Iran to impose \$18bln fine on Pakistan over gas pipeline construction delay



TEHRAN/ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Iran has warned Pakistan that it may have to pay an \$18 billion penalty if it fails to make progress on the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project within the deadline, which has been extended by 180 days to September 2024. If Pakistan fails to fulfill its obligations, Iran plans to appeal to the International Court of Arbitration in Paris to collect the money. The Iran-Pakistan

Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso

announce withdrawal

from ECOWAS

NIAMEY (Agencies): Three military-led

West African nations have announced their immediate withdrawal from re-

gional bloc ECOWAS, accusing the

body of becoming a threat to its mem-

bers. Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso

"decide in complete sovereignty on

the immediate withdrawal" from the

Economic Community of West African

States (ECOWAS), read a joint state-

ment published on Sunday. ECOWAS

"under the influence of foreign powers,

humane and irresponsible sanctions".

Chinese companies buy largest share of Iraqi oil

According to the statistics, four South

Korean oil companies imported oil

of Iraqi crude oil, followed by Turkey,

where three oil companies purchased

UAE, and Greece, as well as one oil

company in each of Spain, the Neth-

erlands, Britain, Jordan, Kuwait,

Russia, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, and

France, imported Iraqi oil last De-

cember. Iraq's oil marketing compa-

ny indicated that the most prominent

Shell, and Eni.

delays since 2014. In late 2022, Iran asked Pakistan to build part of the pipeline on its territory by February-March 2024 or be ready to pay a fine of \$18 billion. Prior to this, in February 2019, Tehran sent a notice to Islamabad about the failure to lay its part of the pipeline on time and threatened to go to the arbitration court in Paris and apply penalties in US sanctions.

gas pipeline project has been facing the gas purchase agreement, which was signed in 2009 for a period of 25 years. Pakistan claims that it cannot implement the project on its territory due to US sanctions imposed on Iran. The gas purchase agreement between Iran and Pakistan was signed in accordance with French law, and the International Court of Arbitration in Paris reportedly does not recognize

Houthi official 'concerned' over Texas-US gov't standoff, urges respect of human rights



(Agencies): The Deputy Foreign Minister in Yemen's de-facto, Houthi-led government, Hussein Al-Ezzi, has taken to X yesterday to express his concern over the ongoing standoff between the US state of Texas and the federal government over access to Eagle Pass, and called on the parties to adhere to international human rights. The flashpoint city is and the world."

situated along the US-Mexico border and is at the heart of a dispute over the country's migrant crisis and who has jurisdiction over the border crossing. "I am concerned about the developments in Texas and that the parties to the conflict must respect international human rights law," stated Al-Ezzi. "The United States and other countries are undoubtedly facing horrific and stormy events. This is something that falls within what I mentioned in my pinned tweet two years ago." His pinned post in question, noted that "Yemen has faced great injustice and widespread global disappointment, and therefore we expect a great divine punishment that will affect the region

Iran launches 3 satellites simultaneously into orbit amid tensions with West





carrier in delivering multiple cargoes in low earth orbit and to evaluate the performance of new designs and the reliability of indigenous space technologies. Kevhan 2 and Hatef 1 nano-satellites have been developed by Iran Electronics Industries, a state-owned subsidiary of the Defense Ministry, both meant to test the country's space technology. The firstof-its-kind launch came a day after Iran dismissed the criticism of the European troika on the launch of another satellite last week, saying that scientific progress is "an inalienable and legitimate" right of

Palestine slams decisions by some countries to suspend funding for UN relief agency

Italy, Australia, Canada, Finland and the Netherlands decided to suspend terrorism allegations against some staff by Israel. This development follows an International Court of Justice order for Israel to promptly deliver aid to Gaza and prevent a potential genocide in the besieged Strip. Norway welcomed investigations of some staffers but said it would continue to support Palestinians via UNRWA. Ireland also announced it would not suspend funding to the UN agency. The Israeli offensive has left 85% of Gaza's population internally displaced amid acute shortages of

NEW YORK (Agencies): The US, UK, food, clean water, and medicine, while 60% of the enclave's infrastructure was damaged or destroyed, according to funding to UNRWA on Friday amid the UN. Palestine denounced on Sunday once again the decisions made by some countries to suspend funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), calling it a "collective punishment" meted out to the Palestinian people, reports Anadolu Agency. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that "suspending UNRWA funding and continuing support for Israel in the genocide of our people are collective punishments and miserable double standards."

Israeli Knesset member says 'traitors from within' might be behind Hamas attack

TEL AVIV (Agencies): A member of the Knesset (Israel's parliament) said Sunday that "traitors from within" might be behind the 7 October attack by Palestinian group Hamas, reports Anadolu Agency. "Something stinks, I don't know what we will find. That there were traitors within or a bunch of unprofessional people," Tzvika Foghel, head of the National Security Committee, told Maariv newspaper. Foghel said the Israeli intelligence couldn't be totally unaware of what was going to happen on 7 October. "We got into the car of a nuclear scientist in Iran and killed him, yet we do not know what was happening in the Gaza Strip?" he said. The Israeli lawmaker said that an investigation must be launched into the 7 October events. "When the head of the Shin Bet (security agency) says that an investigation committee must be formed, there are many parties



of the future of the country," Foghel added. He said in case the conspiracy theory was wrong, "we would have to replace entire units in the army and generations of leaders." "They were not wrong in their views, they were simply irresponsible and unprofessional, and they did wrong to the State of Israel," he said. "I prefer to think that someone betrayed us from within." "I cannot rule out that there is a conspiracy here. We cannot be so irresponsible, but I hope I that worry about themselves instead am wrong," Foghel continued.

China Evergrande ordered to liquidate in landmark moment for crisis-hit sector

HONG KONG (Agencies): A Hong on its offshore debt and following sev-Evergrande Group, dealing a fresh blow to confidence in the country's fragile property market as policydeepening crisis. Justice Linda Chan decided to liquidate the world's most indebted developer, with more than \$300 billion of total liabilities, after more than two years after defaulting company fails.

Kong court on Monday ordered the eral court hearings. "It is time for the liquidation of property giant China court to say enough is enough," Chan said in court on Monday. The decision sets the stage for what is expected to be a drawn-out and complicated promakers step up efforts to contain a cess with potential political considerations as investors watch whether the Chinese courts will recognise Hong Kong's ruling, given the many authorities involved. Offshore investors will noting Evergrande had been unable be focused on how Chinese authorto offer a concrete restructuring plan ities treat foreign creditors when a

Indian Army approves advanced rockets for Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launchers

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Indian granted official permission to develop Army has given the green light to two advanced rockets for the Pinaka the development of advanced rockets for its Pinaka Multi Barrel Rock- of 120 km and 300 km respectively. Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO's) subsidiary Armament Research and Development rockets under a transfer of technolo-Establishment (ARDE) has been gy (ToT) agreement with the DRDO.

MBRL with maximum strike ranges et Launchers (MBRLs). The Defence Once developed, Munitions India Limited (MIL) will be responsible for the production of these advanced

Pakistani peacekeeper killed in line of duty in Sudan: UN

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): A Pafrom Iraq in the same month, making kistani peacekeeper serving the U.N. Interim Security Force for Abyei, an South Korea the third largest buyer area disputed by South Sudan and the Sudan, was killed Sunday in Iraqi oil. Two oil companies in each line of duty to protect civilians amid inter-communal violence there, the of the United States, Italy, Japan, the UN announced Monday, warning all parties that attacks on 'Blue Helmets' constitutes war crimes. On Saturday, a Ghanaian peacekeeper was also killed in the continuing violence in Abyei administrative area, the announcement said. "The Secreoil companies that bought Iraqi oil tary-General is deeply concerned by include Nayara Energy, Exxon Mobil, the violence that occurred over the weekend in the Abyei Administra-



tive Area, which resulted in the tragic death of numerous civilians and attacks on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) during which two peacekeepers lost their life in the line of duty," a statement readout by his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "The Secretary-General conveys his deepest

people of Ghana and Pakistan, and stani peacekeeper was killed and four to the families of the deceased civilians, the statement said. "The Secretary-General condemns the violence and attacks against UNISFA and calls on the Governments of South Sudan been killed, injured, and displaced. and Sudan to swiftly investigate the attacks, with the assistance of UNIS-FA, and bring the perpetrators to justice," it added. In a press release, UNISFA explained that it has allowed all persons, in imminent threat of danger to seek refuge in some of its camps. Yesterday, while transporting affected civilians from a UNISFA base to a hospital, peacekeepers came un-

condolences to the Government and der heavy fire, during which a Pakiuniformed personnel and one local civilian sustained injury. "UNISFA is engaging with local authorities to verify numbers of those who have Currently, according to local authorities, 52 civilians have lost their lives, while 64 others are said to be gravely wounded. "The Mission is making every effort to restore calm, including proactively and robustly protecting civilians, and reiterates its call for a swift investigation so that perpetrators can be held accountable," the press release added.

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.









KP Governor formally inaugurates Governor's Secretariat website

was inaugurated during a cereister for Education, Dr. Qasim Jan; Secretary IT Board, Mohammad Ali University Peshawar; Director of against the administrative deci-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji officers of the Governor's Secretar-Ghulam Ali formally inaugurated iat and IT Board were also present the website of the Governor's Sec- on the occasion. With the launch retariat here Monday. The website of the website http://governorkp. gov.pk, the people will have easy mony held here in the Governor's access to the Governor's Office House. Besides, Caretaker KP Min- and the day-to-day affairs of the Governor's Secretariat. All affairs of the Governor's Secretariat will Shah; Vice Chancellors of the Uni- now be available online. Through versity of Peshawar, Khyber Med- the website, the employees of the ical University, and Agricultural universities could file applications

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of IMSciences, Dr. Usman Ghani; and sions of their respective universities, and any order on their online appeal would also be available on it. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Haji Ghulam Ali said, "Today is the era of information technology, so the public should also be provided information on the basis of the requirements of the modern era." "The website is created for the access of the people to the affairs of the Governor's Secretariat and is the beginning of a journey towards the modern era," he said.

PPP chairman to address public in Dera on Jan 30: Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Peo- Park in district DI Khan, said PPP ple's Party (PPP) chairman Bilaw- secretary information Faisal Karim al Bhutto Zardari would unveil the Kundi. In a media statement issued

strategy, development and prosperity plan for the country after coming to power. He hoped for an party's future roadmap before the here, Kundi said that Bilawal would overwhelming welcome to the PPP public on January 30 in Haq Nawaz inform the people about the future chairman by the people of DI Khan.

1122 prepares plans for safety of tourists visiting snowfall areas: DG

safety of tourists visiting snowfall al vehicles and staff have been de-

Ahmed said here on Monday that at prominent tourist's places. He any emergency.

