



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, October 01, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

**Suspended Thai PM can resume office, court orders**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Ukraine brings urgent NATO joining bid**

Detailed News On Page-01



**Top seed Ruud stunned at Korea Open**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Govt fully believes in press freedom**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Friday said optimum steps for promotion of journalism in the country were being taken as current coalition government fully believed in the freedom of press. During a meeting with delegation of Murree Press Club, she said that restrictions were imposed on the media by previous government. She said it was "the darkest period for the media" as journalists voice was silenced and their life programs were halted by previous regime. In the meeting, importance of Murree from tourism perspective, Murree Press Club and other important issues, were discussed in the meeting. She said: "Murree is a well-known hill station of the country where millions of tourists come for sightseeing."

**Khaqan opposes video, audio leaks**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former prime minister and PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Friday that he was not in the favour of leaking people's videos or audios. In an interview with a private news channel in Karachi, he said there was nothing to cheer about as such incidents were a cause of concern. Commenting on the acquittal of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz in Avenfield reference by the Islamabad High Court (IHC), he said this was proof of the fact that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had filed thousands of 'fake' cases against politicians, and it was high time that the former NAB chairman be asked as to on whose orders, he had done so.

## Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.  
- Editor

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# PM thanks UAE for flood relief support

Talking to Ambassador, PM says Pakistan committed to further deepen ties with UAE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the importance Pakistan attached to its fraternal relations with the UAE and extended best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of the UAE. The Prime Minister highlighted the extensive devastation caused by the recent floods across Pakistan and the response of the Government to address the dire situation. In this regard, the Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the relief assistance provided by the UAE for the flood-stricken people and for establishing an air corridor to provide humanitarian assistance. The Prime Minister added that Pakistan was committed to further deepen its relations with the United Arab Emirates in all areas of common interest. Pakistan and the UAE enjoy close fraternal ties for five decades that are rooted firmly in common belief and shared values and culture. The UAE is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and a major source of investments. It may be mentioned here that the UAE happens to be the only country that had made an air bridge to airlift relief goods from UAE to various parts of Pakistan.

# PM seeks Japanese investment

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says Pakistan wants Japanese investment in solar energy, clean drinking water, wastewater and logistics sectors. He was talking to a delegation of Japanese companies in Pakistan led by Parliamentary Deputy Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Satomi Ryuji who called on him in Islamabad on Friday. The Prime Minister said Pakistan is rapidly moving towards harnessing renewable energy sources like solar, wind and hydel, as the huge foreign exchange spent on importing oil, gas and other expensive fuels is an unbearable burden on our economy. He said Pakistan is starting a project to generate 10,000 megawatts of electricity from solar energy on an emergency basis. For this purpose, the govt has not only prepared an effective investment plan, but a pre-bid conference of all stakeholders has also been organized.

# CJP should not give political advice: Baber

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: The central leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and former Law Minister Dr. Babar Awan has said that Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial should avoid giving political advice to political parties. In a special interview given to VOA's Ali Furqan in Islamabad, he said that 'political decisions are not made by courts but by political parties.' Babar Awan said, "At present, Imran Khan is leading Pakistan's biggest political struggle and his party has the right to take the decisions in this regard." He said this while replying a question regarding PTI's demand for investigations on cipher by Supreme Court, while the Chief

Justice had asked PTI to go back to the Parliament and play its role, Babar Awan said that he thanks Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial for this advice, but political decisions are not made by courts, but by political parties. It should be noted that Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial while addressing a conference last week said that Tehreek-e-Insaf should go to the Parliament and play its role by withdrawing their resignations. PTI central leader has also rejected the investigation conducted by the government on cipher and demanded that the matter should be investigated by the Supreme Court. He said that PTI would think of returning to the National Assembly

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey calls on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

## Petroleum prices reduced

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Government on Friday reduced petroleum prices for the next fortnight, in the first major announcement after Ishaq Dar's appointment as Foreign Minister. The newly appointed foreign minister, while addressing a press conference, announced that the price of petrol will be reduced by Rs 12.63, while the diesel prices have been reduced by Rs 12.13. Meanwhile, light diesel price gets reduced by Rs 10.78.

## Palestinian Flag Day celebrated

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the State of Palestine in Pakistan celebrated the Palestinian Flag Day, where the flag of the State of Palestine was raised in conjunction with the playing of the Palestinian national anthem. The State of Palestine began celebrating this day after President Mahmoud Abbas raised the flag of the State of Palestine at the UN on Sep 30, 2015, following the approval of the General Assembly on the 11th of the same month to raise the flag at the United Nations building and headquarters in New York. In his speech, Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, stressed that the flag of Palestine is baptized with the blood of thousands of martyrs and wounded and is a symbol of the Palestinian struggle for independence. In his speech, he valued Pakistan's historical position in support of Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, independence and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

# Another audio of Imran discussing cypher surfaces

A voice believed to be that of Imran can be heard talking with Qureshi

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Another audio tape involving PTI chief Imran Khan, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar discussing how to deal with cypher was leaked on Friday. In the purported leaked audio tape, Imran kept on calling the transcript of the meeting simply a letter, exhibiting his unfamiliarity with the diplomatic jargon. After the leak of Imran Khan's first cypher audio tape, another purported tape emerged on social media in which the former prime minister was talking to then foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, then planning minister Asad Umar and his then principal secretary Azam Khan directing them what they were required to do. In the audio tape, a voice believed to be that of Imran Khan can be heard talking with Qureshi. Imran Khan tells Qureshi: "Shah ji, we want to hold a meeting tomorrow. You, Asad Umar,

Big dacoits given NRO: Imran Khan

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Friday said that if the poor steals, he is sent to jail and if the powerful steals, he gets an NRO. Addressing students at Edward College on Friday, the PTI chairman said that the big dacoits have been given the NRO and their cases quashed through a deal. Imran Khan reacted to the acquittal of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Vice President Maryam Nawaz and her husband Muhammad Saffar in the Avenfield reference, stating that laws were changed that prevented their conviction in corruption and money laundering case.

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# Putin proclaims annexation of a swath of Ukraine

CENTRELINE REPORT

ZAPORIZHZHIA: President Vladimir Putin proclaimed Russia's annexation of a swath of Ukraine on Friday in a speech at the Kremlin but the event was overshadowed by one of Russia's worst battlefield defeats of the war, with one of its main garrisons surrounded. "People living in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson region and Zaporizhzhia region are becoming our compatriots forever," Putin told a crowd of officials in a ceremony in an ornate hall. "We will defend our land with all our strength and all our means," he said, calling on "the Kyiv regime to immediately cease hostilities and return to the negotiation table". Putin's proclamation of Russian rule over 15% of Ukraine - the biggest annexation in Europe since World War Two - has been firmly rejected by Western countries and even many of Russia's close allies. U.N. General Secretary Antonio Guterres called it an illegal violation of the U.N. charter. It comes as Russian forces have faced setbacks on the battlefield, with one of the worst so far looming even as Putin spoke. Pro-Russian officials acknowledged that Russian troops were on the verge of encirclement in Lyman, their main garrison in

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# Ukraine applies for urgent NATO membership

NEWS DESK

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced a surprise bid for fast-track membership of the NATO military alliance on Friday and ruled out talks with President Vladimir Putin, striking back at Moscow after it said it had annexed four Ukrainian regions. Zelenskyy signed the NATO application papers in an online video clearly intended as a forceful rebuttal to the Kremlin after Putin held a ceremony in Moscow to proclaim the four partially occupied regions as annexed Russian land. "We are taking our decisive step by signing Ukraine's application for accelerated

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## VP PAJCCI welcomes new Chief Commissioner

DNA

PESHAWAR: Vice President Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi has welcomed newly appointed Chief Commissioner RTO (Regional Tax Officer) Peshawar, Aqeel Ahmed Siddiqui over assuming his charge. According to a press statement issued here on Friday, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi called on Chief Commissioner RTO Peshawar and congratulated him over his appointment. Additional Commissioner, Bahadar Sher Afridi Headquarter was also present on the occasion. During discussion, Zia expressed the hope that Aqeel Ahmed Siddiqui will take measures for facilitation of business community. He also apprised him about working of Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah (Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz) in redressal of different problems faced by business community. It merits a mention here that Zia Sarhadi also hold position of Honorary Media Affairs Coordinator in Federal Tax Ombudsman. VP PAJCCI also held out assurance of extending full cooperation to RTO for smooth functioning of tax collection measures and in maintaining close liaison between tax officers and business community. Speaking on the occasion, Aqeel Ahmed Siddiqui thanked Zia Sarhadi for his welcome visit and assured him of full cooperation to businessmen of KP.

## Suicide bomber killed in blast: RPO

PESHAWAR: In an apparent suicide blast, the bomber himself was killed in fields near Chooria police station in Mardan district prior to Friday prayer. Regional Police Officer (RPO), Muhammad Ali Khan during his visit to the site of the blast near police station Chooria said no someone else but the suicide bomber was killed in the blast as his explosive-laden waist blew up before he could reach the target. He said police have found human body parts scattered in the fields. The RPO said further details regarding the blast were being collected adding that investigation on scientific lines would be carried out ascertain the identity of the suicide bomber, his motive and intended target. He said thankfully no other causality was reported in the blast.—APP



ISLAMABAD: PISLAMABAD: Amir Jamate Islami Sirajul Haq and others meeting with the Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong.—DNA

# Committee formed to probe cipher 'stolen' from PM House

The committee will recommend what legal action the government should take against Khan, the then principal secretary to prime minister Azam Khan, and former ministers

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Friday announced the formation of a committee to investigate the diplomatic cypher that it was told had been "stolen" from the records of the Prime Minister's House, a statement issued by the premier's office said. Former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, who was voted out through a no-confidence motion, had brandished a "threat letter", which was the cypher, on March 27 at a public gathering before his ouster, claiming that his government had been threatened by the US and the Opposition was involved in the conspiracy. The statement from the PM office, issued after the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said that the body was provided with a briefing on the issue of diplomatic cypher where it was revealed that

the copy of the relevant document was missing from the Prime Minister House's records. "The meeting was told that although there is a record of the receipt of the cypher sent to the former premier at the Prime Minister's House, its copy is not available in the record," said the statement. As per the law, the cable is a property of the Prime Minister's House, it added. The statement said that the meeting termed the "theft" of the letter a serious matter and, following a detailed consultation, the cabinet formed a special committee to launch an investigation. The committee will recommend what legal action the government should take against Khan, the then principal secretary to prime minister Azam Khan, and former ministers. The committee will include foreign, interior, laws ministers and representatives of all the coalition partners of the government.

## PESCO notifies power suspension

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Friday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Jamrud Grid Station on 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th October from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It said due to the maintenance work consumers of 11 KV industrial Estate, Frontier Tech Wood, PPI 1.2, PCB, Al Hadeed Steel feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Fort Grid Station on 2nd October from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. resultantly consumers of 132 KV Peshawar Fort grid connected 11 KV feeders will face inconvenience. Power Supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Hayatabad Grid Station on 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th October from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Green

Wood feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 132 KV Hayatabad Grid Station on 1st, 5th, 11th, 18th, 24th and 29th October from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Hayatabad 9,10,13 feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 132 KV Hayatabad Grid Station on 3rd, 15th, 21st and 27th October from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Khyber 1.2, IM Sciences feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Industrial Grid Station on 3rd October from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Nothia Payan, Nothia, Sunehri Masjid, Shaheed Abad, PAF and Ameen Colony feeders will face inconvenience.—APP

# Waqar Bakhtawri takes oath as Chakwal Chamber



DNA

CHAKWAL: Known Businessman and Industrialist Waqar Zafar Bakhtawri has taken oath as President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) for the year 2022-23. The newly elected President of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while addressing his Oath-taking ceremony said that as the President of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce, he will fulfill his vision to make Chakwal Chamber of Commerce one of the most advanced industrial hubs in the world. He said that commercial and economic development is not possible without being connected to the modern global supply chain, therefore, according to his vision, he will make the business community

of Chakwal a major players in the global market by connecting the business community of Chakwal to the global supply chain, keeping in view the modern industrial and commercial principles. Meanwhile high commissioners and ambassadors including Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Mr. Mohamed Karroune, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Dean of Africa, Mr. Abioye Mohammed Bello, the high commissioner of NIGERIA, Mr. Yezhan Kistafin the ambassador of Kazakhstan, Mr. Jemal Bekker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia, Mr. Tapas Adhikari Ambassador of Nepal, Ms Mary Nyambura Kamal high commissioner of Kenya, Muhammad Zeeshan Hanif, Deputy Commissioner

Chakwal and Business leaders from Federation Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and all major chamber participated in the Oath-taking ceremony of President CCCI here. On the occasion President CCCI said Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry is playing an important role in the development of trade and industrial activities in the region, besides promoting exports. In this modern world better institutions, trade and investment are the key ingredients for any nation to become prosperous, he said. Waqar Zafar said the promotion of business, trade and investment in the country will ultimately ensure political and economic stability. He said that it is vital for Pakistan to maintain and en-

hance cordial relations with the international world. The purpose of today's gathering is in this regard to make better cooperation between our business community members and the diplomatic community, he said. President CCCI said that currently, Pakistan is having an economic crisis however, we all know that businesses are facing unprecedented challenges and there is a dire need to enhance our relations with various countries. He said that many areas that need to be addressed through development activities designed to ensure a prosperous economy. The business and industrial sectors are the backbone of the country's economy. He said that the country grows when the industry

grows, consequently, the government should take every step possible to promote business and industry by setting up new industrial estates and economic zones in Chakwal for the promotion of exports and industrialization. Waqar Zafar said the creation of new industrial estates and economic zones Overseas Businessmen will get more businesses investment, more job opportunities will be created in Chakwal. He said that Chakwal has immense potential for tourism as it has Katas Raj Temples, Kalar Kahar and Number of beautiful lakes and small dams. There are unlimited tourism opportunities which need to be developed. The Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry will cooperate with other chambers.

