



Islamabad POST

Friday, September 23, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

Hungarian PM calls for lifting EU sanctions on Russia

Detailed News On Page-07

No delegation visited Israel, FO clarifies

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Embassy holds Culinary Cooking event

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Briefs

FM calls for Green Marshal Plan

DNA
NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for a Green Marshal Plan to assist and support the climate vulnerable countries. Addressing a Closed Door Leaders' Roundtable on CoP-27 in New York, he highlighted the devastation caused by the recent climate induced floods in Pakistan. He noted that the loss to the economy was expected to run over thirty billion dollars. The Foreign Minister stressed the need for collective and urgent action to build back better in a greener and climate resilient manner.

72-member cabinet unlawful

SAIFULLAH
ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Thursday challenged the formation of federal cabinet in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). In his writ petition filed in the high court, the former federal minister stated that only 11 percent of the parliament can become ministers, while the federal cabinet of the ruling coalition consists of 72 members. The petition also stated that the 72-member federal cabinet of the Shehbaz government is a clear violation of Article 92 (1) of the Constitution. He prayed the court to take up the case on an emergency basis.

Punjab CM lifts ban on recruitment

ABID RAZA
LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi on Thursday lifted the ban on recruitment. The Punjab Chief Minister also announced 30,000 jobs in the province. The recruitments would be made in different departments, and the projects in grades BPS-1 to BPS-5 while hiring related to above BPS-5 will be sent to a sub-committee for consideration.

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EU pledges more aid for flood victims

PM meets EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, Bill Gates at UNGA sidelines

CENTRELINE REPORT
NEW YORK: EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen held a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York as she expressed grief over the loss of lives in ravaging floods in the country and pledged "new humanitarian aid in the coming weeks". During the meeting, the premier highlighted the damage wrought by floods, causing widespread damage. According to National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) daily situation report, seven more people lost their lives in the previous 24 hours. After the meeting with PM Shehbaz, Von der Leyen tweeted that she conveyed to the premier "personal condolences for the victims of the terrible floods". "We will come forward with new humanitarian aid in the coming weeks, to support the people of Pakistan," she added. Later in the day, PM Shehbaz met Microsoft co-founder and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates. The Prime Minister apprised him about human cost of climate change, food insecurity triggered by floods and plight of flood-stricken women and children. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

PM set to address UNGA today

UNITED NATIONS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif makes his debut on world stage when addresses the 77th session of UN General Assembly on Friday in which he is set to highlight the massive devastation left behind by the deadly climate-induced floods, and appeal for international help to deal with the catastrophe. The Pakistani leader is the 12th speaker in the 193-member Assembly's high-level debate on its 4th day in which some 140 world leaders are participating. It is the first in-person session of the Assembly following the COVID-19 pandemic. During his series of meetings with his counterparts from around the world, Prime Minister Sharif has been briefing them on the floods that have inundated one-third of Pakistan, inflicting huge damage to human lives, infrastructure, livestock and crops. "Pakistan is passing through difficult times and the havoc wreaked by floods, which is obvious before the world, needs serious attention," he said in his video statement on Wednesday. - APP



NEW YORK: President of EU Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

PTI long march Govt mulls using tear gas drones

KHAYAM ABBASI
ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah has confirmed that the government plans to use drones for firing tear gas and rubber bullets to control the law and order situation in Islamabad. PTI Chief Imran Khan Wednesday night announced that he will be starting a movement against the government on Saturday, hinting at leading a planned long march on Islamabad. As per reports, the government was planning to use drones for firing tear gas shells on the PTI protesters. In response to a question from reporters, the interior minister confirmed that the government was planning to use drones for tear gas shelling. He said the government was thinking about utilizing drones to make tear gas and rubber bullets more effective. The federal government has also requested provinces to provide police personnel to stop the PTI march.

Floods devastation Japan vows all-out support to Pakistan

Army Chief appreciates Japan's support in a meeting with envoy

STAFF REPORT
RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Japan Wada Mitsuhiro called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and pledged to extend all-out support to the flood-hit people of Pakistan. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a **Japanese Haiku show on Page 3** support and reiterated that statement on Thursday that matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and collaboration/partnership in humanitarian measures were discussed during the meeting. "Pakistan values Japan's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhance our bilateral relationship," the ISPR quoted Gen Bajwa as saying.

The envoy also expressed his grief over the devastation caused by ongoing floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. He offered full support to the people of Pakistan and also appreciated Pakistan Army's efforts for assisting civil administration in rescue and relief efforts in the flood-affected areas, the statement added. The military's media wing further said the COAS appreciated Japan's support and reiterated that "assistance from our global partners shall be vital in rescue/rehabilitation of the victims". A day earlier, Japan agreed on debt deferral amounting to approximately \$160 million to Pakistan, as the last phase of "the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)".

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ISLAMABAD: Iraqi Ambassador to Pakistan Hamed Abbas Laftah presenting a souvenir to Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah. - DNA

Some Russians flee from war call-up

UN chief says talk of nuclear conflict 'unacceptable'

NEWS DESK
KYIV: Dmitri flew to Armenia with just one small bag, leaving behind his wife and children, adding to the thousands fleeing Russia to avoid serving in the war against Ukraine. "I don't want to go to the war," he told AFP. "I don't want to die in this senseless war. This is a fratricidal war." Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision this week to mobilise several hundred thousand reservists has spurred a fresh exodus over the country's borders. "The situation in Russia would make anyone want to leave," said another new arrival, 44-year-old Sergei, who arrived with his teenage son. Looking lost and exhausted in an Armenian airport, he confirmed that they had fled "because of the mobilisation", but refused to give his full name. "We choose not to wait to be called up," said his 17-year-old son Nikolai. "I am not panicking, but I feel this uncertainty," he added. It was a sentiment shared by other Russians arriving off the same flight to Yerevan. "It's wrong to go to war in the 21st century - to put it mildly," Alexei, 39, told AFP. He was not sure if he would ever be able to return to Russia, he added. "It all depends on the situation." Military-aged men made up the majority of those arriving off the latest flight from Moscow. Many were reluctant to speak. Yerevan has become a major destination for Russians fleeing since war began on February 24.

Continued on Page 06

Babar's brilliance: Pak beat England

SPORTS DESK
KARACHI: Pakistan on Thursday beat England by 10 wickets in the second T20I to level the series 1-1. The hosts displayed a great opening partnership with skipper Babar Azam scoring his second T20i ton. Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan's

Continued on Page 06

Apologies if I crossed any red line, Imran tells IHC

The court satisfied with the apology tendered by the Ex-PM



SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a surprise move, PTI Chairman Imran Khan finally apologised on Thursday before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) as the hearing started of a contempt of court case against him for controversial remarks about

SC advises PTI MNAs to return to parliament

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday advised the Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) of PTI to rejoin the parliament. A two-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by the PTI challenging the IHC's judgement of terming the phased acceptance of its MNAs' resignations by the National Assembly speaker legal. During the course of proceedings, the CJP said the people had elected the PTI lawmakers for five years, who should play their role in the parliament, which was their basic obligation. He observed that the Islamabad High Court's order clearly stated that the phase-wise acceptance of resignations by the NA speaker had a legal standing. Interfering in the NA speaker's authority could affect Article 69 of the Constitution, and such meddling would be difficult task for the court, he added. - APP

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CM Punjab Pervez Elahi working hard for masses' welfare

KHALID MAHMOOD

WAIRABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi is sincerely working day and night for the welfare of the people of Punjab; these views were expressed by the advisor of Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood Cheema during a visit to Press Club Wazirabad in Meet the Press with the daily Islamabad Post. What did you do while talking? He said that no one has done what Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has done for the welfare of the people of Punjab and to raise their standard of living. They have de-

icated their days and nights for it. And God willing, this era will also be ideal in terms of development works. Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood Cheema said that 1122, cardiology institutes, system of traffic wardens, establishment of universities, educated Punjab, establishment of cardiology institute especially in Wazirabad are his ideal plans. While Ehsaas ration program is also being launched which will benefit the low income people. He said that Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has started work on numerous public welfare projects in a short period of time. Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood Cheema

said that the problems faced by the people of Wazirabad will be solved on priority basis. Efforts will be made to provide all the facilities, especially in terms of health and education. He said that Wazirabad will also be given the status of a district. He further said that my doors are open for everyone. On this occasion, President Press Club Iftikhar Ahmed Butt, General Secretary Mehr Fayyaz Ahmed Faizi, Senior Journalist Sabir Hussain Butt, Shahbaz Bukhari, Sufi Ashraf Nisar, Kashif Khan, Manzoor Hussain Phoolji, Naeem Mayo, Mahmood Ahmad Khan Lodhi, Naeem Ashraf, Sheikh Salahuddin and other journalists were also present.



CM KP approves three new projects for Peshawar

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has formally approved three new projects to be implemented under the Peshawar Uplift Program Phase-II in addition to directing the District Administration to launch a grand and strict crackdown against professional beggars throughout the province. Chairing a meeting regarding Peshawar Uplift Program Phase-II, the Chief Minister directed the concerned to ensure timely completion of Hayatabad trail and other ongoing schemes under the scheme, further directing them to have a proper Maintenance and Management Plan to make these initiatives worthwhile and sustainable. The Chief Minister directed the district administration to take pragmatic steps to discourage and root out professional beggary which has become a nuisance not only

for locals but also for people visiting the provincial capital from other districts and provinces. Provincial Minister for Finance & Health Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Provincial Minister for Local government Faisal Amin Gandapur, MPA Pir Fida, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, concerned administrative secretaries, Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Mehsud, Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Director General PDA, Director Archeology and other concerned official attended the meeting. While briefing the Chief Minister about the progress on the ongoing projects under the Peshawar Uplift Program, it was informed that designing and planning of 20 various schemes have been completed and approved whereas tenders of these schemes would also be floated soon. According to details, 6 Km long Hayatabad Trail would be completed at an estimat-

ed cost of Rs. 803 million which would have the state of the art recreational facilities including Jogging & Cycle tracks, green belts, public toilets, Tuk Shops, Kid Zone, sit outs, Open Gym, Futsal, Amphitheatre, Badminton & Basketball courts, Library, Ladies Gym, Skating area etc. It would be a unique trail of its kind having four entry points at different sites connecting all the phases of Hayatabad. Other projects under the program include Iqra Chowk (Island-1), Pak Avenue on University Road, Park Avenue from University Town to Tee-gah Chowk, Park Avenue (road from town entrance till Iranian Consulate), beautification of Palosai road intersection, beautification of Palosai Road from University Road to Peshawar Zoo, uplifting of University road from KTH to University Model College and establishment of park/playgrounds at Umar Gul road.

Similarly, conservation and preservation of Agriculture Training Institute, Mahafiz Khana and Government Hasnain Shaheed School No.1 would also be carried out through Archeology department. Besides newly identified schemes to be executed in second phase include Rehabilitation & Uplifting of Kabali Gate to Qissa Khwani Bazar, Qissa Khwani Bazar to Chowk Yaggar to Ghanta Ghar, Andar Shehar Bazar, Road from University Model College to Karkhano market and Establishment of Parking Plaza in Khyber Teaching Hospital. The Chief Minister on the occasion also directed for the uplifting of Scheme Chowk, Bacha Khan Chowk, Charsadda Road, entry points of Shahi Bagh and uplifting of all entry points to Peshawar. The Chief Minister retreated that face lifting of the provincial capital is a priority and all the ongoing uplifting schemes should be completed within the specified timeline.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at the Chief Minister's Office. - DNA

Hungarian ambassador meets CM Punjab

DNA

LAHORE: Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at the Chief Minister's Office and discussed matters of mutual interest. It was agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, wastewater treatment and water management. Talking on the occasion, the CM said that the provision of scholarships to Pakistani students by Hungary was a welcome step. The Punjab government had created new facilities for investment and all kinds of facilities were given to foreign investors, he added and resolved to benefit from each other's expertise. Ambassador Bela Fazekas said that Hungary was ready to support the Punjab government in the fields of agriculture, wastewater treatment and water management. Chief Secretary Abdullah Sumbal, former Principal Secretary to Chief Minister GM Sikandar and others were also present.