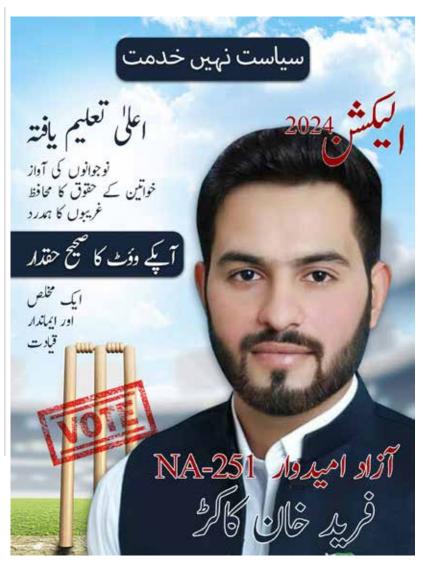
PESHAWAR (APP): The Emergency safety measures have been com- said that rescue stations equipped Service Rescue-1122 has prepared pleted for the tourists to enjoy the with additional resources including an emergency preparation plan for snowfall, adding that the operation- ambulances, equipment and manpower have also been established areas. Director General Dr Khateer ployed at specific points established at tourist spots to timely respond to

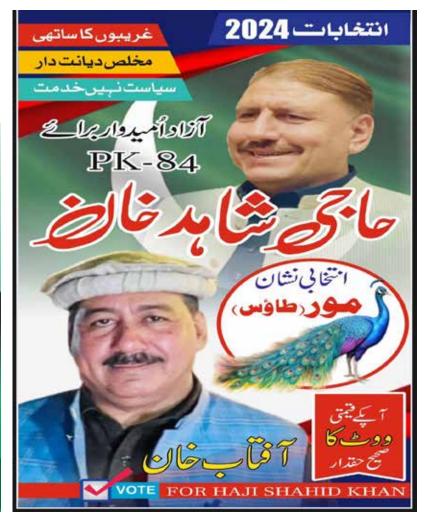


















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Killing of Pakistani Workers in Iran

The recent killing of nine Pakistani workers in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province is a reprehensible act that strikes at the heart of the recent efforts made by both nations to foster a more cooperative relationship. The incident occurred just a day after the official resumption of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Iran following a brief strain in bilateral relations that witnessed Iran's surprising attack inside Pakistan, prompting a measured response from Pakistan against terrorist hideouts in Sistan-Balochistan. Such attacks not only claim innocent lives but also pose a significant threat to regional stability. It is essential to condemn this act in the strongest terms, expressing solidarity with the victims' families and emphasizing the need for joint efforts to eliminate the forces behind such violence. Those who seek to disrupt normal and cordial relations between Pakistan and Iran are undoubtedly behind this despicable incident. Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani very rightly identified the attack as an attempt to sabotage Pak-Iran ties. This should not be allowed to happen under any circumstances. It is important to investigate the matter thoroughly and bring the culprits to justice. The international community should also play its part in condemning this act of terrorism and supporting Pakistan and Iran in their efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region. According to, Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani expressed grief over the gun attack, which he said was a "bid to ruin Pak-Iran ties". Demanding the Iranian government to take action against the elements responsible for the attack, he also extended condolences to the victims' families. The involvement of the Indian intelligence agency RAW in the killing of Pakistanis in Sistan-Balochistan is a serious concern and should be investigated thoroughly. India has a history of carrying out extra-territorial killings, and it is important to hold them accountable for their actions. The incident is a reminder that there are elements keen on sowing seeds of hostility between Pakistan and Iran. As both nations strive to overcome recent cross-border tensions, it is evident that joint efforts are needed to eliminate the forces behind such violence and maintain peace and stability in the region.

Peshawar's Sustainable Renaissance: Local Innovations Illuminating the Path to a Greener Future

— By Hoor Babar



The city of Peshawar, in the heart of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is going through a profound transformation that extends beyond its rich cultural legacy and historical tapestry. This transformation is best represented by the growing dedication to clean and renewable energy, which elevates Peshawar to the status of a shining example of community efforts advancing a sustainable and environmentally friendly future. The silent revolution occurring on rooftops throughout the city is one of the most noticeable and significant developments in Peshawar's march toward sustainability. Solar panels have come to represent Peshawar's dedication to renewable energy, much like sentinels soaking up ample sunlight. The usage of solar electricity is not only a fad in technology; it is a deliberate decision made by citizens and businesses to lessen the carbon footprint of the city, from little homes to massive commercial structures. Peshawar's solar revolution is unique since local companies and entrepreneurs are actively participating in it. They are integrating green energy into the fabric of the city, street by street. While huge corporations add to the expanding solar infrastructure on commercial sites, small-scale solar suppliers serve individual residences. In addition to being in line with international sustainability objectives, this grassroots movement is also showing financial benefits for individuals who are realizing the possibilities of solar energy. In addition to the brilliance of solar energy, Peshawar utilizes wind power. The city's distinctive geography, which is dotted with hills and valleys, makes it the perfect place for wind farms. By generating jobs for

the community, these projects not only broaden the range of sustainable energy sources but also address social and economic issues. The sound of rustling breezes blends into a symphony of development, advancing Peshawar into a future where prosperity and sustainability coexist. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government's continuous dedication is at the forefront of Peshawar's sustainable projects. Their aggressive assistance in the form of financial aid and incentives for renewable energy projects has accelerated the city's switch to clean energy. In addition to securing its place among the world's greenest cities, Peshawar is establishing itself as a role model for other cities to follow by coordinating its policies with the Sustainable Development Goals. The pursuit of sustainability in Peshawar extends beyond the advancement of technology. It demonstrates how resilient and determined its people are. The city is not just surviving, but prospering in the face of global environmental challenges. Peshawar's use of sustainable energy to light up its streets sends a strong message to communities around the world that local action may have a global influence. The sustainable revival of Peshawar is a tale of ingenuity, dedication, and community-driven transformation. The city is a living example of a greener, healthier future-it is not merely adopting clean energy. Peshawar remains a beacon of hope, demonstrating to the world that local initiatives and community commitment can lead to a sustainable revival, even as the winds of change continue to blow through its hills and the sun illuminates its rooftops.

Palestine's Quest for Justice at the ICJ — By Ali Inan

The recent verdict issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on January 26 stands as a historic juncture in the ongoing saga of Palestinian suffering. While the ruling marks a significant legal milestone, its impact falls short of shielding the people of Gaza from the relentless onslaught of the Israeli war apparatus. It's imperative to preface any discussion of this verdict with a recognition of the profound human toll exacted by the conflict. The voices of Palestinians, both within Gaza and across the diaspora, resonate with a gravity that transcends legal nuances and courtroom proceedings. Their experiences, their losses, and their resilience underscore the true significance of this moment. The ICJ's deliberations, prompted by South Africa's indictment of Israel for genocide, have elicited a spectrum of responses within Palestinian communities worldwide. For decades, Israel has operated with impunity, evading accountability for its systematic violations against generations of Palestinians. The court's acknowledgment of South Africa's compelling case signals a seismic shift—a belated reckoning with Israel's unchecked aggression and oppression. The ruling, though preliminary, sends a resounding message: Israel's license to displace, maim, and kill Palestinians with impunity can no longer evade international scrutiny. By affirming the plausibility of South Africa's allegations of genocide, the ICJ dismantles the facade of a mere "conflict" between equals, laying bare Israel's systematic campaign to erase an entire people and their heritage. The court's direc-

tives compel Israel to take immediate

action to halt the atrocities it has unleashed upon Gaza. From preventing genocide to facilitating humanitarian aid, the ICJ demands accountability and an end to the cycle of violence. The call for a ceasefire, emphasized by South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, underscores the urgent imperative to halt the bloodshed and alleviate the suffering endured by Palestinians. In the aftermath of the ruling, divergent perspectives have emerged within Palestinian communities. While some celebrate the ICJ's decision as a watershed moment, others express profound disappointment and disillusionment with the international justice system. For many, the court's failure to mandate an immediate ceasefire represents a glaring omission—a missed opportunity to stem the tide of violence and alleviate the anguish besieging Gaza. Ahmed al-Naffar, a victim, speaking from Gaza's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, encapsulates the sentiment of many Palestinians, disillusioned by the court's perceived reluctance to intervene decisively in the face of ongoing atrocities. The pervasive disappointment, compounded by the ICJ's perceived hypocrisy, underscores the enduring scepticism towards international institutions tasked with upholding justice and human rights. As the world grapples with the implications of the ICJ's ruling, Israel's dismissive response underscores the entrenched resistance to accountability. Accusations of bias and attempts to deflect attention from the gravity of the court's decision reflect a refusal to reckon with the stark reality of Israel's actions in Gaza. Moreover, the complicity of Western governments in shielding Israel from censure highlights the dangerous precedent of selective justice. The reluctance to condemn Israel's crimes against humanity not only perpetuates Palestinian suffering but also undermines the principles of justice and accountability on a global scale. In light of these developments, the ICJ's ruling serves as a clarion call for action-a reminder that justice delayed is justice denied. While the court's authority may be limited in its capacity for enforcement, its moral imperative resonates far beyond the confines of legal jurisdiction. It challenges governments and individuals alike to confront complicity, demand accountability, and uphold the dignity and rights of all peoples, regardless of nationality or creed. As we traverse the complexities of geopolitics and international law, one truth remains self-evident: the pursuit of justice knows no borders, and the struggle for freedom and dignity transcends legal deliberations. In the face of adversity, Palestinians continue to persevere, their resilience a testament to the indomitable spirit of a people determined to reclaim their rights and their humanity. The ICJ's ruling may be a milestone in the pursuit of justice, but its true significance lies in the collective resolve to confront oppression, challenge impunity, and forge a future defined by peace, equality, and respect for all. In the words of Mouin Rabbani, a prominent Palestinian political analyst, writer, and commentator on Middle Eastern affairs, "History - with a capital H - was made today," marking a pivotal moment in the ongoing quest for justice and liberation.