# Strategic business plan prepared to revamp PIA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday informed Senate that a strategic business plan has been prepared to enhance revenues of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). Responding to the questions of Senators during question hour in Upper House of Parliament, he stressed political stability and continuity in policies to achieve the long-term goals. He said reform process was continuing in PIA and change would be visible within a next few months. He said the uncomfortable

seats of various aircrafts were being replaced to facilitate passengers. Route rationalization exercise has been conducted under which profitable routes were being added. Since May, 2022 the induction of 04 A-320 narrow body aircraft along with A-320 flight simulator was underway. These new aircrafts would add to the revenue generation on new/ profitable routes. Similarly, in-country availability of simulator would substantially reduce the cost incurred on training of the pilots from

abroad. On August 1, 2022, one 777 aircraft grounded for nearly eight months has been made operational. Similarly, work on one A-320 and 777 aircraft was underway for recovery during one month. He said the irresponsible statement of former Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan about pilots has inflicted Rs 35 billion to Rs 40 billion losses to national flag carrier. He said efforts were underway to resume our flights to the United Kingdom and European countries to generate rea-

sonable revenue to the PIA. The minister said the government was also considering to outsource airports, especially Islamabad International Airport, to operate them as per the international standard. The Minister for Aviation said there were a total of 41 airports, out of which 11 airports were non functional and 30 airports were functional right now. The airports of Sukkur and Dera Ismael Khan would be given status of international airports in view of their potential. He said there was also a proposal to introduce

small modern jets to cater to domestic flights. Highlighting the efforts being underway to reduce losses of PIA to turn it into a profitable organization. As a result of ban on the European Union Air Safety Agency (EASA) coupled with the negative impacts of Covid-19 on the global aviation industry was the reasons of losses. As per Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS), some 1,816 employees were reduced to the actual figure of 10,926 due to which the recurring expense has been significantly reduced.—APP

## BISP works hard to provide relief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme is working hard in the field to distribute financial assistance of Rs.25000 per family to the flood affected families across the country. Federal Government has taken timely measure in the shape of Flood Relief Cash Assistance for provision of financial aid to the affectees whereas the Special Payments Campsites established in the flood hit areas are also playing important role to ensure smooth and transparent disbursement of cash to the families.

So far a total of Rs. 57,911,325,000 has been disbursed among 2,316,453 flood affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan. In Balochistan 172,910 flood affected families have received Rs. 4,322,750,000. 1,613,673 affected families of Sindh have received Rs.40,341,825,000. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 257,496 families have received Rs.6,437,400,000 whereas 271,994 families of Punjab have received Rs.6,799,850,000. In Gilgit-Baltistan 380 flood affected families have also received Rs. 9,500,000. Today a total of 72,155 flood affected families have received financial assistance from different campsites established in flood hit areas. A control room has been established at Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters to ensure smooth payments.

## CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (ROADS DIVISION NO-V)

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender are hereby invited on percentage basis from the approved contractors of Civil Work and having valid Pakistan Engineer Council (PEC) License 2022-23 for the work:-

S.#	Name of Work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Date & Time of Opening
1	Improvement/Rehabilitation of MRs and VRs Roads in Sectors H-9, I-9 & I-10, Islamabad.	Rs. 99,838(M)	Rs.2,995,140/-	Rs.5,000/-	21-10-2022 (Box closed at 11:30 AM & opened on 12:00 Noon)

Detailed terms & Conditions can be seen from CDA Website [www.cda.gov.pk](http://www.cda.gov.pk) and PPRR [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)

- Application for issuance of tender documents on dated 14.10.2022 upto 4:00 PM must be accompanied with valid copies of PEC License obtaining Tender Category C-4 and above for the year 2022-23, NTN Certificate, CNIC, Registration of Firm / Partnership Deed / Sole Proprietorship / Power of Attorney / Authority Letter from the contractor in favor of their representative. No tender will be issued without showing all required document in "ORIGINAL" (All documents will be verified from concerned department, The Firms providing unsubstantiated and or incorrect information are liable to legal action and or disqualification at any stage).
- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Deputy Director Road - V, CDA located at Old Naval Headquarter Room No.43, Sector G-6, Melody, Islamabad on cash payment as mentioned above per set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on dated 20.10.2022 up to 04:00 P.M against written request which should be on letter head pad having name, address, phone No's and signature of the contractor. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.
- The prospective bidders are required to submit Bid Security (Deposit at Call) above mentioned works in favor of Deputy Director Road-V, CDA, issued from any scheduled bank against firm's account. Name of Firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at Call). Tender documents shall not be issued without Earnest Money.
- The bit security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank Account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the Contract with the successful bidder.
- The bidders should have a good experience of Asphalt & Pavement works, must have executed at least three works of similar nature in last two (02) financial years costing not less than Rs.100.00(M) and should have their own Asphalt Plant, equipment and machinery required for the work. Applications without such experience and ownership of Asphalt Plant/Machinery will not be entertained.
- Certificate is required on judicial stamp paper worth of Rs.50/ their firm are not involved any litigations and nonrelation ship.
- Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Roads (South), CDA located at Room No.59, Ground Floor (Old Naval H/Orts) Islamabad.
- Tender rates on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any / all tenders as per PPRR Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained.

Deputy Director  
Roads Division No-V,  
CDA, Islamabad

PID (I) No. 2107/22



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya  
Revolution Day

Sept 01 / Tanzania  
Defence day

Sept 01 / Uzbekistan  
Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil  
Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea  
National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan  
Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia  
Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico  
National Day

Sept 16/Papua New Guinea  
Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile  
National Day

Sept 21 / Malta  
Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia  
National Day



### Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051-2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance..1122  
& Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police.....9266044  
Motorway Police..9270601-20  
Women Police Stations  
Islamabad.....9222596  
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Railway Exchange 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489  
CAA.....9281092



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MH.....5611116  
Cantt Hospital..9270907-11  
DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-79  
Polyclinic.....9218300-09  
Shifa International.4603666



### Departments

CDA.....9221334-43  
CDA.....9208301-04  
Met Office.....9250360-6  
RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224  
Potohar Town.....9209224  
Rawal Town.....5773343

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# South Africa keen to expand ties with Pakistan: envoy

## The High commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan H.E Mthuthuzeli Madikiza visits IPC secretariat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The High commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan H.E Mthuthuzeli Madikiza paid an official visit to the International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) Secretariat Islamabad and met the Secretary General IPC - Senator Sitara Ayaz, and Assistant Secretary General IPC - Mr. Ijlal Ali Khan. During the meeting, several areas of multilateral interests, such as economic, business engagement, and trade and development were discussed in detail. H.E Mthuthuzeli Madikiza was affirmative to strengthen the ties and emphasis enhancing the bilateral relations between Pakistan and South Africa.



# 'Pakistan must consider engagement with Iran'

Ambassador Masood says that while Iran had paid a hefty price for its various foreign policy adventurisms western policies had not exactly succeeded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Despite heightening political factionalism, Iran was presently looking for meaningful partnerships in the region and it was imperative for Pakistan to make the most of this opportunity, said former Ambassador Riffat Masood. She was addressing an in-house discussion

titled "Understanding the Political Factions in Iran" at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). She said that while Iran had been confronting some serious political challenges, worsening economic conditions, especially rampant inflation lied at the heart of the currently unfolding political crisis. Amidst the looming uncertainties was a huge youth bulge in Iran which was es-

entially a generation that had grown up under the Revolution. Ambassador Masood further added that while Iran had paid a hefty price for its various foreign policy adventurisms, in the form of sanctions in the past 40 years, western policies had not exactly succeeded in breaking Iran's resilience as a country that continues to remain a challenge for the US.

# Rumi's poetry elevates man's fear of death

RAWALPINDI: Cultural Councilor of the Embassy Islamic Republic of Iran, Ehsan Khazaei on Friday paid tribute to the great mystic Persian poet Maulana Jalal-al-Din Muhammad Rumi on his 815th birthday and said his poetry elevated man's fear of death while calling human demise as a new beginning of his life. Addressing special ceremony held at the Cultural Consulate of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to eulogise the great Persian poet here which was participated by students, media and academia, he said the verses and knowledge of Maulana freed man from the fear of death as he preached through his poetry that death was the start of man's life and not the end. So one should not fear death rather wait for it as a new beginning of his life.

Maulana Jalal-al-Din Muhammad Rumi was born on September 30, 1207 in Balkh (present day Afghanistan) which was part of the ancient Persian empire at that time. Ahsan Khazaei thanked the participants for attending the class of Masnavi, the famous poem of Maulana being composed in Konya, and said it was an opportunity of increasing ones knowledge about the teachings of Maulana while attending this platform.—APP

# MSF extends relief to flood affected areas

ISLAMABAD: The international humanitarian organisation 'Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF or Doctors Without Borders) teams were responding to urgent humanitarian needs in the flood impacted provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Pakistan was facing the aftermath of the most destructive floods in the country in the last three decades. MSF Emergency Medical Coordinator, Dr Ahmed Bilal said, "Our emergency teams, including some staff who lost their own homes to the devastating floods, have set up mobile clinics.—APP

# Air pollutants below permissible limits in Capital

ISLAMABAD: The air quality of the federal capital on Friday was clean as air pollutants ratio recorded were below permissible limits and the air quality was recorded healthy due to reduced vehicular traffic on roads.

The air quality data has been collected by Pak-EPA which monitors air pollutants ratio for 24 hours based on three intervals of eight hours of data collection from different locations. The Pak-EPA data revealed that the air quality throughout the three intervals of data monitoring remained high as the pollutants were below the permissible limits of national environmental quality standards (NEQS). The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a lethal atmospheric contaminant, remained 28 micro grammes per cubic meter on average which is lower than the NEQS of 35 micro-grammes per cubic meter and denotes the air quality unhealthy.

The PM2.5 is generated through combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material and dust blown up by fast moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads. Moreover, the frequent forest fires in the federal capital also created high suspended particles, dust and particulate matter in the atmosphere.

The nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and sulphur dioxide (SO2) were recorded below permissible ratio as it was recorded 4 and 16.3 micro-grammes per cubic meter in past 24 hours in the atmosphere against the NEQS of 80 and 120 micro-grammes per cubic meter respectively.—APP



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani presenting bouquets to the Thai artists who performed during the fundraising event.—DNA

# Kashmir issue is essentially a 75-year old liberation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Kashmir issue is primarily a legitimate war of liberation being fought by the people of Kashmir with the support of Pakistan, a fundamental party to the conflict, for the last 75 years. It is not just a case of human rights violation, and must be highlighted as such to validate the applicability of international laws of war and Indian occupation's actions as war crimes. For this, a common narrative and unified direction is crucial, along with the implementation of robust strategies. These views were reflected during the 20th meeting of the IPS-

WGW, a body of experts and opinion leaders on Kashmir affairs that meets regularly after the illegal revocation of the special constitutional status of JIOJK by the BJP-led Delhi regime on August 5, 2019.

The session, titled 'Assault on Kashmiri Identity and its Likely Implications', held to discuss the Indian moves to disempower Kashmiri Muslims and their consequences, was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and joined, among others, by Ghulam Muhammad Safi, veteran Kashmiri resistance leader; Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Dr Idrees Abbasi, former secretary

law, Azad Jammu & Kashmir; Advocate Nasir Qadri, director, Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK); and Raja Sajjad Khan, director, KPRI. The experts discussed how the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been pushed towards disempowerment, which is not just limited to the political sphere. India is attempting to systematically disempower and marginalize the Muslim majority, its culture, and its political representation. India has also targeted Urdu and Kashmiri languages, literature, and even Kashmiri cuisine, in addition to curtailing the number of Muslims in bureaucracy and electoral constituencies.

# PBF says 205,000 tons of wheat seeds required

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Business Forum said over 205,000 tons of wheat seeds would be required to tackle with the needs of the farmers of flood affected areas in the country for sowing. In this regard special arrangements must be made of Rabi crops, particularly cultivation of wheat in flood hit areas in the country as wheat was the major cash crop and vital source to fulfill the dietary needs of local population. The floods have damaged more than 8 mil-

lion acres of crops including rice, cotton, pulses, oil seeds and vegetables, and inflicted losses of over Rs320 billion. Talking to press, PBF Vice President JahanAra Wattoo said despite agriculture sector devolved to provinces in 18th amendment still major relief areas of the agriculture sector still with the federal government. She demanded to reduce the power tariff, regretting that the government had raised the electricity to Rs36 per unit. Government may provide them electricity at the discounted rate of Rs5.35 per unit which farmers got earlier.

# Air pollutants below permissible limits

ISLAMABAD: The air quality of the federal capital on Friday was clean as air pollutants ratio recorded were below permissible limits and the air quality was recorded healthy due to reduced vehicular traffic on roads. The air quality data has been collected by Pak-EPA which monitors air pollutants ratio for 24 hours based on three intervals of eight hours of data collection from different locations. The Pak-EPA data revealed that the air quality throughout the three intervals of data monitoring remained high.—APP

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## Briefs

## Chambers and trade associations violating laws

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business leader and former executive member of FPCCI Zafar Iqbal Butt has filed a petition in the Director General Trade Organization (DGTO) Office Islamabad, stating that all the chambers, small chambers and unclassified chambers are violating rules and regulations for personal gains. None of the chambers and trade associations has uploaded the Articles of Association on their website or issued the schedule of executive members' meetings and minutes of meetings are also kept secret from members, he said.

Zafar Iqbal Butt said that qabza groups maintain their hold over chambers and trade organizations by changing the minutes of meetings just before the annual elections. Under the Right to Information Act 2017, the applicant has asked the DGTO to provide him with details of show-cause notices, fines collected from chambers and trade organizations, and the reasons behind the withdrawal of notices immediately after issuing the notices.

