

Italy: This elegant city is birthplace of one of world's most beloved cheeses **Laura Itzkowitz**
 Rome: Parmigiano-Reggiano is one of the world's most famous and beloved cheeses, yet its birthplace is rarely one of the first places that people think of when planning a trip to Italy. What a shame. Despite living in Rome for five years and visiting Italy dozens of times before that, it took me years (Page-3)

High Commissioner Jane Marriott highlights depth of bilateral ties, celebrates King Charles' 76th birthday **Celina Ali**
 Islamabad: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott celebrated King Charles' 76th birthday, emphasizing the strong bond between the UK and Pakistan where she admired Pakistan's heritage and creative spirit shone through. Jane Marriott shared her excitement about King Charles' birthday schedule in an exclusive interview with a pri... (Page-11)

China unveils heavy 'swarm carrier' UAV at airshow

Global Times
 Zhuhai: China has showcased for the first time the Jetank heavy unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) at the Airshow China 2024, which wrapped up on Sunday. The large drone can not only carry missiles and bombs, but also smaller drones, earning it the nickname "swarm carrier." The Jetank heavy drone, displayed at the outdoor static display area of the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), has a maximum takeoff weight of 16 tons, a maximum payload capacity of six tons, and a wingspan of 25 meters, the Global Times learned from AVIC.

The drone is described as a next-generation large unmanned aerial utility platform. It has eight hardpoints and a heavy-load fast-switchable mission module, and it can carry out missions such as airlift, airdrop, information support, and countermeasures, as well as fire strike and support by switching different modularized payloads, AVIC said. The drone is equipped with a radar system and an electro-optical pod at its nose, indicating outstanding battlefield situational awareness and remote control capability via satellite link, said Fu Qianshao, a Chinese military aviation expert, standing beside the Jetank at the airshow. Fu also noted that the heavy drone is equipped with a jet engine on its back, instead of propellers commonly seen on other armed reconnaissance drones, to provide stronger thrust. The Jetank is displayed with multiple types of payloads during its exhibit at the airshow, including laser-guided bombs, glide bombs, anti-ship missiles, and air-to-air missiles. "This huge drone can carry a wide range of weapons and equipment comparable to those carried by modern fighter jets and bombers," Fu

told the Global Times. The heavy drone is also exhibited with an isomerism hive module. This means that this drone can carry different types of smaller drones in this module, hence the term "isomerism." When released from the "hive" module, these smaller drones can form a swarm in the air for different missions, according to Fu. According to models shown at the airshow, the module can house dozens of smaller swarm drones. The module is interchangeable. A logistics transport module was also showcased alongside the drone. Wang Ya'nian, chief editor of Beijing-based Aerospace Knowledge magazine, told the Global Times on Sunday that the Jetank demonstrates China's leadership in developing drone carriers. The maximum takeoff weight of 16 tons means that the Jetank is comparable to a light fighter jet, and eliminating the need for a pilot and associated equipment, the Jetank swarm carrier drone has as many as six tons of capacity to carry smaller drones, Wang said. "Imagine several Jetanks in a formation flying across a long distance to a combat area and releasing a drone swarm. The drone swarm, incorporated with China's latest AI technologies, could achieve highly effective combat outcomes." The smaller drones also serve various roles, such as reconnaissance, strikes, communications, and electronic warfare, according to Wang. Wang said the Jetank has strong potential for operational deployment in the future. The six-day Airshow China 2024, held in Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province, concluded on Sunday. Attracting nearly 600,000 visitors, the event facilitated deals worth 280 billion yuan (\$38.7 billion), China Central Television reported.



Fourth Pakistan-Denmark bilateral political consultations held to boost ties

Celina Ali
 Islamabad: Pakistan and Denmark this week held the fourth round of Bilateral Political Consultations in Islamabad. The Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, while the Denmark side was led by State Secretary for Foreign Policy, Ambassador Lisbet Zilmer-Johns. The two sides conducted a comprehensive review of the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation, encompassing political relations, trade and investment, climate change, renewable energy, infrastructure development and people-to-people contacts. Important regional and global developments were also discussed. Expressing satisfaction at the upward trajectory of



bilateral cooperation, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining momentum in bilateral relations and coordinating closely on all issues of mutual concern, including at multilateral forums. They also agreed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Denmark in a befitting manner this year. The two sides will explore new avenues of cooperation in green technologies within the framework of the Green Framework Engagement Agreement signed in September 2022. The next round of Pakistan-Denmark Bilateral Political Consultations will take place in Denmark on mutually agreed dates.



Bilawal Bhutto accuses PML-N of not upholding political agreements



Liaquat Ali
 Islamabad: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari this week expressed frustration with the party of violating agreements and failing to provide PPP with respect in the federal government. Speaking to journalists, Bilawal said that the issue was not about personal grievances but about honour and political integrity. "Politics is about respect, not resentment. If the judiciary had representation from rural Sindh, we would have demanded equality," he remarked, referring to Pakistan's Supreme Court. Bilawal highlighted the government's failure to adhere to agreements, particularly during constitutional reforms, citing discrepancies in policy implementation. "During the constitutional reform process, the government made promises but then backtracked, adopting different approaches for Sindh compared to the rest of the country," he added.

should be protected. Bilawal also discussed the rising security challenges, especially terrorism, urging the government to take more concrete action. "We need less talk and more action to combat terrorism effectively," he stated, stressing the need for a national action plan to tackle growing extremism, particularly in regions like Balochistan and former tribal areas. Commenting on the victory of President-Elect Donald Trump in the US elections, Bilawal suggested it would not have a significant impact on Pakistan's politics. Reflecting on the current state of Pakistan-US relations, he remarked, "The ties have deteriorated further, and there's a need to improve them." Bilawal also criticised the government's decision to impose further restrictions on the internet and VPN services. He stated that those making such decisions are out of touch with reality and do not understand the negative impact on technology access. "The internet has become so slow, it feels like the 1990s again," he said, referring to the outdated, slow internet connections reminiscent of his childhood.

