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Uzbekistan warns world against an isolated Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-06

Serbian FM defends deal with Russia

Detailed News On Page-07

Joyce knocks out Parker in classic fight

Detailed News On Page-06

Audio leaks cause ripples in gov't ranks

The recordings, featuring PM Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and other PML-N leaders surfaced during weekend

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a turn of events straight out of a spy movie, more purported audio clips featuring leaders of the ruling coalition surfaced on Sunday as the opposition PTI questioned the security of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) while the government maintained that there was "nothing illegal" in the audio leaks. Just a day earlier, an audio recording of an alleged conversation, purportedly between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and a government official, was leaked on social media. In the over two-minute-long audio clip, shared by PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on his Twitter account, a voice — said to be that of PM Shehbaz — could be heard saying that Maryam Nawaz had asked him to facilitate her son-in-law Rabeel with the import of machinery for a power plant, from India. The clips which surfaced, shared on Twitter by several PTI leaders, concerned embattled Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and the resignations of PTI lawmakers from the National Assembly. The first clip purportedly features a conversation between PML-N Vice President Maryam and the premier about Miftah, who has reportedly faced criticism from within the party for taking too economic measures.

Continued on Page 06

'PMO data offered on dark web'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: While the government maintained its silence on the matter on Sunday, PTI leaders were in overdrive questioning the PMO's security. PTI Chairman Imran Khan, at a rally in Karak, chastised Maryam, alleging that "she is involved in corruption and illegal acts since coming into power." He claimed that the incumbent coalition government was now trying to revive trade ties with India for its own mileage. Earlier, PTI's Fawad Chaudhry said that the way the PMO data was offered up for sale on the dark web showed the state of the country's cybersecurity. "This is a failure of our intelligence agencies, especially the Intelligence Bureau (IB). Obviously, apart from political issues, important discussions on security and foreign issues are now in everyone's hands," he remarked.

Two Army soldiers martyred in IED explosion

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Two Pak Army soldiers have embraced martyrdom in a terrorist attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district. The military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday. According to the army's media wing, NAb Subedar Javed Iqbal (42), resident of Attock and Naik Hussain Ahmed (38), resident of Okara were martyred in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion in Eesham area. The area has been cordoned off and a search operation is underway to hunt the terrorists. Earlier, a squad of the Pakistan military came under attack from terrorists across the border in North Waziristan, in which a soldier embraced martyrdom.

Continued on Page 06

Miftah Ismail resigns; Dar to replace him

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Sunday tendered his resignation to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in a party meeting held in London. Senior PML-N leader Ishaq Dar would replace Miftah as new finance minister. Ishaq's nomination was put forth by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Sheikh Ahmed Sultan Bin Sulayem, Chairman Dubai Port World (one of the largest port operators globally) calls on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. — DNA

Flood Relief Efforts Chairman Dubai Port donates \$2.5 Million

Relief efforts in the wake of the devastating floods and all that can be done on the road to recovery for Pakistan was discussed

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Sheikh Ahmed Sultan Bin Sulayem, Chairman Dubai Port World (one of the largest port operators globally) called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Relief efforts in the wake of the devastating floods and all that can be done on the road to recovery for Pakistan was discussed. H.E. Sheikh Sultan, who had earlier visited flood affected areas in Sindh, made a donation of USD 2.5 Million for the Army relief fund. The Excellency commended the relief efforts of Pakistan Army in the flood affected areas and said that

Continued on Page 06

WB repurposes \$2b for flood-affected areas

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: In order to provide immediate relief to the flood victims, the World Bank has announced repurposing \$2 billion — meant for multi-sectoral projects in Pakistan — for the deluge-hit areas in the country. World Bank's new vice president for the South Asia region, Martin Raiser,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs Pakistan to overcome flood crisis

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed the confidence that Pakistan, with the cooperation of the international community, will successfully come out of the current flood crisis. He said this while presiding over an important review meeting regarding the ongoing relief work in the flood-affected areas through video link from London on Sunday.

FM lauds Azerbaijan's support

DNA

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with Foreign Minister Jeyhan Bayramov on the sidelines of the 77th Session of UNGA in New York. The Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude to Azerbaijan for its generous financial assistance for the flood affected people of Pakistan. This was manifestation of deep brotherly ties between the two nations that always stand the test of time and in hour of need.

Iran slams US support for 'rioters'

DNA

TEHRAN: U.S. support for "rioters" is contrary to Washington's diplomatic stance towards Iran, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian was quoted as saying by the semi-official ISNA news agency on Sunday. "Peaceful protest is the right of every nation.

Imran wants COAS appointed on merit

Says leaks prove Sharif family only does business when in power

SHAMIM SHAHID

KARAK: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Sunday once again talked about the appointment of the new army chief and said he is only concerned with merit-based appointments. Addressing a jalsa in Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the former premier responded to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's comment that Khan wanted to "appoint an army chief of his choice." "Imran Khan has proved time and again to be an unguided missile for the country, its economy and social cohesion," Khan said, urging the PTI chairman to desist from questioning the patriotism of the defence institution and its commanders. Replying to Bilawal, Khan said: "They say Imran Khan wanted to appoint the army chief of his choice, but let me make it clear that I do not want an army chief [of my choice]. All I care about is merit-based appointment." Criticising the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leadership, Khan said that PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz was "incapable of telling

the truth" as he once again accused her of keeping nepotism above national interests. "Maryam wants to import power plant machinery from India for her son-in-law," he said while referencing a controversy which arose a day prior about leaked audio that has gone viral on social media. The audio allegedly featured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif holding a discussion with an unidentified person and asking them about a power plant from India to be imported for Maryam's son-in-law. "Our government had stopped trade with India because it broke international law and ended the special status of Kashmir," Khan said, adding that PDM leaders came to power to enjoy "personal benefits." "The only reason for them to come to power is to continue with their corrupt practices. Whenever these people came to power, the rights of the country increased," he alleged. Khan, while further censuring PML-N's leadership, said Nawaz Sharif's sons live in houses worth billions of rupees that too in the most expensive area of London.

Continued on Page 06

Do we need a government of technocrats?