Iran is now on Israel's borders - By: Ghassan Charbel

It isn't a small thing for the Israeli air force to destroy a building in Damascus where leaders from Iran's Quds Force are meeting; and it isn't a small thing that the coffins of those who were targeted were returned to Iran to join the coffins of those that preceded them. It is true that Israel has previously committed assassinations and attacks on Iranian territory, but it is also true that what has come after Operation Al-Aqsa Flood is not the same as what came before it. Are we witnessing the Iran-Israel conflict replacing the Arab-Israeli conflict? Are we expected to endure bloody air strikes and accept that the key to the future of the Palestinian-Israeli issue lies in Tehran? How can we talk about solutions if the Iranian Supreme Leader expects to see the end of Israel within three decades and clocks have been set up in Tehran to count down the remaining life of the "cancerous tumour"? The Israeli raid on the Mezzeh area in Damascus was both dangerous and significant. Israel looks as if it has to beckon Iran into a war in which the US can't help, but will engage in anyway. Maybe Benjamin Netanyahu believes that there is no way out of the current impasse over Gaza other than to expand the war zone, despite its risks and costs. Iran clearly does not want a large-scale war, and prefers to fight in segments through its proxies. There is a parallel war being waged with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon in varying doses. There is a war of Houthi missiles and drones against shipping linked to Israel in the Red Sea. There is also a war to expel US forces from Iraq being waged by armed factions there. The Mezzeh raid doubled the heat on the Syrian front, despite Russian involvement in Syria, and realistic conditions and controls. There are new facts that we must point out in part of the Middle East. Suppose a successor to Netanyahu announces support for the "two-state solution", which will definitely be conditional on full recognition of Israel's right to exist. Can the Lebanese government sign off on recognition of Israel, despite Hezbollah's

Iran of the most important cards that facilitated its spread in the "Crescent of Resistance"? Can the Iraqi government recognise Israel after the law passed by the Iraqi parliament criminalising any form of normalisation? A couple of scenarios help us to understand Israel's responsibility for the current situation. In 1998, Palestinian-Israeli talks were held in Wye River under the auspices of US President Bill Clinton. The session almost failed because Ariel Sharon wanted to make sure in advance that he would not have to shake hands with Yasser Arafat. When he entered the hall, Arafat greeted him, general to general, and extended his hand, but Sharon ignored the gesture and sat next to Benjamin Netanyahu. When he became prime minister, he found pleasure in besieging Arafat and destroying his Ramallah headquarters. Sharon's behaviour embodied the height of political blindness because he was busy writing off the man who had opened the window for the Oslo Accords, accepting concessions that no one else dared to accept. The major contribution to the drive towards disaster came from Netanyahu, who closed the two windows of opportunity afforded by the Oslo Accords and the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative. He took advantage of the political climate post-9/11 and the 2003 invasion of Iraq to undermine any chance of reviving an understanding with a "Palestinian partner". He was extremely short-sighted when he considered the undermining of the Palestinian Authority to be a victory for Israel, even though this led to the rise of Iran-backed organisations. Throughout his lengthy time in office, Netanyahu has refused to read the transformations taking place across the region, especially the birth of roaming "Iranian armies" and Iranian "advisers" getting closer to the borders of the occupation state. The contribution of successive US administrations in creating the current situation in the Middle East has been significant. They did not realise the importance of saving the Oslo Accords and the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, as well as the need to put pressure on Israel to stop its attempts to write off the "Palestinian partner". A demonstration of Washington's lack of foresight was seen at the UN General Assembly held in the wake of 9/11. Arafat went in the hope of meeting US President George W Bush, or at least shake his hand, especially after it became clear that the attacks in New York and Washington were the work of Al-Qaeda. Bush refused to receive Arafat. At the party reserved for delegation heads, he told UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "This man thinks I'm going to shake hands with him? Tell him to shake his own hand." Bush inherited the impression from Clinton that, "The Palestinians are not serious about seeking peace." Clinton looked as if he was seeking revenge for the failure of the Camp David talks. Meanwhile, Iran was moving on several fronts, contributing through "suicide bombings" by Islamic Jihad and Hamas to undermine Oslo. It dealt with 9/11 with extreme caution. It initially tolerated the US-led invasion of Iraq, then participated in exhausting the American military presence there. Iran also succeeded in exploiting the emergence of Daesh to its advantage, and also, with Russia's help, contributed to saving the vital Syrian circle due to its extension to the Mediterranean. General Qasem Soleimani was the architect of the Iranian thread linking Baghdad to Beirut via Damascus, in addition to the Yemeni infiltration represented by the Houthis taking control. When Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar unleashed Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on 7 October, and Israel launched its brutal military offensive against the Palestinians in Gaza, the Iranian thread had intensified on the four maps. Whether Iran was aware of when the operation was going to take place or not, it would have been impossible to go ahead without its policies and weapons distributed across the region. It seems clear that Iran is now on Israel's borders. if not physically, as least by proxy. The ceasefire process now has new conditions, as well as the "two-state solution". as the problem is no longer with Sinwar, but with Iran's Supreme Leader.

- Courtesy: Middle East Monitor

Nutrition Awakening

In media, we've witnessed distressing reports of infant and child deaths in Tharparkar due to insufficient nutrition – a stark and disheartening reality in the 21st century. However, a less visible concern lies in urban areas, where reliance on processed, vitamin-deficient foods poses a silent threat. The consumption of nutritionally inadequate food not only hampers current well-being but also jeopardizes the future

presence, and can the Syrian govern-

ment recognise Israel, which will deprive

Letters to the Editor

productivity and development of the upcoming generation. The repercussions of this dietary pattern include stunted growth, hindering children from reaching their full potential in both height and cognitive development. Malnutrition-induced ailments further exacerbate the situation, threatening the health and future capabilities of the youth. If this trajectory persists, the forthcoming generation may become a burden on Pakistan rather than contributing

to its progress. It's imperative to devise strategic interventions that address both the immediate crisis in Tharparkar and the subtle, widespread malnutrition in urban areas. Focusing on nutrition education, promoting locally sourced and balanced diets, and establishing support systems can help steer the country away from the impending darkness.

Regards, Umama Rajput, Sukkur

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nama Rajput, Sukku



PM says, no solid reason yet to justify polls delay; assures fairness

Kakar on Monday said that no solid reason had yet come to the fore to justify a delay in the general elections, assuring that the government was committed to holding polls as prime minister, in an interview with a newly launched television

er Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq evening of February 8 - the date for general elections in the country. Regarding the usual complaints of rigging before or after the elections, he said that learning lessons from the past, the parliament needfreely and fairly as possible. The ed to address all the flaws regarding the laws, administration, or the Election Commission. He said the channel (Aik News) said the candi- observers would monitor and local dates were canvassing and all the and international media would re-

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Caretak- rumours would fall to rest by the port on the activity, assuring that as per the standards in the region, the elections would by and large be free and fair. He observed that the political parties were also involved in the poll rigging by making fake ID cards and casting the votes of deceased persons. He said voting time would be from 9 am to 5 pm on February 8 and everyone should use his constitutional right to vote to ensure a good turnout.

Railways to digitalize its multiple services

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan users but also make the entire sys-Railways is taking steps to become an E-office soon to digitalize its service and improve internal efficiencies through electronic administration. The e-office platform aims to cater for the need for effectiveness and transparency in Governmental processes and service delivery mechanisms as well as help government departments to go paperless. The idea is being implemented with the help of the National Information Technology Board (NITB) which will be responsible for providing the relevant training to the staff of Pakistan Railways. E-Office is a digital workplace solution that replaces the existing method of manual handling of files and documents with an efficient electronic system. According to an official source, Pakistan Railways will be on e-office soon which will not only facilitate the is removed.

tem of the department transparent. Listing other steps taken by the department, the source revealed that Pakistan Railways has developed a software application for journalist concession card management. All the related data for journalist concession cards across the country is managed by the Directorate of Public Relations. The software has been prepared and is linked with the centralized reservation centre as well. About the Networking Monitoring System (NMS), the source said that the software has been deployed on the premises of the Directorate of IT with the help of this system all network deployed all over the railways network is being monitored critically and in case of any disconnections the concerned service provider is taken up and pursued till the fault

Int'l workshop on `Ethical Research in Clinical Trials' to be held from February 07-09

International workshop on 'Ethical Research in Clinical Trials' will be held under the auspices of COMS-TECH and UEARS from February 07-09 to address the challenges of research integrity in clinical trials in low-middle-income countries and propose the best suitable guidelines to improve the quality of research in this domain. The workshop, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, is aimed at imparting knowledge and training about research integrity and creating a network of professionals working in the field for continuous learning and exchanges. According to an official of COMSTECH, the meeting and its workshop will help devise solutions for the challenges faced in clinical trials by low-middle-income countries. Students, scientists, researchers, experts, healthcare managers, government officials, think work with integrity.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Two-day tanks, health NGO's, and policymakers from the domain of multi-center clinical trials research from across the world and global south countries can register for the workshop for physical or virtual participation. Globally the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge enjoys a place of distinction, and the public expects to reap considerable benefit from the creative and innovative contributions of scientists. As science becomes increasingly tangled with major social, philosophical, economic, and political issues, scientists become more accountable to the larger society of which they are a part. Therefore, it is more important than ever that those individual scientists and their institutions periodically reassess the values, and professional practices that guide their research as well as their efforts to perform their research

India's so-called census rejected as intrusive interference in personal affairs

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The All pation of their territory. Highlighting Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders have rejected India's selfstyled census of 2024, characterizing it as an unwarranted intrusion Raja, Hafza Bano, Mohammad Yousuf Naqash, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, Imtiyaz Reshi and Maulana Musaib Nadvi in their separate statements isthe census constitutes a blatant violation of international laws, emphasizing the inherent right of the Kashmiri people to resist India's unjust occu- their political representation.

the historical context, the leaders contended that India's actions in Kashmir since 1947, particularly its coercive and unlawful occupation, into the personal affairs of Kashmiri are unacceptable. Despite enduring people in the Indian illegally occu- decades of oppression, including arpied Jammu and Kashmir. According rests, fake encounters, and property to Kashmir Media Service, APHC confiscation, the APHC leaders emleaders Ghulam Muhammad Khan phasized the unwavering commit-Sopori, Syed Bashir Andrabi, Yasin ment of the Kashmiri people to their Attai, Khawaja Firdous, Yasmeen ultimate goal of complete freedom from India. Furthermore, the statements shed light on the perceived manipulation of population figures in the census, with APHC leaders viewsued in Srinagar firmly asserted that ing this as a deliberate attempt to alter the demographic composition of the territory, potentially diminishing the Kashmiri majority and affecting

NCGSA, IST to hold First National CanSat Competition

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), Institute of Space Technology (IST) Islamabad, Pakistan is organizing the First National CanSat Competition to design, develop and launch the student satellite (CanSat) model. An official of IST informed that high school, college and university students will participate in the competition that would be held between February-April. The competition is a part of the efforts towards Space Technology Education and Popularization (STEP) through STEM education. The competition will be held in multiple phases (online/onsite), while the final phase will be held at IST, Islamabad by the end of

April. The competition has been designed for teams from Abecedarian (Grade 9 – 12 / O / A levels) and Virtuoso (Undergraduate BS) groups. Each team may consist of 2-4 students along with one Team Lead as a faculty member, the official informed. The STEM investment is PKR 5000 per team. The winners will be awarded cash awards of PKR 100,000 and PKR 50,000 for each group (Abecedarian and Virtuoso) along with winning and participation certificates. The interested teams may register online (// bit.ly/NCC2024) through their Team Leads (Focal Person/Faculty Member) by Feb 23, 2024. Further details can be accessed through https://ncg-

12 criminals nabbed in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): District police after launching a massive crackdown against criminals nabbed 12 criminals, here on Monday. Police spokesman said that raiding team raided at different localities and apprehended Muhammad Nouman, Rashid, Rehman, Suleman, Tahir, Shabbir, Kabeer, Saleem and others besides recovering of 2. 1 kg of hashish,0.2 kg of heroin,128 liters of liquor, 22 liters of wine, nine pistols, three guns, 109 bullets and valuables worth in millions of rupees from them. Further investigation was un-

About 10,000 liter substandard cooking oil wasted

MUZAFFARGARH (Agencies): Punjab food Authority claimd to have seized a carriage containing at least 10000 liter cooking oil made up of inedible poultry offal and bones here. According to the spokesman, the action was launched at Bhutta flyover today where the said quantity of contaminated oil was captured. It was bound to supply in factories for preparing snacks. The owner of the production unit of the said cooking oil was booked. The spokesman said that the crackdown will continue against hygienic and substandard supply and preparation of foods in future as well.