The only award in Chinese mainland! Henan Airport Group wins Service Excellence Award in Asia-Pacific

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: On November 5, at the awards ceremony of the Super Terminal Expo held at the Asia World-Expo in Hong Kong, Henan Airport Group was honored with the Service Excellence Award for Asia-Pacific Airports, becoming the only airport of Chinese mainland to receive this recognition. Thanks to years of continuous efforts, Zhengzhou airport, operated by Henan Airport Group, has made impressive results in service quality. These improvements include a 20% increase in security screening efficiency and a 25% reduction in queue times. The airport also enhanced transfer services, allowing 35 passengers and 55 pieces of luggage to be completed in just 20 minutes. Additionally, the time for passengers to reach the farthest boarding gate via shuttle has been cut from 19 minutes to 7. To address common concerns such as damaged luggage and overnight rest, the airport has implemented measures such as adding buffer mats and padded barriers at the baggage carousels, greatly reducing luggage damage. Moreover, Zheng-

zhou airport has set up 2 free temporary rest areas equipped with reclining chairs, blankets, phone charging stations, and other amenities, providing space for over 200 passengers. In the construction of an international air cargo hub, Henan Airport Group has focused on developing the Air Silk Road, gradually nurturing 6 core strengths: extensive network coverage, efficient customs clearance, comprehensive facilities, efficient operations, coordinated collection and distribution systems, and leadership in smart logistics and innovative models. The group has established a hub route network spanning the three major economic zones of Europe, America, and Asia, connecting key global economies. With its annual cargo volume consistently ranking 6th in China and securing a place among the world's top 40 cargo airports, Henan Airport Group has also launched 19 new domestic and international cargo routes this year, further advancing the hub's development potential.



Henan collects 33.46 million packages on 'Double 11'

Henan Daily

Zhengzhou: Henan's postal and express delivery industry collected 33.46 million parcels on November 11, the annual online shopping festival in China, marking

a 16.7% increase compared to the previous year. Additionally, the total number of parcels delivered reached 27.57 million, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 21.8%, according to data released by the Henan

Provincial Postal Administration. The peak season of this year for express delivery services has been particularly long-lasting and demanding. Since the season began on October 21, Henan's

postal and express delivery industry has handled a total of 635 million parcels by midnight on November 11, with an average daily collection volume of 28.85 million parcels. Notably, on October 22, a record of 33.91 million parcels were collected in a single day, setting a new daily volume milestone. "The ongoing expansion of the express delivery market reflects the continuous growth in online consumer demand, providing strong support for boosting domestic demand and strengthening the positive momentum of economic recovery," said a staff from the Henan Provincial Postal Administration. Starting in mid-October, major e-commerce platforms introduced pre-sale mechanisms, leading to a significant increase in demand for postal services. In response, Henan's postal and express delivery companies have implemented

effective measures, including increasing manpower, reallocating transportation capacity, and expanding equipment. They have also made active use of smart networking technologies and intelligent tools such as unmanned vehicles and drones to enhance the industry's capacity and operational efficiency. These measures have ensured the smooth and secure operation of key transport routes, hubs, and last-mile delivery networks. Looking ahead, postal and express delivery companies across Henan will continue to implement the "off-peak delivery and balanced progress" strategy, systematically advancing mail and express delivery processing with greater efficiency. They will strengthen operational monitoring, analysis, and early warning systems to ensure the smooth operation of the express delivery peak season.



Pakistan-China relationship cannot be derailed: FO

Celina Ali

Islamabad: Pakistan said this week that said Pakistan and China relationship cannot be derailed. Speaking at a news briefing here, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said: "Let's not get carried away with speculation. I would not like to respond to media speculations that are based on unreliable sources and motivated by an agenda to create confusion about the nature of Pakistan-China relationship. We advise the media to ascertain the motives of individuals who are feeding them such stories. Pakistan and China have a robust dialogue and cooperation on a range of issues, including counter terrorism and security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan." She added: "This dialogue is based on mutual respect, mutually beneficial cooperation and respect for each other's sovereignty. We will continue to work with our Chinese brothers for safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan. As iron brothers and strategic partners, Pakistan and China have the resolve and capability to foil any attempts to harm Pakistan-China relations, including by spreading stories about the nature of this relationship which is based on mutual trust, mutual confidence and mutually beneficial cooperation." She further mentioned: "As my Chinese counterpart said, attempts to undermine the mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries

will not succeed. We will not allow any efforts or stories to derail the Pakistan-China Strategic Partnership." The spokesperson contended that Pakistan and China have a robust dialogue and cooperation on a range of issues, including counter terrorism and security matters. "This dialogue is based on mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation. We will continue to engage with our Chinese friends and partners with respect to security and counter terrorism matters. With respect to any specific proposal in the domain of security and intelligence, I would not comment, given their sensitive nature," she remarked. She maintained that Pakistan is serious about providing full security to Chinese nationals, institutions and entities in Pakistan. "For that matter, we remain engaged with the Chinese government as well as Chinese companies which are based in Pakistan. The SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) on security continue to be strengthened. I will not go into the details of these SOPs and the mechanisms that are devised to enhance security of Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan. Pakistan has raised a security force to protect the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects in Pakistan and this security apparatus continues to provide security to the CPEC projects inside Pakistan."