## Pak possess surplus wheat stocks

ISLAMABAD: The country possessed surplus wheat stocks as there was 7.1 million tonnes of wheat available as compared to the last year during the month of September which was 6.1 million tonnes amid one million additional procurement being done by the government. An official of the federal government told APP that the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC) was carrying out one window operation for the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims.

The federal and provincial departments, Pakistan Army, UN agencies and NGOs were working collectively and making efforts to reach out masses through better coordination, he added.

The food supplies across the country were being ensured in general and in flood-hit areas in particular, he said. The official rejected any shortage of wheat and said there was no chance of it.

The wheat stock losses in PASCO and Sindh and Balochistan governments' silos were also checked in flood-hit areas—APP

## Motorway police conduct road safety seminar

SSP Headquarters NHMP Syed Farukh Raza also emphasized importance of road safety. Zamurad Khan patron in chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes appreciated the cause and effort of NHMP officers for giving road sense to Angels and fairies of Pakistan sweet home Islamabad.

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Highways and motorway police Islamabad conducted Road safety seminar at Pakistan sweet home Islamabad. Incharge Road safety wing Atif Ghafoor Bhatti briefed children of sweet home about safety tips as road Users. SSP Headquarters NHMP Syed Farukh Raza also emphasized importance of road safety. Zamurad Khan patron in chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes appreciated the cause and effort of NHMP officers for giving road sense to Angels and fairies of Pakistan sweet home Islamabad.



## Skilled, employable youth only way out to meet future challenges: Dr Shahid

MURREE: Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Dr Shahid Munir on Friday emphasised that skilled and employable youth was the only way out for the country to overcome its future challenges as it was the world's fifth most populous country with more than 60% of its population under 30. These words were expressed by the HEC chairman in the conference titled "Paradigm Shift in Higher Education-Hackathon planning for future" jointly organised by Kohsar University Murree and University of Education Lahore in collaboration with Punjab Higher Education Commission. Addressing the second day of conference, Vice Chancellor of the university said that universities needed to offer quality education relevant to market needs. He insisted that the universities should focus on

skill development among youth, promote technology-integrated education, ensure development and use of artificial intelligence and robotics, cultivate entrepreneurial minds, strengthen international collaborations, personalise education, teach data science, and encourage border-free and globalized education for students.

He said economies were rapidly changing due to technological advances that necessitated new competencies for an intangible knowledge economy. He suggested universities must monitor eleven mega trends over the next half century to shape a better world for future generations. Dr Munir said material revolution, water scarcity, food security, a borderless digital world, living with autonomous robots, reconfiguring human purpose and potential, advances in health and

nutrition, new energy production solutions, automatic electric vehicles, climate change, green technology, and defence technologies were among these trends. Speaking on the occasion, conference host Prof Dr Syed Habib Bokhari said every year, million of people in Pakistan get displaced or affected due to increasing and intensified natural disasters in the form of floods, droughts, forest fires extreme weather events. Dr Bokhari said Pakistan has diverse ecological areas due to its extreme variations in altitude and latitude and these ecological regions can be well exploited for Food Security, harvesting energy through environment friendly means, conservation, and optimal use of water resources. He said in a nutshell, without a strong research base and prior preparedness, the rapid.—APP

## IRSA releases 133,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Friday released 133,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 124,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum conversation level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 65,700 cusecs and 64,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jehlum at Mangla Dam was 1189.70 feet, which was 139.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 14,100 cusecs and 24,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 82,500, 62,000 and 33,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 18,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

## 36 Pak students avail Chinese Scholarships

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: At least 36 Pakistani students are all set to leave for China to avail Chinese Government Scholarship (CGS) program 2022. Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. In this regard, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) hosted a pre-departure ceremony in Islamabad, and the students were briefed on China, its culture and the institutions where they will start their studies in bachelor's and master's degrees. Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong congratulated the students on availing of the prestigious scholarships and presented them with souvenirs during the ceremony. According to HEC, so far, 193 Pakistani students have been awarded scholarships under the Chinese Govt Scholarship

Programme, including 40 in 2019, 58 in 2020, 59 in 2021, and 36 this year. There are 274 Chinese universities offering scholarships under CGS for international students every year. Prior to the ceremony, Mr. Rong called on Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed wherein the latter briefed the Ambassador on the long history of academic collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese higher education institutions. Mr. Ahmed highlighted that Pakistan and China have constituted clusters of universities jointly working on various disciplines. Chairman HEC proposed the initiation of a one-window operation by launching a joint web portal as a focal point for all the Chinese scholarship opportunities available for Pakistani students, according to an official statement.

## Flood situation reviewed at a high level meeting

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Morning session of NFRCC held under Deputy chairman NFRCC Mr Ahsan Iqbal. The Forum discussed over all food and medical resources in flood affected areas and current water situation particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. NFRCC asked federating units to ensure availability of health care staff in flood affected areas and may increase staff in most affected areas from those locations which are less affected. Mr Ahsan Iqbal directed NHA to ensure maintenance of N-5 so as to keep supply routes open.

Mr Ahsan Iqbal also asked Sindh and Balochistan to present road map to deal with areas still under water. The forum was told that there is lot of requirement of food and other items in most affected districts particularly women and children are in dire need of special food items including milk and cereals for children and supplement diets for women. As the winter are setting in, a large population need shelters and tentage. The forum was told that the scale and devastation caused and the population affected need huge quantity of supplies.

The forum urged that apart from Govt resources, People of Pakistan and humanitarian welfare organisations must be assisted so they could easily reach to relief camps and donate for their brothers and sisters in distress

## PALSP Elects Office Bearers for 2022-23

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers announced election results and Mr. Saqib Riaz Tata of Naveena Steels has been elected as the new Chairman of the Association for the year of 2022-23. Mr. Faizan Bhagani of Faizan Steel was elected as Senior Vice Chairman and Usman Ali of Kamran Steels and Hasan Farid of Pak Steel were elected as Vice Chairmen of PALSP for 2022-23. The election results were announced after the Annual General Meeting of the Association and the tenure of the new team begins from 1st October 22.

The new Executive Committee for the year 2022-23 consists of 10 members which includes Mr. Khurram Javed - Mughal Steels, Mr. Saqib Riaz Tata - Naveena Steels, Mr. Faizan Bhagani - Faizan Steel, Mr. Usman Ali - Kamran Steels, Mr. Hussain Agha - Agha Steel Industries Ltd, Mr. Shabaan Khalid - Ittehad Steels, Mr. Munawar Aftab Aziz - Aziz Industries, Mr. Rafat Farid, Pak Iron, Mr. Irshad Mowjee - Razaque Steels (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Javed Iqbal - Karachi Steels (ex-officio member of the Executive Committee).

## Dr Farman Ullha Wazir appointed as Pro VC of SZABMU

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) Islamabad has appointed Prof Dr Farman Ullha (Professor of Physiology) as Pro Vice Chancellor of SZABMU. According to a notification issued here Friday, Vice Chancellor SZABMU Prof. Dr Tanveer Khaliq in the 24th meeting of the syndicate has granted approval for the charge of Pro Vice Chancellor of SZABMU to Prof Dr Farman Ullha Wazir. Prof Dr Farman Ullha Wazir has joined SZABMU in Sept. 2015 as Professor of Physiology and remained dean of medical sciences of the university. Before joining SZABMU, Dr Farman Ullha Wazir has served in different medical colleges of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa including Ayub Medical College Khyber Medical College, Gomal Medical College and Kohat Medical College on various positions for 26 years. Dr Farman Ullha Wazir did his PhD and postdoctorate in Physiology from Tongji Medical University China after graduation from Ayub Medical College Abbottabad.—APP

## Should drugs be decriminalized?

## NAWAL HASSAN LANGRIAL

For many years people have misused drugs in order to escape from problems in their lives. These drugs have formed a huge part in their lives resulting in serious health problems as they are not administered by a health professional. Therefore, many countries including Czech Republic, Portugal and Germany have decriminalized certain drugs which are believed to cause harm to the human body like marijuana, cocaine and more (city wide drug crises campaign, 2020). Moreover, with the legalization of marijuana in a few states, Colorado and Washington State being the first (David Kroman, 2020), the decriminalization of drugs has become a hot topic.

One of the arguments for decriminalization is that it would eliminate the illegal black market and criminal networks associated with the drug trade. Other arguments include moving the problem away from police and the criminal justice system and focusing on its advantages regarding health. Treating drugs illegal or as a criminal offense and giving criminal punishment for drug ownership is called decriminalization this indicates that individuals who possess decriminalized drugs get arrested and face criminal charges. (UNODC, 2015) There are many reasons as to why people get addicted to drugs. Most of the drug addicts come from homes where they get neglected in their childhoods. These people take drugs in order to suppress their sadness and

depression and feel good. A lot of other people especially children think that drinking is fashionable and "cool". This action further develops itself into addiction to alcohol leading to binge drinking, individuals who frequently binge drink and don't stop for a long period of time can result in develop different lethal health problems.

Firstly, I will discuss the first perspective that "drugs should be decriminalized". According to an article written by Adeline Dixon it was reported that in 2016 a 22-year-old woman was charged with manslaughter for killing a man and one of his twin daughters in a car crash while high on legally-purchased marijuana. (Adeline Dixon, 2016) In most states of the US the black-market and illegal selling of drugs is still taking place.

However, just because of placing criminal charges on some drugs has reportedly decreased and also eliminated the illegal use of drugs to some extent. Drugs and crime are strongly related. In 1991 the conducted BJS State Correctional Facilities conducted a survey asking prison inmates if they were on drugs while committing the crime and about 37% of the offenders were reported to have been influenced by a drug (13 U.S department of justice, 1994), therefore, the decriminalization leads to a decrease in drug-related gang violence. It is reported to eliminate gangs committing violence too. Another reason as to why drugs should be decriminalized is the overuse of drugs in Pakistan. Approximately six per cent of the population, or 6.7 million people had substance including misuse of prescription drugs,

in the last year. Also, this is slowly getting out of hand as an estimated 860,000 or 0.8 per cent of the population in Pakistan are regular heroin users and 320,000 (0.3 per cent) are opium users. Combined, 1.06 million people (1.0 per cent of the population aged 15-64 years) are using opiates. (UNODC, 2013) This case study was collected and presented by dedicated teams of field workers across the country who interviewed approximately 57,000 people. Moreover, this report was a result of a collaborative research effort between the Government of Pakistan's Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime therefore increasing the reliability of the statistics given. Not decriminalizing drugs or putting an end to illegal selling of drugs can destroy the community and also the young generation this also affects their relationship with their parents and also ruins their social lives. According to a survey conducted by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) about 19% of underage children from 12-20 years have been drinking alcohol and another 11% was binge drinking (SAMSHA, 2019). In addition, if drugs are easily available, people who have a biological inclination towards drugs will result in them experimenting with drugs without the fear of getting prosecuted or arrested for its ownership.

Decriminalizing drugs has paid off in the Netherlands. Banning illegal selling of heroin and other hard drugs has allowed addicts to be treated as patients. Resulting in very few heroin addicts getting registered in rehabilitation centers, while existing users are supported and have been helped to get jobs (OECD, 2006). According to an article called 'What would it look like if Canada decriminalized all the drugs?' The decriminalization of drugs in Portugal has bought down the number of people who misused drugs and prevented so many other people from getting blood Borne infections such as HIV which is common in heroin users who use same needles for injecting the drug. In 2001, 80 people died in Portugal from what the doctor determined it to be a drug-related death. By 2012, that number eventually was down to 16. (Tristin Hopper, 2018) Now I shall talk about why drugs shouldn't be decriminalized. Despite all the advantages, one of the biggest problem a government approaches while making such changes is expense. It is reported that in 2005 Australia spent an estimate of \$432-\$707 million per year on drug law enforcement (Don weathereburn, 2014). all this money could be used in education and hospitals.

Furthermore, Decriminalization of different types of drugs can result in many problems faced in healthcare and hospitals as drugs are extremely common in different treatments and are an important factor. A new survey of research by Lars Osterberg, M.D., a professional teacher at Stanford College discovered that getting a flu shot or vaccination decreases the risk of developing a heart disease or stroke by 48%. Also, a drug called statin can be used to treat people with fatal diseases which could eventually take their life for example heart issues and different types of cancer. By using this drug, the chance of losing their lives by cancer

reduced by 15% compared to those who weren't taking statins, agreeing to a 2012 Danish study published in the New England diary of medication. Quite basically, statins are known to reduce the amount of cholesterol within the body, if all drugs are stopped from being sold people would not have access to these drugs and a lot of lives would be lost. A lot of drugs that are considered illegal and harmful have a lot of advantages and can help save lives including cocaine, which is considered extremely bad for health if one gets addicted.