Comment

ANSAR M BHATTI

INTERESTING developments are likely to take place this week. Former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is set to stage a comeback, as the court has barred security institutions from arresting him when he returns home. Then tomorrow the PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif will appear before the Lahore High Court seeking return of her passport. If she gets it then probably she will spare no time in flying to the UK for a rendezvous with her father — the PML-N supreme — Nawaz Sharif. Pakistan happens to be a unique country. It has hitherto served as a paradise for the haves and an inferno for the have-nots. Regardless of the magnitude of the crime one has committed, he can still go scot free if he is well connected; well-entrenched in the system and has a hell of a money at his or her disposal. Pakistan has been witnessing this situation ever since its inception. The first 26 years of independence were marred by instability, bad governance, and tug-of-war for power. That is why no head of state or government could sustain in power for a long time. Such situations are quite ideal for military dictators to intervene

and impose martial law. That is what the military leadership of the time did. Nevertheless, right or wrong, it is an impression that Pakistan always progressed and prospered during the military rules. Field Marshal Ayub Khan is described as the best military leader under whose control Pakistan achieved a number of milestones such as infrastructural development and construction of dams. General Yahya Khan's rule is widely regarded as a leading cause of the breakup of Pakistan. His tenure (1969-1971) was widely considered as a total disgrace to him and the country as well. General Zia Ul Haq's Martial Law that remained in force for 11 years can be categorized as an era missed opportunities. Realistically speaking, the military dictators only grab power when they are convinced that the majority of people are with them. Since they enjoy absolute power and public backing as well therefore they are very well poised to take the country to any direction. General Zia chose to bank upon his narrative of Islamisation of the country, which he never did. During his time, the spectre of sectarian violence emerged on the scene with full force thus triggering a number of killings of Shias and Sunnis. Ordinary people however were at ease as the dictator never allowed mafias to fleece the poor people. So, even with his meagre resources one could easily make his both ends meet in the Zia era. After his death in a plane crash in 1988, Benazir Bhutto came to power. Her government was removed after two and half years on the charges of corrup-

tion. Then Nawaz Sharif jumped into the fray. His tenure as prime minister also could not last for long. He too was sent home on corruption charges. Of course, there were certain other factors as well that led to his downfall. He also could not complete his tenure. Again Benazir Bhutto was called to lead the country. But her government met with the same fate and was sent packing on the same charges. It was the time when powers-that-be decided to give Nawaz Sharif a two-thirds mandate so that his government could carry out reforms needed to steer the country out of crisis. But the so-called 'heavy mandate' in fact proved quite heavy for the masses. Nawaz Sharif, tried to become "Amir al-Mu'minin" (the godfather). During his tenure, he first sent home the Chief of Army Staff General Jehangir Karamat simply because he had hosted an idea of establishing a national security council. The military ranks were certainly not happy the way General Karamat was shown the door. General Musharraf was posted in Mangla when Nawaz Sharif was advised to consider him for the top slot. As those who were privy to this development would put it, General Musharraf had met the Prime Minister without the Army Chief knowing. Anyhow, he was asked to lead the army. Soon after taking charge as the COAS, General Musharraf during one of his interactions with the military officers had made it clear that he was not General Karamat, sending a loud and clear message to the political leadership that any misadventure may cost it dearly.

The Nawaz-Musharraf bonhomie could not last for long. Sharif was under the impression as if he were the ultimate authority since he had the two-thirds majority therefore he started locking horns with General Musharraf. The elements led to a realization among the stakeholders that they could not coexist. Now the each side was waiting for an opportune moment to strike. General Musharraf, before departing for Sri Lanka, had taken into confidence his close generals. A senior bureaucrat, who held a key position in the Prime Minister's office at that time, said that the Army never wanted to impose martial law. General Musharraf had told his generals that he would only react if the prime minister takes any decision against him. In October 1999, Musharraf took over. The immediate support which General Musharraf received after he took over was from PTI Chairman Imran Khan. People ostensibly were also on his side that is why he could survive as a dictator for a good time. General Musharraf was at his best during his first two years during which he introduced a number of reforms; did a lot to improve a lot of the poor people and contributed greatly towards riding the country of the menace of sectarian violence. But also by the time he had developed a taste for power plus minions around him were able to sell the idea to him that he was a savior and without him country cannot survive. That was the time when downfall of Musharraf kick-started and ultimately he had to lose power, in a rather unceremonious way.

Then again the PPP and PML-N got a chance to rule this country. PPP completed five years albeit their prime minister could not complete his term. Then came again Nawaz Sharif whose government was sent home through a judicial order. Imran Khan took charge in 2018 and ruled this country for around four years. His rule was also a mess like others. He could not deliver what he promised. Even the die-hard PTI workers had distanced them from the party because of the poor performance of the government. But then the no-trust move against him ultimately dissolved his government and brought in PML-N, PPP and other allied parties. Imran Khan after his removal again became a hero from zero and now undoubtedly he happens to be the most popular leader of the country! A brief recap of Pakistan's political history ostensibly provides a food for thought if our politicians or for that matter the military dictators can really lead the country to a developed, modern welfare state? In my view they simply can't as long as the present system remains in vogue. This country needs a government of technocrats for at least three years that could undertake reforms in all sectors; streamline electoral systems in order to ensure free and fair elections. An effective anti-corruption mechanism will also have to be put in place besides carrying out across-the-board accountability. Without these measures any electoral drill will only be an exercise in futility and bring in the same old mindset that wants status quo to rule supreme in this country.

No one is left behind for inclusive growth

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Romina Khurshid Alam, SAPM and Convener, Parliamentary Task force on SDGs, urged for strengthening implementation of laws along with behavioural changes to reinstate respect for law, social responsibility and social norms to ensure that development is inclusive and reaches underdeveloped and underprivileged communities. Speaking at a roundtable discussion on 'Inclusive economic growth: An imperative for sustainable economic development', she said that bureaucratic operations must be simplified through one window operations so that the development agendas are delivered timely and efficiently. She stressed that developed countries which are major contributors of global carbon emissions must be called out and held responsible for their actions that developing countries are paying for. Climate finance is not aid rather legitimate right of climate vulnerable countries and responsibility of high carbon emitting countries. Dr. Yaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director SDPI called for achieving sustainable economic development to overcome contemporary challenges. He said there is a dire need that the government opts for solution-oriented approach, forward-looking planning, and looking at the current floods as an opportunity to reset social protection backed by well thought out targeted economic policies rather than burdening future generation with loans.