Italy: This elegant city is birthplace of one of world's most beloved cheeses



Laura Itzkowitz finally did, I realised what an incredible place I'd been missing. Located in Emilia-Romagna, about an hour from Bologna, Parma is at the heart of Italy's Food Valley. In fact, it's recog-

Italy: Parmigiano-Reggiano is one of the world's most famous and beloved cheeses, yet its birthplace is rarely one of the first places that

Under the Farnese dukes, the city became wealthy and powerful. Renaissance painters like Correggio and Parmigianino left their mark, decorating palaces and churches that are still must-visit spots today. On a recent visit to Parma, I was enchanted by the city's elegant piazzas and streets lined with boutiques, restaurants, and bars. It regularly ranks among Italy's most livable cities, according to an annual survey by Italian newspaper Il Sole 24 Ore. Compared to crowded cities like Rome, Florence, and Venice, Parma feels like a breath of fresh air. It's still relatively under-the-radar, so you can really live like a local and experience a place full of art and culture that's not overrun by tourists. To learn more, I reached out to local expert Micol Brianti, who was born and raised in Parma and manages a portfolio of holiday homes called Michilab. Read on to discover why Parma made our list of the best cities to visit in Italy, and what you need to know to plan a trip.



Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, Marilina Armellini



people think of when planning a trip to Italy. What a shame. Despite living in Rome for five years and visiting Italy dozens of times before that, it took me years to get to Parma, but when I

nised by UNESCO as a Creative City for Gastronomy. Parma traces its roots back to ancient Rome, but it entered a golden age when it became part of the Duchy of Parma and Piacenza in 1545.



Brazilian ore, Chinese ingenuity craft green future for global trade

Ding Gang

It began with a single ship laden with iron ore, traversing 11,000 miles from Brazil's sun-drenched coast to China's bustling Tianjin Port.

That Saturday in July 1973 marked more than just another delivery - it was the opening chapter of one of global trade's most remarkable partnerships, shaping the world we live in today.

The development of China's steel industry has laid a solid foundation for its transformation into the world's factory, and Brazilian iron ore has become the "power fuel." I can still remember the interview I had about 10 years ago.

"We were there even before our countries established diplomatic relations," says José Carlos Martins, Vale's former executive vice president of Iron Ore and Strategy.

I still remembered that his eyes were twinkling with pride during our conversation: "Over four decades, we've shipped 1.1 billion tons of iron ore to China - enough to build 96,000 Eiffel Towers or 17,000 Bird's Nest stadiums." Although the two countries are far apart, Vale is connecting them: "We transport a part of Brazil to China and use a part of Brazil to build China." This "blood and flesh connection" is mutually beneficial, creating huge profits not only for Vale and Brazil but also contributing to the development of China.

Today, Vale's partnership with China has lasted for more than half a century. China has been the company's largest market since 2006 and destination of more than 50 percent of its iron ore products since 2014. In 2023, when the company celebrated 50 years of its partnership with China, its accumulative iron ore export to China broke the three billion tons mark.

This isn't just another trade story. It's a tale of how the two nations, separated by vast oceans, have found their economic destinies intertwined through rust-colored rocks.

Brazil remains one of China's primary iron ore suppliers, feeding the dragon's insatiable appetite for steel.

Numbers tell the story: In the first quarter of 2024 alone, China imported 310 million tons of iron ore, with Brazil accounting for 69 million tons - a whopping 19 percent year-on-year increase.

However, a most fascinating chapter in this decades-long partnership is currently being written as both nations grapple with climate change. Enter the Sohar Max - a vessel that looks like it sailed straight out of a Jules Verne novel.

This is a testament to the power of human ingenuity and



the potential for positive change in global trade.

This big ship was not installed in some high-tech European shipyard but in Zhoushan, East China's Zhejiang Province, where ancient maritime traditions meet cutting-edge innovations.

These rotor sails aren't just for show - they're engineering marvels that can boost the ship's efficiency by up to 6 percent and slash 3,000 tons of carbon emissions per vessel. This is a significant step toward a more sustainable future for global trade.

The transformation of the Sohar Max represents more than just technological advancement. It also shows the China-Brazil iron ore trade has evolved from simple commerce to a laboratory for maritime innovation.

"International shipping is one of mining's biggest carbon culprits," says Tracy Xie, Vale's president for China. "We're thrilled to partner with China in greening our shipping routes. It's about leaving a lighter footprint on the seas we've traversed for half a century."

On October 29, the 400,000-ton bulk carrier Sohar Max successfully completed the installation of five

foldable shipborne rotor sails at Zhoushan COSCO Shipping Heavy Industry.

It is sailing toward the future of green shipping, navigating through the vast and boundless sea of stars.

It has reminded us that some of the most enduring partnerships are forged in the unlikelyst places - even in the holds of iron ore carriers crossing vast oceans.

From that first shipment in 1973 to today's wind-powered giants, this relationship continues to evolve, one innovation at a time.

The next chapter? It's already being written on the high seas, where Brazilian ore and Chinese ingenuity are crafting a greener future for global trade.

If the past 50 years are any indication, we're in for quite a voyage.

The writer is a senior editor with People's Daily, and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China



China and Latin America forge stronger connections as bridge builders

Global Times

With the inauguration of the Chancay Port, a key Belt and Road Initiative project jointly built by China and Peru, we witness a significant moment in history. This project marks a new phase in China-Latin America connectivity, creating a modern Asia-Latin America land-sea corridor. World economic history is characterized by the continuous connection of materials, people and capital across human societies. Since ancient

times, connectivity has been a fundamental pursuit of human culture. One of the challenges facing developing countries' economic growth today is the need to build and join a more robust and convenient connectivity network. Even in today's world, transformed by the internet, highways and container shipping, network building and "bridge construction" remain bottlenecks for many emerging economies. The joint construction of the Chancay Port by

China and Peru represents a significant effort to overcome these obstacles. While certain major powers attempt to build "small yard, high fence" based on "strategic competition," trying to sever or reconstruct trade, supply and industrial chains under their dominance, the China-Peru effort becomes even more valuable. It sends a clear signal to those resisting this trend: No hegemonic power can stop the pursuit of developing countries.