Cocaine is also used as treatment for irritable bowel disease and other intestinal dysfunctions. Metformin is another drug which is commonly used for treatments. Metformin makes a difference by expanding insulin sensitivity and decreases the liver's generation of glucose, subsequently bringing down blood sugar levels. A 2012 survey of seven studies published in the journal Breast Cancer Research and Treatment showed that metformin is also connected to lowering the chance of having breast cancer by 17%. Ladies taking metformin for at least three years had a 25 percent lower hazard of developing the cancer just because of their improved insulin reactions within the body. Metformin also results in weight loss, so weight management seems to play a part, as well. (Jessica Girdwain, 2013) Lars Osterberg is a professor of medicine in the Stanford school and is also a co-director of Stanford Medicine Teaching and Mentoring Academy which proves the credibility of the information. (Stanford profiles n.d.) One of the

Most popular illegal drugs, in any case, is cocaine. Cocaine is reported to reduce headaches; it was initially used as an ingredient within the refreshment Coca-Cola, before it was made illicit. Another drug, Heroine which is considered illicit is commonly utilized in hospitals, especially in palliative care. Moreover, a drug called Ketamine Also known as 'Special K', this sedative is commonly utilized as a horse tranquilizer. It's also a frequent option for sedate takers at music celebrations and raves. But a 2012 study found ketamine works well with side effects of chronic sadness or depression. Cannabis or marijuana has long been known to supply torment help for persistent illnesses. With that Cannabis also offers relief from PTSD side effects, controls sickness, and can minimize a few indications of glaucoma and Crohn's infection (Shami Sivasubramanian, 2016). Shami Sivasubramanian has worked for Australia's top broadcasters SBS and ABC, viral news outlet Buzz Feed, and across Australia's official marketing campaigns making this a reliable source. (Linkedin, n.d.) In addition, it is reported that about 1.5 million people in the United States in 2013 were arrested for just a small quantity of drugs (U.S. Department of Justice, 2014), therefore, making drugs legal results in decreasing the costs spent on prisons as the population in the prison decreases. Making drugs legal would eliminate drugs as a type of crime unclogging court system to be much more efficient, because there aren't enough judges to deal with these crimes on a daily basis. Acknowledging these facts

and statistics I find it rather difficult to seal my personal opinion regarding the topic. Before researching about this topic, I did not realize how much advantages drugs, which have been considered dangerous like cocaine have. Now that I have looked at both perspectives of the argument as to if drugs should or should not be decriminalized or made illegal. To sum up everything that has been stated so far, I think that drugs should be decriminalized to some extent as placing restrictions would help a lot. The particular reason for this circumstance is that drugs can have a huge impact on an addict, the addiction can cause a lot of lives to be destroyed including their families. This also leads to a lot of problems including addiction and gang violence threatening many lives, now upon in depth research I found out many advantaged where eliminating these drugs to some extent would give a positive impact and save lives of many people who can't seem to leave their addiction behind.

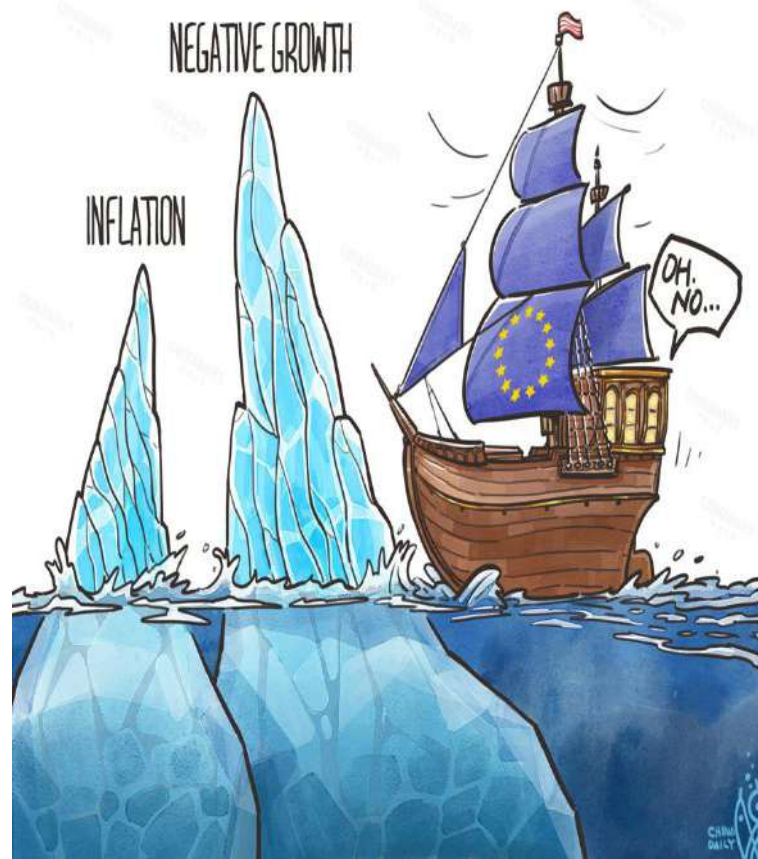
Furthermore, these people can then go to rehabilitation centers to be treated this would result in improvement of the quality of their lives and the people around them. With this it affect the government can spread awareness and education throughout schools with young children in order to save the future generations from drug abuse and also make them realise that drugs are not always the solution to their sadness or depression. This will hopefully decrease the amounts of deaths and problems caused by drug influence.



## Nord Stream leaks

A total of three leaks have been detected on Russia's Nord Stream pipelines, which transport natural gas to Europe, on the same day, and were accompanied by "powerful underwater explosions," thus widely considered to be a "deliberate act." One obvious result is that Europe's hope of receiving Russian gas through the Nord Stream pipelines this winter has completely vanished into thin air. The already complicated and intertwined knot between Russia and the West has also been made more difficult by this "accident."

Analysts generally believe that this is a special manifestation of the destructive spillover effect of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Who did it? No one claimed responsibility. There have been various speculations on international social media, but all have no credible evidence, which, however, has further escalated tensions among all parties concerned and increased mutual strategic suspicion among major powers, causing more problems under the secondary disaster. In any case, the attack on major transnational infrastructure for civilian use is very odious in nature. It has also created a dangerous precedent since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Such a trend cannot be indulged. Both the European Union and Russia have demanded that relevant agencies conduct a comprehensive investigation and publicize the findings. Since the incident occurred within the exclusive economic zones of Denmark and Sweden, at the moment, Germany, Denmark and Sweden are investigating on the cause of the accident. However, as this incident involves many countries, it is necessary to ask relevant international bodies to set up a joint investigation team so as to restore the truth, find out the perpetrators and make them punished accordingly as soon as possible. The incident should be prevented from becoming a Rashomon-style one. If Russia and European countries can cooperate in accident investigation, even if such cooperation is extremely limited, it will be a green olive branch in the black storm, which will help ease the confrontation and avoid the spiral of contradictions. It also needs to be pointed out that, from the Bucha incident to the North Stream incident, war and chaos are the main culprit behind all these tragedies. It is hoped that the sound of the explosion on the North Stream pipelines can awaken more people to join in the pursuit of peace, so as to turn the North Stream incident into an opportunity to stop the war and promote peace, rather than a fuse that worsens the situation.



## Europe 'turning right'

About that Europeans have been worrying about for a long time has fallen on Italy's ground, and the real challenge may just have begun. Brothers of Italy leader Giorgia Meloni claimed victory in the general election held on Sunday that has a high probability to install her as Italy's first female prime minister. What has attracted more public attention is Meloni's far-right tendency. Some European and US media outlets even dubbed her the "female Mussolini," a label enough to make some Europeans chilling. But labels are one-sided and can't explain complex political realities. We should, and in fact can only, respect the choice made by the Italians today, and on this premise, manage relations with the new Italian government.

Many people have compared this election with the Brexit vote, both of which have had a huge impact on European integration. As the Washington Post said, "Another taboo in Europe is about to be broken." For the European establishment elites, the more serious question is: will this be the first domino in the collapse of traditional European politics? But after all, this is an internal affair in Italy and Europe. No matter how strong a shock it would cause in the Western world, the shock will continue to weaken with the distance from the epicenter increasing. The outsiders don't have to have a strong empathy.

Meloni, 45, deliberately downplayed her far-right tendency using a relatively conciliatory tone in her victory speech. She also vowed to "govern for everyone." This is a common practice for winners in Western election politics and their policy choices after taking office are often inconsistent with campaign slogans. However, radical positions such as "EU skepticism" and "anti-immigrant" are Meloni's political backgrounds and one of the key reasons for her victory. It is difficult for her to make fundamental adjustments in these regards.

For non-Western countries, including China, there is a running-in problem for each other. But they can deal with it in a pragmatic, rational attitude, and cope with it as it stands. During campaign, Meloni made negative remarks over the Taiwan question and the Belt and Road Initiative, which are deliberately amplified by Western public opinion. This is part of a series of her radical campaign language. We have noted her statements, and we will continue to follow how she will act. On Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that it is hoped "the new Italian government will continue to follow a positive and practical China policy."

History has repeatedly proved that creating new crisis cannot solve current difficulties, but it will instead bury bigger hidden dangers for the future.

For Europe which is standing at crossroads, it faces a series of development and security issues, such as refugee influx, energy crisis, economic recession, that wait for urgent solution as its politics turns right. It needs strategic autonomy, the courage to see truth from facts and choices that accord to the trend to solve those issues. Italy is no exception to this.

## Putin's reservists

Dr M Ali Hamza



The Biden Administration recently asked Congress for \$13.7 billion in additional aid for Ukraine. Overall, the US has pledged just under 45 billion in total aid (financial, humanitarian, and military)

On its face value, Putin's mobilisation of Russian reservists presents the scenario of shortage of willing fighters for the country or the loss of military human resource to an extreme extent. Both assumptions appear to be very irrational. Establishing the premises to support this conclusion requires an understand of certain facts. Again, on its face value the war is between Russia and Ukraine. Ukrainian army comprises of only 204000 individuals whereas Russian army is having 850000 active-duty personnel and 2 million reserve personnel; that makes it the fifth largest military in the world. Moreover, The Russian Armed Forces possess the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world, surpassing the arsenal of the United States. They operate the second-largest fleet of ballistic missile submarines, and are one of only three mili-

ties; alongside China and the United States, that operate strategic bombers. Russia is having 3 times more armored vehicles, 5 times larger number of tanks, 10 times more aircrafts, 20 times bigger naval fleet than Ukraine. In 2021, Russia had the fifth-highest military expenditure in the world at US\$65.9 billion. So, there is no match of might between these two countries.

Now, this arises a counter argument that beside having all this superiority, Russia faced huge resistance and Ukrainian forces fought diligently. Seriously? It is important to note that mostly entire western hemisphere providing a backup to Ukraine. Russia is "de facto facing all of NATO," the US led Western military alliance that has shipped billions of dollars of armaments to Ukraine to help fend off Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Biden Administration recently asked Congress for \$13.7 billion in additional aid for Ukraine. Overall, the US has pledged just under 45 billion in total aid (financial, humanitarian, and military). The next closest donor is the European Union, which has pledged around 16 billion to Ukraine. The largest individual European donor nation is the United Kingdom, at just over 6 billion. At the same time, after Russian invasion of Ukraine, Germany, Poland and then the entire European Union as well as Canada announced to formally ban Russian Television (RT): the prominent international Russian channel, having a global footprint. Moreover, independent service providers in over 10 countries suspended broadcasting RT. Why? why the world is kept away from Russian narrative? Is democratic global village not mature or ready enough to accept Easterns' freedom of expression, or they are incompetent to counter the Russian reasoning? This seems unfair to keep glorifying US/EU invasion in multiple countries since 2000 through media dictatorship and on the contrary presenting the countries that differ, as devilish; a pure doctrinal, aristocratic and imperialist mind set. Anyways, getting back to the main point, Ukraine would not be a free country today without foreign support. And still all NATO forces are incapable of brining Putin on table talk on their own terms. So, who is showing real muscles?

When winters are knocking at the door, Russian gas & oil has become indispensable for European Union. Though EU is finding alternative supplies since February 2022, and it may need to ship-in Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) in tankers from producers like the US and Qatar. First the price hike is unavoidable, and secondly energy experts believe that there aren't enough LNG terminals in Europe that can support importing LPG from the said countries. This will be a problem for Germany, particularly. It is pertinent to men-

tion that Lithuania and Finland having about 80% dependence on Russia oil, and many EU countries fulfil a significant portion of their energy needs from Russian supplies. Furthermore, it is important to ask that whether the trade sanctions on Russia working? Quite the reverse, these sanctions rather helped Russia by soaring energy prices. Russia received an estimated 400bn (\$430bn, £311bn) over the past year from oil and gas exports to Europe. The EU says its latest sanctions could cut the amount of oil it buys from Russia by 90%. However, this will take months to come into full effect, and even then, Russia will be able to sell oil elsewhere in the world. In addition to that India and China have both been buying more Russian crude in recent months. At the same time, Argentina, Brazil, China, Georgia, Indonesia, Mexico, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey expressed no intention of imposing sanctions on Russia. And few European countries are revisiting their decision in terms of saying no to energy trade with Russia. So, who has the better hand? Most definitely Russia did not go for a blind, the cards are opening, and hands are revealing.

Therefore, argument that Russia has lost to a degree where it had to call the reservists (the reserved army), shows poor grounding. Remember that Russian Military has branches consist of the Ground Forces, Navy, and Aerospace Forces, as well as three independent arms of service: the Strategic Rocket Forces, Airborne Forces, and Special Operations Forces. Russian law mandates one-year drafting for all male citizens aged 18-27. This also means that their entire population is trained to fight in the severest war conditions. Moreover, not all these individuals who are formally trained to take part in war join army rather a small fraction. Rest of the individuals enroll in other occupations. So, instead of recruiting a fulltime soldier that adds up financially, these reservists are called as a temporary fighter, whenever needed. As winters are coming, and UN is still unable to settle down matter and stop NATO expansion program, now Russia plans to stage the final show. Though some say that it is the first real test of support for Putin's invasion and early signs do not look good. But how can this western point of view negate the fact that in last 7 months, Russia alone is standing on its point of view and have challenged the entire west openly. This is not possible without the internal support of its people. West should have by now reconsidered its support to NATO expansion in Ukraine. Still, it can be done, if Putin's call for reservists is not taken as a joke.

