accused operations that might escalate the crisis.

Iran of being complicit in the October 7 attacks. "In fighting Hamas and the Iranian axis of terror, Israel is fighting the enemies of civilization itself," Netanyahu told reporters late last month. US forces have launched a series of airstrikes against militant groups linked to Iran after blaming them for a series of rocket and drone attacks against American military bases in Iraq and Syria. However, Hezbollah and other Hamas allies have stopped short of large-scale

China not supplying Russia with weapons to fight Ukraine – White House



BERLIN (Agencies): The White House is confident that China has not supplied weapons to Russia for use in the Ukraine conflict, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters on Monday. Sullivan was asked for an update on the issue ahead of a meeting on Wednesday between US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping. Biden is hosting Xi along with other foreign dignitaries at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Russian military production in defiance San Francisco. In late July, the Office of trade restrictions.

of the Director of National Intelligence released a report on what it called Chinese support of Russia "with respect to its war in Ukraine." The document detailed China's purchase of Russian energy and the use of the yuan in commerce with Russia, which go against the sanctions that the US pushed for. It also described the supply of dual-use parts, such as semiconductors used in navigation equipment, as a form of support for Russia's military action. Washington has repeatedly warned Beijing against providing weapons to Moscow, despite Chinese assurances that it has no intention to become involved in the conflict on either side, and has instead sought a diplomatic resolution. Last month, the US sanctioned 42 Chinese companies for allegedly supporting

North Korea Develops, Test-Fires New IRBM Solid-Fuel Engines - State Media

MOSCOW (Agencies): North Korea has developed and test-fired new-type high-thrust solid-fuel engines for intermediate-range ballistic missiles, North Korean state-run news agency KCNA reported Wednesday. The first ground tests of the first- and the second-stage engines were held on November 11 and 14 respectively, the report said. The tests were aimed at evaluating the technical specifications of new IRBM engines, the media reported, adding that the tests were "very successful" and the "reliability and stability" of the engines and manufacturing technologies were verified. North Korea's General Missile Bureau attaches great importance to the development of the new type of IRBM, believing that the latest tests were "an essential process for further enhancing the strategic offensive capabilities" of North



Korea's armed forces against the background of the unstable security environment and "the future military situation" in the region, the report said. In April Pyongyang announced the successful test of its first solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missile - "Hwasong-18", calling the event a key breakthrough in the development of the country's nuclear standoff capability. Solid-fuel missiles do not require fueling before launch, making them more difficult to detect and destroy and faster to use.

US court clears Trump for White House run



MOSCOW (Agencies): Former US President Donald Trump is eligible to remain on Michigan's 2024 presidential primary ballot for the Republican Party, a state court has ruled. A local activist group had sought to bar Trump from running for office by filing an "insurrection" lawsuit against him. Michigan Court of Claims judge move Trump from the ballot.

James Redford delivered the ruling on Tuesday. The decision followed a legal bid by liberal activist group Free Speech for People, which had claimed that Trump's alleged role in the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot should disqualify him from campaigning for elected office. In his verdict, Redford explained that deciding if the events of January 6 represented a "rebellion or insurrection, or whether or not someone participated in it" should be deferred to Congress. He further stressed that Michigan's electoral authorities do not have the power to re-

Russia and Ukraine may never sign peace treaty – Kiev

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russia and Ukraine may never sign a formal peace treaty ending the current conflict, Kirill Budanov, the head of Ukraine's military intelligence, wrote in an op-ed, excerpts of which were published on Monday. He pointed to Russia and Japan, which never signed a comprehensive peace treaty after World War II due to Tokyo's claims on several of Russia's Kuril Islands. "There are cases in history when old wars between the states have not been legally concluded. An obvious example is Russia and Japan. after 1945 due to [the dispute] over the Northern Islands, also known as the not only pertaining to Crimea."



Kuril Islands in Russia. This territorial problem is now more than 70 years old," Budanov wrote in an op-ed for NV magazine. "This is why such a scenario is highly likely in our case, considering They did not sign a peace agreement that Russia has significant territorial appetite when it comes to Ukraine, and

Turkish lawyers want ICC to charge Netanyahu with 'genocide'



ANKARA (Agencies): Two Turkish lawyers and a former lawmaker have petitioned the government in Ankara to charge Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with genocide and war crimes against his country's conduct in Gaza. The request is expected to reach the International Criminal Court, which neither Türkiye nor Israel recognizes. Metin Kulunk, a former member of parliament from the posted on X.

ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), teamed up with attorneys Mucahit Birinci and Burak Bekiroglu and sent the 23-page lawsuit to the Istanbul Prosecutor's Office on Tuesday. "Today, representing the conscience of the citizens of the Republic of Türkiye, we filed a lawsuit at the International Criminal Court in The Hague against the 21st century Hitler. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, who must stand trial for the genocide he committed in the Gaza Strip and all crimes against humanity," Kulunk wrote on X (formerly Twitter), accompanied by the cover page of the lawsuit. "May God be with our Palestinian brothers and those who defend their just cause to the extent of their strength," Birinci

Taiwan rules out invasion from Chinese mainland in near future

BEIJING (Agencies): Chinese President Xi Jinping won't have the military wherewithal to launch a successful invasion of Taiwan within the next few years, meaning the self-governing island has more time to build up its defense capabilities, a top Taiwanese security official has claimed. "I don't think it will happen in the near future or at least within one to two years," Taiwanese National Security Council chief Wellington Koo told reporters on Tuesday in Taipei. "If China needs to carry out amphibious landing operations to take Taiwan, I don't think it will have such capabilities by 2027." Koo's comments echo an assessment last year by US Army General Mark Milley, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, vade Taiwan by 2027.



who said Beijing would not be ready to forcibly reunify with Taiwan for "some time." Milley claimed that China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) didn't have the "experience" or "background" to successfully invade the self-governing island and had not vet trained for such an operation. At the time, he said Xi wanted the PLA to be ready to in-

Widespread Pesticide Use Linked to Global Sperm Count Decline, Study Finds

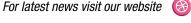
NEW YORK (Agencies): A comprehensive analysis of studies spanning five decades suggests that pesticides used in homes, gardens, and on food crops are contributing to a significant decline in sperm count among men worldwide. According to the senior study author, Melissa Perry, Dean of the College of Public Health at George Mason University, sperm concentration has fallen tion are critical factors in assessing by approximately 50% globally over 50 years. The study specifically points to two common insecticides, organophosphates and N-methyl carbamates, as strongly associated with the decline in sperm concentration. Organophosphates, widely used in agriculture and household applications, are also components of nerve gas, herbicides, and pesticides. N-methyl carbamates, structurally similar to organophosphates, are employed in insecticides for various crops. The research, examining 25 studies globally, revealed that men more highly exposed to these pesticides, such as those in agriculture, had significantly lower sperm concentration. Sperm count and concentra-

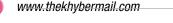


future fertility. Animal studies suggest that these pesticides may interfere with sexual hormones, damage testicular cells, and impact neurotransmitters affecting sperm production. In addition to pesticide exposure, researchers are exploring other factors contributing to declining sperm count, including obesity, poor diet, chronic disease, and environmental toxins such as pollution and PFAS. A recent study also highlighted a potential link between high mobile phone use and low sperm count. The study underscores the need for action to reduce insecticide exposure, emphasizing the importance of choosing organic foods to minimize pesticide exposure.

About Khyber Mail The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah.

The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.













Appointment of KP interim CM challenged at Peshawar High court

PESHAWAR (APP): The appointment of Arshad Hussain Shah as the interim Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been challenged in Peshawar High Court on Wednesday, stating it goes against the Constitution. This happened a day after Shah took the oath as the caretaker chief minister following the passing of Mohammad Azam Khan due to a brief illness. The person filing the petition is Advocate Tajammul Hussain Shah. He, along with his lawyers Wali Khan Afridi and Shah



includes the caretaker chief minister, his cabinet, law secretary, federal government, and advocate general as respondents. The petitioner told the court that Arshad was appointed as the caretaker chief min-Faisal, presented the plea. The plea ister on the second day after Khan's

death. He requested the court to declare this appointment invalid. The argument is that the caretaker government has lost its credibility. and the appointment violates the procedures outlined in the Constitution's Articles 224 and 224-A. The petitioner claimed that the KP Assembly was dissolved when the appointment was made. Additionally, Mahmood Khan and Akram Khan Durrani were no longer in their roles as chief minister and opposition leader, respectively, during this appointment.

PHC adjourns hearing of ANP petition for disqualification of PTI chairman

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member comprising Justice Abdul Shakur tion papers nor even mentioned bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) a petition filed by Awami National Party (ANP) provincial president

and Justice Syed Arshad Ali on the Wednesday conducted hearing in request of PTI Chairman's lawyer Qazi Anwar adjourned the proceedings. The ANP provincial president Aimal Wali Khan for disqualification maintained in the writ petition that The petitioner sought disqualificaof Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran neither PTI chairman disclosed his tion of PTI chairman for the future Khan for future elections. The bench assets in the by-election nomina-

his wife's Rs seven million jewelry which was a violation of Election Act 2017. PTI chairman also sold Tosha Khana gifts illegally, he added.

KPPSC bans 18 accused of cheating for future tests

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakh- post of Assistant Engineer / SDO ty test for BPS-17 post. The commistunkhwa Public Service Commis- BPS-17 in irrigation department. sion (KPPSC) Wednesday banned According to a notification issued 18 candidates from appearing in here, around 18 accused were found all kind of test for three years after guilty of the charges of using elecbeing found guilty of using unfair tronic devices, master cards and

means (UFMs) in the exams for the other unfair means during the abili- December 23.

sion banned the candidate from one to three years for all kinds of recruitment of KPPSC with the penalties, adding that the ability test for the same post would be re-conducted on

Businessmen, Traders, Civil Society Laud Services Of KP Governor, Holds Coronation Ceremony

munity of the province and civil business community and residents ty, Malik Mehar Elahi, Presidents of society of Peshawar here Tuesday of provincial metropolis. The cere- Nowshera, Mardan, Swat and Abbotarranged a coronation ceremony mony among others was attended tabad chambers, representatives of for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, by Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair traders and business organizations.