The development of China-Latin America's economic and trade relations is not just a trend, but an inevitable outcome.

This certainty paves the way for a future of increased connectivity and prosperity.

More than 500 years ago, the Age of Discovery, initiated by the Portuguese and Spanish, changed the course of world history. In subsequent Western textbooks, we were all "discovered." After 500 years, the rise of Western powers left Latin America with painful experiences, and the great Latin American civilization became a victim of European powers. Colonizers brutally plundered gold, silver, copper, tin, oil, sugar, rubber, cotton and coffee, leaving behind pathogens, poverty and turmoil on this scarred continent.

China is the world's largest developing country and Latin America is one of the fastest-growing regions. Both Chinese and Latin American peoples have experienced the humiliation of

Western colonial exploitation and have a profound understanding and urgent expectation for joint development and prosperity. The "Chinese Dream" and the "Latin American Dream" are closely linked.

Today, flying from Beijing to Latin America takes about 20 hours or more. This is ultra-high speed compared to the Manila Galleon's first journey from Asia to Latin America 500 years ago. Historical records

show that the ship, loaded with "Made in China" goods, took half a year to reach its destination - more accurately, it didn't sail, it drifted. Now we fly.

Five hundred years later, we are witnessing the rapid and comprehensive development of China-Latin America relations. The Pacific routes are now among the world's busiest trade routes, signaling a future of exciting possibilities.

In 2023, China's trade with Latin America reached 3.44 trillion yuan (\$475 billion), up 6.8 percent year-on-year, maintaining growth for several consecutive years. The deepening China-Latin America economic and trade cooperation has provided significant support for Latin American countries to expand their export trade and promote sustainable economic growth. In this new era, China and Latin American countries are bridge builders. The bridges we build together connect people living on opposite ends of the Earth more closely than ever before.



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High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri wishes Sikh community in Pakistan and abroad happy Guru Nanak Jayanti



Covert Report

Canberra: Pakistani High Commissioner to Australia Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri this week wished the Sikh community in Pakistan and abroad a happy Guru Nanak Jayanti. "Wishing the Sikh community a joyous and blessed Guru Nanak Jayanti. Plan a visit to #NankanaSahib and #KartarpurSahib to experience these sacred sites. Take advantage of our No Fee Visa Prior to Arrival policy and explore Pakistan's commitment to religious tourism," he posted on X. Earlier, Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi issued over 3000 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to participate in the birthday celebrations of Guru Nanak to be held in Pakistan from 14-23 November 2024. Guru Nanak is regarded as the founder of Sikhism and is the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. "Expressing his views on the occasion, Charge d' Affaires, Mr. Saad Ahmad Warraich, extended his heartfelt felicitations and wished the pilgrims a fulfilling yatra," the post on microblogging site X read. Every year, Guru Nanak Jayanti (birthday) is celebrated on the full moon day of the lunar month of Kartik to celebrate the Sikh leader's birth. This year, Guru Nanak Jayanti was celebrated on November 15. Indian Sikh pilgrims who will travel to Pakistan also visited Dera Sahib, Panja Sahib, Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur Sahib.



Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad participates in International Youth Art Festival



Covert Report

Paris: Pakistani Ambassador to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad this week participated in International Youth Art Festival. "International Youth Art Festival event organized by Kazakh Mission at UNESCO - beautiful work of many young artists from around the world including Dua from Pakistan," the envoy posted on X. UNESCO's Paris headquarters hosted an exhibition and album presentation of the works of winners and finalists of the International Youth Festival themed The Planet of Art - 2024 on November 12. This festival celebrated world cultural and natural heritage monuments, as well

as intangible cultural heritage, aligning with Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the World Federation of UNESCO Associations and Clubs. According to UNESCO Kazakhstan's press service, the exhibition was organized by the Kazakhstan National Federation of UNESCO Clubs (KazFUKA) with the support of Kazakhstan's Permanent Mission to UNESCO. Thousands of young participants, aged between 3 and 18, from across the globe submitted works to the festival jury. Winners and finalists received commemorative diplomas and an invitation to a cultural and educational program in Almaty. "We see our common cultural and natural heritage treasures in these paintings.

The exhibition invites us to view these monuments and traditions through the eyes of a new generation, emphasizing the need for their protection and promotion for future generations," said Askar Abdrakhmanov, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to UNESCO, at the exhibition's opening. UNESCO Deputy Director-General Firmin Eduard Matoko highlighted the role of cultural heritage in linking past and future. "The Planet of Art 2024 festival has created an excellent platform for young people to engage in heritage preservation, gathering participants from diverse backgrounds and encouraging new actions for sustainable development and cultural understanding," he said.

Kazakhstan celebrates 130 years of writer Beimbet Mailin



Aibarshyn Akhmetkali

Astana: Kazakhstan this week marked the 130th anniversary of Beimbet Mailin, a renowned Kazakh poet, writer and playwright who championed the struggles of women and the poor in Kazakh Soviet literature. Born in 1894 in what is now Beimbet Mailin district of the Kostanai Region, he came from a poor family and lost his parents at a young age. Mailin was brought up by his grandmother, who, despite the hardship, ensured he received an education from the village mullah. In 1911, Mailin enrolled in a madrasa, but he was expelled just a month before graduation for his satirical poetry mocking the village poet, Arzhikey. Undeterred, Mailin pursued his studies, and in 1914, he graduated from the Uazifa School in Troitsk, Russia. He then enrolled in the prestigious Khalia Madrasa in Ufa. However, financial hardship forced him to return to his native village within six months, where he dedicated the following years, from 1916 to 1922, to teaching. Before long, in 1923, Mailin took a job as the editor of the Kostanai province's Yenbekshi Kazakh (Working Kazakh) newspaper. Over the following decade, Mailin took on many roles in a long newspaper career, contributing to publications such as Kazakh Tili (Kazakh Language), Socialist Kazakhstan, and Kazakh Adebieti (Kazakh Literature). As part of his job, he continued to pitch original pieces to those newspapers that kick-started his career as a writer and poet. Mailin's writing career began with the "Thoughts" poem published in the Aykap magazine in 1914. In his later poems, such as "Traits of a Muslim," "Need," "Cattle," "Wealth," and "Summer Evening", Mailin wrote his