Danish envoy visits water purification plant at Khipro

KHIPRO: The Ambassador Designate of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf on Thursday visited Khipro town of district Sanghar and inspected the site of operation established by Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) aimed at providing clean drinking water to the rain/flood hit people of Sindh. Jacob Linulf was given detailed briefing by DEMA officials regarding water purification system and introduced the salient features of the program. The Ambassador was informed that stagnant rain water is being purified through the state of the art machinery and then provided to the rain hit people through containers. One hundred thousand liters of purified water is being supplied to the people living on road sides and the camps so that they could be saved from water borne diseases such as Cholera, Gastro, diarrhea, skin ailments

and other diseases. While talking to APP, the Ambassador Designate Jakob Linulf said that Denmark government was providing a lot of funding to the United Nations, European Union and through international NGOs and it also installed water purification plant at Khipro for provision of clean drinking water to the flood affected people. He said that this water purification plant was being implemented by DEMA which purifies one hundred thousand liters water in the area and the same is being distributed among the local population of Sindh province. In reply to a question, the Ambassador Jakob said that DEMA had installed such kind of purification plant in Sindh while other assistance was also provided to the people through UN and European Union.

He expressed condolence to the families of those who had lost their lives due to rains and flash floods in Pakistan and hope Denmark Government will always provide assistance to the people of Pakistan in the hour of difficulty. The floods and the rains have wreaked havoc in Pakistan as a result of which infrastructure was badly damaged, the Ambassador said. Earlier, he inspected the purification plant installed at the water supply pond of Khipro town and DEMA representatives briefed him about its functioning. Later, Jakob Linulf visited roadside camp and distributed bottles of purified water along with biscuits, chocolates and other edible items among children. Ms. Maria, Erik, CEO Maersk Wajehuddin Ahmed, Assistant Director PDMA Naeem Soomro were present on the occasion. - APP

Govt urged to ban scrap from KP to Afghanistan

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Small factory owners here on Thursday urged the government to impose a ban on supply/trade of tons of plastic and rubber slippers scrap from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Afghanistan. They also demanded the abolishment of property tax on Peshawar's Small Industrial Estate (SIE), Kohat Road. These demands made by a delegation of Small Industrial Estate Association Kohat Road Peshawar, which was headed by former president Engr Maqsood Anwar Parvaiz and the association's president Wahid Arif Awan during

a meeting with President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad here at the chamber's house. Imran Khan Mohmand, senior vice president, vice president Javed Akhtar, small factory owners and other office bearers of the association were present in the meeting. The delegation apprised SCCI's president regarding small manufacturers' apprehensions regarding collection of property tax from SIE Kohat Road Peshawar, supply of plastic, rubber slippers scrap from KP to Afghanistan and other problems. Engr Maqsood Parvaiz said KPEZDMC has abolished property tax from industrial estate, which is a highly laudable step. However, he demanded the Small Industrial Development Board (SIDB) to follow suit and exempt the small industrial estate Kohat Road Peshawar from such tax in order to make the dream of promotion of industrialization in KP come true in a real sense under the vision of the incumbent provincial government. Parvaiz expressed serious concern over the export of tons of plastic and rubber slippers scrap to Afghanistan from KP, saying that the trade isn't in the best interest of the small industrialists, because they have been depriving them of precious raw material.

Chairman CDA approves Water supply network

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman CDA has given approval for provision of water supply network in new blue area. An amount of Rs. 55 million has been estimated. Work will start after completion of tendering process within a 3 weeks period. Moreover, the Chairman has also directed to install street lights and complete the balance road works in this area. This is another step of the authority in providing basic facilities to the citizens. Earlier The Islamabad High Court (IHC) rejected the request to stop Capt (retired) Muhammad Usman Younis from working in a plea challenging his appointment as chairman CDA and chief commissioner ICT at same time. The court, however, served notices to respondents.

Chinese Company's Staff Donate Over Rs. 4.5 M for Flood Relief



ISLAMABAD: The staff of China Yunnan Sunny Road and Bridge Co. has come forward to help Pakistan's flood victims with a generous donation of Rs. 4.5 million. The cheque of the donation was handed over by Mr. Li Ping, director of the company in Pakistan, to the newly appointed Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS). The latter would spend it for the flood victims on behalf of Chinese friends. - DNA

BISP disbursed over 31 bln rupees among flood affected families

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme is ensuring speedy disbursement of Rs.25,000 to the flood affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab under Flood Relief Cash Assistance. In Balochistan 134,860 flood affected families have received Rs.3,371,500,000; 832,628 families have received Rs.20,815,700,000 in Sindh; 126,096 families have received Rs.3,152,400,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 152,725 families of Punjab have received Rs.3,818,125,000.

Smart class rooms inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: In pursuit of the smart education through advanced information and communication technology, smart class rooms at male and female campuses of the International Islamic University (IIU) have been inaugurated by Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President, (IIU). On the occasion, Vice President Administration and Finance, Dr. N.B. Juman, Vice President Research and Enterprise, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Vice President Academics Dr. Ayaz Afsar and Vice President Female Campus Dr. Sameena Malik were present. Dean Faculty of Computing Prof. Dr. Mohammad Asmat Ullah Khan, Incharge IT were also present. - APP

Law Minister rejects criticism on Transgender bill

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday rejected the criticism on Transgender bill and negated the misconception that the law was repugnant to Islamic injunctions. Addressing a press conference alongside Adviser to PM for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, Tarar clarified that the bill was passed by the Senate and National Assembly in the presence of religious and political leaders. He said that after reaching the age of 18 years, transgender persons could declare their genders on their identity cards. He said that the Transgender Act was passed in 2018 while Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Mush-taq Ahmed brought amendments in parliament to prevent misuse of this law and the government supported these amendments. The entire process of the Transgender Law included the opinion of the Council of Islamic Ideology, he added. He said that the government would accept the decision of the Shariah court regarding this matter and the guidance of the Shariah court was also needed regarding the medical of the transgender. The rights of the transgender had been protected by this law, he added. Minister said that there was always a chance of weakness or misuse of it whenever a law was passed. He said that complaints started coming after two years on a provision that there was a possibility that sections 3 and 4 could be misused, said that according to the aforementioned sections, after reaching the age of 18 years, transgender persons could declare their genders on their identity cards, said that it should be suitably amended and made subject to the decision of the Medical Board. This matter was still under consideration in the Parliament and two petitions were filed in the Federal Sharia Court. But if the amendment was necessary, it should be done through the Parliament, he added, said that there were also two provisions regarding recognition and identity. But, the matter would only be changed after the verdict of the shariah court, he added, said that the prime responsibility of the shariah court was to see whether a law was against the shariah and the principles of Islam. The government had submitted its responses on the pleas as well, he added, said that some friends twisted this matter and claimed that the law was encouraging homosexuality. It was also being perceived that entire law was completely negative, he added, said that the law talked about discrimination, sexual harassment, the right to inheritance, the right to education, the right to health, and the right to employment for transgender persons, said that the reason for interacting with media today was that this was not about those arguments, this was about Constitution, law, shariah and human rights. - APP

WWF-Pakistan initiates dialogue on Pakistan Climate Crisis Charter

ISLAMABAD: The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) Thursday convened here a session of government and relevant development stakeholders to develop a consensus on the Pakistan Climate Crisis Charter in the wake of new scientific evidence suggesting that climate change has likely worsened the devastating floods leading the country to face its worst humanitarian crisis in a decade. The charter would serve as a living document to facilitate action on dealing with climate induced disasters, focusing specifically on flood risk management, a WWF press release said.

The session, organized in association with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), involved a thorough discussion and consideration of land use planning, particularly development in flood-prone or vulnerable areas, water resource management, the capacity of local authorities, media coverage, and forecasting and evacuating systems. The stakeholders developed consensus on shared action points to improve preparedness and the collective response to future crises. From mid-June until the end of August 2022, large parts of Pakistan experienced record-breaking monsoon rain-

fall. The provinces of Sindh and Balochistan witnessed their wettest August ever recorded, receiving 7 and 8 times more rains than their usual monthly totals. While much of the recent flooding could be attributed to the effects of climate change, the national disaster also highlighted governance challenges, particularly land use planning, ineffective disaster preparedness, and underlying challenges that pertain to the country's political economy. WWF-Pakistan Director General Hamid Naqi Khan said: "After the catastrophic floods of 2010, we had over 10 years to prepare ourselves. - APP

IRSA releases 164,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 164,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 157,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum capacity 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 88,100 cusecs and 87,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jehlum at Mangla Dam was 1192.50 feet, which was 142.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 14,400 and 22,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 80,000, 88,700 and 82,800 cusecs respectively. —APP

Rupee weakens against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan rupee on Thursday depreciated by 07 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 239.71; against the previous day's closing of Rs 239.64. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 241.7 and Rs 244.1 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by 46 paise and closed at Rs 236.88 against the last day's closing of Rs 237.34. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs1.66, whereas a decrease of 07 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 271.66 as compared to its last closing of Rs 271.73. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham increased by 02 paise, while that of Saudi Riyal decreased by 01 paise to close at Rs 65.26 and Rs 63.71 respectively.

Railways approach deptts to recover Rs 9891.685 mln

ISLAMABAD: An outstanding amount of Rs 9891.685 million of Pakistan Railways was pending with several federal, provincial, autonomous and private departments, as part of its services provided to them. In this regard, Pakistan Railways has approached the said departments to recover the outstanding billion of rupees as early as possible, source in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Giving details, they said several departments has to pay an amount of Rs1172.180 million while provincial departments would pay Rs 2,444.220 million besides autonomous and private bodies with an amount of Rs 6,275.285 million. They said on the directives of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, the Ministry has approached federal and provincial departments for recovering the outstanding amount. —APP

CTP take action against PSVs for not completing routes

RAWALPINDI: C city Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi have issued challans tickets to Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) for overcharging, not completing the designated routes and running on roads without route permits. According to a CTP spokesman, five vehicles were impounded in police stations over public complaints. Following the orders of Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad, In-charge Traffic Civil Lines Sector while taking action against PSVs, issued 33 challan tickets to rules violators while five vehicles were also impounded in the police station. —APP

Haiku poetry art illustrations exhibition inaugurated at PNCA

One minute silence was observed for victims of floods in Pakistan and typhoon in Japan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To promote creativity and cultural affinity about the traditional Japanese poetic form of Haiku among the youth of Pakistan, the Embassy of Japan and Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized a first ever "Haiku Poetry Art Illustrations Exhibition" at the National Art Gallery on Thursday 22nd September 2022. H.E. Mr. WADA Mitsuhiro, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, together with Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, President, PJCA Islamabad, inaugurated the Haiku Art Illustrations Exhibition in the presence of haiku poets, artists, teachers, students and other distinguished guests. The exhibition that features 110 art works themed on the Haikus painted by the students from educational institutions in the twin cities including some art organizations have been put on display depicting their creative talent as well as their understanding of haiku. The exhibition was curated by Mr. Jamal Shah, an eminent artist and executive member of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association Islamabad.

Haiku is a precise, compact and condensed form of traditional Japanese poetry written in 5-7-5 syllabic form usually in three lines that dates back to the 17th century and 2 / 2 still remains popular in modern Japan, and is now practiced in many countries of the world including Pakistan. H.E. Ambassador WADA appreciated the students and other artists participating in the exhibition for their eye-catching thematic art works reflecting their keen interest and understanding of haiku poetry and Japanese culture. The Ambassador stated that the purpose of showcasing this exhibition was to encourage the students in exploring and doing research on haiku poetry and also to show their artistic skills. "Understanding art and culture of another country is the best way to get familiar with its people and society as it promotes enhanced people-to-people contacts hailing from varying cultures" said the Ambassador. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan as well as the 50th anniversary since the establishment of PJCA Islamabad, this exhibition is a part of activities arranged to commemorate the bond of friendship between the two countries in a befitting way.

The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to PJCA, PNCA, students and teachers for their collaboration in organizing this wonderful exhibition. The exhibition will remain open for public till September 29, 2022. One minute silence was observed for victims of floods in Pakistan and typhoon in Japan. Ambassador expressed condolences to flood victims in Pakistan and assured Japan's continued support for the people of Pakistan.