PESHAWAR (APP): Business Com- Haji Ghulam Ali for his services to Ali, President Business Communi-

Prolonged power load-shedding irks citizens

PESHAWAR (APP): The 12-15 hours domestic and commercial consumprolonged and unscheduled power load-shedding in various areas of to the street on Wednesday against Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO). According to a survey, Danishabad, Sufaid Dehri, Bara Gate, Muzaffarabad, Dalazak road, Lalazar Colony Charsadda road, Palosi, Kohat road were facing 12-15 hours of unscheduled load-shedding. The PESdue to prolonged load-shedding the ding.

ers were facing hardships. They said that despite paying heavy amounts of the provincial capital had made life bills the actual consumers were sufmiserable for the citizens who took fering and PESCO had no option to provide them relief. They also complained that PESCO officials kept the electricity power off during operation against power theft which was also aggravating the situation. Meanwhile, the PESCO spokesman said that the areas with 100 percent bill payment were not facing load-shedding how-CO consumers urged the government ever, the feeders with heavy line lossto take notice of the issue, adding that es were suffering from the load-shed-

IMSciences Team Clinches Victory in Nayatel Beat the Curve Competition

PESHAWAR (Khyber Mail): Team IMSciences, led by Muhammad Shoaib and including members Owais Ahmed Aman, Harris Daniel, and Fatima Iqbal, have emerged triumphant in the Nayatel Beat the Curve Competition. The team, mentored by Mr. Asad Ashfaq, Assistant Manager Career Development Center, secured the top spot in the marketing idea competition. Held across 14 universi-Curve by Nayatel aimed to discover the most creative and practical cam- learning and skill development.



paign idea. The winning team from IMSciences has been awarded a cash prize of PKR 100,000. The IMSciences have expressed appreciation to ties in six cities in Pakistan, Beat the Nayatel for providing students with a valuable opportunity for practical

Human trafficker, two illegal money exchangers held

cle Mardan, Federal Investigation illegal business of Hundi in Swabi, Agency (FIA) on Wednesday arrest- adding that they sent money abroad ed a human trafficker and two illegal through mobile accounts. During the money exchangers in different intelligence-based operations. According 882 million from the accused besides to FIA, the accused Tauseef Khan the receipts of Hundi.

PESHAWAR (APP): Composite Cir- and Sajid Khan were involved in the raids, the FIA teams recovered Rs 3.













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Elevating the Pak-China Partnership: A Collaborative Milestone

In a significant stride to bolster the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked between the local government, election, and rural development department and China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar. This momentous agreement extends beyond cultural enrichment, laying the foundation for a multifaceted collaboration. The commitment was officially sealed by Mian Shafiqur Rehman, Secretary Local Council Board, and Amjad Aziz Malik, Administrator of China Window, signifying a dedicated step forward in the shared journey of cultural exchange and developmental cooperation. This ceremonial act not only solidifies the principles and initiatives outlined in the agreement but also marks a collaborative leap in fostering cultural exchange and developmental cooperation between the two nations. The establishment of a dedicated corner at China Window to promote development initiatives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa signifies a pragmatic approach to collaboration beyond cultural exchange. This initiative aligns with the broader vision of both nations to promote economic development and prosperity, emphasizing practical and tangible outcomes for the socio-economic upliftment of the region. A notable provision of the agreement is the pledged support for teaching the Chinese language in Peshawar Municipal School and College. In an era where linguistic diversity plays a pivotal role in fostering international relations, this initiative aligns seamlessly with the evolving dynamics of global collaboration. By facilitating the learning of Chinese, this move enhances educational opportunities and opens avenues for deeper cross-cultural understanding. The involvement of the local government department in promoting culture, tourism, education, and industrial development is a testament to the holistic approach required for comprehensive partnerships. Secretary local government Dawood Khan rightly highlighted the constructive role that both China Window and the local government department will play in strengthening ties between the two nations. As this MoU unfolds, it emerges not just as a symbol of cultural exchange but as a blueprint for broader collaboration across various domains. The initiatives outlined underscore the commitment of both nations to a relationship that transcends superficial diplomatic gestures. It is a visionary leap that sets the stage for a dynamic and enduring partnership between Pakistan and China, promising mutual growth, understanding, and shared prosperity.

Ummah's Response Options

— By Imran Malik

The US-led West's support for Israel in the current conflict in the Gaza Strip is absolute, unqualified and unambiguous. It was exemplified by President Joe Biden's rushed visit to Israel on the outbreak of hostilities, dutifully followed by some European leaders. At the geopolitical level, the US and its coterie of European allies have aligned themselves clearly with Israel. They have justified its use of excessive, grossly disproportionate force against the Palestinians in Gaza and have vociferously countered all views to the contrary. This reflects the gross imbalance in their policy towards the GMER and thus rules them out as unbiased arbitrators for a just peace there. On the other hand, the Palestinians have been literally left in the lurch by a dithering, impotent, timorous Ummah and a largely indifferent international community. At the diplomatic level, the US-led West has vetoed all meaningful condemnation of Israel's excesses by the UN/UNSC. Crucially, it has neither allowed a ceasefire to take place nor a meaningful humanitarian pause/corridor to come into effect. This has denied the hapless Palestinians any respite from the brutal Israeli juggernaut. US Secretary of State's time-consuming albeit futile diplomatic forays into the GMER and US' repeated vetoes in the UNSC come across as ploys to create vital time and geopolitical space for Israel to achieve its strategic objectives in the Gaza Strip, and by implication in the GMER. At the military level, the USled West is continuously replenishing and reinforcing IDF's military campaign. Crucially, it has made a deep strategic maneuver by deploying two US Navy Carrier Groups in the Mediterranean. They are carrying out exercises, demonstrating massive force and radiating immense power and influence in the region. This force-in-being achieves multiple strategic objectives. One, the USN Carrier Strike Groups give strength to Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip, which lies well within their strategic reach and guarantee an immediate military response capacity.

fense against rockets/missiles fired by Hamas or potentially by other state/ non-state actors in the region. Three, it isolates the battlefield, the Gaza Strip, allowing IDF complete freedom of action to achieve its strategic objectives without let or hindrance. The helpless Gazans are literally at its mercy. Four, it deters regional state/non-state actors who might feel inclined to come to the Gazans' rescue. Five, it prevents the opening up of other fronts in the region that might distract the IDF and force it to split its military resources in multiple directions. Six. and most critically. the US micro-manages the conflict by forestalling its spillover into the region at large. At the geopolitical level, it can start off by uniting and strongly countering attempts to divide and rule it. Furthermore, it could seriously opt for multialignment and start engaging the China-Russo Combine proactively without prejudice to its relations with the US-led West. It must consider joining groupings like the SCO, BRICS etc and even creating new regional/ sub-regional groupings itself. This will give it better options to secure its multifarious interests and will bring about a modicum of strategic balance in regional and global affairs. At the geostrategic level, deterrence must be the key operative word. It must enhance its military capacities and capabilities at the individual country levels. Collectively, this should act as a formidable deterrent and obviate fates that Libya, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, Afghanistan etc had to face. It might also consider a formal defense arrangement within the Ummah which must enshrine the Principle of Collective Defense; "an attack on any one member will be considered an attack on the entire Ummah", (a la Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO). The Ummah's real strength lies in its economic clout which can be exploited for geopolitical advantages too. The Ukraine war has seriously truncated Russian exports of oil and gas to the world. Exports of Iranian oil and gas too suffer debilitating sanctions.

How the Israel-Hamas war poisons US politics

— By Tarik Cyril Amar

On November 7, the US House of Representatives voted to censure one of its members, Rashida Tlaib, a Congresswoman from Michigan, first elected to her seat in 2018. The official reason for this rebuke was the allegation that Tlaib had been "promoting false narratives regarding the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel" and been "calling for the destruction of the state of Israel." It is easy to establish that Tlaib did neither. Her censure is an injustice built on a lie. That raises the question of what it was really about. But first things first: Let's look into the two accusations advanced against her. Regarding "promoting false narratives" about the Hamas attack, the relevant House Resolution 845 claims that Tlaib "defended" as "justified 'resistance" to "the 'apartheid state" the "the brutal rapes, murders, be-headings, and kidnapping[s] ... by Hamas." Yet, in reality, the Congresswoman did no such thing or anything a fair observer could mistake for such a thing. What Tlaib stated was that she "grieve[d] the Palestinian and Israeli lives lost yesterday, today, and every day" and that the path to a better future "must include lifting the blockade" on Gaza and "ending the occupation." She called for "dismantling the [Israeli] apartheid system that creates the suffocating, dehumanizing conditions that can lead to resistance." And she argued that as long as the US "provides billions in unconditional funding to support the apartheid government, this heartbreaking cycle of violence will continue." None of the above is or implies a "call for the destruction of Israel." What Tlaib did attack was the state of apartheid, as recognized by the UN human rights rapporteur, that Israel imposes on the Palestinians. As the eminent scholar John Mearsheimer has stressed, that Israeli apartheid is a fact has been confirmed by, among others, the international organizations Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, as well as the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem. Hence three

conclusions: Tlaib is factually correct.

Secondly, she has attacked real crimes of Israel and not its right to exist. Finally, those who insist on misrepresenting her as doing the latter thereby imply that they can imagine Israel's existence only as a highly abusive apartheid state. It does not make sense to go through all six accusations leveled against Tlaib in House Resolution 845, because they are all equally dishonest. But one more is worth attention. Tlaib, according to her accusers, "published on social media" and then "doubled down on" the "phrase 'from the river to the sea,' which is widely recognized as a genocidal call to violence to destroy the state of Israel and its people to replace it with a Palestinian state extending from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea." The bad faith here lies in the fact that the slogan "from the river to the sea" is not "widely recognized" to represent a call for the destruction of Israel, as the censure resolution falsely claims. In reality, objective experts recognize that the slogan "means different things to different people," as Dov Waxman, a professor of Israel studies at the University of California in Los Angeles, has explained in the New York Times. In its full version - "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" - the phrase goes back to the early days of the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli ethnic cleansing that began in 1948. As even the relentlessly pro-Israel New York Times acknowledges, for "many Palestinians, the phrase now has a dual meaning, representing their desire for a right of return to the towns and villages from which their families were expelled in 1948, as well as their hope for an independent Palestinian state, incorporating the West Bank, which abuts the Jordan River, and the Gaza Strip, which hugs the coastline of the Mediterranean." The reason for ascribing a different, much more aggressive meaning to the slogan is mainly that it has also been used by Hamas. And Hamas, in turn, is accused of wanting the destruction of Israel. This guilt-by-flawed-association argument is convenient for

those who seek to vilify legitimate Palestinian resistance, marginalize its supporters, and suppress - instead of having to answer - criticism of Israeli injustice. But it does not hold up to scrutiny, even on its own skewed terms, because, again, according to the New York Times, the slogan does not appear in Hamas's founding covenant from 1988, which pledges "to confront the Zionist invasion and defeat it." It does appear in the 2017 Hamas platform, where "in the same paragraph, Hamas indicates it could accept a Palestinian state along the borders that were in place before the 1967 war — the same borders considered under the Oslo Accords." Let that sink in: Where Hamas has used the phrase, it has, actually, also signaled precisely the opposite of a plan to destroy Israel, namely a will to accept a two-state solution, if only Israel were to finally do what is demanded by international law and called for by UN resolutions: stop unilaterally settling and occupying territories beyond its actual borders. And let's be clear: Tlaib's use of "from the river to the sea" is not a "dog whistle" (the American term for a rhetorical trick allowing a speaker to at the same time imply and deny a sinister meaning) because she has been explicit that for her this is "an aspirational call for freedom, human rights and peaceful coexistence, not death, destruction or hate." And that is a perfectly plausible and common interpretation of the slogan (see above). The assault on Tlaib is especially important because it is part of a larger campaign. As The Guardian has reported the "pro-Israel lobby in the US is airing attack ads and beginning to back primary opponents to challenge Congress members who are not voting for or supporting Israel's war on Gaza,' at a cost, the British newspaper estimates, of "tens of millions of dollars." This is an effort to interfere in American elections on behalf of a foreign government. But in the case of Israel, such meddling has a long history and is considered normal in the US. Courtesy: RT