SMEDA to organize training on 'HRM for Women Entrepreneurs'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will organize a one-day workshop on 'Human Resource Management for Women Entrepreneurs' for profitable business growth on January 30. The workshop will be held at the Women Resource Centre and Incubation LG-1 Vogue Tower, Lahore, according to a source in the authority. The training program will provide information about introduction to HRM, HRM planning process, recruitment and selection, team development strategies, and integrating HRM into the overall management system. It also highlights capacity building through training and coaching, performance management, and retention strategies and success planning. The session would be attended by emerging and existing women entrepreneurs, small business owners and CEOs of women businesses, and all those desirous of improving knowledge on the subject.

DC imposes ban on display of arms

KOHAT (Agencies): Deputy Commissioner Azmatullah Wazir here Monday imposed section 144 in the district and banned the display of any type of arms. A notification issued here said that the decision has been taken given the current security situation and common threats besides ensuring the safety of the people. The ban would remain intact for 15 days.

Cop injures in shootout

DG KHAN (APP): Constable was injured in shootout with police in limits of Shah Sadar police station. According to the SHO, Irfan Mustafa a motorbike was snatched at Adda Ibrahim. After information, police rushed to the crime scene. As soon as the security officials reached out, the robbers started firing that caused the constable, Ejaz Hussain wounded as suffering the bullet injury.

Pakistan, Iran agree to promote mutual goals of peace, prosperity

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): IPakistan and Iran on Monday agreed to work towards promoting the mutually desired goals of peace and prosperity, based on mutual respect and a collective approach to address the confronted common challenges. The agreement came during a meeting between Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Foreign Minister of Iran Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, who arrived here in the wee hours of Monday, according to a Foreign Office statement. The ry in bilateral relations.



two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, underlining the importance of robust dialogue and cooperation as the pathway for a positive, forward-oriented and upward trajecto-

Solangi visits PEMRA to condole with Salim Baig over his brother's death

er Federal Minister for Information, the late Zafar Baig and said he was Broadcasting and Parliamentary deeply grieved to hear the news of Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday visited Chairman Pakistan Elec- bereaved family. He prayed to Allah tronic Media Regulatory Authority, Almighty to rest the departed soul in Muhammad Salim Baig, to condole with him over the death of his el- the bereaved family to bear this loss der brother Zafar Baig. The min- with fortitude.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Caretak- ister offered Fateha for the soul of his death and shared the grief of the eternal peace and grant courage to

Drivers urged to be careful in hilly areas amid snowy weather

tourists visiting the hilly areas to en- of any land sliding effect, rain, and joy snowfall have been advised by the concerned authorities to take extra precautionary measures to avoid any untoward situation. Authorities have advised both residents and tourists to refrain from unnecessary travel in order to navigate through the challenging circumstances, said a report aired by a Private news channel. It also urged the tourists to ensure safety measures before packing their bags as extremely low temperatures were being recorded in the Northern Areas of the country. PDMA also directed the local administration to ensure the availability to explore," a women tourist added.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): All the of machinery needed to clear roads snowfall. The authority also called for timely updating the tourists so that they could take necessary precautionary measures in this regard, said PDM official. A tourist said that snowfall is the favourite time of her children and they were very excited about playing in the snow and making snowmen. According to PMD, rain-wind and thunderstorm with snow over hills and isolated hailstorm in various parts of the country are expected during these days. "Pakistan is a very beautiful country with diverse weather and locations

'Voter can check constituency number, polling station by sending SMS to 8300'; ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The people of voter can acquire his voting informasending SMS to 8300. According to cast their vote in smooth manner." "A inconvenience at the polling station.

the country have been provided a tion by sending his National Identity unique facility to know about their Card number (without hyphen) via constituency number, polling station SMS to 8300," it added. The spokesand others relevant details by just person highlighted, "There is a service fee of Rs 2 per SMS for this fa-Election Commission of Pakistan cility." Urging all voters to promptly (ECP) spokesman, "The commission acquire voting details for themselves has started providing comprehensive and their family members, he emphavoting details to facilitate voters to sized the importance of avoiding any

First snowfall of winter; DC Murree visits different areas to review arrangements

missioner (DC) Murree, Agha Zamorning visited various areas infirst snowfall of winter in Murree.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Deputy Com- present at all the tourist facilitation centers to guide and assist the tourheer Abbas Shirazi on Monday ists, the DC added. He informed that machinery and human resourccluding Jhika Gali, Kashmir Point, es were being used to remove snow Mall Road, Kuldana and other ar- from the roads. The administration eas and reviewed the arrangements had taken solid steps to remove finalized by the administration to snow from different roads to facilfacilitate the tourists. Later, the DC itate the tourists, the DC said. He also visited control room. Agha Za- informed that Murree had received heer Abbas Shirazi said that after 0.5 inch snow and salt was also being sprinked on the roads. The perall the staff concerned and machin- sonnel of all the departments conery were fully operational. Person- cerned were in the field and traffic nel from various departments were was normal on the roads, he added.

ANF seizes 592 kg drugs in eight operations; arrests seven accused

RAWALPINDI (Agencies): Anti-Nar- the possession of an accused roundcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 592 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 2 kg of Ice was recovered from the possession of a Bahrain-bound passenger going from Sialkot Airport. 64 Ice-filled capsules were recovered from the stomach of a Jeddah-bound passenger netted at Lahore Airport. 284 kg hashish was recovered from pass Kohat.

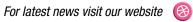
ed up near Gahi Chowk Quetta. 150 kg opium and 150 kg morphine were recovered from an empty house in Kuchlak Pishin while four kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near Iqbal Shaheed Toll Plaza, Attock. The spokesman informed that 1 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused nabbed near GT Road, Attock. In the seventh operation, 1 kg of hashish was recovered from an accused near Bano By-

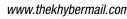
Bilal Siddiqi urges to resolve Kashmir issue through dialogue

thekhybermail

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jailed APHC leader should be resolved through a sustained di-Bilal Siddiqi has urged international community to fulfill its responsibilities to resolve the Kashmir dispute and stop India from changing the demography of the territory in the larger interest of peace and security in the region. According to Kashmir Media Service, he in a massage from Srinagar Central Jail said that in Kashmir issue

alogue process. Kashmir is a disputed territory under UN resolutions and every state subject irrespective of cast, creed, color and gender has equal right to participate in the right to self-determination and it is therefore the duty of every Kashmiri to protect and defend the demographic composition of the disputed territory, he added.





sa.org.pk/ncc/.









One dead, another Injured during clash between political party workers in Karachi

another injured. According to a police channel reported.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): A violent spokesman, the deceased was identiclash broke out between members of fied as Faraz, 48, and injured as Rao two political parties in Nazimabad. Talha. The police have combed the Karachi, on Monday, resulting in the area to collect evidence and statetragic deaths of one individual and ments from witnesses, a private news

CTD arrests street criminals linked to robbery-related murders

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Count- August 15th, 2023, within the Tipu er Terrorism Department (CTD) apprehended two suspected street criminals on Monday, accused of fatally shooting citizens who resisted robbery attempts. The arrests, made within the Model Colony police station's jurisdiction, resulted in the recovery of two pistols and ammunition. As per the CTD Sindh spokesperson, the detainees, identified as Waleed and Raheem Babar, have admitted to their involvement in numerous street crimes. They during a robbery altercation on into the matter are ongoing.

Sultan police station's jurisdiction. Additionally, they confessed to the killing of Allah Ditta during a street crime in the PIB Colony on November 21st, 2023. Both incidents had been formally documented by the respective police stations. Before their recent apprehension, the accused had a history of criminal activity and had previously served jail time. A case has been filed at the CTD police station, and the recovered weapons have been dispatched confessed to the murder of Fahad for forensic analysis. Investigations

Dera's Rescue 1122 service handles 174 emergencies last week

district's emergency service- Rescue 1122 provided services in a tolast week under the supervision of District Emergency Officer Awais Monday, Rescue 1122 tackled differweek including 145 medical, 24 road accidents, one fire eruption and three violence. It said that the ser- during emergencies.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The vice received a total of 18869 emergency calls including 15889 fake or irrelevant calls. He said that Rescue tal of 174 emergencies during the 1122 also tackled 23 referral-related emergencies including 22 within the district while in one emergency Babar. According to the weekly patients were shifted to hospitals in performance report issued here on other districts. The service spokesman says that the rescue 1122 teams ent kinds of emergencies over the are always fully equipped with all necessary equipment and have been efficiently rendering their services

More than eight million people registered to vote in Multan division

MULTAN (APP): More than eight total number of votes is registered million people are registered to cast four districts, Multan, Vehari, Khanewal and Lodhran in the Feb 8 elec-Monday. As per the given statistics provided by the local election commission office, an overall 809,725,9 voters are enlisted to cast votes here in the upcoming general election. As per the detail, about 311,019,1 voters among 164,049,7 (52.75%) male and 1469, 694 (47.25%) female voters are registered respectively in district Multan. In Vehari, the across the region.

as 1929211 with 1048074 (54.33%) a vote across the division comprising males and 881,137 (45.67%) females respectively. District Khanewal enlists 1942, 633 voters to the tions, an official source informed bifurcation of 1043272 (53.10%) as males and 899, 361 (46.30%) as females. District Lodhran has a sum of the registered votes of around 1115,22,4. It's the male figure fixed with 597, 961 (53.62%) and 517, 263 (46.38%) as females. Regional Election Commissioner, Ch. Nadeem Oasim said that they're keeping track of voter registration statistics