WWF-Pakistan starts dialogue on Climate Crisis Charter

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of new scientific evidence suggesting that climate change likely worsened the devastating floods that have led the country to face its worst humanitarian crisis in a decade, WWF-Pakistan, in association with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, convened government and relevant development stakeholders to develop a consensus on the Pakistan Climate Crisis Charter. According to a press release issued here on Thursday, this Charter would serve as a living document to facilitate action on dealing with climate induced disasters, focusing specifically on flood risk management. The session involved a thorough discussion/consideration of land use planning, particularly development in flood-prone or vulnerable areas, water resource management, the capacity of local authorities, media coverage, and forecasting and evacuating systems. Stakeholders developed consensus on shared action points to improve preparedness and the collective response to future crises. From mid-June until the end of August 2022, large

parts of Pakistan experienced record-breaking monsoon rainfall. The provinces of Sindh and Balochistan witnessed their wettest August ever recorded, receiving 7 and 8 times their usual monthly totals. While much of the recent flooding can be attributed to the effects of climate change, the national disaster also highlighted governance challenges, particularly land use planning, ineffective disaster preparedness, and underlying challenges that pertain to the political economy of the country. Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General WWF-Pakistan said "After the catastrophic floods of 2010, we had over 10 years to prepare ourselves. Yet, our response was reactive. As we work on providing relief and rehabilitation, we must also begin to prepare our actors; including federal, provincial and local governments, disaster management agencies, non-profit and non-government entities; to address gaps in our governance and develop a holistic and community-centered approach to climate adaptation to limit its impacts." —APP

95 more dengue cases reported in a day

RAWALPINDI: The dengue fever cases were constantly rising, and Rawalpindi has registered 95 more dengue cases during the last 24 hours, the maximum single-day rise this year. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Thursday said that the number of dengue fever patients at district health facilities was uninterrupted growing while the district government, along with district health authority and others had made arrangements to control the situation. During the last 24 hours, he said that 95 patients had tested positive for the fatal disease, increasing the tally to 1579. Among the new cases, he added that 48 cases had arrived from Potohar town Urban area, 17 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, nine from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, eight from Chaklala Cantonment, four from Potohar rural, two from Taxila Cantonment, and Kahutta and one from Kalar Syeda. Presently, 271 patients were admitted to three allied hospitals of the city, including 123 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 75 to the District Headquarters Hospital. —APP

Google to offer 15k career certificate scholarships

ISLAMABAD: Google will offer 15,000 career certificate scholarships for Pakistanis through local partners including education institutions, industry partners and nonprofits to earn a certificate at no cost. The tech giant has launched career certificates to offer flexible learning paths for all Pakistanis to enable learners to develop their knowledge and acquire digital skills for in-demand jobs. In its mission to Unlock Pakistan's Digital Potential,

Google has also reinforced its commitment to enable an equitable and inclusive digital economy by offering 15,000 scholarships by this year through local partners - IRM and Ignite, comprising education institutions, industry partners and nonprofits. A report by Alpha Beta found that if leveraged fully, digital technologies could create up to PKR 9.7 Trillion (USD 59.7 Billion) worth of economic value annually in Pakistan by 2030. Pakistan's ICT sector has

witnessed remarkable growth over the past decade, boasting an average annual revenue growth rate of 20-30%. ICT-related exports currently exceed US\$5 billion, and the Ministry of IT & Telecommunication believes the sector has the "potential to become the [nation's] largest export industry" in the coming years. Currently, roughly 4.7% of Pakistan's labor force is employed in the ICT sector, of which 6% - or ~200,000 workers - are women. —APP

members of dacoit gangs held

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Shahzad Town and Noon Police teams arrested four wanted members of bike lifting and dacoit gangs and recovered four stolen motorcycles, cash, mobile phone and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, a police team under the supervision of SHO Shahzad Town used human resources and latest technology and apprehended 02 members of bike lifter

and weapon with ammunition from their possession. The accused were identified as Shahmir and Isbat. Police team also recovered three stolen motorbikes from their possession. During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed multiple snatch incidents from various areas of Islamabad. Cases have been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway. Further-more, a police team under the supervision of SHO Noon used human resources and latest technology and apprehended 02 members of dacoit gang. The accused were identified as Noman and Abdullah. Police team also recovered cash, mobile phone, stolen motorbike

and weapon with ammunition from their possession. The accused were identified as Numan alias Nomi and Abdullah. During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed multiple snatch incidents from various areas of Islamabad. Cases have been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway. DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha appreciated the police teams efforts and further directed all zonal SP's to intensify the ongoing crackdown against criminals involved in illegal criminal activities. He said that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility.

British HC visits UK funded aid projects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner, Dr Christian Turner, visited flood affected communities in Mirpur Khas District, Sindh, and saw firsthand the delivery of lifesaving assistance by Concern Worldwide, an NGO being funded by the UK. Accompanied by the Concern Worldwide Acting Country Director, Sherzada Khan, Dr Christian Turner met with relief workers and community leaders to better understand the scale of the situation in Sindh and ascertain how further UK assistance could be utilised. He also visited a cash assistance programme and primary health care centre, which was being funded, in part, by an initial tranche of £1.55m committed by the UK right at the start of the flood crisis. To date, the UK has committed

a total of £16.5m to support flood relief efforts and the British public have donated over £25m via the Disasters Emergency Committee's Pakistan Appeal. This appeal has notably been supported by the England men's cricket team, who are touring Pakistan for the T20s, with the team making a personal donation which was then matched by the England Cricket Board. In addition to this, last week a UK Royal Air Force flight delivered 8 boats and 10 portable generators gifted in defence for use in flood relief operations. Whilst visiting Mirpur Khas, Dr Christian Turner, said the following: "Pakistan faces a growing flood-fuelled public health crisis. UKAid is helping with shelter, clean water and emergency healthcare. But also we must rebuild smarter to be resilient against future climate disasters."



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
- Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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- Edhi Ambulance.....115
- PIA Flight Info.....114
- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Inquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange 9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
- CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611111
- 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

Briefs

Pakistan confronting worst climatic disaster

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Thursday said that Pakistan was among the hardest hit country in the world confronted with the worst ever climatic induced disaster crippling the fragile economy because of the emissions produced by the rich countries.

Addressing a seminar on "Pakistan and Response of Leading Emitters", he said that around the world, 2022 has been the year of climate catastrophe including drought, floods, mega fires and typhoons.

The recent flash floods in the country and its large scale destruction opened the eyes of the whole world which is bigger global wake up call, he said adding that one third of Pakistan was submerged wiping out hundreds of villages from the map snatching livelihood from poor strata of the society and rendering millions homeless. He said that the costs of floods in the country was enormous to the tune of more than \$30 billion and coming months it will increase hunger, disease, poverty and other social complications. He said rich countries should bear their fair share of the attributable costs of climate adaptation, emergency response and recovery in countries that played a little to none role in causing today's calamities. — APP

Four car, bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested four car and bike lifters and recovered 19 stolen motorcycles, a carry van, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, Wah Cantt Police Station managed to net four accused namely Shehzad alias Shada, ring leader, Numan, Syed Jan and Nehar and recovered 19 stolen motorcycles, a carry van, weapons and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway, he added. Superintendent of Police, Potohar appreciated police team and directed to net the accomplices and facilitators of the accused. SSP Investigation, Capt. @ Amir Khan Niazi directed the police officers to continue raids against lawbreakers and they should be sent behind the bars. — APP

World Tourism Day to be marked on September 27

ISLAMABAD: World Tourism Day will be marked on September 27 (Tuesday) across the globe including Pakistan with the aim to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic values. World Tourism Day recognizes the importance of tourists and the tourism industry across the globe.

The United Nations' World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) invites people worldwide to participate in World Tourism Day on September 27 every year. Many tourism enterprises and organizations, as well as government agencies with a special interest in tourism, celebrate the event with various special events and festivities.

Different types of competitions, such as photo competitions promoting tourism, as well as tourism award presentations in areas such as ecotourism, are held on World Tourism Day. Other activities include free entries, discounts or special offers for the general public to any site of tourism interest. Government and community leaders, as tourism business representatives, may make public announcements or offer special tours or fares to promote both their region and World Tourism Day on or around September 27. Tourism has experienced continued growth and deeper diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. — APP

Rotary holds talk on financial Literacy, taxation management



ISLAMABAD: Rotary Club of Islamabad Metropolitan arranged a special talk on "Financial Literacy and Taxation Management" in a local hotel. Mr. Shahzad Ahmed Malik an established and well know financial expert with an experience over 25 year in the industry was the guest speaker. Mr. Shehzad Ahmed Malik is the Pres-

ident of ICMA. Mr. Malik represents ICMA as a member of Members' Development Committee of the Confederation of Asia and Pacific Accountants (CAPA). Meeting was chaired by Imran Ghaznavi, President Rotary Club of Islamabad (Metropolitan). Mr. Ghaznavi brief the audience on the importance of the financial literacy and taxation management in the

present pressing financial environment. It is crucial for every responsible citizen to file tax returns and should be aware of basic tax laws and regulations. Mian Shaukat Masood introduced the guest speaker. Mr. Shahzad Malik enlightened the audience about recent changes in tax laws and how even an ordinary person can file his

or her tax returns. He highlighted the importance of filing the tax returns and the benefits of being an active taxpayer. Mr. Malik explained complex tax procedures and issues in a simple and common man language, which made his talk enjoyable and attractive. Meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Majid Qureshi. — DNA

Dr Qaiser warns people not to use antibiotics without medical advice

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Medical Association Secretary-General Dr Qaiser Sajjad on Thursday warned that people should discourage self-medication as over 5 lakh of them were annually dying in the country due to use of antibiotics pills without medical advice. Talking to a private news channel, he demanded concerned authorities for imposing strict ban on the sale of antibiotics without qualified doctors' prescription. He said that all unprofessional quacks practicing without appropriate authorization must be addressed stringently through governmental interventions and control policies.

The public media awareness of the potential risks associated with self-medication and the differentiation between certified medical practitioners and quacks should be considered priorities, he further stressed. He said in our population, the frequency of self-medication is very high, with most people practicing self-medication on the basis of their previous experiences, adding, which puts them at risk of experiencing adverse reactions and most importantly antibiotic resistance.

Replying to a query, he explained that self-medication, also known as 'non-prescription' or 'over-the-counter' are available without the prescription from a qualified physician, so people need to have confidence that the drugs they buy in pharmacies, supermarkets, and other outlets have gone through the appropriate evaluation and are safe for use. He said the unnecessary use of antibiotics in self-limiting viral infections is causing antibiotic resistance, especially in children, adding, in current dengue virus outbreaks, patients could be at risk of developing serious complications due to the self-medication, which are normally used at home for general fever and pain management, especially in rural areas.

PML-N brought economy back on track: Ali Perviz Malik

ISLAMABAD: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Ali Perviz Malik said on Wednesday that the government was focusing on the rehabilitation of the flood victims, while Imran Khan is busy in dirty politics revolving around his own political and personal interests.

Talking to a Private News Channel, the PML-N leader said that after removal from the government in a constitutional way, Imran Khan tried to plunge the country into internal chaos. Shaukat Tareen tried his best to sabotage the deal with International Monetary Fund (IMF), but the former government of PTI got nothing but abashment, he added. Imran Khan should support the nation in this difficult time instead of doing shameful politics of personal interests, he said and added that Imran Khan led government had brought this country to the verge of bankruptcy which was brought back on track of stronger economy by the present government, he added. — APP

New technology to ease drinking water shortage

ISLAMABAD, Sep 21 (APP): The experts on Wednesday urged the government and philanthropists to invest in cost-effective floodwater purification filters developed by the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) that were based on modern technical equipment and helpful in mitigating water shortage and health issues due to stagnant water in flood affected areas.

The PCRWR, in the wake of unprecedented torrential rains that inundated 1/3rd of the country, had built most modern water purification plants that were

portable and easy to operate and maintain systems sufficient to meet drinking water needs of a limited population in a union council. The Council through its regional offices had provided few filtration plants in Balochistan and Sindh to utilise the floodwater for drinking and domestic purposes.

The water filtration plants were based on solar power and manual mechanism based on the area needs and population capacity to handle the equipment. The solar water purification filter had a solar panel plate of almost 280watts used to

provide power to run the suction machine to supply flood water to the purification filters that used to capture turbidity, mud, microbes and E. coli and bacteria, a PCRWR official told APP while sharing cost effective and local solutions to provide instant and maximum relief to the flood impacted masses.

However, the purification plant had three main filters of varying capacity to remove bacterium and contaminants from the floodwater through three prong cleansing, he added. The Solar based filter could purify 1,500 liters of flood-

water per hour. However, the manual filter as compared to the solar based only had a PLP wheel and a handle attached to it for drawing water into the filters whereas the rest of the technology was the same. This manual filter could purify 1,200 liters of contaminated water per hour, the official said.