Pak to prefer utilisation of local resources

FAISALABAD: State Minister for Petroleum Dr. Masood Malik said on Sunday that Pakistan will prefer utilisation of local resources instead of depending on importing costly fuel for power generation. Addressing 36th Annual General Meeting of Pakistan Textile Exporters' Association (PTEA), he said Pakistan's indigenous gas deposits were depleting at a rate of 10 per cent per annum, therefore, it was need of the hour to search new gas reserves but now, new wells was dug up in this connection for the last many years due to which industrial as well as domestic consumers were facing great deal of difficulties. He said that local as well as foreign investors were investing in Pakistan and the growing trend of investment in the country was an expression of confidence in the government's economic policies. The state minister said that textile industry was the backbone of economy, hence the government was taking remedial measures to overcome the challenges for the uplift this sector. Dr. Masood said that no country could achieve economic targets without due role of exporters added that the government was committed to facilitate industrialists and investors for improving economic activities and increasing employment opportunities. - APP

Stray dog population control center inaugurated in capital



DNA
ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis inaugurated Stray Dogs Population Control Center Islamabad Saturday. A large number of civil society representatives, NGOs, CDA officers and citizens attended the inauguration ceremony. Speaking on this occasion, Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis said that Islamabad is the only city in the country where such center has been established. He further said that complaints of stray dog bites have been received from different areas of Islamabad, especially from rural areas. But due to lack of effective solution, it was not getting a permanent solution, however, due to the special interest of the current CDA administration, this center has been established. Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis while addressing the participants said that this dog center has the capacity to keep more than 500 dogs. Similarly, a play area for dogs, a rest area including a surgical unit, a vaccination center and a separate area for the laboratory have also been allocated in this dog society. He also appreciated CDA officers including the district administration for establishing this center in collaboration with the civil society. He further said that I will visit this center in the future as well and will take a detailed look at the conditions of the animals kept here. During the address, he further said that it should be ensured that the dog catcher does not target any citizen's pet during their operation, but action should be taken only where complaints are received. Similarly, instructions to make proper SOPs for dog catchers were also issued to the officers of the concerned departments. Similarly, instructions were also issued to keep the dogs kept in the dog center with complete SOPs.

Waqar Bakhtawari elected President Chakwal chamber

DNA
CHAKWAL: In Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry annual elections for 2022-23, Waqar Bakhtawari was elected president unopposed. Umar Sami senior vice president and Aamir Farooqui vice president. Nomination papers have not been filed against the elected officials, on the success of the election, the newly elected president of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce Waqar Bakhtawari said that by using his skills, he will increase the honor and dignity of businessmen and make them role models in the society. He said that there are unlimited tourism opportunities in Chakwal which need to be developed. In spite of the most important geographical location, industrial estate has not yet been established, the water of the dam constructed in Chakwal needs to be utilized and many new dams can be created to create an agricultural revolution. Chakwal, Former presidents of Qazi Shahzad Saadat, Haji Nazir Sultan, Malik Ghulam Murtaza, Noor Sultan Hafeez Anjum, Aamir Najeem Bhatti congratulated the newly elected officials and hoped that they would promote industrial and commercial activities in Chakwal.

SC hosts 9th Int'l Judicial Conference

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial has said that the Supreme Court of Pakistan hosted its 9th International Judicial Conference with the intention of addressing past issues and finding innovative ways to secure a better future for Pakistan. Addressing the closing ceremony of International Judicial Conference, the Chief Justice said that the Conference was an incredible success and had a great turnout with participants ranging from esteemed members of the superior and district judiciary and members of the legal community to members of the executive branch and foreign speakers that provided their valuable recommendations regarding steps to be taken for improving the dispensation of justice. In his concluding remarks the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Umar Ata Bandial, shared with the participants his vision for a prosperous and progressive Pakistan where the rule of law reigns supreme. He stressed the importance of ensuring that courts are made equally accessible to all the citizens of Pakistan, irrespective of their gender, religion, race and economic status. He said that the judiciary and legislature were encouraged to develop ADR facilities and procedures, and to promote their use amongst litigants to ensure the inexpensive and expeditious dispensation of justice. The use of technological advancements was also emphasized in streamlining litigation, he added. He said that the various organs of the state also pruned to ensure the involvement of women. - APP

WAPDA issues water position

PESHAWAR: Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) released the latest position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs levels and the barrages on Sunday morning. According to the report shared by the authority inflows and outflows in Indus River at Tarbela was 80300 cusecs and 79300 cusecs while in Kabul River at Nowshera, inflows was 21100 cusecs and outflows 21100 cusecs, Khairabad Bridge, inflows 71100 cusecs and outflows 71100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, inflows and outflows of Jhelum at Mangla Dam 12400 cusecs and 26000 cusecs, while in Chenab at Marala, the inflows was 24700 cusecs and outflows 4900 cusecs respectively. In Jimnah Barrages, the inflows was 87500 cusecs and outflows 79500 cusecs. In Chashma (inflows 109000 cusecs and outflows 88000 cusecs), Taunsa (inflows 97400 cusecs and outflows 72300 cusecs), Gudu (inflows 83400 cusecs and outflows 68100 cusecs, Sukkur (inflows 70900 cusecs and outflows 61000 cusecs, Kotri (inflows 217300 cusecs and outflows 186400 cusecs), Trimmu (inflows 15900 cusecs and outflow 2600 cusecs and Panjnad (inflows 23100 cusecs and outflows nil cusecs) respectively. - APP

Aftab Sherpao for coordinated relief work

SHAMIM SHAHID
PESHAWAR: Quamr March Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday asked the government to coordinate efforts to provide relief to the flood-stricken people in the country. He said that it would take years to repair the damage caused by the unprecedented floods. Aftab Sherpao said that a particular political party and its leadership were doing a disservice to the affected people by playing politics on the issue of floods. According to a press release, he was speaking at a meeting of party of face-bearers and workers from PK-56 in Charsadda. Rejecting former prime minister Imran Khan's demand for snap polls, the QWP leader said the elections would take place on its stipulated time. Aftab Sherpao said the prime minister would appoint the next army chief as per the constitution therefore an alarmist increase. He said the situation would spin out of control if corrective steps were not taken. He appreciated the people of Swat and other parts of the province for staging protests against lawlessness and militancy. "Peace is a prerequisite for development," he maintained. He asked the government to reduce the duration of electricity and gas load-shedding in KP. He said the floods therefore this was not the opportune time for politicizing every issue.

CPC awards death sentence to man in double murder case

PESHAWAR: Child Protection Court (CPC) has awarded death sentence to a man who brutally killed a seven-year-old girl and a woman in Tehsil Shabqadar, district Charsadda, sources said on Sunday. Justice Hina Mehwish after hearing arguments that the accused named Shabeed from Shabqadar, committed firing inside the house of petitioner Tehmedullah, killing a seven-year-old girl Hasena and injuring two others. Later the injured woman also succumbed to her injuries. The convicted was arrested by the police and presented before the court. After completing the legal proceedings, the court sentenced the convict to death on double murder charges and seventeen years imprisonment with Rs2.2million fine for attempt to murder charge. CPC also announced five years imprisonment under section 324 of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), seven year imprisonment and Rs1.4million fine under section D-337 of PPC and five year imprisonment and Rs100,000 fine under section F-337 of PPC.