DC visits BFC to inspect facilities being provided to businessmen

RAWALPINDI (Agencies): Depu- the region, Hasan Waqar added. He ty Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, Hassan Waqar Cheema here on Monday visited the Business Facilitation Center (BFC) established at Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) and reviewed the facilities being provided to the businessmen. Director General, RDA, Saif Anwar Jappa, Assistant Commissioner, HR Industries, ed with all the facilities under one help promote economic activities in said.

informed that the people wanted to start a new business in Rawalpindi would not have to visit different offices for No Objection Certificate (NOC). The Business Facilitation Center had received 72 applications, he said adding that special desks of Municipal Corporation, RDA, Small Local Government, and Manager BFC, Shabana Nazir, Parks and Horticulture Authority, Chief Engineer RDA, Mohammad Water and Sanitation Agency, Envi-Anwar Baran, Business Facilitation ronment, Irrigation, Tourism, Home Officer, Syeda Rida Sultan and oth- Department, Police, Food Authority, er officers concerned were present Livestock and others were set up at on this occasion. The DC said that the center to facilitate the businessthe entrepreneurs would be provid- men. The requests of the business community would be processed roof at the Business Facilitation within the stipulated period to im-Centre. The establishment of the prove the business environment in Business Facilitation Center would Rawalpindi, Hasan Wagar Cheema

Massive turnout as over 127,000 in San Francisco vote for Khalistan

ISLAMABAD 127,000 American Sikhs cast their votes for the Khalistan Referenthe US government's prevention of an alleged assassination attempt on Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a prominent pro-Khalistan leader and India's most wanted man. In a huge turnout, Sikhs of all ages formed orderly queues from early morning to cast their vote for the creation of Khalistan. The independent Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC) announced that 127,000 Sikhs were able to cast their votes while around 30,000 remained in queues and unable to vote due to shortage of time. The Commission member Paul Jacobs announced the next phase of the Khalistan Referendum will

(Agencies): Over take place in Sacramento, CA, on 31st March to accommodate those who were unable to cast their votes. dum on American soil, following The United States government had permitted pro-Khalistan secessionist group Sikh For Justice (SFJ) to conduct Khalistan Freedom Referendum under the First Amendment Act on its soil, despite Indian objections. Diplomatic relations between India and America have hit a low after the US State Department openly accused India of trying to kill its citizen Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the founder and leader of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) and Khalistan Referendum who arrived at the voting centre amid heavy security, on the US soil in an open violation of the sovereignty of the United States of America.

Education institutions play vital role against drug addiction among students

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Consultant, Anti Drugs & Narcotics Campaign Syed Zulfigar Hussain Monday expressed his serious fear over the rising number of drug addiction among students and called for taking up necessary steps for prevention of drug use as it has emerged as a serious threat in the present digital lives of society. Talking to the PTV news channel, he said that earlier the problem used to prevail among males, but now it has spread among females and children in our country in an alarming propor-

FIA busts fake veterinary medicine racket in Lahore

ISLAMABAD (Agencies):Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) conducted on Monday sealed a factory allegedly involved in the production of counterfeit veterinary medicine in Lahore. The operation was conducted in the Iqbal Town area, leading to confiscated evidence including crucial records and bogus documents, according to an FIA spokesperson. He said the agency acted swiftly on information provided by a key suspect apprehended earlier associated with the factory leading them to the main office in Iqbal Town, a private news channel reported.

Seven family members injured in road accident in Muridke

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In a devastating incident late Sunday night, at least seven members of a family, including a woman and a minor girl, sustained injuries when their pickup overturned on Narowal Road in Muridke. Rescue teams swiftly responded to the scene, promptly transported injured to a nearby hospital for medical attention, said a private news channel. According to police spokesman, the accident occurred when pick-up turned turtle after its tyre burst, leaving persons injured.

Weapons Banned Under Section 144 in Kohat

KOHAT (APP): The district of Kohat has imposed a ban on the display of all weapons, including licensed ones, for a period of 15 days on Monday here. According to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Office, this decision, taken under Section 144, comes in the wake of heightened security threats and aims to ensure the safety and security of the people in Kohat. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Azmatullah Wazir has taken a strong stance to protect the lives and property of the residents and maintain tranquility in the district.

PFA seals one food outlet, imposes fine

ATTOCK (APP): To control adulteration and sale of substandard food stuff, the Puniah Food Authority (PFA) carried out raids in various bazaars and markets of Attock city on Monday. PFA officials said that a special food safety team, under the supervision of Director Operations Amna Rafeeq has carried out surprise visit of various restaurants and bakery manufacturing units operating in the city and sealed a bakery production unit overutilization of substandard food items, poor storage system, wrong labelling, usage of blue drums and poor sanitation.

Passenger train derails in Attock

ATTOCK (Agencies): The railway traffic between the Attock-Mianwali section was halted for around three hours as four bogies of a passenger train derailed near Jhamat railway station in the Jand town of Attock in the early hours of Monday, railway authorities confirmed. Controller, rail traffic, Divisional Headquarters Peshawar, when contacted, confirmed that the Attock bound passenger train 201 Up coming from Mari Indus derails near Jhamat railway station in the Jand town of Attock as the wheel of the bogie has developed some problems which resulted in derailment and no loss or injury was reported.

tion, adding, that there is a dire need ed there should be awareness of the to urgently combat the situation with the coordination efforts of academic institutions. He said that it is not just self-interest habit but motivation by their near one and friends' company which was the most important factor, which led to the drug use. He said addiction to narcotics must be eradicated from its roots to safeguard the youth and prosperity of the country, adding, that drug use can be reduced through public awareness seminars and campaigns. Experts recommend-

dangerous effects of narcotics in the youth of Pakistan. He said that appropriate treatment facilities should also be established for children and female drug users. The problem of drug abuse is likely to explode in the next decade, particularly affecting children under age 14, adding, that the impact of the increasing drug abuse will be seen in both urban and rural areas of the country due to the busy schedules of parents and excessive use of digital gadgets.

Dallas Peace and Justice Center urges early release of Yasin Malik for peaceful dialogue

MIRPUR-AJK (Agencies): The USbased Dallas Peace and Justice Center on Monday called for immediate release of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, in a bid to resume and promote peaceful dialogue in the region. The Dallas Peace and Justice Center a US-based organization dedicated to promoting peace and human rights has urged for the immediate release of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik. In a petition addressed to Indian President Droupadi Murmu, the center emphasizes the importance of dialogue in resolving conflicts and establishing lasting peace in the region, says a press statement released to the media here late Sunday. and promote a peaceful resolution to The incarceration of Yasin Malik, a the Kashmir conflict.

prominent leader and advocate for the rights of Kashmiri people, has hindered progress towards a peaceful resolution and impeded potential dialogue between parties. The center highlights the benefits of releasing Yasin Malik, including the resumption of dialogue, confidence-building measures, and representation of Kashmiri aspirations. The organization firmly believes in the power of peaceful means to solve complex problems and urges for an environment of peace and tranquility for sustainable dialogue. With this petition, the Dallas Peace and Justice Center hopes to draw attention to the issue

HESCO detects 455 more connections involved in power theft

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has identified 455 more connections, including 8 commercial and 447 residential connections, involved in power theft in the ongoing operations against power thieves and defaulters during the last 24 hours. According to the HESCO spokesperson, letters against 398 consumers involved in power theft were submitted to various police stations for registration of FIRs, subsequently, 39 cases have been registered. Furthermore, all illegal connections have been discon-2,29,004 units worth 6.2 million rupees have been issued. The spokes- while 42 have been suspended.

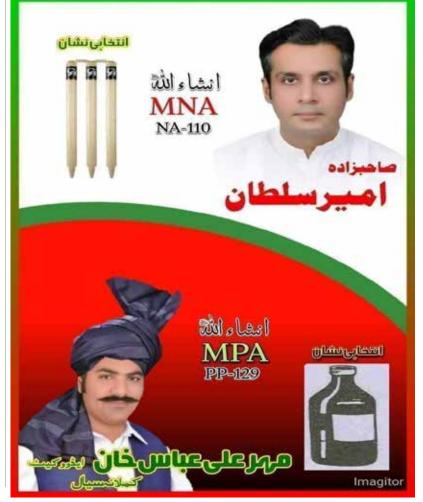


man further informed that during the last 144 days of operations, a total of more than 10486.3 million rupees has been recovered. So far, 196 suspects and three HESCO employees nected, and detection bills totalling have been arrested, and one employee has been dismissed from service,

ECP declares 50 percent polling stations sensitive or highly sensitive

Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has the polling stations across the country for general elections which will be held on February 8 as sensitive or highly sensitive. The ECP had established as around 90,675 polling stations across the country out of which 46,065 polling stations have been declared as 'sensitive' or 'most sensitive' while 27,628 polling stations as sensitive and 18.437 as most sensitive," sources in the ECP told APP. were declared sensitive.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election In Punjab, around 6,040 highly sensitive, 12, 580 polling stations are dedeclared as many as 50 percent of clared sensitive while 6,524 polling stations in Sindh are highly sensitive and 6545 are declared sensitive. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 4,143 polling stations were declared as highly sensitive and 6,166 polling stations were declared as sensitive. Likewise, in Balochistan, out of 5,028 polling stations, only 961 were declared normal as 1,730 polling stations were highly sensitive, and 2,337 polling stations



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Ryanair quarterly profit dives 93% on higher fuel cost

LONDON (Agencies): Irish no-frills airline Ryanair on Monday said net profit dived 93% in its third quarter as higher fuel costs offset rising revenues, resulting in a lower full-year earnings forecast. The carrier, which flies mostly throughout Europe, said net profit slumped to €14.8 million (US\$16 million) in the final three months of 2023 compared with one year earlier. Chief executive Michael O'Leary said Ryanair was narrowing its forecast for annual net profit to a range of €1.85 billion and



€1.95 billion. It previously estimated between €1.85 billion and €2.05 billion. "This guidance and the full year result remains heavily dependent upon avoiding unforeseen adverse events" in the group's current

fourth quarter, O'Leary added in the earnings statement. He identified risks as being "the Ukraine war, the Israel-Hamas conflict and further Boeing delivery delays". In the third quarter, Ryanair's fuel costs surged 35%, while revenue jumped 17%. Passenger traffic grew 7% to 41.4 million, despite higher average fares which helped to offset other rising costs such as higher salaries. Its fourth quarter, or January-March period, is traditionally the airline's weakest.