## Lots of talk but little action as global crises grow

Ishtiaq Ahmed



Hollow talk and empty promises by world leaders on critical global issues like climate change, poverty, hunger and disease are the norm at international gatherings. The 77th session of the UN General Assembly, which concluded on Tuesday, turned out to be no different. Even worse, its thematic general debate on finding "transformative solutions to interlocking challenges" was overshadowed by the war in Ukraine, leaving the world more divided than ever. This divide complicates the urgent task of dealing with the unprecedented rise in global energy prices and food shortages, which are a consequence of this war. The progress on persisting global crises such as climate change — whose disastrous implications are increasingly visible in continental heat waves, crippling droughts and catastrophic floods — also looks bleak. On other global issues like gender equality, the trend is visibly in reverse. Ongoing protests in Iran over the hijab follow the familiar tale of the denial of women's rights in Taliban-led Afghanistan and elsewhere.

For seven decades, the US-Soviet Cold War and the subsequent US unilateralism distracted the UNGA from performing its obligatory functions. The least it could do was to keep the global focus on persisting conflicts like Palestine and maintain the fragile peace in conflict zones. In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals were launched to tackle key global issues. But the results were far from impressive. It was against this backdrop that the UNGA unveiled the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. The progress on SDGs is also less than satisfactory, as the rich nations have been unwilling to provide the mandatory support to their poor counterparts. Under the Trump administration, the US even withdrew from the Paris climate accord and refused to fund UN bodies like the World Health Organization. Last year, President Joe Biden renewed the US' commitment to multilateralism by rejoining the climate agreement and resuming funding to UN institutions. Consequently, UNGA 76, held last September, revived hope of viable progress on the SDGs. "Our Common Agenda," the report released by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ahead of that session, called for "multilateralism with teeth," while offering more robust approaches to crisis management and the mitigation of persisting security conflicts and emerging non-traditional threats. On the occasion, the US and other Western countries also appeared to

be willing to meet their obligations under Agenda 2030. Multilateralism was in action a couple of months later at the 26th UN climate change conference in Glasgow, where the member states renewed their commitment to realize the Paris accord's goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius — ideally 1.5 C — by reducing carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2050. From the issue of gender equity in Taliban-led Afghanistan to the cause of humanitarian relief in war-ravaged Syria, the world was willing to respond to the UN's calls for help. Its collective resolve to combat the COVID-19 global pandemic also bore fruit. A year later, however, and the emerging spirit of international camaraderie is nowhere to be seen. The war in Ukraine, Europe's most serious conflict since the Second World War, has opened fissures among major powers in a way not seen since the Cold War. Its consequences are all-pervasive. The US and other Western nations, which produce the bulk of greenhouse gases, are committed under the Paris Agreement to help such fragile nations. But their priorities have shifted in the wake of the Ukraine war. This unfortunate reality was on full display at UNGA 77, where the US and its European allies were more interested in setting scores with Russia than heeding the pleas of Guterres or the bulk of more than 150 leaders from Africa, Asia and South America for a better and safer world, and what it must entail. China has its own axe to grind with the Biden administration, which has ramped up hostility against Beijing. Its recent provocation over Taiwan suggests as much. Meanwhile, Russia is indirectly at war with NATO, whose members are funding and arming Ukraine. Climate change, in particular, poses an existential threat to humanity. But it is difficult to imagine that the upcoming UN climate change conference in Egypt will bridge the growing gap between its disastrous effects and our commitment to climate action. How the war in Ukraine ends, and the rivalry between the great powers evolves, will determine if the world emerges from this dark era or descends further into it. At least for now, the gap between rhetoric and reality in the international response to resolving critical global issues does not appear to be narrowing.

Ishtiaq Ahmed is a former journalist who has been vice chancellor of Sardogha University in Pakistan and Qaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.

## Geopolitics of great powers

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



In short, President Xi is using the Russia-Ukraine war to push into a "new era that will destroy or weaken the US alliance."

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the most catastrophic event for the world order since World War II. The world is passing through a new era of geopolitics. The world needs a new strategic approach to ensure unity and consensus to deter future aggression. History has shown that aggression is like an infectious disease that is difficult to control, especially when it starts to spread. Vladimir Putin is not alone in wanting to destroy the World Order that was put in place to maintain world peace, but Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping has also outlined his vision and predicted that supporting Putin's aggression could advance China's geopolitical and political interests. Sadrshi is confident that Putin will succeed, but the strong resistance of the Ukrainian people, the bold leadership of Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Western response are also surprising. Zelenskyy has reason to be satisfied that key European countries are opposed to President Xi's aggressive deterrent design. China is trying to replace the US alliance system with a network of "partnerships". However, in order to create a new world order, you must tear down the old world order. China and Russia believe that the US is playing the role of an arrogant player. This thought is being born in many parts of the world including China. The People's Republic of China blames all the violence and destruction in Europe on Washington. Russia supports the Chinese principle and affirms that Taiwan is part of China and opposes any form of Taiwan independence. Russia's aggression against

Ukraine has shown that the world must take seriously what Xi and Putin are saying, especially when they speak their own language. Both countries are determined to destroy the US alliance by force if necessary. Xi and Putin imply that US unity has been achieved at their opposition, and they will oppose it. Statements by top Chinese diplomats should not be dismissed as mere propaganda. This is a clear warning to Washington to abandon its strategy in the Indo-Pacific and Beijing reserves the option of resistance. From this perspective, Russia's invasion of Ukraine sets a precedent. Besides, Beijing has also warned small countries like Ukraine to stay away from US intrigues. According to Beijing, sympathy for Ukraine is fine because it is not fine to be used as a pawn in Washington's efforts to maintain geopolitical hegemony. These messages are being heard even in those countries, which remain neutral in international politics. Russia and China continue to oppose any attempt by foreign powers to undermine security and stability in their respective regions. China and Russia also oppose further expansion of NATO and continue to demand that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization abandon its Cold War ideological practices. China and Russia also oppose the formation of a bloc in the Asia-Pacific region and are wary of the negative impact of the US Indo-Pacific strategy on peace and stability in the region. The two countries also remain deeply concerned about the Tripartite Security Partnership between Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom, which provides for deep cooperation among its members in areas of strategic stability, particularly in the nuclear field. Both countries believe that such actions contradict the goals of security and sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region and increase the risk of an arms race in the region, which also poses a serious threat to nuclear proliferation. President Xi and Putin's opposition to the Biden administration's new Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) initiative has targeted violations of non-proliferation treaties. This opposition is echoed in countries outside the West. Australia, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan are committed to supporting Ukraine. The Philippines and Indonesia also voted to condemn Russia, but India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam did not. Most of the Southeast Asian countries have been supporting NATO, Ukraine and the United States. Countries in the Indo-Pacific, such as Saudi Arabia, have also not supported coalition efforts against Russia. Such neutrality and indifference is a growing problem in international affairs and undermines counter-terrorism efforts. There is a growing perception in the West that a new Cold War is beginning, but most of the world does not see things that way. Undoubtedly, Asian countries face a greater threat than China and Russia, but in the absence of a comprehensive diplomatic campaign led by the United States, Washington cannot support Taiwan in the Taiwan crisis. Many analysts believe that if China invades the democratic island of Taiwan, many countries will sit on the coast. Such a drive by Beijing to erode Taiwan's international identity could also be dan-

gerous because if a dispute erupted, it would signal Taiwan's diplomatic isolation as a province that China is taking back. In contrast, Russia's invasion of Ukraine provoked a Western response. China also has strong economic ties with each of these countries. The US will need those to defend Taiwan, and it often uses its diplomatic and other tactics to keep them at bay. Many countries and US allies do not necessarily agree with all Chinese statements about Taiwan and justify their neutrality. On the other hand, Washington also needs active diplomatic efforts to dispel the perception among its allies that China will not remain neutral if it starts a war. U.S. diplomacy must highlight that China is renegeing on its commitment to peace and endangering the stability of peace and stability in the region, even as it is committed to maintaining peace under the Taiwan Relations Act. And Washington must also be convinced that it cannot distance itself from countries or regions that are hostile to China and Russia. However, the US has also given China and Russia the opportunity to have considerable influence in important regions such as the Persian Gulf. Both the lack of a US trade vision for Southeast Asia and the lack of a security system are obstacles to building a bloc. But Washington only sees how quickly military aid can be delivered and how quickly the right weapons systems can get into the right hands in a crisis. In Asia, and especially in the Taiwan Strait, Washington acts as if a crisis is brewing and has to provide immediate assistance to its partners.

Washington does not need to provoke China, but both states should make promises and work for peace. Lessons need to be learned from the failed deterrence efforts in Ukraine. It should be noted that the prevention of war in Ukraine has failed. The US also had no military ties to Ukraine, so it could not directly help Ukraine except through rhetoric. Although the US armed Ukraine with disproportionate weapons that could destroy a major Russian weapons system, it did not stop Putin from going to war. On the other hand, Taiwan also faces a threat from China and a similar approach would not work to deter China because the US is not militarily engaged with the island. The U.S. should prepare Taiwan's military to work together as an ally to counter various threats of oppression. But that requires careful alliance management, as Washington continues to practice with other potential alliance partners. China relies on global markets for everything from technology and energy to food and agriculture, precious metals, minerals and capital. Indeed, China's dependence on the global economy has prevented it from helping Russia evade sanctions. Washington will have to maintain strong ties with all major suppliers in China. In short, President Xi is using the Russia-Ukraine war to push into a "new era that will destroy or weaken the US alliance. Putin has taught the world that rhetoric Exploitation and intimidation can wreak havoc. Washington should also devise a strategy to highlight Beijing's continuing threats to peace and security in Asia, thereby sparing thousands of innocent people from the effects of war. It is time for both countries to come down from the mountain and stand side by side. Although it is difficult to do, but by doing this, Asia can be saved from war.



## Briefs

England beat  
Pakistan to  
level series

## SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: England beat Pakistan by 8 wickets to level the 7 match series 3-3. The final T20 will decide the series. English batters comprehensively and easily chased down the target of 170 set by Pakistan. Earlier, Babar Azam equalled India star Virat Kohli's record of the fastest man to 3,000 runs in cricket's shortest format as Pakistan scored 169-6 in the sixth Twenty20 international against England in Lahore on Friday. The Pakistan skipper, who hit an unbeaten 59-ball 87 for his 27th half century, reached 3,000 T20I runs in 81 innings as he anchored the home team's total after they were sent in to bat. Azam hit three sixes and seven boundaries and added 48 for the fourth wicket with Iftikhar Ahmed (31) and 47 for the third with Haider Ali (18). Sam Curran (2-26) and David Willey (2-32) were the successful England bowlers. Pakistan, who lead the seven-match series 3-2, handed a T20I debut to 21-year-old wicketkeeper/batsman Mohammad Haris as they rested Mohammad Rizwan. Fast bowler Haris Rauf was also rested, making way for Shah Nawaz Dahani. England rested the pace duo of Mark Wood and Chris Woakes to bring in Reece Topley and Gleeson. The last match is also in Lahore on Sunday.

Putin  
proclaims...

## FROM PAGE 01

the north of Donetsk province. Defeat there could open the way for Ukraine to recapture swathes of the territory that Putin has now declared to be part of Russia. The war's brutality was further hammered home just hours before Putin's speech when missiles struck a convoy of civilian cars preparing to cross the frontline from Ukrainian-held territory in Zaporozhzhia province. Reuters saw a dozen bodies amid blasted cars in a scene of carnage. Ukraine said 25 people had been killed and 74 wounded. "The enemy is raging and seeking revenge for our steadfastness and his failures," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram. "Bloodthirsty scum! You will definitely answer. For every lost Ukrainian life!"

Ukraine  
applies for  
urgent NATO  
membership

## FROM PAGE 01

accession to NATO," Zelenskyy said in the video on the Telegram app. The video showed Zelenskyy in combat fatigues announcing the membership bid and signing a document flanked by his prime minister and the speaker of parliament. The announcement was likely to touch a nerve in Moscow which casts the NATO bloc at home as a hostile military alliance bent on encroaching on Moscow's sphere of influence. Before Russia sent its armed forces into Ukraine in February, Moscow was demanding legally binding guarantees that Ukraine would never be admitted to the U.S.-led transatlantic defence alliance. In his video speech, Zelenskyy accused Russia of re-writing history and redrawing borders "using murder, blackmail, mistreatment and lies," something he said Kyiv would not allow. He said however that Kyiv remained committed to the idea of co-existence with Russia "on equal, honest, dignified and fair conditions". "Clearly, with this Russian president (that) is impossible. He does not know what dignity and honesty are. Therefore, we are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but with another president of Russia," Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy said that while Ukraine waits for consensus among NATO member states, it could be protected under draft security guarantees proposed by Kyiv and known as the Kyiv Security Compact, which Moscow has rejected as an idea.

'Transparency' in JCPOA  
draft interpretation essential

The Iranian official underscored that "one of the dimensions of strengthening the text was transparency, in such a manner that when text is published, 10 interpretations should not come out of it"

## DNA

TEHRAN: Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has said the nuclear deal draft the US sent to Iran "contained a lot of ambiguities," and required that Iran made further elaboration for 'transparency' to be achieved. In an exclusive interview with Iranian news agency, the Iranian FM commented on several topics, including the JCPOA, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, prisoners exchange between Iran and the US and the messages sent via Foreign ministers of several countries including Iraq. He also touched briefly on the meeting between the President of Islamic Republic of Iran Ibrahim Raesi and his French counterpart Emanuel Macron at the sideline of the United Nations General Assembly in New York among other issues.

During his trip, Amir-Abdollahian met with 17 of his counterparts from Europe, West Asia, Latin America, and Africa. This is in addition to participating in 13 meetings that President Raisi had with presidents and prime ministers on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. Touching on Washington's response to the proposals for the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal and the removal of anti-Tehran sanctions, which Iran said it carefully examined, the Iranian minister said, "After we received the comments of the American side, we saw that in terms of some issues that are key and fundamental for us, the text provided by the US "could be interpreted but has a lot of ambiguities." Amir-Abdollahian pointed out that in response to the US comments on the draft, Iran tried to "strengthen" this text to further clarify it, in such a way that the "balance" in the text does not change.