Ashrafi sues Punjab govt on sacking MUB chairman

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Intersectors and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday informed that he had filed a petition in Lahore High Court challenging his removal as Mutahida Ulema Board (MUB) chairman. In an exclusive talk with APP, he said the termination of his services as the MUB chairman was against the law as he was appointed the board's chairman on February 19, 2019 and reassigned the portfolio on March 31, 2022. Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Election Council, said as per law, the board's chairman could not be removed till the completion of his constitutional term. He said the Army Department had illegally terminated his services as the MUB chairman on September 19, through a notification. He further said the notification of new appointment also did not mention the logical reasons of this abrupt change in the religious organization. He said the court had sought justification from a provincial law officer that under which law the new appointment of the MUB chairman was made. The prime minister's special aide said the MUB was a religious body and it must not be used for political purposes. He said throughout his tenure as chairman, the board was kept away from politics and the misuse of blasphemy laws were discouraged at all levels of the society. He said during his tenure, no case of blasphemy law was registered on fictitious grounds against any individual or group. Shedding light on the board's performance, he said it achieved many milestones for the provision of interest and interfaith harmony under his supervision during the last two and half years. It was not only acclaimed at the national level but also acknowledged internationally for handling the sensitive issues pertaining to blasphemy laws, he added. - APP

PAF enhances medical support for flood victims



DNA
ISLAMABAD: In the backdrop of threat of waterborne and infectious diseases like Dengue, Malaria, Cholera, Dysentery and Gastroenteritis in the flood affected areas, Pakistan Air Force has escalated provisioning of critical medical supplies and health care support to the flood victims of KPK, Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. PAF personnel including medical and support staff are extending maximum health care support along with provisioning of basic necessities like food, shelter and drinking water to the flood affected. Flood affectees are being provided free medical supplies and diagnostic facilities at PAF Field Medical Camps. In this regard, more than 700 patients were attended by the medical staff of Pakistan Air Force.

hbfc House Building Finance Company Limited
 InvITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
 Tender for Renovation Work at
 HBFC Head Office, Karachi.

HBFC invites sealed bids from well reputed Firms / Contractors for Renovation Work at HBFC Head Office, Karachi.

Bids will be evaluated separately in terms of Rule 26 (b) of Public Procurement Rules 2001 i.e. "Single stage low envelope procedure". Bidding documents containing detailed Bill of Materials and mandatory other etc. can be downloaded Free of Cost from HBFC website i.e. www.hbfc.com.pk. The IFB is also available at PPA website www.pppa.gov.pk.

Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents containing Technical and Financial Proposals, must reach at address given below on or before 02.10.2022 at 11:00 AM. Technical Proposals will be opened on same date at 10:00 AM in the presence of bidders' representatives (who choose to attend) at the office of the MUB. Bidders will be required to submit 10% of the security along with their bid in shape of Pay Order / Demand Draft in favor of HBFC. Late/ incomplete/ conditional bids will not be entertained.

HBFC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with relevant clause of Public Procurement Rules/PPR, 2004. PPR No. 2/22

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 3rd Floor, FTC Building, Shaheed-e-Fazaal, Karachi, Tel: 021-35641738/52

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.....9286044
 Motorway Police.....9270601-20
 Women Police Stations Islamabad.....922596
 Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
 MH.....5611116
 Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
 DHQ.....5556311-4
 RGH.....9290301-7
 Holy Family.....9290322-7
 PIMS.....9261170-79
 Polyclinic.....9218500-09
 Shifa International.....4603666



Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
 CDA.....9208301-04
 Mot Office.....9250369-6
 RIA.....5555864
 TMA.....577086
 Contention Board 92701513

Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
 Potdar Town.....9209224
 Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan along with his spouse and Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan President Pak-Japan Cultural Forum witnessing Haiku exhibition at the PNCA. — DNA

Efforts afoot to remove encroachment at G-14/1

Rehabilitation and infrastructure development works of Sector G-14/4, had also been awarded and works were in progress with full swing

APP/DNA
 ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) was making all-out efforts to remove all encroachments from Sector G-14/1 to hand out possession to the genuine allottees shortly. In this regard Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works Iftikhar Ali Shaibani had chaired a meeting to review development work in the Sector G-14/1, an official in the Ministry told APP. He said the FGEHA had sought assistance from the Islamabad civil administration and federal apex agency to resolve the issues as soon as possible to deliver the plots to the federal employees. The official said the Housing Scheme Phase-IV was launched in 2004 in sector G-14/1, 2, 3 in federal capital and the development work of sub Sector G-14/1, 2, 3 was awarded in 2012. In sector G-14/1, he said the survey of Built-Up Properties (BUPs) was going on and would be completed in near future while the possession of some plots of section G-14/1/3 has been handed over to allottees. He said the rehabilitation and infrastructure development works of Sector G-14/4, had also been awarded and works were in progress with full swing. The FGEHA was trying its best to complete the said works. The development work of Sub-Sector G-14/2 & 3 was awarded to M/s NCI in 2012 and 60 percent development work of roads completed, he added. He said the electricity lines have been laid by Islamabad Electric supply Company (IESCO) and Sub-Sector G-14/3 has been energized. The issue of BUPs in G-14/2 & G-14/3 will be resolved soon. It may be mentioned here that the Federal Government employees Housing Authority had issued notices to the affectees and owners of land and houses in sector G-14/1, G-14/2, G-14/3, and MOZZAH JHAMJ Sajid to get in touch with the concerned authorities and get compensation. The Housing Authority has given advertisements in newspapers warning them to get their dues and vacate the land. They have been asked to make it possible to help award of houses by providing authentic ownership rights documents along with owned house document, Name, Fathername, National Identity Card, and current living address. So, all the residents and affectees of sub sector whose houses are legally built, were asked to provide men-

76 more dengue patients reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: As many as 76 more people were infected with the deadly dengue virus in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 1,810. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajad Mehmood, Sunday said that, among the new cases, 47 patients had arrived from Potokhar town urban area, 12 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, six from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, three from Chaklala Cantonment, two from Potokhar rural and one from Kahutta and Gujar Khan. Dr Sajad added that 230 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals including 102 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 67 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 61 to the Holy Family Hospital. He further updated that out of the total admitted patients, 152 were confirmed cases, with 121 belonging to Rawalpindi. The health officer informed that two patients were in a critical position at BBH and HFH each. While giving details of the punitive actions, the health officer said that the district administration had registered 2,146 FRs, issued Challans to 7,077, notices to 9,094, sealed 544 premises and a fine of Rs 5,448,916 imposed on violators of SOPs in various areas of the district from January 1 to date. The health officer added prevailing weather had increased the threat of mosquito breeding and September and October were crucial for dengue spread.—APP