China's growth model pushes Beijing into more trade conflicts

FRANKFURT (Agencies): Swiss solar panel maker Meyer Burger is facing the brunt of competition from China and is warning it may have to close its loss-making production plant in Germany unless the government steps in with financial support. "Chinese manufacturers are deliberately selling goods in Europe far below their own production costs," chief executive Gunter Erfurt told Reuters. "They can do this because the solar industry in China has



hundreds of billions of dollars for years." Growing alarm over Chinese industrial overcapacity flooding the European Union with cheap prodbeen strategically subsidised with ucts is opening a new front in the frastructure and the property sector.

West's trade war with Beijing, which kicked off with Washington's import tariffs in 2018. Brussels' trade policy is now also turning increasingly protective against the global ramifications of China's production-focused, debt-driven development model. Throughout last year, China's policymakers flagged their intention to make domestic demand a more prominent growth driver to wean the world's second-largest economy off its decades-long reliance on in-

US wants cloud firms to reveal foreign clients in China AI race

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The US wants cloud services providers such as Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft Corp to actively investigate and call out foreign clients developing artificial intelligence applications on their platforms, escalating a tech conflict between Washington and Beijing. The Biden administration proposal, scheduled for release Monday, requires such firms to reveal foreign customers' names and IP addresses. Amazon and its peers, which include Alphabet Inc's Google, would



have to devise a budget for collecting those details and report any suspicious activity, according to draft rule published Sunday. If implemented, Washington could use those require-

ments to choke off a major avenue through which Chinese firms access the data centres and servers crucial to training and hosting AI. They also place the onus of collecting, storing and analysing customer data on the cloud services, a burden not unlike strict "know-your-customer" rules that govern the financial industry. US cloud providers have worried that restrictions on their activities with overseas users without comparable measures by allied countries risks disadvantaging American firms.

UK govt to ban disposable vapes to prevent use by children

LONDON (Agencies): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will announce plans on Monday to ban the sale of disposable vapes to prevent their use by children, and reiterate the government's intention to introduce a law preventing younger generations from buying tobacco. Under the new powers, there would be restrictions on vape flavours, a requirement for plain packaging, and changes to how vapes, or e-cigarettes, are displayed to make them less attractive to children. "Alongside our commitment to stop children who turn 15 this year or younger from ever



legally being sold cigarettes, these changes will leave a lasting legacy by protecting our children's health for the long term," Sunak said in a statement. Smoking is Britain's biggest preventable killer, causing one

out of four cancer-related deaths, or some 80,000 a year, the government says. In October, Sunak announced plans to pass a law which would mean that anyone born on or after Jan 1, 2009, would be unable to buy tobacco in their lifetime. While vapes are seen as key to helping people quit smoking, there has been concern they could be driving nicotine addiction among young people, with 9% of 11- to 15-year-olds now using them, the government said. The World Health Organization (WHO) said in December all vape flavours should be banned.

Pilots' union reaches deal with Taiwan's Eva Air, averting strike

TAIPEI (Agencies): A pilots' union late on Sunday reached a deal with Taiwan's Eva Airways to avert a strike that had been threatened over the crucial Lunar New Year holiday in a dispute over salaries and working conditions Taoyuan Union of Pilots said last week its members had voted to authorise a strike after accusing Eva of not raising salaries enough and employing too many holiday starting next month. After foreign pilots. The union, which talks facilitated by the government, to many destinations around Asia as represents mostly long-haul pilots, the union said it had reached a four well as to North America, Europe and had raised the prospect of striking point agreement with the airline, Australia. It is Taiwan's second-largover the week-long Lunar New Year with Eva agreeing to raise salaries est carrier after China Airlines.



and only hire foreign pilots if there is a "special need". Eva, in a statement to the Taiwan stock exchange, said it had reached a "consensus" with the union and confirmed it had signed the agreement. Vice-premier Cheng Wen-tsan witnessed the signing of the agreement, Taiwan's transport ministry said. Eva, best known internationally for the Hello Kitty livery | that told the story of the subpost- versation and it was agreed that it on some of its jets, operates flights masters' ordeal and their ongoing

Toyota suspending shipments of 10 models due to testing issues

TOKYO (Agencies): Toyota Motor Corp will temporarily suspend shipments of 10 vehicle models after supplier Toyota Industries Corp disclosed certification issues concerning some diesel engines. An investigative committee found irregularities during horsepower output testing, which took measurements based on computer modules running software that differed from that used for mass production, resulting in values with less variation, the carmak-



er said in a statement Monday. The certification issue the latest to beset Toyota, following an announcement by subsidiary Daihatsu Motor Co last month that most of its vehicles disclosures.

weren't properly tested for collision safety and that the carmaker manipulated the results of tests dating as far back as 1989. As a result, Daihatsu is halting shipments and suspending operations through January. "Going forward, we will be involved in all companywide activities to help rebuild Toyota Industries and review the situation to thoroughly ensure that safety and quality are the top priorities," Toyota said of the latest

RSG leads Saudi Arabia's green transition with full fleet shift to low-carbon biofuel

RIYADH (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's sustainability drive gains momentum as multi-project developer Red Sea Global has become the first to use low-carbon biofuel in all delivery trucks. RSG's entire fleet of land vehicles is now powered either by electricity or biofuel, making it the first company in the Kingdom to operate such an eco-conscious supply chain, according to a press statement. This shift

from regular diesel usage to sustainable fuels is expected to reduce carbon emissions and extend vehicle engine life. The biofuel is produced from used cooking oil sourced within Saudi Arabia. The type of fuel RSG has adopted emits only 0.17 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per liter, compared with 2.7kg CO2e per liter from regular diesel usage. RSG currently operates a fleet of six 8-tonne refrigerated

trucks and three 3.5-tonne refrigerated trucks, all running on biofuel. The press statement added that each of these vehicles is equipped with a chip measuring the amount of biofuel used daily. This data will enable the fleet's managers to analyze and optimize fuel consumption, thus enhancing the sustainability of RSG's operations and strengthening its commitment to the environment.

Samsung to integrate Baidu's Ernie AI in latest Galaxy phones

SEOUL (Agencies): Samsung Electronics Co will feature Baidu Inc's Ernie Bot as a key attraction of its new Galaxy S24 smartphone series in China. The South Korean maker has pitched its latest handset family as the first of a wave of AI smartphones, and Baidu's artificial intelligence tools will help with text summarisation, organisation and translation, Baidu said in a statement. It will also provide the backend support for Samsung's "circle to search" feature, which is handled by Alphabet Inc's Google in other markets. Google's Android software provides the backbone for the ma- a Chinese challenger to OpenAI's jority of smartphones in China, but ChatGPT.



the company's add-on mobile services and app store are not available, leaving it to local companies to fill gaps with alternatives like Tencent Holdings Ltd's WeChat. For Baidu, the Samsung deal marks a major adopter of its Ernie AI, one of the earliest and best efforts to create

Oil rises on fresh Middle East fears after attack on US base

HONG KONG (Agencies): Oil rose Monday on fresh Middle East fears as Joe Biden pledged to retaliate after blaming Iran-backed rebels for the killing of three US service members in a drone attack on a base in Jordan. The attack — which came two days after Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a vessel in the Red the market's focus on the region,' Sea — ramped up tensions in the region and stoked worries about supplies through the key trade waterway. Both main crude contracts rose more than one percent in early trade — hitting levels not seen since November — before paring the gains slightly. "The news of three US troops being killed by a drone attack, and President Biden saying this week and the release of more 'we shall respond', will likely dial up



Andrew Ticehurst, at Nomura, said. The news comes as Israel presses on with its war against Hamas, adding to investor concerns about a wider conflagration that brings in Iran and the US. Still, the reports did little to dent equity markets in Asia, with traders awaiting a crucial policy decision by the US Federal Reserve corporate earnings.

Dollar steady in data-packed week with Fed in focus

SINGAPORE (Agencies): The dollar started the week on a steady footing as investors took stock of US economic data ahead of the Federal Reserve policy meeting this week, while escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East kept risk sentiment in check. The dollar index, which measures the US currency against six rivals, inched 0.01% higher to 103.55 on Monday, set for a 2% gain in January as traders temper expectations of early and deep US interest rate cuts. The Fed in December surprised markets by taking a dovish tone and projecting 75 basis points of rate cuts in 2024, resulting in markets pricing in early and steep easing, with a cut expected as early as March. But since then, strong economic data and pushback Bannockburn Forex.



from central bankers have prompted traders to adjust expectations. Markets are currently pricing in a 48% chance of a rate cut in March, the CME FedWatch tool showed, compared with an 86% chance at the end of December. "The markets recognise that tightening cycle is over. However, they swung hard, pricing in aggressive easing by most of the G10 central banks," said Marc Chandler, chief market strategist, at

UK Post Office chief sacked as firm reels from IT scandal

LONDON (Agencies): UK business minister Kemi Badenoch today said she had sacked the chairman of the Post Office amid tensions over the scandal of hundreds of subpostmasters wrongly convicted of theft due to faulty accounting software. A television drama in early January battle to clear their names and se- new leadership going forward," cure compensation shocked the nation. The strong public reaction ing that she had removed Post Ofprompted Prime Minister Rishi Suhis government would legislate to and compensated". "We had a con-



was better that the Post Office had Badenoch told Sky News, confirmfice chief Henry Staunton. There nak to announce in parliament that has been intense criticism of previous Post Office chief Paula Vennells ensure the victims of what has been and others who are accused of alcalled Britain's biggest miscarriage lowing the prosecutions to continue of justice were "swiftly exonerated even after problems with the software were known about.

United CEO kickstarts Airbus talks amid Boeing delays

CHICAGO (Agencies): United Airlines has approached Airbus about buying more A321neo jets to fill a potential void left by the delayed Boeing 737 MAX 10, in a tradeoff likely to ease deadlock over a long-delayed separate order for larger jets, industry sources said. United CEO Scott Kirby flew to Toulouse recently to sound out the planemaker on a potential quid-quo-pro deal after a mid-air emergency on an Alaska Airlines 737 MAX 9 raised new doubts over certification of the already delayed MAX 10, they said. "United Airlines has been in talks with Airbus about possible alternatives to the MAX 10 order. To my knowledge no agreement has been duction quality and safety while prereached," a person familiar with the



discussions said. Talks are at an early stage and there is no guarantee of a deal, the sources said. Airbus and United Airlines declined to comment. Kirby's previously unreported trip to Toulouse is the latest twist in a widening crisis engulfing Boeing as the planemaker seeks to reassure the public and regulators about proventing key orders unravelling.