reflections on life and explored social injustice and the struggles of the people. Mailin did much to expose the inequality and social wrongs of his time. Among his poetic heroes, the most famous is Myrkymbai - a poor man who, for many years, toiled under the bai (feudal lord) but, with the arrival of the Soviet regime, became the master of his own destiny. Mailin's most famous work is his first novel, "Monument to Shuga," initially written in 1915 and later revised and published in 1922. In it, Mailin offers a realistic portrayal of a young Kazakh girl's struggle against oppressive customs. Throughout his career, Mailin revisited themes of women's equality in novels like "Communist Raushan" (1923) and "Beren" (1935). Kazakh writer Mukhtar Auezov once described Mailin as follows: "He is a master of 'short poems,' dedicated to the Kazakh woman—her difficult past, her struggle for a better life, and her spiritual and cultural development. However, his true talent shone most brightly in the genres of short stories and novels." "The writer sought to address significant issues through his smaller works. His books offer scatterings of portrait sketches, magnificent images, deeply realistic pictures of the contradictions of the transition period,

the struggle against nationalist ideology. Mailin writes a chronicle of auls (villages) during the civil war, collectivization, the first five-year period. His central protagonist is the people," wrote Auezov. Mailin also made a significant contribution to the development of drama arts in Kazakhstan, experimenting with different genres of drama from 1916 to 1936. His plays, including "Mulla Shanshar," "Amangeldy" (co-written with Gabit Musrepov), "Front," "Our Dzhitigs," (Our Man), among others, explored diverse social themes and brought Kazakh theater to new heights. His artistic legacy remains vast, with around 250 poems, over 100 prose works, and 20 plays.



People believe in politics of PPP: Umar Rehman Malik



Abdullah Jan
Islamabad: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Umar Rehman Malik this week said that the people believe in the politics of PPP. "The PPP's resounding victory in Sindh's local government by-elections reflects the people's trust in Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's leadership and PPP unwavering commitment to serving the public and resolving their issues," he said. He added: "Congratulations to the leadership, successful candidates, and all dedicated workers who made this success possible. Together, we carry forward the legacy of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir

prosperity." Earlier, the PPP won 10 of 11 seats in the Karachi local government by-elections as per the unofficial and unannounced results. The PPP managed to clinch total 10 seats including four chairmen as many councilors and one vice chairman. The PPP also secured one seat in the cantonment board. The PPP aspirants emerged victorious from Liaquatabad, Malir, Clifton and Model Colony Landhi, Baldia Town, Ibrahim Hyderi, Landhi and Korangi Cantonment Boards. The Jamaat-e-Islami secured one vice-chairman and one councilor seat. The Hafiz Naeemur Rehman-led party clinched the vice chairman seat from Gulberg a ward councilor seat from Manghopir.



Following the results, Senator Waqar Mehdi, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister, said that the PPP has secured a sweeping victory in Karachi and other parts of Sindh.



"The people of Karachi have rejected Jamaat-e-Islami, leading to the party's humiliating defeat," Waqar Mehdi added.

The special assistant to the chief minister said that the provincial government is carrying out projects worth over Rs 200 billion in Karachi, terming the party's victory a result of their 'service for the people'.



Bhutto, striving for peace, progress, unity, and



Greece's 'smart city' by the sea taking shape



About 30,000 people are expected to live on the 6.2km² site on what for decades was Athens' international airport. The former terminal, a listed building since the airport relocated in 2001, is to be converted into an exhibition hall. During the 2004 Olympic Games, Ellinikon became a sports hub and hosted sports competitions including canoeing and hockey. However, the facilities were subsequently abandoned, and then came the financial crisis, which hit the Greeks hard. Solidarity groups created a self-managed garden, a community grocery shop and a free medical center at Ellinikon, to make up for the shortcomings of a virtually bankrupt state. Refugees were also temporarily housed in the derelict stadiums during the migrant crisis of 2015. Amid the wave of privatizations imposed by the country's EU-IMF creditors, Athens was forced to sell Ellinikon. Lamda, a holding company specializing in property development, investment and management, won the bid in 2014 for less than 1 billion euros.

The company is listed on the stock exchange and majority-owned by Greek tycoon Spiros Latsis. The company is building "the largest coastal park in the world," with one-third of the surface area reserved for green areas accessible to all, Athanasiou said. Ellinikon would be a "smart city" with advanced technological solutions, other project managers said. "We're building from scratch, which is a major advantage," Athanasiou said in front of a huge model of the project. "Cities like Singapore, Copenhagen and Amsterdam have done incredible things in terms of technology. But they have had to adapt what they have developed to an existing infrastructure." The park would have 8,000 to 9,000 homes. The most luxurious apartments in the Riviera Tower can cost up to 25 million euros, Athanasiou said. The least expensive would sell for around 400,000 euros, a price entirely unaffordable for many Athenians, critics say. "This is not a real-estate development project, it's an 'offshore' colony," said Nikos Belavilas, director of the urban environment laboratory at the National Technical University of Athens. "We will have a gated community isolated from the city, with skyscrapers and casinos for the oil-rich," he said, at a time when Athens is more in need of social or student housing.