"The manual water filter costs Rs 1lac whereas the solar based filter worth Rs 3 lac which is nominal for non-governmental organisations and philanthropists to donate for flood affected population," he added. — APP



RAWALPINDI: People gathered for purchasing 10kg flour bags on subsidized rates from a truck at Dhok Sayedan Chowk. — APP

Exporters must follow rules set by Chinese authorities

Chinese officials briefed the participants on key economic indicators of China. As per NBSC, volume of China's exports of goods is \$3.36 trillion while volume of China's imports of goods is \$2.69 trillion.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to China in 2021 remained at \$3.589 billion and in 2022 the export volume can reach \$4 billion and with the increase in food products; however, Pakistani exporters must follow the rules and regulations set by the Chinese authorities for imports.

In this regard, according to Gwadar Pro, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with China Certification and Inspection Group (CCIG) Shanghai,

and Tofflon Group Shanghai organized a webinar on Tuesday.

Besides officials from TDAP and CCIG, a large number of Pakistani exporters and experts participated in the webi nar. Pakistan has become a major source for the export of food products particularly rice, seafood, dried fruits, nuts, fruits, pink salt, and processed food. The Chinese officials briefed the participants on key economic indicators of China. As per the National Bureau of Statistics China (NBSC), the volume of China's exports of goods

is \$3.36 trillion while the volume of China's imports of goods is \$2.69 trillion. Pakistan's exports to China are with the passage of time; the volume of exports in 2016 was \$1.91 billion, in 2017 \$1.83 billion, in 2018 \$2.18 billion, in 2019 \$1.81 billion, in 2020 \$2.12 billion and in 2021 \$3.589 billion. "This year, Pakistan exports' volume can surge up to \$4 billion and the space is available in food products," said one of the experts from CCIG. According to the General Administration of Customs China's statistics,

the value of Pakistan's food exports to China in 2021 was \$840 million. Of them, \$609 million was vegetable products, \$179 million was animal products while the value of prepared foodstuff was \$52 million. Similarly, in 2021, the value of the export of nuts and dried food from Pakistan to China was \$65 million. In 2021, the exports of processed seafood from Pakistan to China 2021 were \$8.4 million while the value of mangoes exported during the same year was \$127 million. China's imports of rice

are \$2.2 billion, seafood \$ 13.8 billion, nuts and dried fruit \$2.2 billion while sesame seed \$1.7 billion. Pakistani exporters can get major shares in the imports of these products; however, they need to know the general characteristics of the Chinese Consumer Market. For example, due to an increase in per capita income and consumer expenditure, China is close to becoming an upper-income country with increasingly health & fitness-conscious consumers. They are spending money

on quality and imported food while online buying is becoming an increasingly popular mode of purchase. To get maximum space in China's market, Pakistan exporters should keep in compliance with import guidelines; they should develop a brand and build a website in the Chinese language, emphasize on health features of their products, prepare attractive and convenient packaging, make use of e-commerce platforms like Alibaba and JD, and promote their products through live-streaming and social media platforms.

Artists join hands to raise funds for flood-victims

ISLAMABAD: The artists from across the country have joined hands to contribute to flood relief efforts by donating their work to an exhibition organized here for collecting funds for the flood victims.

The unprecedented rains this year have played havoc across most of the country, resulting in the loss of precious lives and massive destruction.

Keeping in view the flood situation across the country, the Art Aid organized a fundraising event at Art gallery F-9 Park.

Famous and renowned artists of the country have donated their artworks to help the people affected by the recent floods in Pakistan and participate in their rehabilitation.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Commissioner Islamabad Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis, the other day which will continue till October 9.

On the occasion famous painters, artists of the country and a large number of citizens also participated.

On the last day of the exhibition, these works of art will be auctioned, after which the money received will be donated to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Account to provide all possible help to the flood victims.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Commissioner said the civic agency was making all-out efforts to help the flood victims.

He said the art gallery is a great platform for women and youth from where they can transfer the culture and civilization of the country of Pakistan to the coming generation, especially those living in other countries.

He said the civil administration will continue to organise such exhibitions in the future. Younis said any city is not made only by the construction and repair of highways, parks or street lights, but it has its own distinct culture, civilization and way of life and no society can achieve its position without cultural identity.

He stated that Islamabad, besides being a beautiful city, also has a distinct and unique identity in terms of civilization and culture.

"Our artist community has a more important role in highlighting art and culture," he remarked. Chairman Art Aid Jamal Shah said the exhibition was aimed at mobilizing the community of artists to come forward in aid of countless fellow countrymen. "The response has been swift and overwhelming, with artists across-the-board contributing works for the Flood Relief Fund-raiser Exhibition," said Shah. — APP

'Govt confident to overcome all challenges soon'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qayyum on Thursday expressed his confidence that coalition government would succeed in overcoming all challenges faced by the nation including flood disaster.

"PTI government had left a quagmire of economic challenges due to its bad governance, economic mismanagement and irresponsible attitude", he alleged while talking to a private news channel.

He said Imran Khan was pursuing an anti Pakistan agenda as no patriotic political leader could utter such immature statements against country and national institutions.

Senator PML-N also claimed that the economic indicators have now started moving in the right direction, adding, all inflated prices would be controlled soon. "PML-N is making sincere efforts to get out of this difficult situation soon", he added. Replying a query, he said that all the institutions of the country have become controversial because of Imran Khan, adding, he should stop playing politics on the issue of departmental promotions and appointments of any institute for his own political gains. He also said that accountability criteria should be the same for all politicians, and Khan would also be held accountable for his baseless criticism for the state institutions. — APP

Sino-GCC collaboration

RELATIONS between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries have been booming in recent years, with China being the largest trading partner of the regional bloc. Despite the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have stalled a global economic recovery, their trade increased by 45 percent last year. And it is not just oil. Practical cooperation between the two sides in infrastructure, finance, investment, high technology and other fields has been continuously deepening, while cultural and people-to-people exchanges are flourishing. Which explains why State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during a meeting with the foreign ministers of GCC countries on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Monday, described China and the GCC countries as “good friends, partners and brothers” while calling their mutually beneficial relationship “a model for cooperation” between China and developing countries.

The close relationship has been developed partly on the strong complementarities they share. The GCC countries are seeking to diversify their economies but at present they still depend on their energy trade for that, while China needs stable supplies of crude oil to power its economy. For example, Saudi Arabia provided 17 percent of China’s oil imports in 2021, making it China’s top crude oil supplier. Apart from energy, there is growing synergy between China and the GCC countries to explore cooperation opportunities in other areas such as telecommunications, artificial intelligence and smart cities. For example, China has participated in the GCC countries’ development of 5G mobile networks, with its telecommunications giant Huawei playing an active role in their digital transformation. Many GCC countries have seen technology-based cooperation with China as an effective means to help them diversify their industries and build knowledge economies.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative has added new momentum to Sino-GCC cooperation, as many GCC countries have aligned their national development programs with the Belt and Road projects. For example, Saudi Arabia is synergizing its Saudi Vision 2030 with the Belt and Road Initiative by enhancing cooperation with China on energy, infrastructure, finance and high-tech. In order to bring bilateral relations to a new level, China and GCC countries have now agreed to work jointly to reach a free trade agreement at an early date. Negotiations on the free trade deal, which started as early as 2004, have yielded many fruitful results, with agreement reached on a majority of issues concerning trade in goods. An FTA would further strengthen their already close trade relations and inject new vitality into the strategic partnership between China and the GCC countries.

Pakistan’s First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 47

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Putin’s military escalation

V LADIMIR Putin cannot admit that he is losing a war, least of all a war he expected to win with such clinical success as to merit only being called a “special military operation”. That sinister euphemism, imposed on Russian media by law, will be harder to maintain now that the president has announced a mobilisation of army reservists. Sending hundreds of thousands of civilians to the front is a signal to Russians that Ukraine is more determined and capable in defence of its nationhood than was advertised by Kremlin propaganda.

A successful Ukrainian counteroffensive has forced Mr Putin to downgrade his ambitions from regime change in Kyiv to “liberation of the entire territory of Donbas”. (“Liberation” means its opposite in this context.) Alongside the call-up of army reservists, the Kremlin has announced plans for referendums in occupied regions on the Russian border, leading to annexation. A rigged vote to gratify Mr Putin’s territorial appetite is a foregone conclusion.

Rebadging Ukrainian territory as part of Russia is part of a strategy to present the war as self-defence, with Kyiv as a front for the aggressor, Nato. That is a monstrous inversion of reality, but one that has a purchase on the Russian nationalist imagination. Mr Putin is trying to mythologise the conflict as a second chapter in a western plot against his country, where the first chapter was the unravelling of the Soviet Union. The intention is the same as it was when the same threat was issued nearer the start of the war – to impose a limit on support that Nato will give to Kyiv. It worked, to the extent of making western countries nervous about provoking Moscow. But it failed to prevent Ukraine maximising what help it received with heroic ingenuity. Mr Putin conjuring the nuclear spectre is also a psychological device in a campaign to terrorise Ukraine. Conventional forces are already deployed to that end – unleashing indiscriminate artillery bombardment, strikes at civil infrastructure, targeting of civilians, kidnapping, torture, rape and murder.

The discovery of mass graves near Izium, a city taken in the recent counteroffensive, is a grim reminder of what Mr Putin’s methods mean on the ground, and why his extreme postures must not be allowed to dictate western policy. Solidarity with Ukrainians in their struggle against a barbarous dictator is both a moral and a strategic imperative for the rest of Europe. Putinism represents a profound threat to global security. It must be contained. The Russian president did not expect to fight a long war. Having blundered into one, he is forced to prolong it further, making cannon fodder of his own citizens. It is a desperate strategy that relies on a demoralised, poorly coordinated and corrupt Russian army outlasting Ukraine’s will to fight for its survival. That has been a formula for the humbling of bullying powers in the past. So it is proving again.

Global race of unicorns

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Pakistan is the fifth largest market of the world providing exceptional opportunities for new and innovative business ideas, but Joe O’Callaghan, Managing Partner at Vation Ventures very rightly suggests, “Offering the right product and service to the right customers in the right market and at the right time is half part of being in business. The other half is having the right partners, technologies, and strategies to help you reach the market and deliver your products and services. The most successful technology ecosystems help you bridge the gap between customers, partners, products, technologies, and markets to help you deal with your responsibilities and innovate at a much higher rate”

UNICORNS have become a symbol of strong startup ecosystem of an economy. Numbers of unicorns in a country reflect favourable environment to nurture new ventures, clear taxation laws for foreign investors, developed human resource to cater needs of today’s digitalized business world, and government’s facilitation in providing efficient infrastructure to expand and sustain innovative commercial initiatives. Recent closure of Airlift after very successful series B funding round of \$85 million less than a year ago certainly raises concerns about the strength of our Country’s startup ecosystem. Popularity of Airlift’s operation in the public was amazing, referrals were quite common. We also started using Airlift’s services on the recommendations of our neighbours satisfied by their quality of service.

Our prime time is dedicated to put down political rivals, debating interventions of the deep state, propagating every violation taking place within our boundaries and then mourning the havoc created by our irrational approaches. How acountry at the verge of default can ignore termination of a startup which displayed tremendous potential for growth but terribly failed to sustain. It was this point when intervention of the government and relevant policy makers is usually required to send message to all relevant stakeholders that the state is with them if they exhibit business potential. You can’t find even a single analysis or discussion on this failure to ensure that it doesn’t happen again to any emerging startup. Because, it is globally proven fact that startups rejuvenate the economy by creating goods and services at a high growth output rate which existing organizations can’t match, startups explore new markets and reform existing opportunities. As Jacob E. Lee suggests, “Startups are most beneficial to the economy because they contribute to the creation of jobs in a country. Startups create more opportunities for employment since they can add to job creation at a rate of 25% or more.”

Airlift’s customer care and quality of services were generally admired by the users of the service; however, bleeding operations remained concern among investors which eventually spoiled the only aspiring homegrown unicorn in Pakistan. Airlift also attempted to expand operations internationally which, I think, was

ambitious and probably not required, that may have terribly affected their financial position. I have hands-on experience of the international business development, it is extremely tricky to explore and establish international market for every business and needs extensive due diligence. Other operations of same kind are progressing slowly and I hope they will certainly learn from the failure of Airlift to ensure sustainable operations.

Why it is unicorns which we are focusing today. Unicorns are billion dollar startups. According to Aileen Lee, “Startups that reached this mark are so rare that finding one is as difficult as finding a mythical unicorn.” But it isn’t true anymore for some economies in the world as there are now numbers of unicorns with successful operations and may be hundreds are in the queue to join the club.