Unshackling the Iraqi dinar

By Arhama Siddiga

On January 1, 2024, Iraq will ban all ence Iraq's economic landscape and exert political pressure. Furthermore, transactions involving the US dollar. The primary objective behind this dethe capricious nature of the US dollar, cision is to wrest control over a fluctucombined with shifts in US fiscal poliating black market exchange rate and cies and economic sanctions, has renbolster the utilisation of the Iraqi dinar. dered Iraq susceptible to considerable The catalyst for this transformation financial vulnerabilities, eroding its has been an extended bout of currenmonetary sovereignty and obstructing cy instability, culminating in escalating the pursuit of economic diversification. prices and waves of civil unrest over Iraq's shift towards de-dollarisation the past half-year. The dinar's precarholds promise on multiple fronts. Firstious trajectory has been further exacly, diversifying currency reserves helps erbated since November 2022, largely mitigate the risks associated with the attributed to stringent US regulations oscillating value of the US dollar, bolgoverning international money transstering economic stability. Additionally, fers. These measures stem from delibthe adoption of alternative currencies erations in Washington regarding the can pave the way for expanded trade diversion of US dollars to Iran, Syria prospects and draw investments from and Lebanon via Iraq's Central Bank non-US quarters, fostering economic foreign currency auction. This strategic expansion and reducing susceptibility transition raises pertinent questions to geopolitical influences. Irag's de-dolabout the future standing of the US dollarisation strategy is intrinsically tied to lar as the predominant global reserve its pursuit of greater economic self-recurrency, hinting at the dawn of a more liance and enhanced sovereignty. As multipolar world order. Iraq's historical it stands, the local currency, the Iraqi attachment to the US dollar for interdinar, maintains an exchange rate of approximately 1,300 dinars per US dolnational dealings, reserve holdings and oil trading has been a longstanding tralar. Iraq's move to de-dollarise reflects dition, but it comes with its set of coma global trend where nations aim to replications. Iraq possesses over \$100 duce reliance on the US dollar in international trade. China and Russia spearbillion in reserves parked in US banks, rendering it highly dependent on US head this effort, advocating for the officials' goodwill to avert economic use of their currencies, the yuan and catastrophe. Since 2003, all revenues ruble, in global transactions. China's from Iraqi oil have been channeled recent purchase of LNG using the yuan from the UAE, and India's agreement into an account under the purview of the US Federal Reserve, effectively with the UAE to settle trade in rupees,

Brics New Development Bank is advancing de-dollarisation by welcoming new members such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Argentina, Iran and Ethiopia and initiating a 3-year de-dollarisation plan, with a focus on fostering local currency lending, diminishing dependence on the dollar and further challenging its global reserve currency status. China's expanding economic influence in Iraq, closely linked to its BRI, plays a pivotal role in Iraq's de-dollarisation journey. The BRI presents opportunities for trade, infrastructure growth and investments in Iraq. China actively promotes the internationalisation of the yuan which could assume a more substantial role in Iraq's economy. However, it's important to note that the yuan faces certain limitations, particularly due to capital controls that currently restrict fund transfers in and out of China. Despite Beijing's ongoing efforts to enhance the international use of its currency, the yuan's share in global trade transactions remains relatively modest at approximately 4.5%. However, the question of whether the US dollar can maintain its status as the world's primary reserve currency can no longer be disregarded. Despite the uncertainties that lie ahead, Iraq's shift away from the dollar offers a glimpse into a changing world order, where the dollar's supremacy encounters growing obstacles.

Courtesy: Tribune

USB Flash Drives manufac-

granting Washington a lever to influ-

I, Syed Aqeel Sarwar, have been noticing for many years that all brands of USB Flash Drives give you less than one gigabytes for one gigabytes space. For example, when you purchase a 64-gigabytes USB Flash Drive whether it is Kingston, HP, or San Disk, it gives 57.some million bytes of space. The 57.some million bytes of space that the drive shows is actually 55.some gi-

Letters to the Editor

exemplify this shift. Furthermore, the

gabytes. A 64-GB Flash Drive should show 67.some million bytes of space. This corruption in the manufacturing of USB Flash Drives is for 2-GB, 4-GB, 8-GB, 16-GB, 32-GB, 64-GB, 128-GB. 256-GB, and so on. GB stands for gigabytes. The manufacturers of USB Flash Drives themselves should get rid of this corruption. If they do not do it themselves then the governments of USA and China should step in and make the manufacturers manufacture spacewise right-sized drives. Hard Drives, internal and external, manufacturers should get rid of this corruption as well. What buyers do not know is that 1-gigabyte is equal to 1,048,576 bytes which is approximately equal to 1.05 million bytes. This corruption does injustice to the USB Flash drive and hard disk drive buyers throughout the world.

- Syed Aqeel Sarwar,
- Lahore.









Two, they provide additional air de-

Courtesy: The Nation



Violation of basic rights exposes India's facade of largest democracy: APHC

ties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that violation of Kashmiris' fundamental human rights exposed the India's facade of so-called largest democracy as it has converted the entire Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) into the world's largest open air jail. According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), APHC leaders including Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Abdul Ahad, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Muhammad

and Maulana Musaib Nadvi in their statements issued in Srinagar said, "Death of India's fake democracy is daily witnessed in the killing fields of Kashmir where Modi-led Hindutva government is increasing number of its occupation troops on daily basis to suppress the freedom movement." However, they added that the Kashmiris were determined to spearhead their liberation cause against all odds. Crushing with brute force the Kash-

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Par- Saleem Zargar, Sibte Shabbir Qummi miris' right to self-determination has proved that India is a sham democracy, the leaders said and pointed out, "Deployment of around one million Indian soldiers in IIOJK was a proof that India is fighting a lost war." They said, "India's status in the territory is just of a usurper because Kashmiris have not accepted its occupation from the day one while New Delhi has converted the territory into the world's largest jail and besieged the oppressed people."

British High Commission's Development Director and Pakistan's Planning Minister Align Efforts for Socioeconomic Growth

ISLAMABAD (Adnan Hameed): A two-member delegation led by Jo Moir, Director Development at British High Commission Islamabad called on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed. During the meeting, two sides exchanged views on the existing portfolio for Pakistan and expressed their resolve to further enhance in the future. The Planning Minister appreciated the support of BHC for its decades-long assistance, which has been playing a vital role in the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan. He also appreciated their continued support and commitment for the ongoing development projects particularly in the climate sector. During the meeting, the Planning Ministry highlighted a National Climate Finance Strategy (NCFS) which has been prepared to identify sectoral ment Framework.



priorities and scaling climate finance. Similarly, he also highlighted the newly -established Sustainable Finance Bureau (SFB) to revolutionize climate finance. Pakistan is among the countries in the world that are most affected by weather/ climate-related hazards such as floods, landslides, droughts, heat waves, extreme cold, and cyclones, etc. Pakistan has already geared up the efforts to cope with such a huge challenge as Planning Ministry taken a lead in establishing a NCFS and Climate Responsive Public Invest-

Portugal's Ambassador Discusses Collaborative Initiatives with Pakistani Culture Minister

ISLAMABAD (Staff Report): In a diplomatic rendezvous, Manual Frederico Pinheiro da Silva, the distinguished Ambassador of Portugal, engaged in substantive discussions with Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah. The discourse primarily centered on the fostering of cultural ties between Pakistan and Portugal. Both dignitaries concurred on the imperative to fortify bilateral relations, underscoring the need to augment the frequency of cultural exchanges. Delving into the finer points of collaboration, they explored avenues for joint cultural events and the promotion of the rich cultural heritage shared by Pakistan and Portugal. Minister Jamal Shah expressed optimism regarding the substantial potential for collaboration between the tual landscape of Pakistan.



two nations. Ambassador Manual Frederico Pinheiro da Silva, in turn, acknowledged the prospect for cooperation in diverse domains, including culture and sports. As a tangible manifestation of this commitment, Ambassador da Silva proposed the establishment of a dedicated Portugal book corner at the prestigious National Library of Pakistan (NLP). This proposal, if realized, would serve as a symbolic bridge between the literary treasures of Portugal and the intellec-

From Olive Groves to Global Tables: Italy's Culinary Diplomacy Shines during 'Italian Cuisine Week' in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Staff Report): The Embassy of Italy in Pakistan recently marked the vibrant 'Italian Cuisine Week' with two exceptional events, graciously hosted by Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese and his wife, Albana Ferrarese. During the evening affair, Ambassador Ferrarese formally petitioned UNESCO to acknowledge and designate Italian culinary traditions as intangible heritage. In his address, he illuminated Italy's profound influence on both local and global gastronomy, citing the approximately 50 million people of Italian origin scattered across the world who actively contribute to the dissemination of Italian cuisine. The Ambassador underscored the global recognition of quintessential Italian dishes such as pizza and pasta, emblematic of the nation's rich gastronomic heritage. Ambassador Ferrarese engaged in a thoughtful



discourse on the dynamic exchange and evolution of culinary traditions, spotlighting the fusion of traditional Italian practices with influences from immigrant communities, notably the impact of Albanian immigration. He shared insights into ongoing initiatives aimed at globalizing Italian culinary activities, exemplifying a collaborative project in Pakistan funded by an Italian agency for collaboration and development, with a primary focus on olive oil production.

Excise Staff to provide vehicle registration, transfer, token tax Services at Rose & Jasmine Garden

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a move to provides a variety of services, infacilitate vehicle owners, the Islamabad Excise Department will be holding a special vehicle registration, transfer, and token tax camp at the Rose and Jasmine Garden The camp is being organized on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon, ICT spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabasum talking to APP said Wednesday. will also be present at the camp. It

cluding domicile certificates, birth certificates, power of attorney, international driving permits, fuel permits (domestic/commercial), and motor vehicle registration." "This parking lot today from 3 pm-5 pm. is a great opportunity for vehicle owners to take advantage of these convenient services without having to go to the excise office. The camp is located at the Rose and Jasmine Garden parking lot, which is easily "Moreover, the ICT Doorstep service accessible from all parts of the city," spokesman added.

Four profiteers held

SARGODHA (APP): The district administration got arrested four shopkeepers accused of profiteering in various parts of city on Wednesday. According to official sources here, the price control magistrates inspected various points, including Sillanwali road, Istaqlalabad and Chak no 130 NB and found that shopkeepers- Amanullah, Saeed, Rafaqat Ali and Zafar Iqbal were involved in profiteering. The magistrates got registered cases and also imposed fines on them.