AIOU holds Int'l conference on education

ISLAMABAD: The sixth international conference on "Research and Practices in Education" at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is starting today (Monday, September 26). The opening session will be held at 10 am, which will be presided over by the Dean Faculty of Education, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood. Renowned educationist and former vice-chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Shahid Siddiqui will be the chief guest. Dr. Jason Laker, Professor of Higher Education, Student Affairs, and Community Development, San Jose State University (SJSU), and Dr. Faith Muirhead Senior Associate Director of the Professional Development Center at the University of Delaware, Newark, USA will attend the conference as international keynote speakers while Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed, Head of the Education Department at Sukkur IBA University will be the national keynote speaker. Dr. Afshan Humayun is the coordinator while Dr. Sadra Rizwan is the conference secretary. 159 research papers will be presented at the conference. Panel discussions will also be held on both days of the conference on the theme of "Education for Future". Different NGOs will also take part in this conference. The organizers of the conference include Prof. Dr. Fazlur Rahman, Prof. Dr. Farzeena Nabil, Dr. Naveed Sultana, Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, Dr. Tawseer Akal, Dr. Athar Hussain, Dr. Ayub Buzdar and Dr. Achar Majeed Qureshi. — DNA

Traders negate NFRCC's claim

DNA
 ISLAMABAD: Negating NFRCC's claim that there was no shortage of food items in the country, the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has warned that a food security crisis is looming, as the deadly floods have damaged rice, cotton and vegetables crops widely, besides the threat of wheat planting in the coming months, asking the government to mobilize resources for immediate response in this regard. PIAF Chairman Faeem Ur Rehman Saigol observed that a food crisis could be imminent followed by the floods, which have caused widespread devastation, calling the government to improve governance, besides adopting austerity measures to control losses. He said that global prices of kitchen staples soared following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, driving food inflation to a record. The catastrophic flood, which is estimated to cost the economy \$30-40 billion, is another hit to Pakistan that's already battling an economic crisis. He said that the agricultural sector is in turmoil because the cotton crop and vegetables are completely wiped out in many key areas. Faeem Saigol said that our country, one of the most vulnerable globally to climate change, has seen the highest rainfall in at least three decades. About a third of the country is currently flooded. As much as half of cotton crop has been damaged by torrential rains of Pakistan, the fifth-largest cotton producer, accounting for 5% of global output. The damage could further shrink the world's cotton supply.

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Briefs

PR explores "Gateway of Prosperity" under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways was expanding the scope of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to explore the "Gateway of Prosperity" for both countries and the region at large through the advancement of the Railways sector. The department considered CPEC as a long-term development project as it has the potential to serve as a corridor with multiple doors connecting China with Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, and as an official document. It said the Chinese and Pakistani workforce, in a large number, was employed to ensure timely completion of the infrastructure projects. There were also new projects launched such as Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M4), Peshawar-Khanjhan Motorway (M43), KKH Alternate Route (Gilgit-Shandoo-Chitral), Svat Expressway (Phase II), Dir Expressway, and Karachi Circular Railways. Pakistan Railways was providing one of the key modes of transport in the public sector which promoted national integration and economic growth, it added. Pakistan Railways comprised a total of 466 loco motives for a 7,791 km long route. During July-March FY2022, the gross earnings of railways were recorded at Rs 43.73 billion, it added. The modern transportation and communication system was one of the key inputs for achieving sustainable economic growth, the document said. - APP

FTO took 75 suo moto notices

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in history, Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr. Araf Mahmood Jafri took a record number of 75 suo moto notices in the first half of current year to facilitate the tax payers exclusively on top priority. This was announced by honorary Coordinator to FTO Meher Kashif Younis while addressing the awareness session with business community. He said during the period under review, a total of 3,000 complaints were lodged across the country against maladministration, excessive or exaggerated tax and other injustice by the tax functionaries, of which 2,650 were addressed promptly by a team of dedicated advisors within stipulated period. He said another feather in the cap of FTO is that period of disposal of complaints has now been reduced from 60 days to only 40 days which he added will expedite the process of grievance redressal to the logical end. He said on FTO intervention, Customs collected a revenue of Rs 5 billion by auctioning confiscated vehicles and goods. Similarly FBR paid refunds of Rs 8 billion to bona-fide tax payers besides several other landmark decisions that benefited the private sector. Meher Kashif further explained that FTO in addition to existing network has set up 5 more new full fledged regional offices for the facilitation of tax payers without loss of time. He said FTO is advocate of taxpayers and business community must take benefits of free of cost services. - APP

IRSA releases 152,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 152,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 139,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum capacity level of its maximum capacity level of 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 80,100 cusecs while out flow as 79,300 cusecs. The water level in River Jehlum at Mangla Dam was 119.25 feet, which was 141.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 12,400 and 28,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 77,100, 72,300 and 61,000 cusecs respectively. - APP

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari elected as new President ICCI

Newly elected Senior Vice President Faad Waheed and Vice President Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that facilitating the business community in business development would be key focus on their efforts

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has been elected as the new President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the year 2022-23. The election results were announced by Zahid Mehdood, Chief Election Commission during a ceremony at ICCI. Faad Waheed was elected as Senior Vice President and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar as Vice President for 2022-23. All the candidates were elected unopposed and they will formally take charge of their portfolios on 1st October 2022. Speaking at the occasion, the newly elected President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the economy of Pakistan was passing through a very challenging time of its history and stressed that the government should provide maximum facilitation and incentives to the business community to promote country's trade and exports that would help to improve the health of the economy. He emphasized that the government should engage the private sector in consultation to devise a comprehensive strategy in order to overcome the economic challenges of

the country. He appreciated the efforts of current President ICCI Muhammad Shaukeel Munir and his team for taking many productive initiatives to address the issue of business community and resolved that he would take all possible measures to promote the interests of business community. He thanked the Chairman & members of Founder Group and all members of ICCI for showing confidence in his abilities and assured that he would try to deliver up to their expectations. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Chairman Founder Group congratulated the newly new office bearers of ICCI for their unopposed election. He hoped that they would set new standards of good performance and play of effective role for resolving the key issues of the business community. Founder Group Election Campaign Co-Chairmen Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi and Sheikh Amir Waheed also congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and hoped that they would work hard to address the key issues of business community. The newly elected Senior Vice President Faad Waheed and Vice President



Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that facilitating the business community in business development would be key focus on their efforts. They thanked the Founder Group and ICCI members for electing them unopposed and ensured that they would try to deliver best performance.

Muhammad Shaukeel Munir President, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Fahem Khan Vice President ICCI congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and assured them of their full support in discharging their responsibilities. They highlighted the key achievements of their tenure and hoped that the new team would achieve many new milestones for ICCI and for the business community. Former Presidents ICCI Khalid Javed, Abdul Raul Alam, Mian Akram Faridi, Zafair Ahmed Malik,

Mian Shaukat Masud, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Nasir Qureshi, Ch. Waheed ul Din, as well as Muhammad Nawaz Malik, Khalid Chaudhry and others also congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICCI and expressed good wishes for them.