India has been successful and consistent in expanding startup ecosystem with significant growth in unicorns numbering 105 ranking third in the world after USA with 618 and China 174 unicorns, while Israel features 96 and UK 44. This clearly indicates that these economies provided room to new and innovative ideas to flourish and extend employment to thousands of people through their operations. Pakistan is the fifth largest market of the world providing exceptional opportunities for new and innovative business ideas, but Joe O’Callaghan, Managing Partner at Vation Ventures very rightly suggests, “Offering the right product and service to the right customers in the right market and at the right time is half part of being in business. The other half is having the right partners, technologies, and strategies to help you reach the market and deliver your products and services. The most successful technology ecosystems help you bridge the gap between customers, partners, products, technologies, and markets to help you deal with your responsibilities and innovate at a much higher rate.”

Minnalearn website suggests, “The startup ecosystem consists of a group of people, startups, and related organizations that work as a system to create and scale new startups. Startup ecosystems are formed often in a relatively limited area with a center of gravity like a university or a concentration of technology companies. This ecosystem draws together key actors and stakeholders that gravitate

towards growth ventures, including new entrepreneurs, mentors, incubators, sources of talent such as universities and corporations, investors and supporting services like startup-savvy laws and accounting agencies.”

According to HumraLaeeq, author at ThePrint, “Alongside a ‘drastic’ gender inequality, other roadblocks that more directly appear to impact start-ups in the Pakistan include a lack of diversity among local angel investors, unclear taxation laws for foreign investors, and a workforce that is not yet trained for senior positions in this new wave of digital firms. It is imperative that the government and all other key stakeholders understand that we are at a crossroads where addressing the needs of these startups and creating a favourable environment for them will determine the course of the entire digital economy over the years to come.”

Despite technical skills startups need thorough training in developing their business models. A venture capital firm, that did not back Airlift (before the closure), stated that Airlift needed to fix its unit economics, the company was bleeding money, which was a concern for investors. Aftab of Zayn Capital said, “It takes multiple liquidity cycles before you are able to stay and survive to get that unicorn status. Young founders who haven’t gone through a liquidity squeeze like 2008 are also going to see that money won’t be readily available.”

According to AhsanZafeer, a digital marketing professional, “China still dominates the overall unicorn list in Asia. On the other hand, Pakistan has only three unicorns in the form of Careem valued at \$3.1 billion, Afiniti at \$1.6 billion, and KeepTruckin valued at \$2.3 billion. However, these companies have either been started by non-resident Pakistanis or headquartered outside the Country. Pakistan still awaits its first home-grown unicorn.”

We as a nation have to build favourable infrastructure and all-encompassing mentoring program to nurture innovative startups and facilitate them to join the club of unicornsto exhibit strength and potential of our economy and supporting systems.

– The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk

Beware the prospect of a nuclear calamity

Marwan Bishara

In fact, the West has so far avoided imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine or transferring long-range missiles and other weapons that may threaten Russian territory for fear of the Kremlin’s retaliation against Europe. Yet, the sophisticated military assistance that the US and its allies have provided to Kyiv has begun to change the balance of power on the battlefield in favour of Ukraine. Russia’s mounting losses in the past few weeks are clearly pushing Putin into a corner

THE world’s indifference to the prospect of a nuclear disaster, today, is frankly insane. For the past few months, Western experts have downplayed the probability that the Ukraine war would lead to nuclear escalation between Russia and the West. Since Putin first put Russia’s nuclear arsenal on alert back in February, many experts have argued that he was merely posturing in a bid to throw his “adversaries off balance”. However, Putin’s most recent threats of using such weapons – made in a televised speech on Wednesday morning – must not be taken lightly, regardless of his motivation or intention. He said that Western officials have threatened Russia with nuclear weapons, a charge that US President Joe Biden denied during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly hours later. Putin also announced a partial mobilisation and his support for upcoming referendums in four Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine that could pave the way for their annexation by Moscow. It’s one thing for the West to dismiss as irrelevant the threat of Putin firing, for instance, a secretary. However, any chance he may fire his nukes should be taken seriously, regardless of how remote the possibility is.

In fact, the West has so far avoided imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine or transferring long-range missiles and other weapons that may threaten Russian territory for fear of the Kremlin’s retaliation against Europe. Yet, the sophisticated military assistance that the US and its allies have provided to Kyiv has begun to change the balance of power on the battlefield in favour of Ukraine. Russia’s mounting losses in the past few weeks are clearly pushing Putin into a corner. He is angry, humiliated and is

losing clout at home and abroad. That’s why he has decided to mobilise 300,000 extra troops to try to reverse his setbacks in Ukraine. However, as past Russian and American wars have shown – whether in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq or elsewhere – a troops surge may win him time but won’t necessarily win him the war. That’s why he coupled his decision for a military surge with a nuclear warning, putting the West on notice: back off or face the consequences.

Hence the seriousness of Putin’s threat to use weapons of mass destruction. The threat is “not a bluff” as he put it, nor a bluster; it rather sounds desperate and deliberate. It is also the biggest escalation since the invasion began seven months ago and the biggest troop mobilisation since the end of the Cold War. Some are now sounding a warning about Putin’s potential use of tactical nuclear weapons on the battlefield. Or as one analyst put it: “Russia is willing to use nuclear weapons if Ukraine continues its offensive operations”. Indeed, former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday that the Kremlin could use tactical nuclear weapons to defend its occupation of parts of Ukraine that it annexes.

In theory, the use of these weapons, which are short-range and designed for limited strikes, sounds implausible considering Ukraine’s geographic proximity and Russia’s nuclear doctrine which underlines the defensive use of nuclear weapons or when the very existence of Russia is threatened. That’s why Putin’s sense of victimhood, real or imagined, makes the escalation ever more disturbing. In his speech on Wednesday, he portrayed his own destructive war on Ukraine as a Western conspiracy to destroy Rus-

sia – a NATO-led aggression against all Russians posing an existential threat to the country. Whether he truly believes that or not is somewhat irrelevant. He has demonised the West and Ukraine, and is marshalling Russian public opinion towards a wider war with unknown consequences. Putin has also accused the Ukrainian government of holding Europe hostage to a nuclear Armageddon by bombing the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant under Russian control. The Ukrainians claim that it is Russia that is doing the shelling.

This is truly and tragically unforgivable, lest we also forget that Eastern Europe and parts of Russia continue to suffer from the effects of Chernobyl, 36 years after the nuclear disaster at the Ukrainian nuclear plant. In short, the danger of a nuclear calamity is real if the war continues to escalate, whether by design or default; whether stemming from strategic or tactical use of nuclear weapons, or from the bombing of a nuclear plant.

None of it is inevitable and all of its totally avoidable. Nuclear powers have lost or ended conventional wars in the past without resorting to nuclear weapons. That’s why world powers have a duty to stop the escalation and to seek a diplomatic solution sooner rather than later.

Putin may be directly responsible for this war of aggression against Ukraine, but the West’s insistence on NATO’s expansion to Russia’s border and its sabre rattling in Ukraine have also been terribly provocative and reckless. The war has been a disaster for all, especially Ukraine. It will get worse. That’s why cooler heads must prevail. Before it is too late. Those still hoping to win must remember that there is no winning a nuclear war.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Apologies
if I crossed
any red
line, Imran
tells IHC

FROM PAGE 01
Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry during a rally in Islamabad on August 20. Imran Khan appeared before the court amid strict security. The court was set to frame charges against the former prime minister during the hearing. However, Imran Khan offered an apology at the outset of the hearing. "I apologise if I crossed any line. It won't happen again. I never intended to hurt the sentiments of the court," Imran Khan said while assuring the court of never committing "such an act again," Khan said. He also requested the court to allow him to apologise to judge Zeba Chaudhry in person. At this, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah said that the court is not framing charges against Imran Khan today. "The court values your statement [given] before the court. You understood the gravity of your statement, we appreciate that," IHC CJ Minallah said, directing the PTI chair to submit a written affidavit for what Khan said in court. The court recorded his statement and adjourned the hearing till October 3.

Japan vows
all-out
support to
Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01
According to an official statement, prior to this, both the governments agreed on the first debt deferral amounting to nearly \$370 million on April 27, 2021 and the second debt deferral amounting to \$200 million on October 22, 2021, under the same initiative.

Babar's
brilliance:
Pak beat
England

FROM PAGE 01
top class opening partnership saw the hosts grab the win despite being given a monster target of 200. Earlier, England's stand-in skipper Moeen Ali struck a rapid half-century to lead his team to 199-5 against Pakistan in the second T20 international in Karachi on Thursday. Moeen smashed four sixes and as many fours in his 23-ball 55 not out after England opted to bat first after winning the toss at National Stadium. Ben Duckett (43), Harry Brook (31) and Alex Hales (30) also contributed to the runfest as England hammered 119 in the last 10 overs. Moeen hit two towering sixes off pacer Mohammad Hasnain's last two deliveries of the innings. England, who are on their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years, won the first game by six wickets, also in Karachi on Tuesday, to take a 1-0 lead in the seven-match series. The visitors brought in spinner Liam Dawson in place of pacer Richard Gleeson, while Pakistan replaced fast bowler Naseem Shah with Mohammad Hasnain. The remaining matches of the series are in Karachi (September 23 and 25) and Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2).

Govt mulls
using tear
gas drones

FROM PAGE 01
Asked what if the provincial governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where PTI is in power refused to provide police contingents, Rana Sanaullah said that the government would take action against them in line with the Constitution. He said that the federal government had the FC, Rangers and Islamabad police on its disposal. Speaking to reports that people in KP were protesting on the issue of banned TTP, Rana Sanaullah said that Pakistan's security forces were capable of dealing with the situation. There was nothing to worry about and cause panic on this, he said.

Iran curbs internet access
as more killed in protests

Activists said the woman, whose Kurdish first name is Jhina, had suffered a fatal blow to the head, a claim denied by officials, who have announced an investigation

TEHRAN: Iran restricted internet access Thursday after days of protests which have claimed at least 11 lives, following the death of a young woman in the custody of the morality police. Public anger has flared in the Islamic republic since authorities on Friday announced the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was detained for allegedly wearing a hijab headscarf in an "improper" way. Activists said the woman, whose Kurdish first name is Jhina, had suffered a fatal blow to the head, a claim denied by officials, who have announced an investigation. During six straight nights of protests, some women demonstrators have defiantly taken off their headscarves and burned them in bonfires or symbolically cut their hair before cheering crowds, according to video footage spread on social media. "No to the headscarf, no to the turban, yes to freedom and equality!" protesters in Tehran were heard chanting in a rally that has been echoing by solidarity protests

abroad. There has been growing international alarm at the Iranian crackdown on the protests, including from US President Joe Biden in an address to the United Nations. "Today we stand with the brave citizens and the brave women of Iran who right now are demonstrating to secure their basic rights," Biden told the General Assembly on Wednesday. He was speaking shortly after world leaders gathered in New York heard a defiant speech from Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. He pointed to the deaths of indigenous women in Canada as well as Israeli actions in the Palestinian territories and the Islamic State group's "savagery" against women from religious minority groups. "So long as we have this double standard, where attention is solely focused on one side and not all equally, we will not have true justice and fairness," Raisi said. Iranian state media reported that by Wednesday street rallies had spread to 15 cities, with police using tear gas and making arrests to disperse crowds of up

to 1,000 people. In southern Iran, video footage purportedly from Wednesday showed demonstrators setting fire to a gigantic picture on the side of a building of general Qassem Soleimani, the revered Revolutionary Guards commander killed in a 2020 US strike in Iraq. Demonstrators hurled stones at security forces, set fire to police vehicles and garbage bins, and chanted anti-government slogans, the official IRNA news agency said. "Death to the dictator" and "Woman, life, freedom," protesters could be heard shouting in video footage that spread beyond Iran, despite online restrictions first reported by internet access monitor NetBlocks. Iran moved to further block access to Instagram and WhatsApp on Thursday. "In accordance with a decision by officials, it has no longer been possible to access Instagram in Iran since yesterday (Wednesday) evening and access to WhatsApp is also disrupted," the semi-official