IRSA releases 94,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 94,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 50,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1510.69 feet and was 110.69 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 25,800 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1189.70 feet, which was 139.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 7,000 cusecs and 32,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 63,900, 48,700, 41,500 and 7,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

181 new dengue cases reported on Wed

LAHORE (APP): Dengue outbreak is still active in Punjab, as 181 new cases were recorded here on Wednesday. According to the latest Health Department data, a total of 12,045 confirmed dengue cases were reported across 36 districts in Punjab this year. During the last 24 hours, Lahore reported 92 new dengue cases, Rawalpindi 08, Multan 17, Gujranwala 32, Faisalabad 09, Narowal 04, Sheikhupura 3, Attock 03, Okara 03 and Dera Ghazi Khan reported two new dengue cases. Meanwhile, Kasur, Sargodha, Sialkot, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Hafiz-Rajanpur and Jehlum each reported 1 case of dengue within 24 hours. Currently, 160 dengue patients were undergoing treatment in various hospitals across Punjab, with 77 of them in Lahore district hospitals. The Secretary of Health Punjab, Ali Jaan Khan, issued a compelling plea to citizens, urging them to maintain clean and dry surroundings as a preventive measure against dengue fever. He also called for cooperation with health department teams that are working tirelessly to combat this outbreak.

Three fake seed dealers booked

SARGODHA (APP): Three seed dealers were booked for selling seeds at their shops without having registration and licence here on Wednesday. According to official sources, during an ongoing drive against fake seed dealers in the district,-Seed Inspector Mansoor Ahmad visited grain market Sillanwali for monitoring seed market and found that three fake dealers-Asad Abrar at Sheikh enterprises grain market Sillanwali, Muhammad Ashraf at Ashraf traders shop 71 grain market Sillanwali and Malik Asim at Malik Shafique traders shop 20 grain market Sillanwali were selling seeds without having any registration and the licence.

Regional Transport Authority withdraws controversial CNG fare increase

spread public protest on Wednesday, the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Hazara division has decided to withdraw the recent fare hike for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) operated vehicles on urban routes within the city. The unprecedented increase, driven by a substantial surge in CNG prices, faced criticism for being excessive and did not match with the general public's affordability. In an official statement released by the RTA, the transport authority, as the custodian of the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1965 and subsequent Rules 1969, acknowledged its re-

ABBOTTABAD (APP): After a wide- affordable transport services. The decision to retract the controversial fare hike was made following intense petitioning from the aggrieved public. The controversial Notification No. RTA/821, dated 13-11-2023, which had initially announced the fare increase, has been immediately withdrawn. The transport authority revealed that a review of the baseline rate, upon which fare determinations were made, is now deemed necessarv. To address the underlying issues and ensure a fair and balanced resolution, RTA will conduct a comprehensive meeting with stakeholders, including representatives from sponsibility to provide dignified and commuters and the Transport Union.

Media awareness drive, timely precautions advises for 'Asthma attacks' in Winter

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Health need to be very careful about the expert Wednesday suggested a media awareness drive and timely precautions for 'Asthma patients' to avoid travel during thick smog at the hospital in the wake of the rising number of patients with a history of 'asthma attacks' at the peak. A Pulmonologist and lungs Specialist Prof. Dr. Javaid A. Khan talking to a private news channel said that about seven percent of Pakistan's population is suffering from asthma and there might be an increase of about 20 to 25 percent within the next few weeks. He further said rapid changes in the weather, especially the rapid onset of cold weather, are directly responsible for decreased lung function in asthmatics. He advised citizens to adopt a proper diet and wear face masks to reduce the risk of asthma attacks and other allergies during winter as asthmatics attacks.

type of fats they are consuming. He informed that a permanent cure for asthma is not currently available, but with proper medication usage patients can live a normal life. Dr Javaid urged doctors to educate their respective patients in order to provide maximum awareness of asthma and its management, adding that the patients to keep the windows of their vehicles shut during the journey and clean the inside of the vehicle thoroughly, removing dust with a vacuum cleaner before embarking on the journey. He said according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), currently around 300m people worldwide are suffering from asthma, adding, cold wind, air pollution, increase in urban population, obesity, lack of movement as some of the reasons for increasing asthma

Rs 4,822,500 fine imposed on shopkeepers over encroachment

SARGODHA (APP): The Municipal Corporation Sargodha imposed shopkeepers over encroachments and issued 396 challans tickets over multiple violations by enforcement team during the last month. Talking to APP here on Wednesday, Chief Officer MC Muhammad Tariq Proya said that crackdown against encroachments had been launched while anti-encroachment team headed by Regulation Officer

MC Zova Masood were inspecting various markets of the city. He said a fine of Rs 4,822,500 on various that a total of 200 warning notices were issued to violators. The anti-encroachment team removed temporary encroachment established at Satellite town, Sherazi town and mission road and also imposed fines on shopkeepers in Faisal Bazaar, Katchery Bazaar, streets of block no 2, General Bus Stand road and Qenchi morr over encroachments during the last month, he added.

ANF foils eight bids to smuggle drugs; arrests five

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcot- di to Bahrain. In another operation ics Force (ANF) managed to foil eight bids to smuggle drugs and recovered 29 kgs of narcotics besides arresting five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He told that on information from intelligence sources about drugs smuggling, ANF personnel started special surveillance and managed to recover total 29 kgs bars, he added. About 400 grams parcel was booked from Rawalpin- for Bahrain by flight number GF-769.

at Allama Igbal International Airport, 79 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger. An accused, resident of Sahiwal, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-676. A passenger traveling to Qatar via flight number QR-621 was also arrested at Allama Igbal International Airport. Over 1.5 kgs Ice drug was recovered from the drugs in eight operations. Five drug trolley bag of the accused, resident smugglers were also sent behind the of Bahawalnagar. In an operation at Sialkot International Airport, 2.3 kg Ice drug concealed in two sham- Ice hidden in the passenger's trolley poo bottles was recovered from a bag was recovered. The accused, courier office in Rawalpindi. The resident of Sargodha, was leaving

Islamabad police actively disseminate public awareness messages in last month

ISLAMABAD (APP): During the pre- destrian safety, zebra crossings, traffic ceding month, the Islamabad Capital Police effectively delivered 130 awareness messages via its FM Radio 92.4. primarily focusing on enhancing awareness of traffic regulations. The disseminated messages covered a spectrum of subjects, including pe-

signals, types of road signs, distinctions in lanes, and instructional videos elucidating parking laws, according to police sources. Moreover, timely updates on traffic laws and road conditions are regularly communicated to citizens through FM radio channels.

Commissioner visits Asghar Mall road to review construction work

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner sewer lines are not properly construct-Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta here Wednesday visited Asghar Mall Road and reviewed construction work of the road being constructed from Murree Road to Chungi No 4. The Commissioner on the occasion said that after completion of the construction work, smooth flow of traffic could be ensured in this area. Liaquat Ali Chatta said, the road construction work should be completed within shortest possible time frame after the sewerage lines on the side of the road are completed. "If the

ed, the road would be destroyed after a few months," he added. Substandard work would not be tolerated under any circumstances, he warned. He directed the relevant authorities to complete the road project as soon as possible to facilitate the citizens. The RDA plot on Asghar Mall Road should be vacated immediately, he ordered. Liaquat Ali Chatta directed the relevant officials that no one should be allowed to encroach the open space outside the houses in residential areas of Asghar Mall.

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Saira Peter and Minister Jamal Shah Convene to Elevate Cultural Harmony Through Music

ISLAMABAD (Staff Report): Renowned British-Pakistani soprano and Sufi Opera Singer, Saira Peter. held a significant meeting with Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah, at the Division on Wednesday. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss collaborative initiatives within the music industry and to propose a Solo-concert to be hosted at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Accompanying Saira Peter were her official Manager, Zafar Francis, and her husband, Stephen Smith, an accomplished Ethnomusicologist and pianist/Harmonium player. The Director General of PNCA, Muhammad Ayub Jamali, also participated in the meeting, highlighting the importance of fostering cultural exchange. The agenda of the meeting encompassed various mutual interest issues related to the music industry, as well



as the upcoming solo concert. Minister Jamal Shah, in acknowledgment of Saira Peter's contribution to the cultural landscape, presented her with a commemorative shield. Saira Peter, currently collaborating with a team of British artists, is actively involved in the development of the world's first full-scale "Sufi Opera." This musical stage drama, based on the story of Umar Marvi-one of Latif's "seven heroines" of Sindh-is set to be staged in London upon completion. Saira Peter is poised to take on the pivotal role of "Marvi" in this groundbreaking production.

Awareness among the parents may help to resolve refusal: Expert

people from different walks of life to hold more awareness drives that can overcome the challenges of 'refusal of parents' during polio drives to make the country free of the polio virus. Dr Iqbal Memon talking to a private news channel said that the polio virus has been eradicated from different countries but unfortunately, Pakistan was still fighting against it due to the refusal of guardians. He said although there has been significant progress towards the eradication of the disease, there is a need for collaborative efforts to get rid of polio. "Parents in Karachi and other far-flung areas of the country must understand the huge risk polio poses to their children's well-being and ensure that they receive multiple tantly, an ethical concern.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A health ex- doses of the oral polio vaccine and pert on Wednesday called upon are up to date on their routine immunizations," he added. Ulema should play a pivotal role in polio eradication, while a focus on removing misconceptions against the vaccine was needed, he mentioned. He also lauded the efforts of the government and appreciated the decrease in number of polio cases. He suggested that educational institutes should be involved in arranging awareness campaigns and polio eradication policies while adding that conferences on the issue would be helpful. Replying to a question, he said that the management of polio survivors is not only a medical and rehabilitation problem involving accessibility, and accommodations, but also a public health issue, and most impor-

Railways Police arrest around 3,843 accused over violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rail- all the major railway stations across ways Police claimed to have arrested a total of 3,843 accused due to their involvement in violations of rules and laws and also registered some 3,563 cases against them in eight Railways divisions over one year. "Around 641 cases were registered in Peshawar Division, 561 in Rawalpindi, 1,037 in Lahore, 321 in Mughalpura workshops, 389 in Multan, 206 in Sukkur, 343 in Karachi, and 65 in Quetta Division," official sources in the Ministry told APP. They said the Railways Police Help Desks had been established at wheelchairs, and stretchers.

the country and the performance of Railways Police is quite satisfactory during the last year. "The Railways Police has handed over 199 missing boys and 73 girls to their heirs and 267 boys, 159 girls, and 47 women who ran away from home to their parents/siblings and the welfare organizations," they added. The sources said the lost luggage worth about Rs14.21 million of 2,267 passengers was handed over to them. Besides, 11.213 passengers were also provided with other facilities like first aid,

Caretaker CM, CEC collaborate for impartial elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker mission, is devoted to ensuring the free, fair, and impartial elections in the province. During a meeting at the Election Commission Secretariat, the Chief Minister pledged that the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, working collaboratively with the Election Com- most concern.

Chief Minister of Khyber Pakh- elections in the province are contunkhwa Justice (Retd) Syed Ar- ducted with a strong emphasis on shad Hussain Shah briefed Chief freedom, fairness, and impartiality. Election Commissioner Sikandar The Chief Election Commissioner Sultan Raja on Wednesday about congratulated the caretaker Chief election preparations, emphasizing Minister on assuming office and emtheir joint commitment to ensuring phasized the ongoing efforts to ensure the peaceful conduct of general elections, taking into account the current security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Chief Minister pledged to prioritize the protection of voters as the government's fore-

Seminar Series on Drug Awareness Held at IBU



BAHAWALPUR line with the directives of the Vice Principal Medical Officer, provid-Chancellor of Islamia University Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar, a seminar series aimed at creating awareness about the side effects of drugs and discouraging their use is currently underway. committee overseeing this initiative is headed by Prof. Dr. Fayazuddin Ahmed. A seminar, and Arabic Studies, took place at Faheema Nadeem, Senior Medi-

(Agencies): In cal Officer, and Dr. Maleeha Arif, ed a comprehensive discussion on drug use and its adverse effects on mental and physical health. Prof. Dr. Sheikh Shafiq ur Rahman, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic and Arabic Studies, expressed gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar for initiating the awareness seminar series on drug abuse. hosted by the Faculty of Islamic He encouraged students to play an active role in educating society Baghdad ul-Jeeded Campus. Dr. about the dangers of drug use and its harmful effects.