China's solar solutions provider offer training

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: China's leading solar solutions provider LONGi and ETRC have arranged training sessions on solar energy in Pakistan. Gradvar Pro reported on Sunday. In this connection, a training session on solar energy is ongoing at the Energy Training and Research Centre (ETRC) in Lahore. The two-month event, which started last week, admitted 28 Pakistani students with a diploma of associate engineer (DEA) or bachelor of technology (BTech), said Ali Majid, LONGi General Manager in Pakistan, in an interview with Gradvar Pro. Majid noted, there is a skill 'gap' in fresh engineers as

they are "good at designs but there was a gap for execution across the market." Such courses, says Majid, will fill the skill gap and make newly graduated engineers skilled labour, technicians, and associate engineers who are currently in high demand in Pakistan. "Through these courses, they have hands-on experience. Then we offer them jobs," Majid said. While talking to Gradvar Pro, Faiz Bhatta, CEO of ETRC, revealed that another similar training programme is also in the pipeline. "In the same way, we have to train female [students], and there are 50 females who will be trained," the CEO said, adding

that "this is basically a collaboration-based programme. We will take it to KPK, Islamabad, and also Karachi." As per Majid, future training sessions will take place in more Pakistani cities and also extended to more majors including bachelor of science in engineering (BSE). "I am very thankful to them [LONGi and ETRC] from the bottom of my heart that they have been working for the solar industry for many years and they are training other engineers. Knowledge increases by sharing with others. This is an example in front of us," Muhammad Rana Abbas, president of the PSA said.



ISLAMABAD: Females taking keen interest in art work during an exhibition. - APP

Arabic, Persian literature on decline

ISLAMABAD: Despite having a rich history and importance, the Arabic and Persian literature are slowly dying out in ICT colleges. According to an official source, some colleges have suspended their Arabic and Persian courses, asking the teachers of these subjects to teach other subjects in which they were not specialized. The future of the Arabic and Persian languages in ICT colleges was ambiguous and uncertain, the source said. Some teachers were of the view that both the Arabic and Persian literature had lost support and patronage of the relevant authorities, hence the popularity of these subjects among the young people was declining. - APP

CPEC true reflection of Sino-Pak friendship

SABULHAH
ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the crystallization of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan. This was stated by an eminent Chinese scholar Professor Dr Wang Yiwu at the "International media dialogue on the role of BRI in China and Pakistan relation development in the past decade". The dialogue organized on the topic was attended by a large number of international journalists, scholars, experts and academicians working on CPEC research projects. The keynote speaker Wang Yiwu, the Joint Moment Chair Professor, Director of Institute of International Affairs, Director of Center for European Studies at Renmin University of China said that the reality of the CPEC is reflected in the "four pillars": energy, infrastructure, ports and development zones. "Is the world headed for fragmentation, confrontation or convergence?" He asked. Interconnectivity is the key to the future of mankind. He told that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the flagship project of BRI's six Economic Corridors. Wang noted that for BRI on land and at sea, to achieve Land-Sea connectivity, not only is to help Xinjiang, even the whole Central Asia create a shortcut to enter the India Ocean, but to help Pakistan narrow the gap between north-south development, which allows Pakistan to better integrate into the process of industrialization, urbanization and globalization. In the future, it will also benefit neighboring countries, such as Afghanistan and the countries in South Asian Subcontinent, and assist in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, significant in setting up an example. Moreover, the construction of national capacity for governance concerned also mirrors the all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Pakistan in economy, people's livelihood and culture development, to pursue peace and stability through development, to strengthen friendship through common development, to realize the mission and value of cultural exchanges and mutual learning through interconnectivity, stated by Wang. He also stressed that BRI is also in the process of transition while globalization turns more important and more digitalized. At the same time, we need to address new risks and challenges, for example, against the Indo-Pacific Strategy from India and America, or tackling with the unbalanced development issues between areas. Therefore, we should "ensure both development and security, coordinate bilateral and multilateral relations and promote high-standard, sustainable and people-centered progress", told Wang. While addressing the dialogue, Dr. Farzad-Khalman Director at Pakistan Institute of China Studies in Saragsha University said that the CPEC project is a historic initiative which will help the country attract investors and create jobs, along with business opportunities for locals.

RDA officers directed to accelerate anti-dengue campaign

RAWALPINDI: Director General (DG) Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Saif Anwar Jajja has directed the administration to accelerate the ongoing anti-dengue campaign and utilize all available resources to ensure cleanliness, detect dengue larvae and remove stagnant water. According to the RDA spokesman, the DG had directed the administration of five housing schemes including Bahria Town, Faisal Town, Top City, University Town and Mantaza City, which come under RDA control to focus on anti-dengue activities. The DG also instructed the administration of the housing schemes to hire entomologists. He urged the citizens to take special care and all possible cleanliness arrangements should be made. The residents should also use mosquito repellent spray, he said adding, water drainage system should be checked regularly so that if there is any stagnant water, it could be removed. The IG had also nominated Assistant Director Planning, Melchius Naseem as focal person for the five housing schemes. To another question the spokesman informed that RDA on the directives of the DG had issued notices to 14 illegal housing schemes. He said, on the direction of the DG RDA, the authorities concerned are taking legal action against illegal advertising and marketing of the illegal housing schemes. - APP

Digital economy is need of hour

ISLAMABAD: Digital economy is need of hour to meet the ever increasing emerging global challenges through resolutely digital connectivity with advanced countries especially with China. Talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Momin Ali Malik, Chairman United Business Group in the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Momin Ali Malik said that China, United States and the European Union with respective comprehensive strengths and set-tech capabilities have become the three poles in the global digital geopolitical landscape. While China and the European Union have a noticeable gap with the US in overall strength, he added. With regard to the size of the digital economy, the US ranked first with \$13.1 trillion followed by China \$5.2 trillion, Japan \$2.8 trillion, the UK \$1.1 trillion, and France \$1.17 trillion, he claimed. He said Chinese tech giant Huawei is breaking the US monopoly by developing a number of high tech fields such as communications and chip designs. He said against such a backdrop, strengthening relations have great strategic importance as the US protected its own networks without caring other players in the market. He said the power of digital technologies quietly but fiercely shocks existing boundaries and defenses, the reshaping of international rules and order will gradually unfold and proceed on the global stage. - APP

4 proclaimed offenders held during crackdown

RAWALPINDI: The police have arrested four proclaimed offenders wanted in miscellaneous crime from different areas of the city during operation. The RDA spokesman said on Sunday, said police spokesman. The Taxila police arrested Rawan, wanted in the charge of kidnapping. Similarly, the Race Course police held Zafar who was wanted since 2021 in the case of breach of trust. The Bani police arrested Zafar wanted by police in the theft case since 2018 and held Tariq who was wanted since 2021 for attempt of murder. The divisional SPs appreciated the performance of police teams ordered to continue crackdown against proclaimed offenders and criminals involved in heinous crimes without any discrimination. - APP