Fars news agency reported. The two apps were the most widely used in Iran after the blocking of other platforms in recent years, including Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, YouTube and Tiktok. Access to some restricted sites is reportedly still possible through encryption services such as VPNs. On Thursday, Iranian media said three militiamen "mobilised to deal with rioters" were stabbed or shot dead in northwestern Tabriz, central Qazvin and northeastern Mashhad. A fourth member of the security forces died in the southern city of Shiraz, Iranian news agencies reported, adding that a protester was stabbed to death in Qazvin, adding to six protester deaths already announced by officials. But there were fears the death toll could rise, as Norway-based Kurdish rights group Hengaw on Wednesday also reported the deaths of two protesters, aged 16 and 23, in West Azerbaijan province. The Iranian authorities have denied any involvement in the

deaths of protesters. Amnesty International said it has recorded the deaths of eight people - six men, one woman and a child - with four of them shot by security forces at close range with metal pellets. The London-based rights group denounced the UN for giving a platform to Raisi, saying it showed "the repeated failure" of the international community to ensure accountability. British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly told AFP "the Iranian leadership should notice that the people are unhappy with the direction that they have taken". French President Emmanuel Macron said he asked Raisi in a meeting Tuesday to show "respect for women's rights". The protests are among the most serious in Iran since November 2019 unrest over fuel price rises. The wave of unrest over Amini's death "is a very significant shock, it is a societal crisis," said Iran expert David Rigoulet-Roze of the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs. - Agencies

Some
Russians
flee from
war call-up

FROM PAGE 01

Since then, Armenia says at least 40,000 Russians have fled to neighbouring Georgia, national statistics from June showed. The Kremlin on Thursday dismissed as "fake" reports that Russians eligible for mobilisation were rushing for the exit. "A great deal of false information has emerged about this," said spokesman Dmitry Peskov. But flights out of Russia were nearly fully booked for the week ahead to cities in the nearby former Soviet countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Meanwhile, - U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a Security Council meeting on Ukraine on Thursday that talk of a nuclear conflict is "totally unacceptable" and any annexation of a state's territory by another state through the threat or use of force is a violation of the U.N. Charter and international law. Vladimir Putin has announced a partial mobilisation in Russia in a significant escalation that places the country's people and economy on a wartime footing. The president also threatened nuclear retaliation, saying that Russia had "lots of weapons to reply" to what he called western threats on Russian territory and added that he was not bluffing. In a highly anticipated televised address, Putin said that Russia's first mobilisation since the second world war was a direct response to the dangers posed by the west, which "wants to destroy our country", and claimed the west had tried to "turn Ukraine's people into cannon fodder". "Military service will apply only to citizens who are currently in the reserve, especially those who have served in the armed forces, have certain military professions and relevant experience," he said.

Emma Raducanu surges into
quarter-finals at Korea Open

SPORTS DESK

SEOUL: Emma Raducanu took a straight-sets win over Yanina Wickmayer in the last 16 of the Korea Open. The win sets Raducanu up for a quarter-final against Poland's Magda Linette. She eased to a 6-3 7-5 victory over Belgium's Wickmayer in one hour and 40 minutes.

In Seoul, Raducanu displayed the resolve needed to overcome a fightback from Wickmayer as a 4-1 lead in the second set ebbed away. Former world number 12 Wickmayer had dropped to 460 in the rankings after taking a spell out of the game following the birth of her first child in 2021, but she was a dangerous opponent who grew stronger in the match. Raducanu was unable to make the most of a break point in the third game but she dominated the fifth, winning without dropping a point to gain a crucial foothold in the opening set. Yet her earlier composure deserted her when next serving and she double-faulted at the crucial moment to concede the lead. But Wickmayer wobbled on her serve once

again and Raducanu took full control of the ninth, taking the set through a



mixture of commanding shots and errors from her opponent. It took grit, an ace and an excellent forehand for Raducanu to preserve her advantage as the second set opened with an 11-minute

game and in a flash, she had eased 3-0 ahead. A collapse followed as 3-0

point arrived in the 12th and when Wickmayer sent a shot long, Raducanu was through to the last eight. The British no 1 and sixth seed in this tournament, Raducanu is determined to make progress after her disappointingly early exit from the US Open and second-round defeat at last week's Slovenia Open. "My goal on the court is to keep trying to swing freer and freer in each match. And my other goal is to try and stay in Korea for as long as possible," she said on Wednesday. Raducanu also spoke about her physical condition, and her coach Dmitry Tursunov, who she has been working with since the summer, trying to help her to "become more easy-going". "Last week I struggled a bit with my legs, just doing a lot of training, and as I said, the rest of this year is just really trying to build up physically for the next year," she added. "So I'm training a lot - like before the match today, I did 90 minutes on the court, and I'm just trying to get myself in good shape. "And that comes sometimes with small niggles. At the moment, it's something I'm just managing. -APP

Rosas Jr becomes
youngest fighter
in UFC history

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Raul Rosas Jr, who is 17 years old, won the Contender Series and was given a contract, making him the youngest fighter in UFC history. Rosas extended his unbeaten streak to 6-0 after dominating Mando Gutierrez, 25, throughout three rounds with his grappling techniques. Before the bout with Gutierrez, all of Rosas' victories had been by way of submission; the Mexican had made his amateur debut at the age of 15. Chase Hooper, a former contestant of the Contender Series who received a UFC contract at the age of 18, formerly held the record that Rosas has now beaten. Rosas not only astonished

UFC president Dana White by nearly ending Gutierrez in the first round with a powerful Suleov stretch submission, but he also displayed some outstanding striking ability throughout the contest. After winning, he said: "I knew I was gonna get that contract. I've been saying it since the beginning. Since I was born, I knew this was gonna happen. "Everybody shouldn't be surprised. I'm the new king in here, so I'm coming for that belt now. I'm gonna be champion when I'm 20." Rosas, who turns 18 on October 8, has five years to shatter the UFC record for the youngest champion ever. The record is presently held by former No 1 in the pound-for-pound rankings Jon Jones.

Noble returns to West
Ham as sporting director

LONDON: Former West Ham captain Mark Noble is to return to the club as its sporting director, the Premier League strugglers announced Thursday. The 35-year-old Noble called time on an 18-year career with his boyhood club at the end of last season. He will begin his newly-created role in January. West Ham said in a statement that the former midfielder would "work closely in support of Hammers manager David Moyes and the current board". The London club are in the relegation zone after winning just one of their seven Premier League games. "I'm really happy to be coming back and can't wait to get started," Noble said. "I've spent the last 24 years as a player here, first in the academy and then in the first team, and obviously have a deep knowledge and understanding of the club." He added: "I see it as a position that I can grow and develop in both personally and professionally. "There are always difficult decisions to be made in football but along with my colleagues at the club, I will continue to put the best interests of West Ham United first." Having worked with Noble as a player, Moyes endorsed his return to the Hammers by saying: "I am really pleased to welcome Mark back and to have the opportunity to work closely with him again. - APP

Football
disorder
in UK
reaches
eight-year
high

LONDON: Arrests and reported incidents of disorder at football matches in England and Wales last season were at their highest level for eight years.

There were 2,198 football-related arrests, the highest number since the 2013-14 season, according to Home Office figures. The 2021-22 campaign saw the return of capacity crowds after a year of Covid-19 restrictions. Last season's disorder included players being approached after pitch invasions. A fan was jailed after running on to a pitch and headbutting Sheffield United captain Billy Sharp at the end of Nottingham Forest's play-off match against the Blades. A Manchester City fan who ran onto the pitch and taunted Aston Villa keeper Robin Olsen on the final day of the season at Etihad Stadium received a four-year football banning order. More reported incidents and more arrests - key stats Incidents were reported

at more than half of all matches (53%) - 1,609 of the 3,019 matches played In 2018-19 - the last full season before Covid-19 restrictions - there were reported incidents at 1,007 matches, equivalent to one-third of the games played It means reported incidents were up by 60% last season compared with 2018-19 There were 441 pitch invasions reported last season - up by 127% on 2018-19 Football-related arrests were up 59% - the highest number of arrests since 2,273 were made in 2013-14 516 new banning orders were issued Top three clubs for new banning orders - Millwall (33), Leicester City (28) and Everton (26) The most reported types of incidents were pyrotechnics (729 matches where incidents were reported), throwing missiles (561) and public order or anti-social behaviour incidents involving youth supporters (444).

The news follows recent comments by England international Jordan Henderson and Eric Dier, who both say there is an issue with fan behaviour at football. Tottenham's Dier says he feels "too uncomfortable" for his family to attend away matches, while Liverpool captain Henderson says his family's experiences could "put them off going to future games". -APP

'Squad for T20 WC can
be changed if needed'

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) chief selector Mohammad Wasim said on Sunday that the national squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2022 could be changed if needed. In an exclusive interview, Wasim acknowledged that the Pakistani team's middle order is an issue and that they are experimenting with different lineups during the England series in preparation for the major tournament. "The Pakistan team is facing batting problems for which efforts are being made to solve. The team management is also making different combinations in the recent series to solve it and giving the opportunity to bench strength. The World Cup is around the corner and we are not too worried about two consecutive defeats." The chief selector stated that although there is currently no plan to alter the World Cup roster, it is undoubtedly an option. "I am not sure what changes could be made. I am hopeful that the players selected for the tournament perform well [in the ongoing series]. It is worth mentioning here that changes can be made to the squad till 15 October, without needing the Event Technical Committee's approval.

MotoGP
champ
Quartararo
defies pain
in 'push to
the max'

MOTEGI: MotoGP world champion Fabio Quartararo will defy pain this weekend in Japan after a nasty fall that blew the title race wide open with five grands prix to go. Yamaha's Quartararo crashed out in first-lap mayhem at Aragon last Sunday and going into what

could be a wet Motegi circuit just 17 points separate the top three riders. The Frenchman was pictured in the aftermath of Aragon with bandages covering his torso, but he is in a positive frame of mind for the Japanese GP on Sunday, even if forecasts are correct and it rains. "I had my first training so it was ok, it's just abrasion," the 23-year-old Quartararo said on Thursday of his injuries. "It's a little bit painful but I don't think on the bike it's going to be a big issue. "For sure it's going to be burning, especially on the first session, but I don't think it's going to be a problem riding the bike." - APP

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Briefs

Sweden's churches closing to save energy

DNA

STOCKHOLM: Sweden is closing churches and switching off saunas in many of its cities in an effort to lower its energy consumption and reduce costs this winter. Andreas Mansson, an engineer who oversees the energy needs of churches in the Lund diocese, said 150 out of 540 churches in the diocese will be fully or partially closed this winter as part of national efforts to reduce energy consumption.

"There's no doubt that heating is the greatest expense, lots of the buildings have quite bad insulation," he told local daily Dagens Nyheter. Lund has invested "a lot in making the buildings more efficient," he said, "but we're still talking about large buildings with a large volume that swallows up heating."

Those churches that will manage to stay open will be lowering heating down to 11 or 18 degrees Fahrenheit to reduce the high energy costs so that they can operate throughout the season, P4 Radio Halland reported.

"It's about keeping our budget in balance and obviously also about showing solidarity with the rest of society," Vicar Joachim Franzen in the western Halland county told the radio station. Also, saunas and heated swimming pools will either be closed or operate with lowered temperature.

In Malmo, for instance, the city council is planning to close facilities fully or turn down the temperature in swimming pools.

Bank of England hikes rates

DNA

LONDON: The Bank of England on Thursday raised its key interest rate by 50 basis points to 2.25%, its seventh consecutive rate hike, bringing borrowing costs to the highest level since 2008. The bank has also decided to reduce its stock of UK government bonds by £80 billion (\$90 billion) over the next 12 months, to a total of £758 billion. It said uncertainty around the outlook for UK retail energy prices has fallen after the government announced support measures including an Energy Price Guarantee.

"Given the Energy Price Guarantee, the peak in measured CPI inflation is now likely to be lower than projected in the August Report, at just under 11% in October," read a bank statement. "Nevertheless, energy bills will still go up and, combined with the indirect effects of higher energy costs, inflation is expected to remain above 10% over the following few months, before starting to fall back."

Ukraine thanks Türkiye for role in prisoner swap

Kyiv: Ukraine on late Wednesday thanked Türkiye for its role in a prisoner exchange between Ukraine and Russia, hours after the Turkish president announced the swap.

"We are bringing our people home. The exchange has just finished. Today we have 215 pieces of good news. 215! Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a fresh video address. He said they included five Ukrainian commanders "for whom we had to carry out the biggest, the longest, the most difficult fight. They were threatened with the worst. Five superheroes."