"We did not change the content; the framework of the agreement was maintained, however, while maintaining our red lines. Therefore this text needed strengthening," he told IRNA. The Iranian official underscored that "one of the dimensions of strengthening the text was transparency, in such a manner that when the text is published, 10 interpretations should not come out of it." Moreover, he highlighted that the majority of those

who read the text should feel that they have a single understanding and interpretation of it. Four days of Vienna talks between representatives of Iran and the five remaining parties to the JCPOA to salvage the deal culminated on August 8 with a modified text on the table. The Vienna talks had resumed on August 4 after several months of impasse, and expert-level negotiations were held between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries.

Further commenting on the nuclear deal, Iran's FM said, "The important thing for us is that we have not negotiated just for the sake of negotiating. We negotiated in order to reach a point where the sanctions will be lifted and we will be able to take advantage of the economic benefits of the JCPOA, which the Islamic Republic of Iran has not received so far since 2015." On a related note, Amir-Abdollahian said the US clearly states that "what we agree on will be valid until the end of the Biden administration, and that the US will not have guarantees for the next administration." He reiterated that the guarantee issue is very important to Iran in negotiations on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal. Earlier on August 31, Amir-Abdollahian also highlighted the importance of guarantees at a press conference held in Moscow, where he said Iran needs guarantees "from the other party to have a sustain-

able deal." According to the Iranian official, one of the issues that are seriously considered by most parties is where these talks heading and where would things end up. "We are serious about reaching an agreement and we will not hesitate to reach a good, strong and stable agreement. We will continue our efforts, we will not leave the negotiating table, and it is the American side that must show now, whether it has the necessary courage to make a decision on this issue or not?" Also, Amir-Abdollahian strongly criticized the fact that the US should make it clear whether it seeks to maintain security across the region and reach an agreement, or thinks it could simultaneously exploit 'made-up' scenarios where foreign players try to meddle and cause chaos and unrest, in reference to the latest foreign exploitation of unfortunate death of Mahsa Amini in police custody.

Top seed Ruud stunned  
at ATP Korea Open

## SPORTS DESK

SEOUL: The top seed Casper Ruud suffered a shock loss in the quarterfinals of the lone ATP Tour tournament in South Korea on Friday, falling to the unseeded Japanese player Yoshihito Nishioka in three sets. Nishioka, world No. 56, defeated the second-ranked Ruud 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, in

the biggest upset of the Eugene Korea Open at Olympic Park Tennis Center in Seoul. The 26-year-old from Japan is two victories away from his second career ATP title. In the semifinals on Saturday, Nishioka will play Aleksandar Kovacevic of the United States, who eliminated fellow American Mackenzie McDonald with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory in their quarterfinal match Friday.



Open and the U.S. Open this year, with stunning ease. Nishioka broke Ruud at the start and quickly went up 4-1 before closing out the set with an ace. Ruud responded in the second set by winning four of the final five games. In the de-

cidating set, Nishioka had his first break of the set to go up 4-2 and didn't lose another game the rest of the way. He held his serve after going to deuce twice for a 5-2 lead, and one of the ATP's shortest players relied on a couple of gorgeous volleys in the clinching game.

"Today, I played very aggressive. If I stayed back, it would be very tough," Nishioka said. "So I tried to be a bit inside the court and then play aggressive, tried to get to the net and use drop volleys. It worked. A couple of games were very tough in the third set, but I still tried to put pressure on him." Ruud said he was tinkering with his game, stepping more into the court than he normally does, in search of some long-term improvements of his game. After dropping the first set

playing in a different way, Ruud went back to his normal style to take the second set. But the Norwegian returned to his experimental mode for the final set, emphasizing the process over the result. "Even though the second set went well, I still wanted to try to improve some things. I challenged myself to step more into the court and forced myself to play more this way," he said. "Even though it didn't go well, I'd still like think it's going to improve and help my game for the future." The other semifinal match in the singles will pit Denis Shapovalov of Canada against Jensen Brooksby of the U.S. Shapovalov, the fourth seed, beat Radu Albot of Moldova 6-2, 6-2, in the quarterfinals Friday. Brooksby, the eighth seed, had a walkover from the quarters after his scheduled opponent, No. 2 seed Cameron Norrie, withdrew due to an undisclosed illness.

Hamilton fastest in  
Singapore ahead  
of Verstappen

SINGAPORE: Lewis Hamilton went quickest Friday in first practice for the Singapore Grand Prix, edging out Max Verstappen who is on the verge of retaining his world championship. The British driver initially complained about his Mercedes having no "driveability" over team radio before scorching round the Marina Bay Circuit in 1min 43.033sec, 0.084sec ahead of Red Bull's Verstappen. It was the first time Hamilton had topped the timesheets in any session this year, giving him hope of being able to score a first victory and maintain his run of winning a race in every season since his 2007 debut. Charles Leclerc, who can prevent Verstappen from sealing the championship in Singapore by finishing higher than eighth in Sunday's race, overcame early brake problems in his Ferrari before setting the third-fastest time, 0.402sec behind Hamilton. Fourth was Red Bull's Sergio Perez, fifth was George Russell in the second Mercedes and sixth Carlos Sainz, who complained of set-up problems in his Ferrari. Verstappen celebrated his 25th birthday with a cake in the Red Bull team hospitality before the session only to see Hamilton, who has won four times previously in Singapore, spoil the Dutchman's party. It had not looked likely early in the session as Verstappen reeled off a series of fastest laps with Hamilton at one point three seconds off the pace. Verstappen is running away with the title battle but must win Sunday's race and see his closest rival falter to clinch with five races to go, or the fight will move on to Japan next week. Single-lap pace in qualifying is crucial at Singapore, where pole position is a huge advantage on the 23-turn Marina Bay Circuit that affords few opportunities to overtake. Brakes are all-important on the tight track and Leclerc had problems with his on his first lap. It forced him back to the Ferrari garage and he only emerged with 37 minutes of the hour-long session remaining. Russell also had an issue with slowing down, going wide at turn 10 but being able to pull up just in time to prevent him ploughing head-on into the barriers. - APP

IPC Minister to  
open Women's  
Basketball C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari would inaugurate the National Women's Basketball Championship starting from October 3 here at Pakistan Sports Complex. Top eight teams from around the country would be in action in the five-days championship to be hosted by Federal Basketball Association (FBA) under the umbrella of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF). "All arrangements have been completed for the championship where top eight teams taking part in the event have been divided into two pools", said championship organizing secretary and Federal Basketball Association General Secretary Ojje-Zahoor. Ojje-Zahoor said Pool "A" comprise defending champion Pakistan Wapda, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Quetta while Pool "B" includes teams from Pakistan Army, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. - APP



GILGIT: Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Gilmour Wendy paid a visit to Gilgit. She visits Women Sports Gala and also interacted and played with the practicing Girls Hockey Team. - DNA

## 'Democracy on the ballot' as Brazil holds divisive vote

"The stakes are huge... Democracy is on the ballot," said political analyst Michael Shifter of Inter-American Dialogue think tank, calling Bolsonaro "the most anti-democratic president" since the military regime

RIO DE JANEIRO: After a polarizing campaign, Brazil votes for its next president Sunday in a combative heavyweight bout threatening to test its young democracy: far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro versus leftist former leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Lula, the charismatic but tarnished ex-metalworker who led Brazil through an economic boom from 2003 to 2010, leads in the polls, seeking to stage a stunning comeback four years after being jailed on controversial corruption convictions - since annulled by the Supreme Court. Bolsonaro, the pugnacious ex-army captain whose popularity has suffered from the carnage of Covid-19 and a sputtering economy, is gunning for a come-from-behind win and has strongly

hinted he would not accept a loss. He has repeatedly alleged, without evidence, that Brazil's electronic voting system is plagued by fraud. Lula enters the home stretch leading Bolsonaro 50 percent to 36 percent, according to the latest poll from the Datafolha institute, released Thursday. The figures, which exclude voters planning to cast blank or spoiled ballots, put Lula on the cusp of winning outright and avoiding a runoff on October 30. Lula is pulling out all the stops for a first-round victory, crisscrossing the country and summoning the star power and sex appeal of celebrity supporters like pop superstar Anitta and singer-songwriter Caetano Veloso to convince wavering Brazilians to cast a "tac-

tical vote" for him. "What's at stake is democracy versus fascism," the gravely voiced 76-year-old told a cheering crowd decked out in the red of his Workers' Party (PT) at a rally last month. It is a line heard often these days in the sprawling country of 214 million people, deeply divided after four years of Bolsonaro's social media polemics, anti-establishment attacks, disregard for deforestation in the Amazon and no-holds-barred battle on behalf of his "Bible, bullets and beef" coalition - Evangelical Christians, security hardliners and the powerful agribusiness sector. Leading mass marches and motorcycle rallies by supporters draped in the green and yellow of the flag, Bolsonaro has tapped the

popularity of his telegenic, devoutly Christian first lady, Michelle, and got a high-voltage endorsement of his own Thursday from football superstar Neymar. With Bolsonaro, 67, having vowed his re-election bid can only have three outcomes - "prison, death or victory" - the election could be turbulent for Latin America's biggest country, which emerged from two decades of military dictatorship in 1985. "The stakes are huge... Democracy is on the ballot," said political analyst Michael Shifter of the Inter-American Dialogue think tank, calling Bolsonaro "the most anti-democratic president" since the military regime. Some degree of unrest and violence "is probably likely," he told AFP. The "mil-

lion-dollar question" is exactly what shape this unrest would take, said Guilherme Casaroes, a political scientist at the Getulio Vargas Foundation. Bolsonaro, who is openly nostalgic for the dictatorship, has given the military a big role in his government and enthusiastically courted its support. But defense experts say an all-out military coup is unlikely. A Bolsonaro court challenge or bid to delay the runoff election are stronger possibilities, analysts say. More troubling is what Casaroes calls the "Capitol riot scenario": a Brazilian version of the turmoil unleashed by supporters of former US president Donald Trump - Bolsonaro's political role model - when he refused to accept electoral defeat. Gun owner-

ship has boomed under Bolsonaro's firearm-friendly policies: since he took office on January 1, 2019, the number of registered gun owners has more than quintupled to 673,000. That, combined with dihard support for Bolsonaro among some sectors of the military and police, is making observers nervous in Brazil and beyond. The White House warned against violence Tuesday, saying the United States will be watching "closely." Brazil's 156 million voters will also be electing the lower house of Congress, one-third of the Senate and governors and state legislators in all 27 states. Polls open at 8:00 am and close at 5:00 pm (11:00-2:00 GMT), with results expected some two hours later. - APP

CJP should  
not give  
political...

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only if the bench composed of the judges of the supreme court is constituted for investigation of the cipher. However, at the same time, Babar Awan suggested that PTI should not return to the current assembly as it would be better to go to the assembly with a fresh mandate after new elections. On a question regarding delay in long march despite Imran Khan's announcement, Babar Awan said that it depends on party's political strategy to decide time to announce a decision. He said that the long march under the leadership of Imran Khan is not too late as it is being continuously consulted with the top leadership and decisions have been taken in this regard. Talking about the disclosure of the leaked audio of Imran Khan in the context of foreign conspiracy, he said that the cipher was proved as a fact by the leaked audio. Babar Awan said that there is nothing in Imran Khan's audio leak that contradicts our position, but it is an additional proof that our government was overthrown through a conspiracy. PTI chief's legal advisor Babar Awan claimed that there is no threat to Imran Khan from the current legal and police cases. He said Imran Khan's legal problems have been resolved and serious cases filed against him are dismissed by the court or he is on protection bail.

Another  
audio of  
Imran...

## FROM PAGE 01

Azam Khan, foreign secretary and I will attend the meeting. We will tell the meeting that we will secretly have to write the minutes of our own choice. Azam Khan is suggesting writing minutes of the letter. We should keep its photocopy. This letter came on 8th but the meeting was held on 7th. We must not mention America's name in any case. No one should utter America's name." On this, a voice believed to be that of Asad Umar chipped in correcting Imran that it was not a letter rather it was a transcript of the meeting. The purported voice of Asad asked Imran: "Are you deliberately calling it a letter? It's not a letter, it's transcript of a meeting." To which the purported voice of Imran replied "It's that, transcript of the meeting. Letter or transcript are the same things." The PTI chief further said "The public won't understand the transcript. We have to say like this in public rallies." Earlier, in the first audio tape of Imran Khan leaked on Sept 28, he could be heard directing his then principal secretary that they should play with the cypher issue without taking the name of the United States. "Let's play with it and make it foreign plot," Imran Khan said.

Big dacoits  
given NRO:  
Imran Khan

## FROM PAGE 01

"They made two changes to the law," he began, adding, "the first change is that if any fund comes from outside the country will not be admissible as evidence - if someone has stored their ill-gotten wealth abroad and are bringing it into the country then that is not admissible." He said that the rulers looted the country for 10 years, multiplied the loan by four folds and later got the NRO through a deal. "I will never accept this government. I will not return after the call for protest," he declared. Imran Khan said that the foundation of the State of Madina was laid on the rule of law and justice. "No one is above the law in a civilized society. The gap between the poor and the rich is increasing rapidly," he maintained. He said that today the nation is immersed in the worst inflation. "The rulers passed the bill to devour Rs1,100 billion. It is Jihad to fight against cruelty and injustice," he added. Media. "The other, all around the world to catch white-collar crime, if I am in government and my assets increased disproportionately to my income, then it is my responsibility to declare where I got the money, but they changed this law," he said



## Briefs

## Suspended PM Prayut can resume office: Court

BANGKOK: Thailand's suspended prime minister Prayut Chan-O-cha can resume office, the country's constitutional court said Friday, ruling that he has not exceeded his eight-year term limit. The former army chief, who came to power in a 2014 military coup, was suspended last month while the court examined a legal challenge mounted by opposition parties who argued he had reached his term limit in power. Bangkok authorities were on alert for demonstrations after the ruling, as several protest groups had earlier said they would take to the streets if Prayut won the case. The constitutional court rules by a majority that the respondent's premiership has not reached the eight-year limit," said judge Punya Uthachon, reading the ruling. "The cabinet under the premiership of the respondent is counted from April 6, 2017."