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Girona reclaim 1st place in Spain with 1-0 win at Celta Vigo. Atletico Madrid beat Valencia

MADRID (Agencies): There's no easing off for Girona in the Spanish league. The Catalan club rebounded from a setback in the Copa del Rey by beating Celta Vigo 1-0 in the league on Sunday to extend their impressive run and return to the top of the standings. Cristian Portugues scored a first-half winner to move Girona a point ahead of Real Madrid, who won 2-1 at Las Palmas on Saturday. Madrid have played one game less than Girona. "This is a long-distance race." Girona coach Míchel Sanchez said. "We are



in a very nice position and we want to continue this run." Girona were coming off a 3-2 loss at Mallorca in the Copa del Rey, a result that kept them from reaching the tournament's semi-

finals for the first time and ended their 17-match unbeaten run in all competitions. The team's only other loss this season came against Madrid at home in the league in September. Girona have 17 wins in 22 league matches, and the competition's best attack with 52 goals. No other team has scored more than 45. Michel's team have won six of its last eight league games, but they have a tough stretch ahead with matches against sixth-place Real Sociedad, second-place Madrid and fifthplace Athletic Bilbao.

Egypt knocked out of AFCON by DR Congo after penalty shootout

SAN-PÉDRO (Agencies): Record seven-time champions Egypt, lacking injured talisman Mohamed Salah, were knocked out of the Africa Cup of Nations on Sunday after losing a penalty shootout 8-7 against DR Congo. Goalkeeper Lionel Mpasi converted the winning spot-kick in San-Pedro after fellow shot-stopper Mohamed Abou Gabal had seen his kick strike the bar and fly over. A tense last-16 clash finished 1-1 after extra time with Meschack Elia scoring on 37 minutes for DR Congo and Mostafa Mohamed equalising in first-half added time from a penalty. Liv-



erpool star Salah was injured in a group match against Ghana and returned to his club, who said he would probably only be able to return to the tournament if Egypt reached the final. DR Congo will face Guinea, last-gasp 1-0 winners over Equatorial Guinea earlier on Sunday, next Friday in Abidjan for a place in the semifinals. Egypt and DR Congo may between them have won nine of the previous 33 Cup of Nations tournaments, but neither country managed even one victory in the group stage in the Ivory Coast this month. They finished runners-up to Cape Verde and Morocco respectively in mini-leagues with identical records of three draws and three points. Where they differed was in the number of goals scored with Egypt netting six times, including three from France-based Mohamed, and DR Congo only twice.

Promising young cricketer Wasim Akram Junior meets Pakistan legend and namesake at ILT20

LONDON (Agencies): Wasim Akram Junior, a promising young cricketer living in the UAE, got to meet his namesake and idol this weekend: Pakistan bowling legend Wasim Akram. Akram Junior, who plays for the International League T20 Thunderbolts in the league's development tournament, recently bowled his way to figures of 6 for 21 and lapped up the opportunity to take advice from one of the game's greatest ever pace bowlers. "This is the first time I have met him. It was so great to meet the legend. I have been following him and his bowling for many years here in the UAE, and I will grab it with



so that I can learn and become a good bowler, by God's grace. I have met him now, and I will try my best to emulate him in whatever way I can," he said. "This opportunity has come to me now,

both hands. I will try to learn as much as I can from him. "Even 10 minutes spent with him is equivalent to a decade for me because I can learn a lot in that small amount of time and further work on it, and that will eventually be very beneficial for me as cricketer." The 28-year-old was named after the Pakistani cricketing icon by his father. "My father is a very big fan of Wasim Akram, and when I was born he named me after him. And as I grew up. I also started to look up to him and took after him, bowling left-arm pace and batting as a left-hander too," Akram Junior said.

Ten Hag says Rashford's absence an internal matter

LONDON (Agencies): Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said Marcus Rashford's absence for their FA Cup fourth round fixture against Newport County was an "internal matter" after the Premier League club said the forward "was not well enough" to be in the squad. United said in a statement before their 4-2 international had "stayed at Car- season.



win that the 26-year-old England six assists in all competitions this

rington to train as he recovers". "He reported ill and the rest is an internal matter," ten Hag said yesterday. "It is an internal matter. As I said, we will deal with it. I will deal with it." Rashford, United's Player of the Year in the last campaign, has four goals and

Ex-NHL player charged over alleged 2018 gang rape

MONTREAL (Agencies): Canadian authorities investigating a claim that eight athletes committed sexual assault as a group in 2018 have filed charges against former National Hockey League (NHL) player Alex Formenton, his lawvers said yesterday. The new charges are the latest in a major scandal related to the claim, first revealed in 2022, which has since seen resignations of the Canadian hockey federation's leadership and said in a statement carried by several a temporary suspension of its public Canadian media. It did not divulge the claimed to have been sexually assaultfunds. Police in London, Ontario, "have others named in the suit. Formenton, Formenton, in connection with an ac- ey in Switzerland, was previously with June 2018.



cusation made in 2018", his lawyers

department refused to comment when contacted by AFP yesterday, but have scheduled a press conference on the case for Feb 5. In May 2022, Hockey Canada was rocked by press revelations accusing it of trying to cover up an alleged gang rape case involving eight players on the 2018 national junior team. A young woman, who remained anonymous in court documents, ed at a London hotel in southwestern charged several players, including Alex who currently plays professional hock- Ontario after a Hockey Canada gala in

the NHL's Ottawa Senators. The police

Former Chinese football head to stand trial for bribery

BEIJING (Agencies): The former head of China's top sporting body Chen Xuyuan is to stand trial for bribery on Monday, Beijing's state media said, as an anti-corruption drive sweeps up once-major players in the sport. Chen - who as president of the China Football Association (CFA) once promised to turn a page on the corruption scandals that have plagued the sport – was placed under investigation last February for "serious violations of discipline" in the TV documentary to having ac-



and the law". Chen was indicted in September for corruption, confessing

cepted large sums from those wishing to get in his good graces. This month he appeared in a televised documentary in which former Chinese national football team coach Li Tie said he paid Chen two million yuan (US\$278,600) in bribes to secure the top job. "Fans can accept the fact that the state of Chinese football is bad," Chen said. "But they cannot forgive corruption," he said. "I would like to deeply apologise to all Chinese fans."

India vs England: KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja to miss second Test

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and batter KL Rahul have been ruled out of the second Test against England, adding to the hosts' problems. Jadeja suffered a hamstring injury and Rahul a quadriceps issue during England's 28-run win in the first Test. India are already without star batter Virat Kohli, pace bowler Mohammed Shami and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant. Sarfaraz Khan, Sourabh Kumar and Washington Sundar have been added to the squad for Friday's second Test. Uncapped

Sarfaraz, 26, is a middle-order batter with a first-class batting average of 69.85, the fourth-highest of all-time. Spin-bowling all-rounder Sundar, 24, has played four Tests, including three on England's last tour here, a 3-1 defeat in 2021. He made his debut in India's famous win against Australia in Brisbane earlier that year. Kumar is a 30-year-old left-arm spinner, with almost 300 wickets in first-class cricket. Former captain Kohli withdrew from the first two Tests in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam for personal reasons.

Pant is a long-term absentee following a road accident, while Shami has a heel injury. India already had much to ponder after letting England overturn a 190-run first-innings deficit to pull off one of their greatest ever overseas wins. Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav now seems set to play in Visakhapatnam, while uncapped batter Rajat Patidar, who scored two centuries in two matches against England Lions earlier this month, was already in the squad and could come in for Rahul.

Nelly Korda rallies to win hometown event for 9th LPGA Tour title, beating Lydia Ko in playoff

FLORIDA (Agencies): Nelly Korda rallied to win her hometown LPGA Drive On Championship and delay Lydia Ko's LPGA Hall of Fame entry, outlasting the New Zealander on the second hole of a playoff Sunday after overcoming a three-stroke deficit with an eagle-birdie finish. In calmer conditions after wind gusts to 30 mph at Bradenton Country Club, Korda won with a 3-foot par putt on the par-4 18th after Ko's 4-footer caught the lip and spun out. "I seem to always make it very dramatic and interesting," Korda said. "So, there is no better feeling than to do it in front of a home crowd. What a day!" Ko won the



season-opening Tournament of Champions last week at home in Orlando for her 20th tour victory to move within a point of qualifying for the Hall of Fame. "It's kind of like, 'What can you do?" Ko said. "We played our hearts out until the very end and we put ourself into the playoff. I tried my best out there."

Kansas City Chiefs stun top-seeded Baltimore Ravens to reach Super Bowl



LOS ANGELES (Agencies): The reigning champion Kansas City Chiefs upset the top-seeded Baltimore Ravens 17-10 to reach the Super Bowl for the fourth time in five years on Sunday. A superb defensive performance from the Chiefs stifled Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson as Baltimore's hopes of returning to

next month's NFL showpiece ended in disappointment. Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes meanwhile marshalled a clinical offensive performance, throwing for one touchdown and 241 yards with no interceptions to leave Kansas City within sight of a third Super Bowl title since 2020. "It's been a heck of a year, we've been underdogs for the last few games but we never feel like underdogs," Mahomes said after the AFC Championship victory. "We've got a lot of guys on this team that know how to win when playoffs come around. I knew we were gonna make it happen and now we're in the Super Bowl.

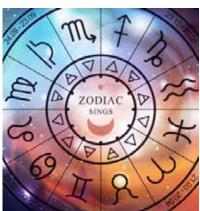
Ilia Malinin lands quad axel while winning second straight US figure skating title

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Ilia Malinin established such a big lead after his peerless short program at the US Figure Skating Championships that the phenom's free skate Sunday was less a competition and more a coronation. Even though kings sometimes fall down. After starting his program with a texthas landed in competition — he doubled a planned quad loop, fell on a quad lutz and doubled another planned quad. But even with those miscues, the 19-yearold was still nearly 30 points better than the rest of the competition, cruising to his second consecutive national championship. "Even though it wasn't what I wished for," he said, "it was a fun experience. I enjoyed having the crowd with me every step." Malinin finished with 294.35 points, well below the world-leading score of 314.66 points he had at the Grand Prix Final in December. But it was well ahead of Jason Brown in sec-



book quad axel — a jump only Malinin ond with 264.50 points, while Camden Pulkinen soared from fifth after his short program into the bronze-medal position with 262.33 points. Malinin had been bothered coming into nationals by a boot problem, and he resorted to wearing an old pair that he used at the Grand Prix Final. And with that issue still in the back of his mind, he wasn't sure whether he would try the quad axel. He did. And he landed it in spectacular fashion. The opening pass to his free skate, set to music from the HBO hit series "Succession," had a base value of 12.5 points, but it was so well done that he scored more than 16 points on that element alone.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: JANUARY 30, 2023



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

- ARIES: Try not to avoid the big issues today. They aren't avoiding you! It's a much better time for letting your subconscious mind wrestle with it all than for wandering away and pretending it's all good.

- TAURUS: Your intense energy is almost overwhelming today. You may need to step back if people start to look at you sideways! You should be able to get at least one person to see things your way.