The concrete-clad capital, with its jumbled streets that have grown out of control, is cruelly lacking in green areas. Ellinikon, with its parks and beaches, represented "an opportunity to have a large urban green space," Belavilas said. It could have become an Athenian Tempelhof, he said, referring to the former West Berlin airport which was transformed into a huge park open to all in the center of the German capital. The Ellinikon project is "dire on several levels," especially in terms of the "macro-economic management of the country," one Athenian architect said on condition of anonymity. Other Greeks complain that the state simply flogged off the site. Athanasiou counters that when the privatization took place "we were the only ones to respond to the call for tenders." The project would "strengthen the country's credibility abroad, which was damaged during the years of crisis," he said. Up to 80,000 jobs would be created and the Greek state would reap more than 14 billion euros in tax revenue once the project is completed, he said.

Covert Report

Athens: High above the sparkling surface of the Athens coastline, the cranes for building the 50-floor luxury tower centerpiece of Greece's future "smart city" look out over the Saronic Gulf. At their feet, construction machinery stirs up dust. Its backers say the 8 billion euro (US\$8.43 billion) project financed by private funds is a symbol of Greece's renaissance after the years of financial stagnation that saw investors flee the country. However, critics see it more as a future "ghetto for the rich." It is hard to imagine that 10km from the Acropolis, a new city "three times the size of Monaco" would rise from the ground by 2036, said Odisseas Athanasiou, chief executive officer of the group Lamda that owns the site. One of Europe's largest urban regeneration projects, the Ellinikon initiative features plans for villas, two hotels, shopping centers, a university, a marina and other buildings. It would also feature the Riviera Tower, which would be Athens' tallest skyscraper when it is completed at the end of 2026.



Bulgaria spearheads COP29 initiative to bring down electricity prices

NewsWire

Sofia: A Bulgarian-led initiative to bring down electricity prices by improving energy interconnection in the region of southeastern Europe was backed by eight countries at COP29 in Baku. The project was announced by Bulgarian energy minister Vladimir Malinov, in the presence of the President of Bulgaria, Rumen Radev, and the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The event took place at the Bulgarian pavilion at COP29 in Baku.

Malinov said that knowledge exchange between regional partners is "one of the key factors" to develop power systems which can handle "the modern challenges of integrating renewable energy." Upgrading existing energy connections will allow cheap clean energy from the wind farms of Northern Europe to reach lower latitudes, the minister said. He added that that improving energy connections will also allow for the delivery of clean energy from Egypt to central Europe. The non-paper tabled by Malinov received the support of the energy ministers of Greece, Romania, the Czech Republic, Italy, Belgium, and Moldova, as well as

Hungary, which holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU, and Azerbaijan as host of COP29. "Through this informal document, you have raised a critical issue," said the Romanian Energy Minister Sebastian Burduja. He added: "We are all on the same side, in the same team. You don't have to look very far. Just look at the energy price map today. I am particularly sympathetic to Hungary, which is the European champion of high prices," the minister said. Recent high power prices in southeastern Europe have prompted countries in the region to call for action. "Our vision is to hold a series of technical and political structured dialogues (...) over the coming months" said Malinov, who added that a February meeting in Sofia will define the scope of dialogue and identify where the initiative can be taken further. "For Hungary, the Bulgarian initiative is very important because it is a symbol of building connectivity between our countries," said the Hungarian State Secretary for Security Policy and Energy Security, Peter Sztaray. In this regard, he drew attention to one of the important initiatives in which Hungary is participating, and Bulgaria is joining - the Green Energy Corridor, together with Azerbaijan, Romania, Georgia, Hungary. "This is a very important project because it connects Central and Eastern Europe with the Caucasus region and perhaps later with Central Asia. We need to implement it, because otherwise we will not survive. But if we want to survive and have energy security, then we must cooperate," Sztaray said. Victor Parlicov, Minister of Energy of Moldova, who



was also present at the launch, emphasized that his country's goal is to become part of the European energy market before joining the EU. He recalled the problems with energy supplies caused by the war in Ukraine. "The country today needs to import electricity in the volume in which it exported before the war," he said.

Earlier in the day, the energy ministers of Bulgaria and Moldova signed a memorandum on energy cooperation and mutual assistance. In October, twelve EU member states called on the European Commission to support the creation of cross-border energy links, especially electricity interconnections, to reduce energy prices in the EU.



Portugal leads agricultural growth in the EU



zerland (+4.79%), but with very different production volumes. At the opposite extreme are Latvia (-20.5%), Estonia (-19.4%) and Bulgaria (-18.19%). Among the countries with the highest production historically, there were falls in France, with 95.77 billion euros in 2023, a reduction of 1.61%; and in Germany, which produced 76.14 billion euros last year, 2.28% less than the previous year.



Lisbon: With 12.22 billion euros produced, it increased by 14% compared to the previous year, thus escaping the downward trend of 1.5% recorded in European Union. In 2023, agricultural production in the EU was valued at €537.1 billion at base prices, which represents a 1.5% decrease compared to the previous year (€545.4 billion), according to data from Eurostat. "This slight drop in relation to the maximum production value in 2022 put an end to the upward

Newsire trend that began in 2010", writes the European statistical institute. "This variation in the nominal value reflected the balance of a drop in production volume (-2.3%) and a slight increase in the nominal price for agricultural goods and services (+0.8%)", details Eurostat. The data reveals that volumes increased in 11 countries. The most significant growth was recorded in Portugal (+14.6%) and Hungary (+11%), Cyprus (+7.8%) and Swit-



Japan provides 18.5 million USD for flood management enhancement in the Indus Basin



Celina Ali Islamabad: The Government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth 2.831 billion Japanese Yen (equivalent to around 18.5 million USD/ around 5.119 billion PKR) for Flood Management Enhancement in the Indus Basin.