"Ukraine agreed with Türkiye - I spoke about this with (Turkish) President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan - that our five commanders who are being released from captivity will be in complete safety, in comfortable conditions and under the personal protection of the President of Türkiye until the end of the war. But we will provide the opportunity for their families to see them," said Zelenskyy. In exchange for the five commanders, he said, Ukraine released 55 Russian soldiers. The 215 released prisoners also included 10 foreign citizens, according to the Ukrainian president. - APP

Ahsan Bakhtawari new President ICCI
Founder Group clean sweeps ICCI elections

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman, Founder Group congratulated the newly elected Executive Members of ICCI



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Founder Group has swept the annual elections of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the year 2022-23 by defeating the Islamabad United Group with a landslide victory.

From the corporate class, Founder Group's candidates Nasir M. Qureshi, Faad Waheed, Ameer Hamza, Ch. Muhammad Naeem, Muham-

mad Usman, Muhammad Yahya and Malik Jilil Ahmed Awan won the elections while from the associate class the winning candidates of Founder Group's included Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Ahmed Khan, Ch. M. Maqsood Tabish, M. Ashfaq Hussain Chatha, Faizan Shahzad, Muhammad Irfan Zafar and Muhammad Rizwan Chheenah. The election for the office bearers of ICCI for the year 2022-23 would be held on 24th September 2022. Zahid Maq-

bool was the Chief Election Commission while Karim Aziz Malik and Sheikh Abdul Waheed performed as members. Muhammad Shakeel Munir President, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry congratulated the candidates of Founder Group for achieving landslide victory in election and hoped that as Executive Members of

ICCI, they would play effective role in promoting the interests of business community and deliver up to the expectations of their voters. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman, Founder Group congratulated the newly elected Executive Members of ICCI and expressed best wishes for them. He thanked all ICCI members for giving landslide victory to the candidates of Founder Group with the power of their votes. He said that the clean

sweep of Founder Group in the annual elections of ICCI showed that the business community of Islamabad have complete trust and confidence in the leadership of Founder Group and they were fully satisfied with its good performance. Founder Group members Khalid Javed, Abdul Rauf Alam, Tariq Sadiq, Mian Akram Farid, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Shaikat Masud, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi,

Ch. Waheed ul Deen, Nasir M. Qureshi, former Presidents ICCI including Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Atif Ikram Sheikh, former Senior Vice Presidents ICCI Muhammad Naveed Malik, Khalid Chaudhry as well as Ajmal Baloch and others also congratulated the newly elected Executive Members of ICCI and assured them of their full support and guidance in serving the cause of business community.



MINSK: Pakistan Ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider received Dr. Ahmed Almathbough Ambassador-designate of Palestine in Belarus at Pakistan embassy. - DNA

China's ex-justice minister sentenced to death over corruption

BEIJING: A court in China on Thursday sentenced a former justice minister to death for over \$16 million in corruption, with a two-year reprieve. Fu Zhenghua, 67, was found guilty by the Intermediate People's Court of Changchun in northeast China's Jilin province. The death sentence can be commuted after two years in prison, according to the court ruling. He served as justice minister between March 2018 and April 2020. He was accused of "taking advantage" of his position between 2005 and 2021, including accepting bribes totalling more than 117 million yuan (about \$16.76 million) and "bending the law for personal gains." The court stripped Fu of his political rights for life and confiscated all of his personal property. "After the two-year reprieve for his death sentence, Fu's sentence can be commuted to life in prison in accordance with the law, but no further reduction or parole shall be given to him," according to the court ruling, as quoted by the Chinese public broadcaster CGTN. The former Chinese official held positions such as head of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, vice minister of public security, minister of justice, and deputy head of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference's Committee on Social and Legal Affairs (CPPCC). The court found that Fu had concealed evidence involving a suspected serious crime committed by his brother Fu Weihua while serving as head of the Beijing public security bureau between 2014 and 2015.

"This concealment allowed Fu Weihua to avoid prosecution for a long time," the court stated in its verdict. "The sum of bribes Fu had taken was huge, and he committed particularly serious crimes, which caused a heavy loss to the interests of the state and people and also had a particularly bad social impact," it added. - DNA

Polish city plans to cancel Christmas celebrations

WARSAW: The southwestern Polish city of Wroclaw will not host a New Year's Eve party this year and apart from its Market Square, there will be no Christmas illuminations. Wroclaw City Hall said that the lighting of bridges will be shortened, and from 10 p.m. will be gradually turned off. The possibilities of turning off street lamps are also being analyzed. In 2022, Wroclaw Municipal Transport Company paid PLN 32 million (\$6.6 million) for energy. The bill for 2023, according to the offer presented by PGE Obrót, was to amount to PLN 194 million (\$40 million). For this amount, MPK could buy 19 Moderus Gamma 2 trams or 40 electric buses, according to the press office of the Wroclaw municipality.

Wroclaw is not alone. Warsaw is to pay nearly 950 million Polish zloty (\$196 million) for energy supplies, which is twice as much as a year ago. In Poznan, the city has to reckon with energy bills, 370% higher than in 2021, while in Radom, the increase is to reach as much as 900%. - DNA

S. Korean, Japanese leaders agree to end differences

DNA

NEW YORK: The leaders of South Korea and Japan met for the first time in three years on Wednesday in New York and agreed to move ahead and resolve their differences. South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session and agreed on the need to improve relations between the two countries by resolving pending issues. Yonhap News Agency quoted the South Korean presidential office as saying.

The meeting lasted for 30-minutes and was deemed "informal." It is the first since December 2019 that the leaders of the two countries met face to face as bilateral relations spiraled down to an all-time low over wartime issues during Japan's colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula. The highest-level interaction between

Yoon and Kishida followed a meeting between the foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan on Monday.

"The two leaders agreed on the need to improve bilateral relations by resolving pending issues, and agreed to instruct their diplomats to accelerate talks between them to that end while also continuing discussions between themselves," the agency quoted Lee Jae-myung, deputy presidential

spokesperson, as saying. "The two leaders shared serious concerns about North Korea's nuclear program, including its recent legalization of nuclear arms and the possibility of a seventh nuclear test, and agreed to cooperate closely with the international community to respond to it," he added. South Korean officials hoped that the meeting would pave the way to resolve pending issues between the coun-

tries. "We took the first step toward producing tangible results, after two years and 10 months. Despite the existence of various disputes between South Korea and Japan, the two leaders met and took the first step toward a resolution. That is why it was highly significant," a presidential official told reporters in New York.

According to Tokyo, the two leaders confirmed the "importance of promoting" bilateral and trilateral cooperation also involving the US, since "Japan and South Korea are important neighbors for each other in the current strategic environment."

They also agreed to continue "communicating and accelerating dialogue at the level of senior diplomats." Meanwhile, the US and South Korean nuclear envoys expressed concerns over North Korea's recent move to adopt a law that authorizes the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in the face of an imminent threat to regime security.



UK gov't lifts ban for shale gas

DNA

LONDON: The British government on Thursday lifted a ban on fracking for shale gas that has been in place since 2019. Business Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg said: "In light of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine and weaponization of energy, strengthening our energy security is an absolute priority, and - as the prime minister said - we are going to ensure the UK is a net energy exporter by 2040.

"To get there, we will need to explore all avenues available to us through solar, wind, oil and gas production - so it's right that we've lifted the pause to realize any potential sources of domestic gas." Ed Miliband, Labour's shadow climate change and net zero secretary, condemned the move, saying: "It would do nothing to cut energy bills, it costs far more than renewables, it is unsafe and it is deeply unpopular with the public."

Fracking was banned in the UK in 2019 following a series of tremors. As a result of today's lifting of the ban, over 100 new licenses are expected to be granted in a new licensing round.

Hot gas bubble spotted around Milky Way black hole

PARIS: Astronomers said Thursday they have spotted a hot bubble of gas spinning clockwise around the black hole at the centre of our galaxy at "mind blowing" speeds. The detection of the bubble, which only survived for a few hours, is hoped to provide insight into how these invisible, insatiable, galactic monsters work.

The supermassive black hole Sagittarius A* lurks in the middle of the Milky Way some 27,000 light years from Earth, and its immense pull gives our home galaxy its characteristic swirl. The first-ever image of Sagittarius A* was revealed in May by the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration, which links radio dishes around the world aiming to detect light as it disappears into the maw of black holes. One of those dishes, the ALMA radio telescope in Chile's Andes mountains, picked up something "really puzzling" in the Sagittarius A* data, said Maciek Wielgus, an astrophysicist at Germany's Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy. Just minutes before ALMA's radio data collection began, the Chandra Space Telescope observed a "huge spike" in X-rays, Wielgus told AFP. This burst of energy, thought to be similar to solar flares on the Sun, sent a hot bubble of gas swirling around the black hole, according to a new study published in the journal Astronomy and Astrophysics. The gas bubble, also known as a hot spot, had an orbit similar to Mercury's trip around the Sun, the study's lead author Wielgus said. But while it takes Mercury 88 days to make that trip, the bubble did it in just 70 minutes. That means it travelled at around 30 percent of the speed of light. "So it's an absolutely, ridiculously fast-spinning bubble," Wielgus said, calling it "mind blowing". - APP

Orban calls for lifting EU sanctions on Russia

BRUSSELS: The Hungarian prime minister has called for lifting EU sanctions on Russia by the end of this year, saying restrictive measures cause inflation and economic crisis, local media reported on late Wednesday. Speaking at a meeting of the Hungarian governing party in Balatonalmadi, Viktor Orban called on all members of the Fidesz party to "do everything possible to make the EU withdraw sanctions (against Russia) by the end of the year," according to the Magyar Nemzet daily. According to Orban, Brussels-based EU officials "forced" the sanctions on Europe earlier this year, turning a "local conflict" into a "global economic war." The sanctions ended up causing economic problems, including energy crisis and inflation, he further said. If sanctions were lifted, the inflation would drop by 50%, the prime minister added. Orban's speech implies that Hungary might block the adoption of a new EU sanction package that EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell announced on Thursday following an extraordinary meeting of EU top diplomats on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York. Without revealing details, Borrell confirmed that the EU prepares new economic measures against Moscow and will increase its military support to Ukraine in response to the partial mobilization in Russia. EU ambassadors are expected to discuss the proposal on Friday. Since the beginning of Russia's war on Ukraine, the bloc has provided a total of 2.5 billion (\$2.5 billion) in military aid, including lethal weapons, as well as personal protective gear, first aid kits, and fuel. It has also imposed seven sanctions packages, targeting, among others, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, banning gold, oil, and coal imports, and the export of luxury goods and high-tech technology, as well as excluding Russian and Belarusian banks from the international payment system SWIFT. - DNA

Briefs

North Korea denies supplying weapons to Russia

DNA

PYANGYONG: North Korea says it has never sold weapons to Russia and has no plans to do so, following US reports that Moscow was turning to Pyongyang to replenish stockpiles. US officials had said Russia was in the process of purchasing rockets and artillery shells from North Korea. They said such moves, along with alleged purchases of Iranian weapons, showed Western sanctions were impeding Russia's efforts in the Ukraine war. Moscow denied the reports at the time. Any arms movement between the two countries would be in violation of United Nations sanctions. On Thursday, in a statement carried by North Korean state media KCNA, an unnamed official at North Korea's defence ministry said: "We have never exported weapons or ammunition to Russia before and we will not plan to export them." It accused the US, and other "hostile forces", of spreading rumours to "pursue its base political and military aims". In early September, a US state department spokesman said Russia's North Korean purchases "could include literally millions of rounds, rockets and artillery shells." But National Security Council spokesman John Kirby later appeared to caveat that statement, by saying the purchases had not yet been completed and there was no evidence to suggest the weapons would be used in the Ukraine war.