Under the 2017 Thai constitution, a prime minister cannot serve more than eight years in office, but Prayut's supporters and critics disagreed about when his term began. The ruling counts Prayut's term from when the new army-scripted constitution came into force and means he can stay in office until 2025 - depending on an upcoming national poll, which must be held within months. - APP

## Hurricane Ian heads to Carolinas

FORT MYERS: Forecasters expect Hurricane Ian to cause life-threatening storm surges in the Carolinas on Friday after unleashing devastation in Florida, where it left a yet unknown number of dead in its wake. After weakening across Florida, Ian regained its Category 1 status in the Atlantic Ocean and was headed toward the Carolinas, the US National Hurricane Center said Friday. "Flooding rains (are) likely across the Carolinas and southwestern Virginia," the NHC added. The storm, one of the most powerful ever to hit the United States, left hundreds of people in need of rescue in Florida. Governor Ron DeSantis said, warning it was too early to get a clear picture of the death toll.

"We absolutely expect to have mortality from this hurricane," he said Thursday. DeSantis said concrete information about casualty numbers could be expected "in the coming days."

President Joe Biden, after a briefing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters, said "this could be the deadliest hurricane in Florida history." The numbers "are still unclear, but we're hearing reports of what may be substantial loss of life," he said Thursday. Biden later declared an emergency in South Carolina, ordering federal assistance in response efforts, according to a White House statement. - APP

## Rich nations to face climate pressure at pre-COP27

KINSHASA: Environment ministers from some 50 countries gather in DR Congo on Monday for the pre-COP27 climate talks, with rich countries expected to come under pressure to contribute more to fight global warming. The informal talks in the central African country's capital Kinshasa come ahead of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, from November 6-18. Ministers and other delegates are expected to discuss points that could lead to impediments at the main summit. But no formal announcements are expected at the pre-COP27 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the country's climate negotiator Tosi Mpanu Mpanu told AFP. A Western diplomat, who requested anonymity, said that since the COP and pre-COP are both being held in Africa "the emphasis will certainly be on support from industrialised countries to countries in the south". The theme was also present during the 2021 COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, which ended with a pledge to keep global warming at 1.5 degrees centigrade compared to pre-industrial levels. - APP

## Alvi thanks Saudi Arabia for helping flood victims

The President appreciated the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to highlight the issues of Palestine and Kashmir as well as the matters related to Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoyed long-standing fraternal ties rooted firmly in the common religion, shared values and culture and have stood by each other through thick and thin regardless of the changes in leadership. He stated that the people and the Government of Pakistan deeply appreciated the support provided by Saudi Arabia during difficult times especially the help provided by it during the recent catastrophic climate change-induced super floods in the country. The President expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Mr Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Malkiy, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The President said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had enjoyed close political ties over the years, however, both countries needed to take meaningful and effective



steps to significantly increase the existing bilateral trade volume of US\$ 4.6 billion in the year 2021-22 as it did not fully reflect the depth of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

The President appreciated the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to highlight the issues of Palestine and Kashmir as well as the

matters related to Afghanistan.

He also appreciated KSA's support in providing an air bridge for delivering relief assistance to the flood affectees in Pakistan and the role played by the Saudi Embassy in Islamabad and the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre in providing relief assistance to the flood victims. While highlighting the colossal loss of lives, livestock and infrastructure, the President said that the devastating floods had affected more than 33 million people all across Pakistan, killed more than 1500 people, over 1 million livestock were lost, and damage to the economy was estimated around US\$ 30 billion. The President also highlighted the human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and expressed the hope that the international community would play its due role in ending these violations and urging India to agree to a peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in the light of various United Nations Security Council resolutions.

## Bulgaria holds another snap poll ahead of winter

SOFIA: Bulgaria on Sunday holds its fourth general election in 18 months with a crippling energy crisis linked to the Ukraine war looming over the European Union's poorest nation. The Balkan country has been dogged by political instability since early 2021, when the conservative GERB party of three-time premier Boyko Borisov lost power after almost a decade following massive anti-corruption demos. But the embattled 63-year-old is back in the electoral race, crisscrossing the country on the slogan "Stronger than the chaos". He is tapping on voter fatigue and has slammed the "lack of experience" of his liberal successor Kiril Petkov to take GERB back on top, with poll surveys predicting it will garner about 25 percent of the votes. Petkov, a 42-year-old Harvard graduate and former entrepreneur, cobbled a precarious four-party coalition government at the end of 2021. But the war in Ukraine broke out and Bulgaria's refusal to pay for Russian gas in rubles saw Gazprom cut deliveries in April. - APP

## Ukraine says Russian strikes on civilian convoy kill 23

KYIV: Ukraine on Friday blamed Moscow for shelling a convoy of civilian cars in the southern Zaporizhzhia region that killed at least 23 on the front line. Zaporizhzhia regional governor Oleksandr Starukh said the strikes had also injured 28 people, "all civilians, local people." A pro-Kremlin official in Russian-occupied region of Zaporizhzhia blamed Kyiv and denied the Russian army was behind the attack. "The regime in Kyiv is trying to portray what happened as shelling by Russian troops, resorting to a heinous provocation," Vladimir Rogov said on social media, accusing Ukrainian troops of carrying out a "terrorist act". The Zaporizhzhia governor said Russian forces "launched a rocket attack on a civilian humanitarian convoy on the way out of the regional centre." "People were standing in line to leave for the temporarily occupied territory, to pick up their relatives and to take away aid," he said on social media. Governor Starukh also posted a photograph, showing two rows of crumpled cars and several corpses lying nearby. - APP



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas calls on Naval Chief Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi. - DNA

## EU to cut power use, levy energy companies

BRUSSELS: EU ministers on Friday agreed cuts to peak-hour power consumption and windfall levies on energy companies in an urgent effort to bring down sky-high energy prices. The decision, announced by the Czech Republic in its role holding the EU presidency, aims to mitigate energy costs sent soaring by Russia's war in Ukraine and as the northern hemisphere winter looms. European households and businesses are already staggering under surging energy bills, fuelling record inflation that in the eurozone has hit 10 percent. Extra drama has been in-

jected with several unexplained leaks this week of Russia-Germany undersea gas pipelines, Nord Stream 1 and 2, that were widely seen as "sabotage". The EU ministers' agreement came a day after Germany - the bloc's export powerhouse that had long been dependent on Russian gas - announced a 200-billion-euro (about \$200 billion) energy aid package to shield its consumers. Other EU countries have de-

ployed smaller-scale national measures with the same aim, but several demanded European-level concertation, in part to clamp down on energy-buying competition between EU peers. The two measures adopted were proposed by the European Commission. The EU executive believes it can raise 140 billion euros from the levies on non-gas electricity producers and on energy majors that are raking in outsized profits from the

global energy demand. Its plan to cut power usage foresees a reduction of "at least five percent" during peak hours, according to a commission document seen by AFP. Missing from the announced measures, however, was an idea espoused by 15 EU countries - among them France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Malta and Poland - for a price cap on imported gas. The energy crisis, which had been brewing even before the war in Ukraine, took on greater magnitude when Russia severely curtailed natural gas supplies to Europe in retaliation for Western sanctions over its invasion. - APP

## Sweden lifts arms export embargo to Türkiye

DNA

ANKARA: The Swedish authority tasked with controlling exports of war materials said Friday it has authorized the resumption of exports of military equipment to Türkiye, reversing a ban in place since 2019. The policy reversal is linked to Sweden and Finland's bid to join NATO, of which the Nordic countries sought membership earlier this year following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But their bid faced a hurdle as Türkiye raised objections over

their support for the PKK terrorist organization and its Syrian wing, the YPG. Any bid to join NATO requires unanimous backing from each of its 30 members. Ankara requested the lifting of the arms export restrictions after Sweden and Finland applied to join the military alliance in mid-May, which still needs ratification from Türkiye. Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP) said on Friday it had resumed giving permissions for military exports to Türkiye. "The government has made the assessment that a Swedish membership in NATO is the

best way to protect Sweden's and the Swedish people's security," the ISP said in a statement. "Sweden's application for NATO membership to a large degree strengthens the defense and security policy arguments for approving exports of war materials to other member states, including Türkiye," the authority said. The ISP said it had approved exports relating to "electronic equipment," "software" and "technical assistance" to Türkiye in the third quarter but did not reveal which companies or products had been given the go-ahead, citing confidentiality. "Taking into account the altered defense and security policy conditions, ISP has, after a full review decided to grant a permit for follow-up deliveries from the Swedish defense industry to Türkiye," the authority said.

## Eurozone inflation jumps to record 10%

BRUSSELS: Eurozone consumer prices skyrocketed by a record 10 percent in September, official data showed on Friday, as inflation reached double digits on the back of soaring energy prices caused by Russia's war on Ukraine. Stoked by a staggering 40.8 percent rise in energy prices, the yearly inflation rate in the 19-country single currency area hit its highest level since records began, according to Eurostat. The historic level of inflation will encourage the European Central Bank to stay on its current path of rate hikes, in an effort to cool prices despite the risk of triggering economic recession in Europe. The ECB is desperate to prevent inflation from taking root in the economy and is taking measures that will reduce demand and could therefore slow growth. In an urgent effort to tame prices, European Union energy ministers agreed on Friday to peak-hour power consumption and to impose windfall levies on energy companies. The leap to 10 percent followed a 9.1 percent rise in August and doused hopes that inflation would begin to ease as energy markets stabilise seven months after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine. Making matters more complicated for policymakers, the eurozone's powerhouse economies showed widely divergent inflation rates, with Germany seeing price hikes of 10.8 percent and France at 6.2 percent. - APP

## Italy's inflation hits highest in 37 years

DNA

ROME: Italy's annual inflation hit 8.9% in September, the highest in nearly 37 years, up from 8.4% in August, according to preliminary estimates of the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) on Friday. The figure is above the market forecast of 8.7%. "The speed-up of the growth on annual basis of all-item index was mainly due to the prices of food including alcohol (from 10.1% to 11.5%), for both processed food including alcohol (from 10.4% to 11.7%) and unprocessed food (from 9.8% to 11%)," ISTAT said. Energy price inflation, while remaining high, fell slightly (from 44.9% to 44.5%), for both regulated energy products (47.9% to 47.7%) and non-regulated energy products (41.6% to 41.2%). On a monthly basis, consumer prices went up 0.3%, picking up from an 0.8% jump in the previous month.

## German city to switch off street lighting

DNA

BERLIN: The city of Achim in the German state of Lower Saxony announced Friday that there will be no more street lighting at night. With this measure, Achim is following the example of other cities in an effort to save energy, as gas supplies from Russia have been interrupted due to tensions and recent explosions on the Nord Stream pipelines. Mayor Rainer Ditzfeld said this move will likely draw criticisms, but they had to take this decision. "We, the politicians and the administration, are aware that the decision to shut down can be seen controversially. But it is made with the best of intentions and makes the greatest possible contribution in this form," he told local media. According to a statement by the city council, street lights will be switched off from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Sundays to Fridays.

On weekend nights, lights will be out from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. This would result in a savings of about 46%, the city council said. Crosswalks in public areas and a tunnel at the train station will continue to be illuminated. However, it is not only cities and communities that are coming under pressure in the wake of the energy crisis, but also industry. A survey by the employers' associations Nordmetall and AGV Nord showed that almost 25% of companies in the metal and electrical industry in northern Germany would have to stop production in the event of a gas emergency. In addition, according to the survey, around half of the companies would have to put employees on short-time working. 26% of respondents even said they would have to cut staff in such a situation.

"We absolutely expect to have mortality from this hurricane," he said Thursday. DeSantis said concrete information about casualty numbers could be expected "in the coming days."

## Norway police arrest 95 rioters

DNA

COPENHAGEN: Norwegian police have arrested 95 rioters who had behaved "violently" and "aggressively" during an unannounced demonstration against the Iranian embassy in Oslo. Operations manager of Oslo police district, Bjorn Gunnar Nyseter, told NTB that a total of 85 of the 95 people arrested on Thursday were taken to the detention center. Nine of them were arrested for damage to the embassy area and/or violence against the police, including in the form of stone-throwing, he added. The Norwegian police are also set to go through some video material from the demonstration for further investigations. Meanwhile, Gjermund Stokkli, an official with Oslo police, confirmed that tear gas had been used to control the crowd. No injuries to police personnel have been reported, he said, adding that there has been damage to the facade and fences belonging to the embassy. The riots began at around 2 PM on Thursday in front of the embassy, where many of the rioters were behaving violently and aggressively, according to Norwegian media. Several rioters also tried to get into the embassy but the police controlled the situation by deploying a "significant" number of officers.