On 13 November 2024, a signing ceremony for the assistance was held at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad. H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and other officials from both countries attended this ceremony. In 2022, Pakistan experienced the most

devastating flood in the country's history. In response, the Government of Japan has been dedicated to providing necessary assistance to support Pakistan's recovery and reconstruction efforts. This assistance will fund the construction of three embankments on the Indus River in Haripur district, KP, and install water and rain meters at 45

sites along the river in KP and Punjab. The three embankments will protect local communities from potential human and economic losses due to flooding and data from the water and rain meters, managed by FFC and WAPDA, will be shared with various agencies to help predict and manage potential possible floods. This project incorporates the concept of

"Build Back Better", which the Government of Pakistan strongly emphasizes. In the signing ceremony, H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro stated, "I hope this project will provide reassurance to the people of Pakistan regarding possible future floods. Japan remains committed to providing assistance that will directly benefits vulnerable people in Pakistan."

Rebuilding dreams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: A story of resilience and renewal

Celina Ali Islamabad: On her first day back at school, young Reshma Saleem from Amankot marveled at the sight of her newly rebuilt Government Primary School.

The once crumbling structure was now a beacon of hope, boasting freshly painted walls, spacious halls, and solar panels gleaming in the sun. This transformation, funded and supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), marks a new chapter for the conflict-affected region, where communities are rising above years of turmoil and natural disasters.

A new dawn for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: The KP Reconstruction Program, supported by USAID, is far more than a collection of construction projects. It represents a powerful effort to rebuild not just buildings, but lives. Initially launched to restore essential services in communities devastated by military conflicts and floods, the program evolved to embody resilience and renewal, aiming to empower KP's

people through improved services and infrastructure. From schools to hospitals, water facilities, and sanitation systems, USAID's partnership has infused KP with the strength to forge a better future.

Inspiring Spaces for Young Dreamers: A highlight of the KP Reconstruction Program is the revitalization of schools across the region. Facilities like the Government Primary School in Amankot have been transformed, providing safe, inspiring learning spaces. Reshma's school, now equipped with science labs, spacious seating, and wheelchair ramps, has become more than just a building; it's a place where students are encouraged to dream big. "I love my school more than my own home now," Reshma told her father, while her friend Anaa shared her aspiration to become a teacher, inspired by the beautiful new surroundings.

These modernized schools are not only equipped with essential resources but are designed to withstand future conflicts and natural

disasters. Thanks to USAID's contribution, schools now have libraries, examination halls, and solar power, creating an environment where students like Mohammad Saleem can study without disruption.

A labor of love and quality: For Salah Ud Din, a Quality Assurance Specialist overseeing the project, the KP Reconstruction Program has been a deeply personal mission. USAID's role went beyond funding; it was about creating lasting impact. "Our team, in collaboration with USAID, designed schools that would stand the test of time," Salah explained. The partnership enabled each facility to be equipped with modern amenities, from science labs to solar panels, and even school supplies for students—small yet significant steps toward a brighter future.

Voices of transformation: Javed Khan, a teacher at Government High School in Akbar Pura, shared his pride in the reconstructed building, which can now accommodate over 1,200 students. "This new building has changed everything," Javed noted. His student, Mohammad, added that the new science labs and dependable electricity have transformed his education. No longer limited by power outages or crowded rooms, he now has a space where he can explore his passion for science.

Beyond schools: rebuilding a community: While schools are a focal point, the KP Reconstruction Program's impact extends further. USAID's support has helped reconstruct hospitals, water systems, and irrigation facilities, enhancing quality of life across the region. These improvements are designed with sustainability in mind, ensuring KP's communities can thrive for generations to come.

A lasting legacy of hope: Ultimately, the KP Reconstruction Program, made possible by USAID, symbolizes resilience, unity, and hope. In a region once marked by hardship, the newly rebuilt schools, hospitals, and infrastructure stand as testaments to the power of community and international support. Today, as Reshma



and her classmates walk through the halls of their revitalized school, they carry the dreams of a brighter future for KP, a future built on strength, hope, and the spirit of renewal.



EU forecasts 'steady' eurozone growth despite 'uncertainty'



Covert Report
Brussels: The EU Commission this week predicted a slight increase in growth in the eurozone currency union and a continued fall in inflation in 2025. However, the commission also pointed to risks arising from geopolitical tensions, as well as weak investment and a high cost of living. The EU Commission's forecasts showed eurozone growth ticking up to 1.3% in 2025, up from 0.8% this year, and described the bloc's performance as "steady, albeit subdued." It predicted inflation would drop to 2.1%, compared with 2.4% this year. "With the EU economy steadily recov-

speed next year," commission vice-president Valdis Dombrovskis said. "Still, given today's high geopolitical uncertainty and many risks, we cannot afford to be complacent. We need to deal with longstanding structural challenges". The commission said that both consumer demand and investment were expected to recover. "As the purchasing power of wages gradually recovers and interest rates decline, consumption is set to expand further," it said. "Investment is expected to rebound on the back of strong corporate balance sheets, recovering profits, and improving credit conditions."



The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka



ering, growth should pick up more Inflation in the eurozone has dropped



significantly over the past two years after reaching 8.4% in 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. According to the forecast, EU unem-

ployment was at a "record low" of 5.9% in October. EU Economy Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni warned that there remained

"high uncertainty" in the face of geopolitical shifts and decreased consumer demand.

"High uncertainty has been weighing on consumption and investment," he said in a press conference.

"The trade outlook has been weak, reflecting weakness in global demand for industrial goods over the coming years," he said. He also said that Germany's economy was expected to decline by 0.1% in 2024 after having contracted by 0.3% in 2023. However, Gentiloni said that the eurozone's largest economy was predicted to grow by 0.7% in 2025 and 1.3% in 2026.

"A further increase in protectionist measures by trading partners could upend global trade, weighing on the EU's highly open economy," the commission said. Donald Trump, who was elected the next US president earlier this month, has threatened to hit the EU and other parts of the world with tariffs in order to protect US industry.

Gentiloni called for EU member states to strengthen "competitiveness through investments and structural reforms" while also walking "a narrow path of bringing down debt levels while supporting growth."