UK-Pakistan Alliance Deepens with Doubled Investment on Royal Occasion"

ISLAMABAD (Adnan Hameed): British High Commissioner Ms Jane Marriott, during an event commemorating the 76th birthday of King Charles, announced a doubling of the United Kingdom's investment in Pakistan. The increased support aims to address climate change, enhance climate resilience, and promote adaptation initiatives in Pakistan. Aligned with the United Kingdom's advocacy for a 'Loss and Damage' fund at COP 28, focused on assisting climate-vulnerable nations, the commitment underscores a shared commitment to environmental sustainability. The evening, themed around environmental sustainability and climate change, featured a captivating performance by the historic Band of the Artillery

Nine drug peddlers held

FAISALABAD (APP): The district police arrested nine drug peddlers with huge quantities of contraband during the last 24 hours. A police report said here on Wednesday that the teams of various police stations conducted raids under their jurisdiction and nabbed Javed Igbal, Mudassar, Akmal, Jibran, Mehtab, lah Yar,Bilal,Asif and another. The teams also recovered 4.9-kg hashish,65 litre-liqour from their possession. Police registered separate cases against them and launched investigation.

Dera admin imposes section 144

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district administration of DI Khan has imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), imposing ban on pillion riding and display of arms from November 18. According to district administration, The order would take effect from November 18-27, and it has been enforced for the safety of citizens' lives and properties and to prevent any untoward incidents. It imposes a ban on pillion riding on motorcycles, display of arms, assembly of five or more than five people at one place and holding any kind of rallies without permission from the authorized institution.

Shalimar train route extended

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railway administration has decided to extend the Shalimar Express (27Up-28Dn) on its designated route Karachi-Lahore-Karachi via Multan and Faisalabad for one more month. According to a PR spokesperson on Wednesday, the decision would be applicable with an immediate effect, to facilitate travelers.

AC seizes 15000 hoarded fertilizer bags

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): District administration seized 15000 bags of fertilizers illegally stored in a godown, here Wednesday. According to official sources, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nasir Shehzad Dogar raided a godown of F Enterprises and managed to seize 15000 bags of fertilizers. AC observed that operations against illegal storage of fertilizers would be dealt strictly. 'The administration is committed to ensure implementation on government policies to facilitate the masses," he added.

Mayor Sukkur reviews construction work on different roads

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Wednesday visited Station Road and reviewed construction work of the road being constructed from Queence Road to Sokha Talab and Shikarpur road. The Mayor on the occasion said that after completion of the construction work, smooth flow of traffic could be ensured in this area. Barrister Arslan Sheikh said that the road construction work should be completed within shortest possible time frame after the sewerage lines on the side of the road are completed.



Company, approved by King Charles himself. The event emphasized the risk of forest fires and protect lives urgent need to address climate vulnerabilities, particularly in the aftermath of devastating floods affecting millions in Pakistan last year. forts unveiled include the expansion Highlighting the collaborative spirit, High Commissioner Jane Marriott announced key initiatives, including the expansion of an AI-based 'Early Warning Forest Fire Detection System' in collaboration with the Global System for Mobile Communications.

This project aims to minimize the and biodiversity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federal Capital Territory. Other collaborative efof the Chevening scholarship program through new private partnerships and the establishment of the online 'Pakistan Museum of Food' in collaboration with Google and the Save and Observe Children's Health (SOCH) Foundation.

Islamabad police verifies 17,695 vehicles, enhances citizen services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Police Khid- to present their original CNIC, the mat Markaz, under the direction of original documentation of the ve-Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, has successfully completed the verification of 17,695 vehicles out of the 17,718 applications received. The Police Khidmat Markaz offers a tively working to enhance citizen range of services to the citizens of Islamabad, including the issuance of character certificates, foreigners' registration, and the registration of tenants and domestic servants, as highlighted by a police public relations officer. To undergo vehicle verification, applicants are required

hicle, and the owner's CNIC. Additionally, printed images of the vehicle's engine and chassis numbers are necessary for the verification process. The police have been acconvenience, with a police mobile facilitation van service operational. Furthermore, Khidmat Markaz locations in various areas, including sectors F-6, G-10/4, H-11, Bani Gala. Swan Garden, Khanna, and different police stations, are dedicated to facilitating citizens.

Five drug peddlers netted with over 10 kg charras

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up five accused on recovery of over 10 kg charras. According to a police spokesman, Rattaamral police managed to net a drug peddler namely Murad Khan and recovered 4400 grams charras and also arrested Asad for having 1400

grams charras. Saddar Wah police rounded up Saif for possessing 1650 grams charras while Gujar Khan police netted an accused namely Shah Zaib and seized 1500 grams charras. R.A.Bazar police nabbed a drug peddler, Atif for carrying 1300 grams charras. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations were underway.

'Let power of intellect overrule military might to save humanity from wars, President tells world

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr any conflict and always resulted in wars and conflicts resulting in the massacre of innocent people, the right of veto against the cessation saving humanity from the violence of the powerful. "Power of intellect should be the world order taking precedence over the violent forces which quash the spirit of humanity and justice," he said at the Annual Margalla Dialogue 2023. The event themed 'Evolving world environment: Charting the course of our future' gathered diplomats, thinkers, and intellectuals from various countries. President Alvi said dehumanizing people had become a norm lated deaths in Europe arrived at the in the world where vested interests culmination of peace treaties and prevailed over humanity. War, he bodies like the League of the Nasaid, was not a solution to resolve

Arif Alvi on Wednesday said with a never-ending vicious cycle of violence. He pointed out that using the world needed a unified approach to of war questioned the ethical standards of the countries concerned. In Gaza, he said the massive killings of Palestinians committed by Israel needed urgent attention by the international community to act and play its role in stopping the bloodshed. He said Israel, in its justification to eliminate Hamas was "killing the Palestinians like savages" and calling the colossal deaths as collateral damage". The president mentioned that the world after several war-retions and the United Nations (UN).

ML-1 to become favourable transit route for region: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday said the Main Line (ML-1) railway project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would prove a favourable transit route for countries in the region. The prime minister vowed to complete ML-1 on a priority basis, saying the project would also improve connectivity between the country's seaports with its economic zones. Chairing a meeting to discuss ML-1 here at the PM House, the prime minister said the project would contribute to the improvement of communication network in the country. PM Kakar said there existed huge potential for foreign investment in Pakistan Railways and stressed the need for early materialization of its projects. He stressed meeting the targets of the project within stipulated time and directed the formulation of a comprehensive reform strategy for Pakistan Railways to maximize the benefits of the ML-1. Emphasizing transparency in the implementation of ML-1, he said, the project would result in the creation of new employment opportunities and cerned.



reduced travel time and freight rates. The meeting was told that the ML-1 project was in its final stage of modalities and its ground-breaking would be performed by early next year. The project will be completed in two phases. In the first phase, a 930-kilometre-long rail track will be laid from Karachi to Multan. Also, the railway infrastructure damaged by the 2022 flood will be upgraded as per international standards. In the next phase, the 796-kilometre-long rail track from Multan to Peshawar will be laid in line with the requirements of the future. The meeting was attended by caretaker federal ministers including Shamshad Akhtar and Sami Saeed, PM's Adviser Ahad Khan, PM's Special Assistant Jahanzeb Khan, and senior officials of the ministries con-

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Saudi ports' container volumes increase 5.31% in October: Mawani

RIYADH (Agencies): Ports in Saudi Arabia witnessed a rise of 5.31 percent in container handling in October compared to the year-ago period, according to a statement. The Saudi Ports Authority, or Mawani, reported on Nov. 14 that ports in the Kingdom handled 741,905 standard containers last month and 704,486 in October 2022. The number of transshipment containers handled by the ports in the Kingdom stood at



compared to October 2022. Last month, the ports handled 627,637 tons of general cargo, 4,575,549 tons of solid bulk 290,110 last month, up 2.12 percent and 11,415,187 tons of liquid. Mawani

added that the rise in cargo handling in Saudi ports signifies the Kingdom's growth as a global logistics hub, aligned with the goals outlined in the National Transport and Logistics Strategy. The statement added that Saudi Arabia's ports received 59,810 passengers in October, up 35.11 percent from the same month in 2022. On the other hand, the Kingdom's ports received 109,646 cars in October, also marking an annual rise of 17.13 percent.

OpenAl pauses new signups to manage overwhelming demand

NEW YORK (Agencies): OpenAI will pause accepting new users for its paid ChatGPT Plus service due to overwhelming demand, chief executive officer Sam Altman said in a post on Tuesday. Altman's company introduced new features and upgrades at its first-ever developer conference last week, allowing users to build custom versions of ChatGPT to accomplish specific tasks. The announcements triggered a rise in demand for OpenAI's artificial intelli- ence," Altman wrote on X, the plat-



gence tools and services. "The surge in usage post devday has exceeded our capacity and we want to make sure everyone has a great experi-

form formerly known as Twitter. The AI startup said at its conference that roughly 100 million people use its services every week and more than 90% of Fortune 500 businesses are building tools on OpenAI's platform. With the new option, users will be able to create their own specialised versions of ChatGPT — simply called GPTs — that can help teach math to a child or explain the rules of a board game. No coding is required, the company said.

Siemens Energy gets state-backed €15 billion rescue package

FRANKFURT (Agencies): Siemens Energy will receive a €15 billion (US\$16.3 billion), state-backed rescue package, Berlin said Tuesday, as the German group struggles to overcome a crisis in its wind power unit. The company's Gamesa subsidiary has faced long-running technical problems with its onshore wind turbines, which have cost huge sums to fix and led to massive losses. The unit's difficulties come amid broader troubles for the whole wind power mens Energy revealed last month



sector in Europe, even as demand for clean energy grows. These range from higher prices for materials to strong competition from China. Sie-

that it was in talks with the German government over "guarantees" to help the company finance major new contracts, sending its shares crashing. After weeks of talks, the state has now granted Siemens Energy €7.5 billion worth of guarantees, the economy ministry said. They are part of a €15 billion package agreed with other stakeholders, including private banks and the larger Siemens conglomerate, which is a major shareholder in Siemens Energy.