PIDE issues report on 23rd IMF Program for Pakistan

DNA
ISLAMABAD: International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued a staff report on the seventh and eighth reviews of the extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) on September 1, 2022. As per the review report, the authorities of Pakistan are allowed to draw USD 1.1 billion, keeping in view the measures taken by authorities to address fiscal and external challenges. The IMF board has also approved the extension of the EFF till June 2023 along with extra Special Drawing Rights (SDR) of 720 million, bringing the total access under the EFF to about USD 6.5 billion. This was stated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Durr-e-Nayab Pro Vice Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), during a meeting with a group of senior journalists here in Islamabad. They said that the review report has also identified some priority measures to be considered by the Pakistani authorities, such as the implementation of an approved budget, market-determined exchange rate policy, proactive and prudent monetary policy, the expansion of the social safety net, and structural reforms related to the performance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and governance. The set of measures that have been identified contains both short-term and medium-term measures to promote long-term growth. In this regard, the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has also been working extensively to identify the measures that are necessary to remove the bottlenecks in the economy to improve productivity and increase growth. Therefore, the objective of the PIDE Report is twofold, i.e., a commentary on the measures suggested by the review report and what other measures should be part of the program. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque said that the PIDE reform agenda (RAPID) noted that Pakistan needs a sustainable growth rate of around 8 percent over a long period, given the population pressure. However, the review report showed that the economy of Pakistan started overheating at a growth rate of around 6 percent. PIDE noted that this is primarily due to the economy's low investment rate

and a worsening long-term trend of investment as a percentage of GDP. Additionally, there are substantial regulatory and productivity constraints in the economy that the program should be addressing. He said the review report also suggested that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will continue a tight monetary policy per the standard prescription to restrain higher inflation expectations. According to the review, the SBP and the IMF staff agreed to a tight monetary policy to achieve a positive real interest rate. However, the real rate remains negative. And the real rate is likely to remain negative through the program period. This implies that the nominal interest rate should be 20 percent or even more. However, it would be challenging for the SBP to curtail inflation through monetary tightening due to the following factors: The SBP began to tighten monetary policy in November 2021 but failed to achieve a positive real rate and control inflation. The review report projects that the broad money growth will be around 12 percent during the FY2023. Therefore, PIDE argues that the demand-side pressure will not

be a major driver of inflation in the near future. The current wave of inflation may be more supply-side shock driven. PIDE estimates suggest that supply-side pressures will contribute to inflation by more than 80 percent during FY2023. Hence, further tightening of the monetary policy may not be desirable. International Risk Assessment Matrix of the review report also points out that several supply shocks, including the disruption of supply chains, higher energy prices, and higher commodity prices are more important for inflation. Nevertheless, further tightening of the monetary policy may reduce the exchange rate pressures. The current external sector pressure is due to soaring import demand. A tight monetary policy may reduce external sector pressure through effective import demand management. The review report, however, did not take a clear stance on this issue. We also agreed with IMF that all concessionary interest rates should be eliminated to ensure the policy rate has teeth. Unfortunately, we do not see the program recommending a line path to achieve this goal.

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Irresponsible to say pandemic is over

The pandemic is by no means over. "We are still in the tunnel. We are just beginning to glimpse the light at the end of that tunnel," Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters on Thursday, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

The end "is still a long way off, and the tunnel is still dark, with many obstacles that could trip us up if we don't take care", the WHO chief cautioned.

Unlike US President Joe Biden, who had announced a few days earlier that the COVID-19 pandemic was over in the United States, the latter is not whitewashing the situation. His more realistic assessment should prompt the world to avoid complacency as it is too early and dangerous to drop our guard.

In its latest epidemiological update, the WHO said over 9,800 fatalities were reported last week, down 17 percent from a week earlier, while 3.2 million new cases were reported. The UN health agency has warned that the falling number of reported cases is deceptive, since many countries have cut back on testing and may not be detecting less serious cases.

Biden's chief medical adviser Anthony Fauci also warned that the world should not be too hasty in jumping to the same conclusion as Biden, warning "We are not where we need to be. We are going to quote 'live with the virus' because we know we are not going to be able to eliminate it, because it is highly transmissible and the immunity that's induced by vaccines or infection is also transient".

Such warnings are especially necessary as the pandemic fatigue that has settled in is prompting people to loosen their guard. It is particularly important for experts to tell the truth and political leaders to be sober-minded about the situation.

There is still a long way to go before vaccines and medicines are developed which can enable us to live with the virus. No experts can be sure that there won't be a resurgence of the pandemic because of a new variant of the virus which may be highly transmissible and lethal. People need to be told to stay on their guard and try to avoid being infected by taking all the precautionary measures possible.

Responding to COVID-19 should have nothing to do with politics. It is irresponsible and immoral for politicians to politicize the pandemic. Rather, protecting people's lives should be the priority.

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Backlash in Iran

The response of the Iranian regime to the death in police custody of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, is dismayingly familiar. First, the authorities lied about what happened, claiming Amini died of natural causes despite eyewitness testimony that she was repeatedly beaten by officers. Then, as demonstrations spread across the country, they attempted a cover-up while denouncing the protesters as enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Now, facing unassuaged public fury and an increasingly politicised backlash, regime leaders have launched a violent crackdown, causing more deaths. Marchers at state-organised counter-demonstrations demand the execution of "offenders of the Qur'an" while Tehran's misnamed intelligence ministry slanders protesters as seditionists opposed to religious values.

This grim sequence of events, while predictable, is both infuriating and distressing, primarily for Amini's family, but also for all those in Iran seeking to build an open society where human rights, and women's rights in particular, are respected. Similar protests in the past, such as the Girls of Revolution Street movement in 2018, produced not change but renewed repression.

The demonstrations represent a serious warning, possibly a last chance, for a morally bankrupt, despotic regime.

The issue that led to Amini's arrest – "inappropriate" wearing of the hijab – has huge symbolic significance. Compulsory use of the hijab was introduced by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's followers after the 1979 revolution as a means of purging rivals. These days, it is used to exert social control and crudely keep women "in their place".

Yet most Iranians reject the mandatory nature of religious regulations, saying hijab-wearing is a woman's choice. An independent survey in 2020 found that 72% opposed compulsory hijab. Following Amini's death, civil society organisations and celebrities have called for reform. Some religious leaders admit the law discredits Islam.

Iran's president, Ebrahim Raisi, complained at the UN in New York last week that he had no friends, but the fact that Saudi Arabia certainly exists, but that hardly justifies the horrific abuses over which he presides. Notorious examples include the atrocious treatment meted out to the women's rights defender, Nasrin Sotoudeh, use of torture and hostage-taking affecting dual nationals.