High Commissioner Jane Marriott highlights depth of bilateral ties, celebrates King Charles' 76th birthday



Celina Ali Islamabad: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott celebrated King Charles' 76th birthday, emphasizing the strong bond between the UK and Pakistan where she admired Pakistan's heritage and creative spirit shone through. Jane Marriott shared her excitement about King Charles' birthday schedule in an exclusive interview with a private news channel. The British High Commissioner's gratitude to those joining the celebrations in Islamabad and Karachi highlights the importance of people-to-people connections in strengthening the UK-Pakistan partnership. The UK-Pakistan partnership is truly special and it is the people who make it thrive. The deep economic connections between the two nations are a testament to this strong bond, she

said, adding that the ties between the two countries are undeniable. Jane Marriott stressed the importance of promoting people-to-people ties between the UK and Pakistan through arts, culture and tourism, emphasizing the need to foster lasting connections, celebrate shared heritage and encourage mutual understanding. She highlighted the UK's world-class network of universities and colleges which provide young people with intercultural and language capabilities, as well as global understanding. The Commissioner also stressed the significance of promoting UK education overseas, building capacity in countries where demand for higher education outstrips supply and offering vocational training to help young people into employment. She said this mutually beneficial approach focuses on building progressive and modern

partnerships based on trust, respect and mutual benefit. Jane Marriott also praised Pakistan's rich culture and music, highlighting its significant impact on the hearts of British people. She specifically mentioned her fondness for legendary Pakistani singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, whose iconic qawwalis have resonated deeply with people in the UK. British High Commissioner Jane Marriott further admires Pakistan's hiking sites and cuisine is well-placed, given the country's rich natural beauty and culinary heritage. Pakistan is a paradise for hikers and foodies alike. The country offers some of the most breathtaking hiking trails in the world, with its majestic mountains, picturesque valleys and serene lakes, she mentioned. Jane also expressed optimism about strengthening bilateral relations between the UK and Pakistan across various sectors.



“If you are working on something that you really care about, you don’t have to be pushed. The vision pulls you.”
—Steve Jobs

“You learn more from failure than from success. Don’t let it stop you. Failure builds character.”
Unknown

Italy: PM Meloni advocates for nuclear energy at COP29, calls for balanced energy mix

Akbar Novruz
Baku: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni this week strongly advocated for the inclusion of nuclear energy in the global energy mix, emphasizing its potential as a clean and sustainable alternative to fossil fuels. During her speech at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Meloni acknowledged the urgent need to limit global temperature rise and meet the ambitious climate goals set at COP28 in Dubai.

She highlighted the critical role that all nations, particularly major greenhouse gas emitters, must play in achieving the targets of tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling global energy efficiency by 2030. “In this conference, we must adopt a new climate finance target that requires shared responsibility, bridging the divide between developed nations and emerging economies,” Meloni said. “Italy is committed to doing its part, allocating a substantial portion of its €4 billion climate fund

to Africa, and continuing to support global initiatives such as the Green Climate Fund and the Loss and Damage Fund.” While Meloni reaffirmed Italy’s support for renewable energy, she also called for a “technology-neutral” approach to decarbonization, stressing the importance of a pragmatic and balanced energy strategy. She pointed out that no single solution—whether renewables, gas, biofuels, or hydrogen—can meet the world’s growing energy demands alone. “We need a realistic global outlook,” she said, warning that an overly ideological approach could derail efforts to combat climate change.

With the global population expected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, and energy consumption projected to rise with the expansion of artificial intelligence and other technologies, Meloni argued that nuclear energy—including the promising future of nuclear fusion—could play a pivotal role in meeting energy needs sustainably. “Nuclear fusion could be a game changer,” Meloni stated. “It offers the possibility of producing clean, safe, and limitless energy, turning energy from a geopolitical weapon into a widely accessible resource.” She highlighted Italy’s leadership in nuclear fusion, noting that under its G7 presidency, Italy hosted the first meeting of

the World Fusion Energy Group sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. In addition to nuclear energy, Meloni emphasized the importance of new energy diplomacy to foster cooperation between the global north and south, pointing to Italy’s Maté Plan for Africa, which focuses on peer-to-peer cooperation and green energy infrastructure development. She also touched on Italy’s role in supporting vulnerable nations through initiatives

like the Adaptation Accelerator Hub, which assists countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Meloni concluded by underscoring the moral imperative of tackling climate change for future generations. “As a mother, nothing gives me more satisfaction than knowing that the policies I work on will ensure a better future for my daughter and her generation,” she said. “Act as if what you do makes a difference, for it does.”



French President Macron hosts Saudi business leaders to strengthen investments

Covert Report
Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron this week held an expanded discussion session on Saturday with a group of Saudi and French business leaders to develop

and expand mutual investments between the two countries. The meeting, held at the Élysée Palace in Paris, was attended by the visiting Saudi Minister of Investment, Eng. Khalid Al-

Falih. The session included the participation of 23 CEOs representing Saudi companies, with discussions focusing on strengthening Saudi-French collaboration in key



sectors such as technology, energy transition, and tourism. Al-Falih stated on his X account that he also participated in a workshop for the Global Green Neighborhood Initiative and held a meeting with CEOs from several major French companies to stimulate and develop joint investments. Additionally, Al-Falih met with the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot, who hosted a reception for senior executives from Saudi and French companies. On Friday, Al-Falih, alongside Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Minister of Culture Prince

Badr bin Abdullah, attended the second meeting of the Saudi-French Ministerial Committee for the Development of AIUla. The meeting reviewed the progress and achievements of the Royal Commission for AIUla, aiming to position this unique site as a destination for global investments in tourism and cultural heritage. The committee emphasized its commitment to elevating the Saudi-French partnership for AIUla to new heights. Members from both governments discussed ongoing and future major projects as part of their cooperation in developing AIUla.