Zelensky lays out his case against Russia to UN

UNITED NATIONS: Ukraine's president laid out a detailed case against Russia's invasion at the United Nations and demanded punishment from world leaders in a speech delivered just hours after Moscow made an extraordinary announcement that it would mobilize some reservists for the war effort. Buoyed by a counteroffensive that has retaken swaths of territory that the Russians seized, Volodymyr Zelensky vowed in a video address Wednesday that his forces would not stop until they had reclaimed all of Ukraine. "We can return the Ukrainian flag to our entire territory. We can do it with the force of arms," the president said in a speech delivered in English. "But we need time." Video speeches by Zelensky in an olive green T-shirt have become almost commonplace. But this speech was one of the most keenly anticipated at the U.N. General Assembly, where the war has dominated. - APP

US sanctions Iran morality police

WASHINGTON: The United States placed Iran's morality police on its sanctions blacklist Thursday following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old arrested for allegedly wearing her hijab headscarf improperly. The US Treasury said the morality police was "responsible" for Amini's death, which has sparked an outpouring of popular anger, as it announced the sanctions "for abuse and violence against Iranian women and the violation of the rights of peaceful Iranian protesters." The sanctions move was taken as violent protests erupted across Iran following the death last week of Iranian-Kurdish Amini, who had been arrested by the public morality unit of the national police. At least 17 people have died in the unrest as women burned their headscarves and protesters denounced the government leadership and restrictions on women. "Mahsa Amini was a courageous woman whose death in morality police custody was yet another act of brutality by the Iranian regime's security forces against its own people," said Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen. - APP

Indonesian Culinary Cooking Workshop draws huge interest



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Indonesia embassy organized a cooking workshop at the Embassy premises showcasing live cooking by the renowned Indonesian Chef Budiono, a professional chef from Indonesia. Through the event funds were also raised for the flood victims in Pakistan. The embassy staff and the Indonesia students collected donations among themselves. The collected items and donations were handed over to the head of the Pakistan Red Crescent. Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio while speaking on the occasion said that he was truly delighted to welcome guests at this exciting event of "Indonesian Culinary Cooking Demo". He added, the Embassy has organized this event in line with the Indonesian government's program called 'Indonesia Spice

Up the World (ISUTW)' to promote local spices and cuisines especially at the international stage to boost the spice trade activities. As the world's fourth-largest exporter of spices valuing around USD500 million per year and second-largest pepper producer in the world, the Indonesian ISUTW initiative also aims to increase exports of processed food and to attract more tourists by promoting indigenous local dishes while visiting Indonesia. Ambassador Adam further said, It is often said that "There is no sincerer love than the love of food". And truly, the love of food is universal which generates friendships and promote culture. On the other side, there is no concept of food without spices, therefore, global popularity of flavorful spices travel together with food for their unique aroma and healthbenefits. What we often call "secret ingredients" of famous food recipes, are actually a balanced combination of spices.



"That is why it is no wonder that with the growing popularity of 'Go Organic and 'Eat Healthy' trends along with appearance of multiple food channels, the outreach of international food chains and food conscious culture are expanding across the world. We are no more surprised to see that some renowned Indonesian signature dishes like NasiGoreng, Beef Rendang and Satay are now adored globally due to their exclusive taste and flavorful spices'. He said, , another attractive aspect for food lovers of both Indonesia and Pakistan is similarity and generous usage of spices in their cuisine; for example Pakistan has Pasanday - Indonesia has rendang, Pakistan has chicken tikka - Indonesia has Chicken Satay, Pakistani has pakora - Indonesia has bakwan. Interestingly, many spices such as nutmeg, cloves and pepper used in famous Pakistani Garam Masala, a

combination of 11 spices, also come from Heartland of Spices, Indonesia. 'I trust that this background generates more interest in this event. You must have heard that 'A recipe has no soul, you as the cook must bring soul to the recipe.' The demo by Chef Budiono will reflect the spirit of traditional Indonesian art of cooking by preparing food as an artist and presenting it as a masterpiece. I hope you enjoy and appreciate his efforts'. While concluding his remarks Ambassador Adam said, he would like to inform that as a mark of our solidarity and sympathies with the flood victims in Pakistan, we have planned to raise some funds with your generous support. No doubt, the magnitude of devastating floods is very huge but we would like to assure our Pakistani friends and sisters that they are not alone at this difficult time.

Iran, US clash at UN on nuclear deal, human rights issues

UNITED NATIONS: The United States and Iran clashed on security and human rights on Wednesday, with Iran's president demanding U.S. guarantees to revive the 2015 nuclear deal and the U.S. president vowing Tehran would never get an atomic bomb. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi struck a defiant tone at the United Nations General Assembly by decrying "double standards" on human rights after the death of an Iranian woman in police custody that has sparked protests around Iran. Raisi also said Tehran wanted former U.S. President Donald Trump to face trial for the 2020 killing of Iran's top Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani in a U.S. drone attack in Iraq, holding up a picture of the general. "There is a great and serious will to resolve all issues to revive the (2015 nuclear) deal," Raisi told the U.N. General Assembly. "We only wish one thing: observance of commitments." Speaking later, U.S. President Joe Biden reiterated his willingness to revive the nuclear pact under which Iran had agreed to restrain its atomic program in return for relief from economic sanctions. In 2018, Trump withdrew the United States from the nuclear deal and unilaterally reimposed sanctions that have hobbled Iran's economy. A year later, Tehran reacted by gradually violating the deal's nuclear limits and reviving U.S., Israeli and Gulf Arab fears that Iran may be seeking to obtain an atomic weapon, an ambition Iran denies. "We have before us the experience of America's withdrawal from the (deal)," Raisi said. "With that experience and this perspective, can we ignore the important issue of guarantees for a durable agreement?" Raisi did not mention Iran's demand that investigations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into traces of uranium found at three undeclared Iranian sites be closed, a major stumbling block to reviving the deal. - Agencies

Security mechanism meant to ensure entries, not humiliation

ISLAMABAD: The measures like Integrated Border Management System and coordination mechanism introduced at Afghan borders is purely an effort to ensure secure entries within Pakistan's territories, having nothing to do with humiliating the Afghan people. According to security officers, like any other sovereign country, Pakistan has every right to take all possible measures ensuring its security. They rubbished the claims of senior Journalist Ayaz Gul alleging mistreatment and humiliating experiences for Afghans at the Torkham border, saying that Pakistan was justified in its efforts to secure its border with Afghanistan to prevent both an influx of illegal migrants, asylum seekers, refu-

gees and militant infiltration from Afghanistan. They maintained that Pakistan was labeled as a terrorist breeding factory for over two decades, for wrong reasons as porous Pak-Afghan border had contributed to volatile security situation on both sides of divide. In fact most terrorists, drugs and illegal weapons from Afghanistan enter Pakistan via Torkham. The security officers said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was an anti-Pakistan insurgent group responsible for mass civilian killings and attacks on military personnel and convoys in Pakistan. During last few years, Taliban continued to find safe havens in Afghanistan which necessitates Pakistan to keep a strict checking and vigilance. After August 15, 2021, in addition to existing three million refugees, a further 50,000 Afghans have illegally entered Pakistan posing threat to Pakistan's security and economy. Arrival of over 250,000 Afghans seeking asylum in Pakistan since January 2021 to June 2022 is another story, they added. Resurgence of Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) in Afghanistan also poses a new threat. Hence, Afghan travellers and truck convoys will have to bear the monitoring procedures in place in the larger interest of the regional security. The security officers advocated that on the sidelines, Pakistani authorities must work out ways to put in place a secure but efficient mechanism. - DNA

FO rejects notion of delegation visiting Israel

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office spokesperson on Thursday categorically rejected the notion of any delegation from Pakistan visiting Israel. The spokesperson, in a statement, said the "reported visit in question was organized by a foreign NGO (non-governmental organization) which is not based in Pakistan." He said Pakistan's position on the Palestinian issue was clear and unambiguous. "There is no change whatsoever in our policy on which there is complete national consensus. Pakistan steadfastly supports the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination." The spokesperson said the establishment of an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, in accordance with the relevant United Nations and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) resolutions, was imperative for just and lasting peace in the region. - APP

Inflation-hit Turkey cuts rate for second month

ISTANBUL: Turkey's central bank on Thursday cut its policy rate for the second straight month despite an annual inflation rate that has reached 80 percent and is still moving higher. The central bank said it was cutting its one-week repo rate to 12 percent from 13 percent and blamed skyrocketing consumer prices on external factors such as the global jump in the cost of energy and food caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The decision highlights Turkish policymakers' strong focus on economic growth nine months before a general election that polls show President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is on track to lose. Turkey has gone the opposite direction of other central banks worldwide which have raised their rates to combat inflation, with the US Federal Reserve and European peers announcing hefty hikes this week. The policy has put the Turkish lira under pressure, and it touched a new historic low of 18.41 against the dollar before recovering some its losses after the announcement. Official data show Turkey's industrial production and retail sales both starting to slow. "Since the beginning of July, leading indicators have been pointing to a slowdown in growth due to the weakening foreign demand," the central bank said. "Leading indicators for the third quarter continue pointing to loss of momentum in economic activity due to the decreasing foreign demand." - APP

Fawad raises questions over CJ's observation

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhary has said that with respect, the observation of Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial is inconsistent with the constitution. Reacting to CJ's remarks during the hearing of a case pertaining to resignations of the PTI lawmakers on Thursday, he said that the tenure of the assembly is five years until it is dissolved. "People do not consider the assembly as their representative. We are giving much more money to the verdict of the Supreme Court through which the elections have been stopped," he opined. Fawad Chaudhry said Pakistan has suffered \$5 billion due to regime change. Taking to Twitter, the former federal minister said that the Supreme Court of Pakistan has no idea that regime change operation has so far caused \$5 billion loss to Pakistan in terms of currency alone. "Rather than the expenditure on general elections, we are paying a much higher price for the decision of the Supreme Court which stopped the polls," he added. Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court of Pakistan advised PTI to reconsider its decision to resign from the National Assembly.

Imran's call for what he called "Real Independence"

Comment

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Once again deposed Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehrik Insaaf Chairman Imran Khan gives call for what he called, "Real Independence" and directed his party workers from all over Islamabad to reach Islamabad on Saturday. Prior to this new call, Imran Khan has also asked the party workers to join him in Islamabad High Court proceeding whereas he will be indicted in a defamation suit. In return, the federal government has initiated steps for extra ordinary security measures from Thursday. Whatever might be preparation on the part of Imran Khan and his party regarding this new call of protest but its results or position might be different of previous moves. However, he likely to get an indirect support from both Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments, which are reluctant to give a positive response to Federal Government regarding extra contingents of security forces for maintaining law and order situation in Islamabad. Since removal or deposing of government in third week of previous April, Imran Khan and his aides have blamed the US for its in-

volvement in toppling of his regime. On such grounds, they succeeded in exploitation of anti-US mindset but now the situation is different. Imran Khan and his aides have confirmed contacts with the US high ups including diplomats and on grounds now they couldn't use the anti-American cards in their move or agitation against the PDM government headed by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. Observers believes that after losing government in Islamabad, the strength of PTI is on decline. Earlier fro 2011 till April 2022, the PTI through one or the other ways was not only enjoying patron of powerful military establishment. But now the PTI is engaged in a strange pulling with the powerful military establishment. NO doubt to say, that powerful military establishment had addressed maximum financial needs of PTI in connection with its rallies, agitations and protests. Similarly the PTI had also lost association of its some wealthy members like Aleem Khan from Lahore after Jehangir Khan Tareen of Southern Punjab. It was also a fact that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was center of power and popular support of Imran Khan and his PTI since 2011 last. But now through one or the other ways, this powerful support and popularity of PTI is at stake. On one hand, due to confrontation with Islam-

abad, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is ahead with serious financial crunches. And in such a circumstances, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government yet to give a clear positive response to Imran Khan in connection with new call for assembling in Islamabad. In recently held parliamentary party meeting at Islamabad, Imran Khan confirmed financial shortage and called the party stalwarts for helping in funds. But compare to past, now some of the healthy and wealthy party members are reluctant to donate in blind. They are demanding complete guarantee of tickets and attractive ministerial or other government offices in future set up. Earlier, some of the sitting MP's have made donations in millions but in return they have been ignored in ministerial and other government offices. The flood havocs, price hike and economic crises has also influencing common men throughout the country. Almost ruling junta and international community is engaged in rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities in flood affected areas. Common men are also made worried by flood havocs. But only Imran Khan and his aides didn't care. Except a few particular points, Imran Khan didn't visited most affected flood hit areas in interior Sindh and Southern Punjab and Imran Khan's this attitude is timely noticed by common people.

Though it is premature to say something about results of by elections on Nine National Assembly seats from where Imran Khan has challenged candidates of PDM but the ground reality is different on almost of these nine constituencies compare to 2018 general polls. On such grounds, neither Imran Khan nor his party aides intends to contest. The PTI approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan for postponing the by elections on all these nine National Assembly seats scheduled on October 16th next. At Khyber Pakhtunkhwa level, despite overwhelming majority there exists wide range rifts, uncertainty and strange-pulling amongst PTI ranks. Most recently, Imran Khan said that tickets for National and Provincial Assembly seats will be awarded on the grounds of performances, party loyalties and candidates attitudes with electorates, thus making uncertain a large number of sitting MP's about future. Majority of MP's from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including occupants of ministerial offices are feeling threats to their future. Even before of expiry of present parliamentary term some of sitting MP's are on splinting move towards other parties. So far two MPA's announced their disassociation from PTI.