Snapchat shares jump 7% on in-app Amazon shopping deal

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies): Amazon on Tuesday confirmed it is partnering with Snapchat-parent Snap to let users of the ephemeral messaging service buy things from the online retail titan without leaving the app. Snap shares shot up more than 7% on the news, ending the formal trading day at US\$12.15 per share. "For the first time, customers will be able to shop Amazon's Snapchat ads and check out with Amazon without leaving the social



online retail platform said in response to an AFP inquiry. "Customers in the United States will see real-time pricing, Prime eligibility, delivery estimates, media app," a spokesperson for the and product details on select Amazon

product ads in Snapchat as part of the new experience." In-app shopping will be available for select products advertised on Snapchat and sold at Amazon, the spokesperson added. People will be able to link their Snapchat and Amazon accounts to take advantage of the in-app shopping feature, according to Amazon. Snap and Amazon last year unveiled a collaboration that let Snapchat users "try on" eyeglasses using augmented reality (AR) then buy those they liked at Amazon.

Cooling US inflation raises hopes of an end to Fed rate hikes

WASHINGTON (Agencies): US consumer inflation cooled more than expected last month, according to government data published Tuesday, providing welcome news for policymakers looking to control price increases without damaging the economy. The consumer price index (CPI) inflation gauge increased by 3.2% in the 12 months to October, down from 3.7% a month earlier, the Labor Department said. Inflation was unchanged month- monthly figures came in below the



over-month from September, with a sharp monthly decline noted in energy prices. Both the annual and

median expectations of economists surveyed by MarketWatch. "Today we saw more progress bringing down inflation while maintaining one of the strongest job markets in history," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "I'm working to get results for the American people and it's happening." US stock markets rose sharply on the news of cooling inflation, which reduces the likelihood of another interest rate hike

Renault seeks to charge up investors for EV unit IPO

PARIS (Agencies): Renault will try dnesday to fire up doubtfu investors ahead of a planned market listing of its electric vehicle (EV) unit Ampere, a key plank of CEO Luca de Meo's revamp of the French automaker. De Meo has targeted a valuation of €8-10 billion (US\$8.6-10.7 billion) for the initial public offering (IPO) of Ampere, which has already been delayed once and is now slated for spring 2024. Slower demand for EVs, choppy markets and increased looked over-ambitious at this stage.



Chinese competition have complicated de Meo's plans, with sources close to the matter telling Reuters last month his hoped-for price tag

the valuation falls below €7 billion, and one said the cut-off point could be closer to €6 billion. UBS analysts have valued Ampere at just €3-4 billion, and others have questioned the rationale of listing the EV business to raise funds. On Wednesday, De Meo will argue his case for what could be the first attempt by a traditional automaker to unlock value from an EV business via an IPO.

Airbus announces 10-plane order from EgyptAir

DUBAI (Agencies): European aerospace giant Airbus announced an order for 10 A350-900 planes by Egypt's state-owned carrier Egypt-Air today, on the second day of the Dubai Airshow. Airbus commercial director Christian Scherer told a news conference that the deal marked "an important milestone" in the "long and successful partnership" with EgyptAir. Without discounts, which are routinely applied in the industry, the transaction is worth US\$3.2 billion, according to the manufacturer's latest published list price. Airbus, which yesterday announced an order for 30 A220-300s from Latvian budget carrier airBaltic, has been overshadowed by US rival Boeing at this year's



Dubai Airshow. Boeing announced a mega-contract with Emirates, the Middle East's biggest airline, yesterday for 55 Boeing 777-9s, 35 777-8s, and five 787 Dreamliners in a deal worth US\$52 billion. The 777-9s are expected for delivery in 2025 and the 777-8s are scheduled for 2030. Lowcost carrier flydubai, also based in the Gulf emirate, announced an order for 30 Boeing 787-9s, valued at US\$63 billion. Emirates chief execu-

tive officer Tim Clark said today that he will not buy Airbus' A350 until he has concluded negotiations with engine manufacturer Rolls Rovce. which he blames for a lack of durability and longevity. Clark said "40% of the 350-1000s have been sold into this region," adding, "This is the region that is buying these airplanes and will buy the big numbers if the engine issue's resolved." Airbus has emphasised that the technology used by the Airbus in the A350s enables the aircraft to consume 25% less fuel than its competitor's previous models. The Emirates CEO said reliability was paramount in the selection of aircraft. "They might not be as advanced in their technology in their build materials.

Man City report record profits to match best season on pitch

MANCHESTER (Agencies): After capturing their first treble last season, Manchester City reported on Wednesday that the success was matched off the pitch with record profits, their highest ever revenue, and recognition as the most valuable football brand in the world. The club, which has been majority owned by Sheikh Mansour since August of 2008, earned revenues of £712.8 million (US\$889.4 million) to June 2023 according to Manchester City FC Ltd's annual report, an increase of £99.8 million (16.3%) over the previous season, along with a record net profit of £80.4 million. "The 2022-23 season saw Manchester City scale and broadcasting.



new heights and set new benchmarks," City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak, said in a statement. "In short, last season saw Manchester City achieve the greatest football and commercial year of its storied history." City experienced growth over the previous year across all revenue streams of commercial, matchday

Investors expand tech bets amid continued market sector gains

NEW YORK (Agencies): Several hedge funds expanded their bets on big technology stocks including Amazon, Microsoft and Meta Platforms even as these companies stumbled some during the third quarter after having fuelled broad market gains this year, new regulatory filings show. Tiger Global Management, a widely watched fund in the investment world, increased its holding of Nvidia, whose semiconductors back artificial-intelligence systems, by 77% during the third quarter. It boosted its bet on Alphabet by 40%, the filings show. The firm also raised its Meta investment by 4%, boosted its bet on Microsoft by 8% and in-



creased its Amazon stake by 6.5%. Tiger Global and other hedge funds nursed heavy losses in 2022 when technology stocks skidded lower. But many fund managers put more money to work in the sector this year when seven big tech stocks raced higher, playing a critical role in helping the broader stock market recover after last year's drop.

Japanese economy contracts in blow to PM Kishida

TOKYO (Agencies): Japan's economy has gone into reverse, government data showed Wednesday, in a further blow to struggling Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. The world's No 3 economy shrank by 0.5% between June and September compared to the second quarter, the preliminary data showed, worse than the consensus forecast of minus 0.1%. The drop, which followed two straight quarters of growth, was on the back of continued low consumer spending and weakness in the global economy hitting Japan's exports. Exports grew 0.5%, down from overall growth. Private demand, in-



cluding private residential and corporate investment, fell 0.6%. The economy shrank 2.1% compared to the same quarter last year, missing market expectations of minus 0.4%, Bloomberg News reported. Economists at Dutch bank ING however called the contraction "a fleeting 3.9% in the previous quarter, while aberration in an otherwise positive imports rose 1.0%, further hitting growth environment led by the service sector".

Dollar down as markets bet Fed is done with hikes

TOKYO (Agencies): The dollar stuttered at broadly lower levels on Wednesday after slumping overnight as a surprisingly softer US inflation reading bolstered bets that the Federal Reserve has reached the end of its monetary tightening cycle.The sell-off in the dollar drove a rally for euro sitting just below an over twomonth high hit on Tuesday. The fre-



many of its peer currencies, with the in September. The data prompted market participants to all but eliminate the chance of another rate hike netic currency market activity was at the Fed's December monetary polsparked by data showing US consumicy meeting, while bets of a rate cut Two of the sources said Renault was er prices were unchanged in October, in May next year increased to around unlikely to go ahead with the IPO if with the annual rise in underlying 50%, according to the CME Group's inflation the smallest in two years. In FedWatch Tool. Traders reacted the 12 months through October, the quickly to the shift in market pricing CPI climbed 3.2% — below econo- by sending the dollar tumbling 1.5% mists' estimates — after rising 3.7% overnight against major currencies.

PetroChina Replaces Exxon Mobil as Primary Contractor in West Ourna 1 Oilfield

Baghdad (Agencies): Iraq and Exxon Mobil have signed a settlement deal, allowing PetroChina to take over as the primary contractor for the West Qurna 1 oilfield. The Deputy Director of Basra Oil Company (BOC), Hassan Mohammed, stated that PetroChina was deemed the best choice after evalwill become the largest shareholder after Exxon Mobil's exit. The agreefor BOC to acquire Exxon Mobil's largest oil fields.



share, with an assurance to settle the uating the settlement deal. PetroChina tax issue through negotiations or arbitration if unresolved. The West Ourna 1 field, with 43 billion barrels of recovment includes a financial arrangement erable reserves, is among the world's

Genting Singapore soars most in 3 years on earnings beat

SINGAPORE (Agencies): Genting among the best performers on the more than three years after the casino operator posted better-than-expected third-quarter earnings, underscoring a recovery in tourism in Singapore. The shares climbed since March 2020, and putting them late Friday.

Singapore Ltd jumped the most in MSCI Asia Pacific Index. The advance helped narrow the stock's year-to-date loss to just 2.6%. Genting Singapore's quarterly sales increased 33% from a year earlier, while net income surged 59%, the as much as 12%, their biggest gain company said in an exchange filing











Sinner edges Djokovic to close in on ATP Finals' last four

TURIN (Agencies): Jannik Sinner edged toward becoming the first-ever Italian to reach the last four of the ATP Finals on Tuesday after a thrilling 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/2) win over Novak Djokovic. World No. 4 Sinner needed a straight-sets victory in front of enthusiastic home support in Turin over tennis icon Djokovic to guarantee passage from the Green Group with a match to spare. And while the 22-year-old couldn't quite make that happen, a superb performance gave him his first win in four attempts over Djokovic, who is bidding to win for a record seventh time at the year-ending tournament. "It means a lot to me,"



said Sinner on court. "When you win against the world No. 1 who has won 24 Grand Slams it's obviously in the toptop." Fans made an almighty din for Sinner, chanting his name to the rafters once he claimed victory in an exciting, three-hour contest which ran way past midnight at the Pala Alpitour. Sinner run at 20 matches.

has had the best year of his career and looks to be fulfilling the promise he has long shown, winning four titles this season including the Masters 1000 event at Toronto, and looks on form in Italy. He made the first breakthrough when he capitalized on Djokovic handing him advantage in game 11 with a double fault, moving 6-5 ahead with a big backhand before claiming the set with a service game to love. Djokovic pulled level after a bruising second set in which neither player faced a single break point, but after fighting back from 4-2 down in the decider he wilted in the tie-break and ended his winning

Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez face off in World Cup qualifying; Brazil could field teenager Endrick

SAO PAULO (Agencies): Lionel Messi and Luiz Suarez, close friends and former teammates at Barcelona, will renew their on-the-field rivalry on Thursday in World Cup qualifying. Messi, who appears to have recovered from a muscle injury in his leg, led Argentina to their third World Cup title last year and has his team in first place in the South American qualifying group for the 2026 tournament. The 36-year-old Suarez has just



returned to Uruguay's national team as he nears the end of a high-scoring season in the Brazilian league. The Argentines will take on two-time

World Cup champion Uruguay at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires. Also Thursday, Brazil will travel to face Colombia in Barranquilla as they try to recover from a home draw with Venezuela and a loss at Uruguay in their previous two qualifying matches. Brazil coach Fernando Diniz, who recently won the Copa Libertadores with Fluminense, could use teenager Endrick after calling him up for the

Juventus extend contract of banned Fagioli until 2028

TURIN (Agencies): Juventus have renewed the contract of Nicolo Fagioli until June 2028, the Serie A club said on Tuesday, after the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) banned the midfielder for seven months for breaching rules on betting on matches. Fagioli's previous deal, signed in August 2022, was valid until 2026. "The relationship with the midfielder having arrived for the end of the season.



with Nicolo therefore continues,

at Juventus in 2015 as a 14-yearold, rising through the youth ranks until his senior debut in 2021," Juventus said in a statement. The ban of the 22-year-old Fagioli, who made his Italy debut in a friendly 3-1 win against Albania in November 2022, began on Oct 19, meaning the player could return to the squad

Liverpool's Diaz finally reunited with father after kidnapping

BARRANQUILLA (Agencies): Liverpool and Colombia winger Luis Diaz has reunited with his father for the first time since the latter's kidnapping ordeal, the Colombian football federation said on Tuesday. Luis Manuel Diaz, 58, was released on Thursday by the leftist National Liberation Army (ELN) 12 days after he was taken hostage on Oct 28 in Barrancas, a rural municipality where he lives in the northern province of La Brentford, before returning to Colom-



Guajira. The winger remained with Liverpool through this period up to Sunday's Premier League win over

bia ahead of Thursday's World Cup qualifier against Brazil. The Colombian FA shared pictures of the father and son's emotional reunion on X, formerly known as Twitter, with the caption "we are family." Diaz's father has said he would remain in Colombia despite his difficult kidnapping experience. "My aspirations are to continue in my town because I have my entire family in my town," he told a press conference on Friday.