## Int'l inflation, floods minimize economic outlook

The growth was already under pressure due to unstable economic conditions in the rest of the world and due to the necessary fiscal consolidation, high rates of interest, and inflation

ISLAMABAD: In the backdrop of international price hike and recent exceptional floods, the economic outlook for Pakistan in the current fiscal year (2022-23) is likely to remain below the target, says 'Economic Update and Outlook for September 2022' released by finance ministry here on Friday. "The economic outlook for Pakistan in the current fiscal year has become uncertain and will likely remain below the target," says the report adding the macroeconomic imbalances may ease with the expected slow-down in the economic growth. It says, in March 2022, international oil and food prices broke out the upper bound of the margins observed in the last two decades, which impacted significantly inflation in Pakistan. "Even if international commodity prices would mean-revert in the near future, domestic inflation may still suffer

from delayed adjustments and second round effects. Also, the depreciation of the rupee continues to exert upward pressure on domestic prices," it says. At the same time, recent exceptional floods have destroyed human, physical, and livestock capital and deprived many families of their assets and incomes. Besides the cost in terms of lost lives and capital, these events will certainly affect the creation of gross value added and hence economic growth. The growth was already under pressure due to unstable economic conditions in the rest of the world and due to the necessary fiscal consolidation, high rates of interest, and inflation. According to the report, the fiscal deficit is budgeted to reduce to 4.9 percent of GDP, while the primary balance is a surplus of Rs 153 billion. The budget for

FY2023 was prepared to achieve the goals of stabilizing economic growth, increasing revenues, rationalizing expenditures through prudent expenditure management, enhancing exports, and protecting the vulnerable segments of society through relief measures and pro-poor initiatives. However, the economy of Pakistan has been affected severely by widespread destruction brought by extreme flooding. Consequently, there will be a detrimental impact on the government's fiscal situation from both the revenue and expenditure sides. The trade deficit in goods and services declined marginally in July as both exports and imports gained strength, it says adding the exports are expected to stabilize. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), during July-August FY2023, exports increased by 3.3 percent to \$ 4.7 billion (\$ 4.6

billion last year). Remittances are expected to stabilize at around current levels. This together with the expected path of the trade balance and other primary and secondary income transactions would guide the current account balance. According to the report, the agricultural outlook was still not clear as the output of both important and other Kharif crops has suffered significantly due to recent floods and unprecedented heavy monsoon rains. The stay of water in the cropping area may also affect the sowing of Rabi crops. Meanwhile, the Inflation has started reverting as the MoM price increases have been on a declining path during the last two months. Though the YoY inflation has shown significant acceleration from June till August. CPI inflation is recorded at 26.1 percent during Jul-Aug FY2023 as against 8.4 per-

cent in the same period last year. CPI inflation for August FY2023 is recorded at 27.3 percent as compared to 8.4 percent in the same month last year. Therefore, Pakistan's external environment faces rising challenges keeping in view the geopolitical conflicts as well as global and domestic uncertainties. In Jul-Aug FY2023, workers' remittances were recorded at \$ 5.2 billion (\$ 5.4 billion last year), decreased by 3.2 percent, however continued to remain above the \$2 billion mark since June 2020. The Large-Scale Manufacturing was affected by monetary tightening, and uncertainty in the financial market while flood has further aggravated the supply chain disruptions and dragged down it to negative growth of 1.4 percent in July FY2023 against 4.4 percent growth in the corresponding period last year. - APP



**Briefs**

**Soldier embraces martyrdom**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A soldier embraced martyrdom when terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border, opened fire on Pakistani troops in Kharlachi are of Kurram District on Thursday. According to ISPR, Pakistani troops responded in a befitting manner and terrorists suffered heavy casualties. However, during the fire exchange, Sepoy Jamshed Iqbal having fought gallantly, laid down his life in defence of the motherland. Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that the interim Afghan Government will not allow conduct of such activities, in future. Pakistan Army is determined to defend Pakistan's borders against the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

**Palestinians mourn boy, 7, who died from 'fear'**

MONITORING DESK

JERUSALEM: A throng of men clutching the body of a seven-year-old Palestinian boy marched through a town in the occupied West Bank towards the child's final resting place on Friday, a day after his parents say he died from fear of armed Israeli soldiers. Rayan Suleiman, with bright eyes and a backpack emblazoned with an animated racing car, was walking home from school on Thursday when his family said he and his brothers were chased by Israeli soldiers. After the boys bolted home, the troops banded furiously on the door and threatened to arrest them. Just moments later, Rayan, the youngest of the three brothers, was dead. Rayan's cousin, Mohammed Suleiman, told Al Jazeera that upon his arrival at his house, Rayan was chased by the soldiers who were yelling at him. "The soldiers shouted at him that he's [a] stone thrower," he said. "He ran away from one side, and the soldier met him from the other side [of the house]. Rayan saw the soldier in front of him, and was shocked and dropped dead out of fear," he said. Hadeel Salman, a neighbour and witness, said Israeli soldiers were "going in all directions looking for any child they could find". "The soldiers even summoned my young brother - they told him he threw stones at them and needed to be arrested," Salman told Al Jazeera. "He insisted he had nothing to do with it." The story spread across the West Bank, providing an emotive focus for fury over Israel's military tactics.

**UK will never recognize the 'sham referendums'**

LONDON: The UK said on Friday it "will never recognize" the referendums on joining Russia recently held in four Ukrainian regions. Prime Minister Liz Truss said she spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to underline the UK's support against "Russia's sham referendums." Truss said in a statement that Russian President Vladimir Putin has "once again acted in violation of international law with clear disregard for the lives of the Ukrainian people he claims to represent." "The UK will never ignore the sovereign will of those people and we will never accept the regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia as anything other than Ukrainian territory," she said. "Putin cannot be allowed to alter international borders using brute force. We will ensure he loses this illegal war." On Sept. 23-27, Ukraine's separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk and Russian-controlled parts of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson held referendums on joining Russia. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on Bara Kahu Bypass. - DNA

**PM lays foundation stone of Bhara Kahu bypass**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif laid foundation stone of Bhara Kahu bypass in Islamabad on Friday. The 5.4 kilometer long bypass including 1350 meters long overhead bridge will be completed in three months. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister directed National Logistics Cell to complete the project within three months instead of its earlier tentative time of four months. He directed that quality of the project should be ensured. The Prime Minister said this project will facilitate the tourists from all over Pakistan and people of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. He said last government ignored projects which were started by the government of Nawaz Sharif. He said project of metro bus service to airport was on halt but it was resumed by the incumbent government. Shehbaz Sharif said last government only deceived the public instead of introducing projects for public welfare. Shehbaz Sharif has said that the false narrative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Imran Khan declaring the incumbent government a 'product of conspiracy' had totally busted and urged the nation to distinguish between truth and fraud. "Imran Niazi wasted five months of the nation by concocting lies and propaganda about his successor government, however his own audio leaks exposed his fraudulence," he said. The prime minister said Imran Khan blamed the politicians as traitors, however in reality, it was he who betrayed the nation.

**Heavy gunfire, soldiers in Burkina Faso capital**

OUAGADOUGOU: Soldiers are on the streets and heavy gunfire has been heard near the main military camp and residential areas of Burkina Faso's capital. A large blast also rang out on Friday near the presidential palace where soldiers took up positions. Soldiers were seen along the main avenue leading to the presidential palace, administrative buildings and the national television station, which stopped broadcasting. Journalists said state television instead showed a blank screen saying "no video signal". Several main roads in Ouagadougou were blocked by troops. A spokesman for the military govt that seized power in January was unreachable. It was not clear yet if this was a coup attempt, but it bore the hallmarks of other power grabs that have swept across West and Central Africa over the past two years. No public announcement about the motivation behind the troop movements in Ouagadougou was given. "This smacks of a coup attempt," said Eric Humphrey-Smith, senior Africa analyst at risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft. "While gunfire around military barracks could be due to some form of mutiny, the closure of the national television station bodes ill." - Agencies

**Kabul blast kills dozens**

NEWS DESK

KABUL: At least 23 people were killed and dozens of others injured in a suicide attack on an education institute in the Afghanistan's capital Kabul, police said Friday. According to reports, the explosion took place at the Kaaj education centre. Students were taking a practice university entrance exam at 7:30 a.m., local time when the blast first took place, Kabul Police Spokesman Khalid Zadran said in a statement. Abdu Ghayas Momand, a doctor from Ali Jinnah Hospital, where some of the victims have been taken, said 23 people had been killed and 36 more injured. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the attack in a tweet on Friday. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan calls the attack on Kaj training centre in the 13th district of Kabul a big crime, strongly con-

**Pak condemns terrorist attack**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has condemned in the strongest terms, the dastardly terrorist attack on an educational institution in Dasht-e-Barchi Kabul Friday, in which precious innocent lives were lost and many were injured. The Foreign Office said on Friday that the government and people of Pakistan extend their profound and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray for early recovery of the injured. "We stand in complete solidarity with our Afghan brethren in the fight against the scourge of terrorism," the statement said. PM Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the attack, tweeting: "Deeply grieved at the loss of young lives in a horrific suicide attack at a learning center in Kabul. - DNA

demns it, and expresses the deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of this incident. Serious measures will be taken to find and punish the perpetrators," he added. The official death toll is likely to rise. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack at the Kaaj Higher Educational Center in the west of the city. Many of those living in the area are Hazara, an ethnic minority targeted in past attacks launched by the militant group Islamic State, the chief rival of the Taliban since their takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, among others. "This heinous act claimed the lives of dozens of adolescent girls and boys and severely injured many more," UNICEF said in a tweet. "Violence in or around education establishments is never acceptable. Such places must be havens of peace where children can learn, be with friends, and feel safe as they build skills for their futures," the UNICEF remarked.

**Court confirms Imran Khan's bail**

ISLAMABAD: A local court of Islamabad on Friday confirmed the interim bail of former prime minister Imran Khan in a case of violation of Section 144 registered by the Aabpara Police Station. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s Chairman Imran Khan appeared before the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal in the pre-arrest bail case. At the outset of hearing, the court remarked that the prosecution had to present the evidence regarding allegation on Imran Khan of provoking the protesters. Imran Khan's counsel Dr Babar Awan told the court that it was 21st first information report (FIR) registered by the Islamabad Police against his client. After listening to arguments, the court confirmed the interim bail of Imran Khan. The PTI chairman also visited the court of Judicial Magistrate Zeba Chaudhry to formally tender apology on his threatening remarks about her. However, he was informed that the said judge was on leave. At this, Imran Khan asked the court reader to convey his apology to the judicial magistrate. - APP

**Annexation of Ukrainian regions changes 'nothing': Ukraine's FM**

DNA

KYIV: The Ukrainian foreign minister said that the annexation by Russia of four regions - Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia - where so-called referendums were held this week changed "nothing" for his country and the world. He said that Russia did not even control all of those areas, adding that Ukrainian forces were actually "progressing well" in the Donetsk region, in particular around the railway hub of Lyman. He added that the annexation meant that talking to Vladimir Putin now made no sense. Asked about the Russian claim that a deadly missile strike this Friday in the region of Zaporizhzhia was carried out by Ukraine, Kuleba called this "a lie" and said there was "clear evidence" that Russia is responsible, calling it a mere continuation of its "terrorist tactics" in the whole country. He urged the world not to be afraid of the threat by Russia to use tactical nuclear weapons, calling it an "act of desperation". For the first time since the onset of the war, Kuleba criticised the new EU sanctions package being discussed, saying it did not "correspond to the level of threat that Russia's attempted annexation and continued aggression poses to Europe".

**'Study in KSA' to serve students from 160 countries**

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's new ambitious educational program titled 'Study in Saudi Arabia' aims to benefit male and female students as well as academics and researchers of 160 countries from all over the world. The Council of Ministers took a landmark decision to issue long-term and short-term educational visas, targeting male and female students, researchers and academics from across the world for their higher studies. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education has clarified that the educational visa scheme aims to attract students having outstanding talents as well as to raise the quality of the educational process and outputs of research and innovation, Saudi Gazette Reported. The scheme targets to present Saudi Arabia as an attractive global educational destination, in addition to raising the level of classification and efficiency of Saudi educational institutions worldwide, and increasing the Kingdom's contribution to spreading the values of moderation and the Arabic language teaching. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf receiving Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugio at Parliament House. - DNA

**ASEAN Desk opened at ICCL to improve trade ties**

Adam M. Tugio Ambassador of Indonesia said that the business community of Pak should focus on ASEAN countries for trade and exports as it was a huge market for business and investment activities

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has opened an ASEAN Facilitation Desk to facilitate the business community in exploring opportunities of trade, exports, business and investment with ASEAN countries. Nguyen Tien Phong Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan and Chairman ASEAN Committee in Islamabad inaugurated the ASEAN Desk as Chief Guest. Adam M. Tugio Ambassador of Indonesia, Chakkrid Krachaiwong Ambassador of Thailand, Win Myint Ambassador of Myanmar, Dedy Faisal Bin Ahmad Salleh Deputy Head of Mission of Malaysia and Abdul Mubdi Osman Deputy Head of Mission of Brunei Darussalam were also present at the occasion. Speaking at the occasion, Nguyen Tien Phong Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan and Chairman ASEAN Committee in Islamabad congratulated ICCL for opening ASEAN Desk as it would play a positive role to improve trade and investment relations between Pakistan with ASEAN countries.

He said that Pakistan and ASEAN have huge potential to increase trade ties that should be realized to achieve economic benefits. Adam M. Tugio Ambassador of Indonesia

said that the business community of Pakistan should focus on ASEAN countries for trade and exports as it was a huge market for business and investment activities.

He said that ASEAN missions in Pakistan would help them in exploring new avenues of trade promotion with ASEAN Region. The diplomats of Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam also spoke at the occasion and said that ASEAN was a very promising region for business relations and urged that Pakistani business community should capitalize on these opportunities. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry briefed the ASEAN countries diplomats about the purpose of opening ASEAN Facilitation Desk at ICCL. He said that the Desk would provide business related information to the business community and help them in promotion trade and economic relations with ASEAN market. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCL, Zafar Bakhtawari former President and others also spoke at the occasion. They stressed for the need of direct flights of all ASEAN countries with Pakistan that would help in promoting trade, tourism, people to people contacts, business and investment relations between Pakistan and ASEAN region.