- GEMINI: Try to help someone who really needs it, a friend, child, or a coworker. Your service should both help them and help you, and it may actually lead to something new and different in your life.

- CANCER: You're feeling pretty hesitant about a big decision or issue in your life, and you should definitely listen to that inner voice of caution. It may be that you need to delay things for a while.

- LEO: You need to be certain that

simple shift in point of view. Take the time to get all the info you need before making decisions.

- VIRGO: Your intellect is all riled up today, and you might find that you're much better able to absorb new info and concepts. Education is a snap for you, but so is research and investigation.

 LIBRA: Work and financial issues are all on the table right now and you need to deal with them even if you're exhausted. Your business acumen is actually starting to peak, so get ready to go for it!

SCORPIO: Life is unusually intense today, even for you. Emotions run hot, never cold, and that could mean big romance or a big fight. The good news is that you end up just where you need to be.

SAGITTARIUS: You need to let your dreams sort out your problems. Even if you don't remember them, you can feel confident that you're working it all out when you see things start to improve in a few days.

- CAPRICORN: You should be able to wrangle your friends into some much more interesting configuration today. Most of them are more willing to follow orders, and vour ideas are as good as they come.

- ACOUARIUS: Work and career issues pop up, but you can deal with them. If you're looking for something new or supplemental, you're in the right place at the right time. Step up and make your desires known.

– PISCES: Let others have their way today. It's not so bad, and you should rack up a few favors you can call in later. You can see that their desires vou're looking at things in the right are kind of petty, but you don't need light today. Lots can change with a to say anything.

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Don't penalize humanitarian workers – UN secretary-general to West

NEW YORK (Agencies): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on Western nations not to penalize relief workers after the US and several other major donors suspended funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The official also promised to hold accountable any employee shown to be involved in terrorist activities. Earlier this month, Israel provided its Western allies with what it described as evidence proving that at least 12 UNRWA staff had taken part in the deadly October 7 Hamas incursion into Israeli territory. The news site Axios quoted an anonvmous senior Israeli official as saying that "this was strong and corroborated

Debt could destroy US economy -JP Morgan boss



NEW YORK (Agencies): The US economy is heading towards disaster as the vast national debt continues to mount, JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon said in an interview with Fox News earlier this week. According to the chief executive of the nation's largest bank, the situation urgently needs to be tackled by the government before it causes a major economic crisis. "It is a cliff, we see the cliff," Dimon said. "It's about 10 years out, we're going 60 miles an hour [toward it]." The top executive agreed with the view of former House Speaker Paul Ryan, who has called the snowballing debt "the most predictable crisis we've ever had." The warnings were issued by Ryan and Dimon during a panel discussion at the Bipartisan Policy Center on Friday. US government federal debt topped \$34 trillion for the first time in history at the end of December. It now amounts to about \$102,000 for an average American family of three. In 2023 alone, it grew by more than \$4 trillion. US total public debt is roughly equivalent to the economies of China, Germany, Japan, India, and the UK combined, as pointed out by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a nonpartisan fiscal policy group in New York. Earlier this week, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that the absolute level of US public debt looks like "a scary number."

Palestinian militants' confessions. In a statement released on Sunday, Guterres wrote that despite the seriousness of the allegations, "the tens of thousands of men and women who work for UNR-WA... should not be penalized." He noted that 2 million civilians in Gaza depend on the aid provided by the agency to survive. He urged the donor nations "that have suspended their contributions to, at least, guarantee the continuity of UN-RWA's operations." Guterres pointed out that the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services had launched an investigation into the claims. He added that "any UN employee involved in acts of terror will be held accountable, including through tributor in 2022.

intelligence," which included captured criminal prosecution." According to the statement, UNRWA's commissioner-general, Philippe Lazzarini, had immediately terminated nine staff members suspected of terrorist activity, while another one had died. The UN secretary-general said that the identities of the two other staff members are still being clarified. On Friday, the US Department of State announced that it had "temporarily paused additional funding for UNRWA while we review these allegations." Several other nations, including the UK, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, and Australia, followed suit soon after. According to UNRWA's website, Washington was its biggest con-

Ukraine wants retired British warships – navy chief

KYIV (Agencies): Kiev would be happy to receive two British Navy warships that London is reportedly about to decommission, Ukrainian Vice Admiral Aleksey Neizhpapa has told Sky News. Earlier this month, The Telegraph claimed that the HMS Westminster and HMS Argyll would be retired later this year, amid struggles to recruit enough sailors to operate the vessels. In mid-December, the UK's Ministry of Defence announced plans to provide Kiev with two mine-clearing ships as part of a new maritime coalition, which also involves Norway. However, the vessels have yet to reach Ukrainian shores, after Türkiye refused to let them pass through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, which connect the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. When asked whether Ukraine would be interested in London's two Type 23 frigates during an



Sky interview on Saturday, Neizhpapa said: "Of course, the [Ukrainian] Navy needs warships... if such a decision is taken concerning the possibility of handing over two frigates to the Navy, we will be very happy." Earlier this month, The Telegraph quoted an anonymous defense source as explaining the need to retire HMS Westminster and HMS Argyll as follows: "We will have to take manpower from one area of the Navy in order to put [it] into a new area of the force."

Royal Navy 'scandal' sees UK ships unable to strike Houthis in Yemen

vessels are unable to attack Houthi positions in Yemen because they lack the necessary missiles, it has been revealed, in what one former defense chief called a "scandal." Britain has joined America in conducting operations against the Houthis in a bid to halt attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea, but the US Navy has had to carry out the majority of strikes on the Yemeni mainland, the Daily Telegraph reported. A UK defense source told the newspaper that HMS Diamond, the Royal Navy destroyer stationed in the Red Sea, lacks "the capability to fire to land targets," meaning the UK's sole source of offensive capability comes from Royal Air Force jets stationed at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, around 1,500 miles away. HMS Diamond, the source said, has instead been involved

LONDON (Agencies): UK Royal Navy in downing "Houthi drones targeting shipping in the Red Sea," with the only functioning weapons systems on UK destroyers being fixed artillery guns. US Navy destroyers, meanwhile, have the capacity to fire Tomahawk guided missiles, with a range of 1,500 miles. A former senior defense chief told the Daily Telegraph: "It's clearly a scandal and completely unsatisfactory. This is what happens when the Royal Navy is forced to make crucial decisions which can affect capability. "The UK is now having to fly RAF jets thousands of miles to do the job of what a surface-to-surface missile can do." Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, head of the UK Armed Forces, warned the government of the need to "speed up our acquisition processes" for "land attack missile systems" on British vessels five years ago when he was head of the Royal Navy.

احمد نواز خان (مرحوم) چیئر مین صاحب

Nuclear power generation to hit all-time high – IEA

GENEVA (Agencies): Global nuclear power generation is set to reach an all-time high in 2025 as more and more countries turn to the technology as part of plans to reduce emissions, according to the latest forecast from the International Energy Agency (IEA). Nuclear generation is in the midst of a resurgence and is expected to rise by nearly 3% annually on average through 2026, the IEA forecasts. The growth will be driven primarily by new plants in China and India, although South Korea and Europe are also set to see new nuclear facilities come online, according to the agency. France is expected to increase its nuclear power output after maintenance of its as electricity demand soars.



World

facilities is completed, while Japan is on course to restart some of its nuclear power plants. The UK, Sweden, and Switzerland are also among the countries that are on track to ramp up domestic nuclear power generation by extending the operating lives of existing plants and building new ones in a bid to boost energy security

official as saying the US is "considering slowing or pausing the deliveries

US could delay arms deliveries to Israel – NBC



WASHINGTON (Agencies): White House is considering whether to delay shipments of offensive weapons to Israel, in order to compel the Jewish state to scale back its military operation in Gaza, NBC News reported on Sunday. According to the report, Israel has asked the US to send additional aid, including powerful aerial bombs and air defenses. NBC News

cited three current and one former US Biden May Order Direct Strike on Iranian Officials After Drone Attack

Against US' Jordan Base



WASHINGTON (Agencies): A deadly drone strike on a US base near the Jordanian-Syrian border could lead to a stronger response from Washington than it has so far since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel, Bloomberg quoted unnamed sources as saying. "Regardless of the outcome, the [potential] attack presents [President Joe] Biden with a decision that will be one of the most consequential of his presidency", something that "could put the US into direct confrontation with the leadership in Tehran," Bloomberg reported. This comes after Biden pledged that "we [the US] shall respond" to Monday's drone attack on Tower 22, an American military outpost in northeastern Jordan, which killed three US soldiers and wounded 30 others. "Have no doubt — we will hold all those responsible to account at a time and in a manner our choosing," the US president added as Iranian militia group known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iranian Armed Forces Plan to Establish Presence at South Pole



TEHRAN (Agencies): The Iranian navy plans to expand its presence to the South Pole, the commander of the navy, Shahram Irani, said on Sunday. "The navy is ready to raise the sacred flag of Iran everywhere in the world's oceans. In the near future, the navy will be deployed as part of the ocean commands. We are planning to deploy the navy at the South Pole," Irani was quoted as saying by the Tasnim news agency. In 2023, Tehran said that the Iranian armed forces would expand its presence to three world oceans - the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific. To achieve this goal, three separate headquarters were formed. At the moment, the Iranian fleet also operates in the waters of the Indian Ocean, where it regularly conducts joint military exercises with India, China and Oman.

in the hope that doing so will prod the Israelis to take action, such as opening humanitarian corridors to provide more aid to Palestinian civilians." The deliveries of 155 mm artillery rounds and equipment that converts 'dumb bombs' into precision-guided munitions is reportedly under review by the Pentagon. Officials were quoted as saying that "no decisions have been made" on the matter, and that the US "is likely to continue to provide other conversion kits that make Israeli munitions more precise." The officials added that the White House is "not likely to slow the delivery of air defenses," but "could possibly withhold or delay" offensive weapons.

Indian conglomerate to manufacture helicopters with Airbus



NEW DELHI (Agencies): Group, one of India's largest conglomerates, will join forces with France's Airbus to produce civilian helicopters, New Delhi's top diplomat stated on Friday during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told reporters that the two companies had signed a deal for the production of H125 helicopters with "a significant indigenous and localisation component." The firms are already cooperating on building C-295 transport aircraft in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state. Airbus, also in a statement on Friday, noted that Tata Group will establish a Final Assembly Line (FAL) for H125 helicopters in India, which will take two years to set up. Deliveries will start in 2026. The company added that the aircraft could be exported to other countries near India. The manufacturing location has yet to be decided by the two sides. As well as being a major civil aviation exporter to India, France is also the country's second-largest arms supplier after Russia, with New Delhi's Air Force depending on French fighter jets for several decades.

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