Man arrested on suspicion of manslaughter over death of ice hockey player Adam Johnson, police say

LONDON (Agencies): A man has been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter following the death of ice hockey player Adam Johnson last month. South Yorkshire Police said in a statement on Tuesday. Johnson died after sustaining a cut to the neck while playing for the Nottingham Panthers against the Sheffield Steelers in England on October 28. A Sheffield coroner's report found that the 29-year-old "sustained an incised wound to the neck caused by the skate of another play-



er" and later died in hospital as a result of the injury. "Our investigation launched immediately following this tragedy and we have been carrying out extensive enquiries ever since to remains in custody.

piece together the events which led to the loss of Adam in these unprecedented circumstances," detective chief superintendent Becs Horsfall said in a police statement. "We have been speaking to highly specialised experts in their field to assist in our enquiries and continue to work closely with the health and safety department at Sheffield City Council, which is supporting our ongoing investigation." The police statement added that the man arrested

Man arrested on suspicion of manslaughter after UK ice hockey player death

LONDON, Nov 14 (Reuters) - A man has been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter following the death of Nottingham Panthers ice hockey player Adam Johnson who died after suffering serious injuries during a match last month, British police said on Tuesday. Police said the man, whose name was not released, remained in police custody. Johnson, 29, suffered a fatal injury when his neck was cut by the blade of another player during the match against Sheffield Steelers



in Sheffield, northern England. The American, who joined the club in August having previously played in Germany and Sweden as well as in the United States' National Hockey

League (NHL), later died in hospital. "Our investigation launched immediately following this tragedy and we have been carrying out extensive enquiries ever since to piece together the events which led to the loss of Adam in these unprecedented circumstances," Detective Chief Superintendent Becs Horsfall said. The coroner overseeing the inquest has called for neck guards to be made mandatory in the wake of the death, which Johnson's club described as a "freak incident".

Bento looking to extend winning start as UAE kick off 2026 World Cup qualifiers

DUBAI (Agencies): Another ticket to the World Cup after more than three decades away, or another false dawn? That is the burning question which hangs over Paulo Bento's UAE side ahead of Thursday's competitive debut versus Nepal, when qualifying kicks off. The ex-Portugal and South Korea tactician's start has been exemplary. It has included a trio of friendly victories, opening with September's 4-1 bow against Keylor Navas' Costa Rica. The UAE's stale squad appears rejuvenated by fresh faces, and a renewed sense of purpose has radiated out to the country's often jaded fanbase. How Saudi Arabia's Roberto Mancini and Bento's Portuguese



compatriot Carlos Queiroz with Qatar must envy this efficacious introduction. Now comes the real test for a nation who stumbled through a torturous 2022 cycle under Bento's many predecessors. A cursory scan of the road to Qatar details a pained near miss for The Whites, with Australia edging their tense fourth-round tie 2-1. In theory, an improving side were

almost one game away from returning to football's grandest tournament for the first time since 1990. The preceding World Cup process, however, featured two stints at the helm for Bert van Marwijk, brief spells with Ivan Jovanovic and Jorge Luis Pinto amid the coronavirus pandemic, and Rodolfo Arruabarrena's third-round interlude headlined by an encouraging defeat of South Korea, then defining reversal to the Socceroos. Order and focus must be inculcated by Bento, the UAE's sixth permanent appointment since 2019. His record-long four-year tenure with South Korea culminated after last December's World Cup round-of-16 defeat to Brazil.

Chelsea boss Hayes confirmed as US women's soccer coach

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Chelsea manager Emma Hayes has been appointed as the new head coach of the US in a record deal that will make her the world's highest paid women's football coach, the United States Soccer Federation said Tuesday. Hayes, 47, revealed earlier this month she plans to leave Chelsea at the end of the season after a trophy-laden spell in charge of the English club. "This is a huge honor to be given the opportunity to coach the most incredible team in world football history," Hayes said in a USSF statement confirming her appointment. US Soccer did not divulge details of Hayes' contract, but coach Gregg Berhalter.



said she would become the "highest paid women's soccer in the world." ESPN, citing a source with knowledge of the contract negotiations, reported that Haves' deal would run through 2027 and would see her earn a salary that was "close if not equal" to the \$1.6 million earned by US men's football

McIlroy resigns from PGA Tour board



LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Golf star Rory McIlroy has resigned from the PGA Tour's board in order to concentrate on his game and spend more time with his family, multiple US media reports said Tuesday. The New York Times cited a statement from PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan and board chairman Edward Herlihy confirming McIlroy's decision to step down. "Given the extraordinary time and effort that Rory - and all of his fellow player directors — have invested

in the tour during this unprecedented, transformational period in our history, we certainly understand and respect his decision to step down in order to focus on his game and his family," Monahan and Herlihy said in the statement. McIlroy's resignation is another sign of the turmoil that has gripped golf since the emergence of the Saudi-funded LIV Golf circuit last year. The 34-yearold four-time major winner had been one of the staunchest allies of the PGA Tour during its bitter civil war with LIV, reportedly turning down a huge offer to join the free-spending series. However McIlroy was among those players left stunned in June when the PGA Tour announced that it was forming a joint company with LIV's Saudi paymasters, effectively bringing the dispute to an end.

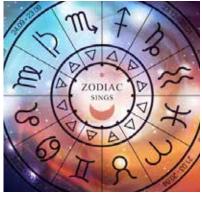
Man City 84% likely to win Premier League, predicts Opta

LONDON (Agencies): Manchester City have one Premier League point less than they had after 12 games last season but according to data analysts Opta are overwhelming favourites to claim a fourth successive title. The number crunchers at Opta Analyst have predicted where each of the 20 teams will finish the season based on 10,000 simulations of the 2023-24 campaign, based on form and remaining fixtures, fed into a supercomputer. And the outlook looks good for Pep Guardiola's side and worryingly grim for Burnley. City, according to Opta Analyst, have an 84.6% probability of lifting the trophy again with Liverpool given only a 9.1% chance and last season's runners-up Arsenal on 5.6%. Backto-back defeats for Tottenham Hotspur mean that, according to Opta, their title hopes are virtually non-existent at 0.3%,



the same as Aston Villa. Manchester United, currently in sixth place, are predicted to finish seventh and only have a 5.9% chance of finishing in the top four, although that has risen slightly of late. Newcastle United have a 25% chance of a second-successive top-four finish while Chelsea are predicted to finish ninth. Opta's calculations also suggest that the bottom three, currently the three clubs promoted last season, will all go down with 20th-placed Burnley given an 86.9% chance of relegation.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: NOVEMBER 16, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.

- ARIES: You need to calm down and let others catch up to you or even surpass you for the time being. It's one of those days when it's easy to forget that you're in a marathon, not a sprint.

- TAURUS: Someone new in your life is making you rethink quite a bit of your preconceptions, and you think you like where you're headed! It's time for you to flip the switch and make a big change.

- GEMINI: You just aren't sure what to make of your latest plan. Something seems confusing about it. You might need to just sit back and let people think it over before asking for feedback.

- CANCER: Communication is a bit more difficult today, especially with those who think they know you well. Their assumptions are off base, but you can't read their minds to let them know how they're wrong.

- LEO: You can score some serious brownie points by leaning over and helping someone gently with a tough problem they're having. It's

time to be more proactive with your friends and family!

VIRGO: You've got needs and today gives you multiple opportunities to fulfill them. Your ambitions are pure and powerful now, so get out there in the world and do whatever it takes to get your way.

- LIBRA: You're hung up on something that happened a long time ago, but you're not sure what to do about it now. You may just need to forgive and forget, though that is never the easiest thing to pull off.

SCORPIO: It's the perfect time to sign anything, even autographs! You might have a lease or business deal awaiting your review, and you should feel good about any legal arrangement that begins today.

SAGITTARIUS: It's time to draw on your odder resources, and you may need to surprise a few people with some crazy moves. Your secrets are still safe, or at least most of them are, so feel free to move

CAPRICORN: Expect the best today and it should come your way. Your energy is down-to-earth and practical, and you ought to see good results as early as this afternoon. Others are paying attention.

- ACQUARIUS: You're not in the best position to get people back on track. Your energy is building up now, and you can't make them see what needs to be done. Wait for one more day before taking action.

 PISCES: Your ability to mix it up with all the right people means that you're drifting into a leadership role, that is, if you aren't already filling it! Assume you can handle it and move on quickly.

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America is 'next' if Israel loses war – Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (Agencies): Islamist militants will pose a threat to the United States and Europe if Israel loses its current war with Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed, saying Western states would be next in line should his country fail. While the prime minister acknowledged that Washington had been very supportive of Israel's military action in Gaza, he rejected any calls for a ceasefire, insisting it would amount to a surrender to Hamas. Netanyahu implored Israel's allies for support during a sitdown with Fox News' Sean Hannity on Monday, stating "We have to win not only for our sake, but for the sake of the Middle East," as well as "for the sake of our Arab neighbors" and the world at large. "We have to win to

Luxury Russian Cars' Production Commences in UAE



MOSCOW (Agencies): Russia has initiated the assembly of its domestic luxury car brand, Aurus, in the United Arab Emirates, as announced by Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. The production begins with the Aurus Senat executive sedan, recognized as the official limousine of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Future plans involve expanding manufacturing to include the Aurus Komendant SUV, although no specific timeframe has been provided. Additionally, there are intentions to establish a dealership center for the sale and customization of Aurus cars in the UAE, positioning the country as a hub for supplying Russian luxury vehicles in the Middle East. Deputy Prime Minister Manturov mentioned potential expansion plans, stating, "We are considering expansion. First, we will firmly establish ourselves here in the UAE, and then we will move forward." Responding to inquiries about a possible Aurus showroom in Saudi Arabia, he added that the Middle East and North Africa regions are viewed as the primary export destinations for Aurus cars in the foreseeable future. Aurus, introduced in 2013 by order of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade to replace predominantly foreign-made cars used by top Russian officials, initially debuted during President Putin's inauguration in May 2017. The luxury vehicles were later made available to the general public in both domestic and foreign markets. The Aurus Senat sedan starts at \$443,700, while the Aurus Komendant is priced from \$447,000, according to the Panavto dealership website.

Thunberg due in London court after climate protest arrest



LONDON (Agencies): Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg is to appear in a London court on Wednesday after her arrest during a protest at an annual gathering of energy industry figures. The 20-year-old activist – a key face of the movement to fight climate change – was among 26 people charged with a public order offence in the Oct 17 demonstration in London. She was released on bail and will now appear for a plea hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court in central London. Activists from Greenpeace and Fossil Free London, which organised the initial protest, are expected to hold a demonstration during her appearance. Several hundred protesters had gathered outside the InterContinental London Park Lane hotel during the "Oily Money Out" demonstration, blocking all entrances to the venue. Maja Darlington, a campaigner at Greenpeace UK, said the group's activists joined the demonstration to send "a clear and peaceful message" to the oil bosses attending the conference.



protect Israel. We have to win to safeguard the Middle East. We have to win for the sake of the civilized world. That's the battle we're fighting, and it's being waged right now. There is no substitute for that victory," he continued, adding "If we don't win now, then Europe is next and you're next." Insisting that "our fight is your fight," the PM went on to allege that an "axis of terror" exists between Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in

Yemen and the Iranian government, claiming Tehran's "minions" seek to "bring the Middle East [and] the world back to the Dark Ages." "On the other side stands Israel, the modern Arab states, of course the United States, all the forces that want to see peace, prosperity for the Middle East and for the world," Netanyahu added. US officials have been reluctant to directly call for a ceasefire, instead proposing shorter "humanitarian pauses" to allow aid to enter the besieged Palestinian enclave. However, as the death toll mounts in Gaza, some administration officials have urged restraint from Israeli forces, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently lamenting that "far too many" Palestinians had died in Israel's bombing campaign.

Thailand Considers Inviting Chinese Police for Patrols to Boost Tourist Confidence

BANGKOK (Agencies): Thai officials have announced a proposal to invite Chinese police officers to participate in patrols in various tourist cities in an effort to enhance the confidence of Chinese tourists. The move comes in response to safety concerns following a deadly shooting in Bangkok in early October that resulted in the death of one Chinese tourist and the injury of another. The plan, disclosed by Thapanee Kiatphaibool, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT). is set to be discussed with the Chinese embassy on November 15. The intention is to address security concerns and improve the quality of services for tourists visiting Thailand. The initiative aims to contribute to the goal of hosting up to 4.4 million Chinese tourists in the final two months of the year. However, National police chief Pol Gen Torsak Sukwimol has denied that Thai police sought Chinese counterparts' patrols, emphasizing that the Royal Thai Police can already ensure the safety of residents and visitors. The slowdown in Chinese arrivals since the October shooting has prompted Thailand to address Chinese tourists' safety worries. If implemented, the



presence of Chinese police patrols is seen as a potential boost for Chinese tourists hesitant about visiting Thailand. Chinese experts believe that this police cooperation could be positive news for Chinese tourists and the Thai business and tourism industry. The Thai tourism sector, eager for more Chinese travelers amid economic recovery post-COVID-19, sees this initiative as a way to reassure and attract Chinese visitors. The success of this cooperation may set a precedent for similar models to be adopted by other countries in Asia. Chinese residents in Thailand express a sense of reassurance if Chinese police officers are involved in patrols, highlighting the potential impact of this collaboration on the perception of safety among Chinese tourists in the Southeast Asian country.

the military added. On Tuesday, IDF

Israel launches raid on Gaza's largest hospital

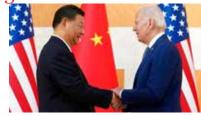


GAZA (Agencies): The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has launched an operation against al-Shifa Hospital in northern Gaza, the Palestinian enclave's largest medical complex. IDF officials say the facility has been used for military purposes by Hamas, a claim rejected by the armed group. The IDF announced the raid early Wednesday morning, saying it would carry out a "precise and targeted operation" against Hamas fighters within a "specified area in the Shifa Hospital," lso accusing the group of using "human shields" there. "In recent weeks, the IDF has publicly warned time and again that Hamas' continued military use of the Shifa hospital jeopardizes its protected status under internationthis unlawful abuse of the hospital," caught in the crossfire."

spokesman Daniel Hagari said the Israeli Army considers Gaza hospitals to be legitimate military targets, and reiterated claims that Palestinian forces maintain a command center in underground tunnels below al-Shifa. Hamas later denounced the IDF raid, saying it would hold both Israel and the US "fully responsible for the repercussions of the occupation army's storming of the Shifa Medical Complex." The militants accused US officials of peddling a "false narrative" that would enable "more massacres against civilians," after the White House backed Israeli claims that Hamas was using the hospital for military purposes. In comments to reporters on Tuesday, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said US intelligence had confirmed that "Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad members operate a command and control [center] from al-Shifa," claiming the groups have "stored weapons there." However, Kirby stressed that Washington does not support Israeli airstrikes on the complex, stating that al law, and enabled ample time to stop civilians at the site "deserve not to be

Biden, Xi meet as US-China military, economic tensions grind on

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies): US president Joe Biden meets Chinese leader Xi Jinping for the first time in a year on Wednesday, for talks that may ease friction between the adversarial superpowers on military conflicts, drug trafficking and artificial intelligence. However, deep progress on the vast differences separating the world's economic superpowers may have to wait for another day. Officials on both sides of the Pacific have set expectations low as Biden and Xi are set to discuss Taiwan, the South China Sea, the Israel-Hamas war, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, North Korea, and human rights, each of them areas where the leaders have been unable to resolve long disagreements. Biden and Xi arrived in San Francisco on Tuesday, where they were set to hold their meeting on the sidelines the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. Leaders from the 21-member



country group - and hundreds of CEOs in San Francisco to court them - meet amid Chinese economic weakness, Beijing's simmering territorial feuds with neighbours and a Middle East conflict that is dividing the US from allies. Efforts to carefully choreograph Xi's visit may be upended in the restive Northern California city, despite efforts to drive homeless people from the streets. The route from the airport to the conference site was lined with demonstrators for and against China's ruling Communist Party, an unusual sight for Xi who last visited the US in 2017.

Pro-Trump 'QAnon Shaman' Announces Congressional Run

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Jacob Chansley, known as the 'QAnon Shaman' following his involvement in the January 6 Capitol Hill riots, has filed paperwork to run for Congress in Arizona's 8th congressional district in 2024. The 36-year-old US Navy veteran gained notoriety during a protest outside the US Capitol in 2021, dressed in a distinctive outfit with body paint, a fur hat with horns, and carrying an American flag. Chansley, who has filed as a Libertarian Party candidate, served time in prison after pleading guilty to one count of obstructing an official proceeding. Democrats have labeled the Capitol protest an "insurrection," though no one has been charged with that specific crime.

First fuel delivery to UN in Gaza, Israel says hospitals cannot benefit

GAZA CITY (Agencies): The first truck carrying fuel into Gaza since the start of Israel's genocidal war on the Strip today crossed from Egypt to deliver diesel to the United Nations, though it will do little to alleviate shortages that have hampered relief efforts, Reuters

The delivery was made possible by Israel giving its approval for 24,000 litres (6,340 gallons) of diesel fuel to be allowed into Gaza for UN aid distribution trucks, though not for use at hospitals, according to a humanitarian source. "This is only 9% of what we need daily to sustain lifesaving activities," Tom White, director of UN relief agency UNRWA in Gaza, posted on social media platform X. He confirmed that just over 23,000 litres, or half a tanker, had been received. "Our entire operation is now on the verge of collapse," said UN-RWA Director Philippe Lazzarini. "It is appalling that fuel continues to be used as a weapon of war." Aid workers say a lack of fuel, which is needed for hospital generators, provision of water, sewage treatment and communications as well as for the distribution of relief, has contributed to a sharp deterioration of conditions for Gaza's 2.3 million residents.

Judge under investigation for Al-authored ruling

BRASÍLIA (Agencies): A Brazilian federal judge in the northern state of Acre has been ordered to explain how he came to publish an error-riddled decision co-authored by AI chatbot ChatGPT in a first-of-its-kind case for the country, authorities confirmed to AFP on Monday. The National Justice Council (CNJ) has given Judge Jefferson Rodrigues 15 days to explain a decision bristling with incorrect details about previous court cases and legal precedent, including the erroneous attribution of past decisions to the Superior Court of Justice, case records revealed. Rodrigues admitted in documents filed with the supervisory body that the decision was co-written with a "trusted advisor" - and AI. He brushed off the foul-up as "a mere mistake" made by one of his underlings, blaming "the work overload facing judges" for the errors.

Doctor goes on trial in France over Rwanda genocide

PARIS (Agencies): A Rwandan doctor went on trial in France on Tuesday on charges of committing genocide and crimes against humanity during Rwanda's 1994 massacres, after a three-decade investigation by French authorities. Sixty-eight-year-old Sosthene Munyemana appeared before the Assize Court in the French capital nearly 30 years after a complaint was filed against him in the southwestern French city of Bordeaux in 1995. The former gynaecologist, accused of organizing torture and killings during the genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, took to the stand and expressed his "compassion" for the families of the genocide victims. "This is the first time that I've had the opportunity to speak publicly since this affair began," he said, wearing a blue striped shirt and a grey jacket. "It's also the moment to think of these families." Munyemana, who denies the charges against him, faces life in prison if convicted. The trial, scheduled to last five weeks, will be recorded for historical archives. Nearly 70 witnesses are expected to testify.

Chansley, upon his release, stated that he was wrong to enter the Capitol and had no excuse. The seat Chansley is eyeing is currently being held by Republican Debbie Lesko, who has announced she will not seek re-election. Chansley's candidacy is likely to draw attention due to his association with the events of January 6 and the subsequent legal proceedings.

Britain's poor unplugging fridges – study



LONDON (Agencies): Millions of UK households have been resorting to 'desperate measures', such as turning off their fridges or freezers, in order to cope with the cost-of-living crisis, according to a new study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) charity. Cited by The Guardian on Tuesday, the report found that in October a quarter (2.8 million) of UK low-income households had incurred debts to pay for food, a third had sold belongings to raise cash, and one in six had used so-called community 'warm rooms'. Four out of five households on universal credit were going without food, switching off heating and not replacing worn-out clothing. Nearly a million households said that since May they had to disconnect their fridge or freezer for the first time. According to the JRF, more than seven million households had gone without food and other essentials in the last six months, despite the government's cost of living targeted support. "Millions of families unplugging their fridges and freezers is the latest chapter in a long-running story of hardship," Peter Matejic, chief analyst at the JRF, was quoted as saying. "People risk becoming sick from eating spoiled food and going without healthy, fresh food. This risks lasting harm to the health of millions," he warned.



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