Iran appears caught in a time warp, fighting the battles of yesterday. The US is no friend, but Joe Biden genuinely wants a nuclear deal. The Gulf Arabs are making peace with Israel. Riffs that defined the Middle East for generations are closing. Today's challenges are global. Iran could shed its pariah status and become a great nation again – if only its people, and especially its cruelly oppressed women, were set free.

Public opinion surveys challenge the image Arab leaders like to project

James Dorsey

The establishment two years ago of diplomatic relations with Israel by four countries included in the ASDA' A BCW survey – the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, – and the fact that Saudi Arabia has become more public about its relations with the Jewish state and its desire to establish diplomatic ties once a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is found is likely to have shaped responses in the surveys. Aware of public hesitancy, Saudi Arabia, together with the Arab League and the European Union, this week convened a meeting in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly to explore ways of dusting off the 1982 Saudi-inspired Arab peace plan.

Several recent public opinion surveys send a mixed message to autocratic reformers in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, which hosts this year's World Cup in less than two months. The surveys reveal contradictory attitudes among Arab youth towards religion as well as widespread rejection of notions of a moderate Islam and formal diplomatic ties with Israel. One survey, published this week by Dubai-based public relations agency ASDA' A BCW, revealed that 41 per cent of 3,400 young Arabs in 17 Arab countries aged 18 to 24 said

religion was the most important element of their identity, with nationality, family and tribe, Arab heritage, and gender lagging far behind. That is 7 per cent more than those surveyed in the agency's 2021 poll.

More than half of those surveyed, 56 per cent, said their country's legal system should be based on the Shariah or Islamic law. Seventy per cent expressed concern about the loss of traditional values and culture. Sixty-five per cent argued that preserving their religious and cultural identity was more important than creating a globalized society.

Yet paradoxically, 73 per cent felt that religion plays too big a role in the Middle East, while 77 per cent believed that Arab religious institutions should be reformed. Autocratic Arab reformers will take heart from the discomfort with the role of religion and skepticism towards religious authority that stroked with earlier surveys by ASDA' A BCW, which has conducted the poll annually for the past 14 years.

Even so, the greater emphasis on religion as the core pillar of identity, concern about traditional values and culture, and the call for Islamic law cast a shadow over social reforms introduced by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia and President Mohammed bin Zayed in the UAE.

Moreover, the poll results were published as Qatar debates how to deal with potential conduct by World Cup fans that violates Qatari law and mores, such as public intoxication and expressions of affection, pre-marital sex, and sexual diversity.

Qatar has suggested that World Cup fans caught committing minor offences such as public drunkenness would escape prosecution under plans under development by authorities. While Saudi Arabia's rupture with religion was conservatism that long was the kingdom's hallmark was stunning, reforms in the UAE were the most radical in their break with Islamic law that constitutionally constitutes the principal source of the country's legislation.

Mr. Bin Salman's reforms severely restricted the authority of the religious police, lifted the kingdom's ban on women's driving, enhanced women's rights and opportunities, loosened gender segregation, and introduced western-style entertainment. All measures that are essentially not controversial in much of the Muslim world but went against the grain of the kingdom's ultra-conservative

segment of the population and clergy. That could not be said for Mr. Bin Zayed's equally far-reaching changes that decriminalised sexual relations out of marriage and alcohol consumption for UAE nationals and foreigners and lifted the prohibition on living together for unmarried couples.

Mr. Bin Zayed's reforms are expected to persuade some fans to base themselves in the UAE during the World Cup and travel for matches to Qatar, which is socially more restrictive.

Even so, the ASDA' A BCW survey suggests that the reforms in the kingdom and the Emirates may not have been embraced as enthusiastically by a significant segment of the youth as the two countries would like public opinion to believe. Separate surveys by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy showed that 59 per cent of those polled in the UAE, 58 per cent in Saudi Arabia, and 74 per cent in Egypt, disagreed with the notion that "we should listen to those among us who are trying to interpret Islam in a more moderate, tolerant, and modern way."

The youth's quest for religion and traditionalism strokes with youth attitudes toward democracy and diplomatic relations with Israel. Autocratic leaders will likely be encouraged by the fact that a where 82 per cent of those surveyed by ASDA' A BCW said stability was more important than democracy. At the same time, two-thirds believed democracy would never work in the Middle East.

Three quarters saw China, followed by Turkey and Russia as their allies, as opposed to only 63 per cent pointing to the United States and 12 per cent to Israel. Even so, they viewed the US as having the most influence in the Middle East, but a majority favoured US disengagement.

Yet, the United States and Europe continued to constitute preferred destinations among 45 per cent of those polled seeking to emigrate. However, despite widespread skepticism towards democracy, leaders will also have noted that 60 per cent expressed concern about the increased role of government in their lives.

The establishment two years ago of diplomatic relations with Israel by four countries included in the ASDA' A BCW sur-

vey – the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan – and the fact that Saudi Arabia has become more public about its relations with the Jewish state and its desire to establish diplomatic ties once a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is found is likely to have shaped responses in the surveys.

Aware of public hesitancy, Saudi Arabia, together with the Arab League and the European Union, this week convened a meeting in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly to explore ways of dusting off the 1982 Saudi-inspired Arab peace plan.

The plan offered Israel recognition and diplomatic relations in exchange for creating a Palestinian state in territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

For his part, Yair Lapid expressed support for a two-state solution in his address to the assembly. It was the first time Mr. Lapid backed two states since he became prime minister and the first time since 2017 that an Israeli prime minister spoke in favour of Palestinian statehood.

Nevertheless, only 14% of the Egyptians polled in the Washington Institute surveys viewed their country's 43-year-old peace treaty with Israel as the mere receipt of public opinion of diplomatic relations with the Jewish state by the UAE and others as positive.

In contrast to the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco, where Israeli business people, tourists, and residents have been welcomed, only 11 per cent of Egyptians surveyed favoured the normalisation of people-to-people relations. Similarly, 57 per cent of Saudis surveyed by the institute opposed the normalization of the kingdom's relations with Israel. Still, a higher percentage in the kingdom and the UAE than in Egypt, 42 per cent, agreed that "people who want to have business or sports contacts with Israelis should be allowed to do so."

Sum it all up, the message is that autocratic reformers appear to be far ahead of significant segments of their populations even if public attitudes may be contradictory. For now, keeping the lid on freedom of expression and dissent helps them maintain their grip but casts a shadow and a doubt over the image they work so hard to project.

World youth, ageism & way forward

Mansoor Qaisar

Ageism continues to present a significant – yet, not sufficiently discussed, challenge to fostering collaboration and solidarity across age groups. The World Health Organization defines ageism as "the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) directed towards others or oneself, based on age." Ageism is an insidious and often unaddressed issue in health, human rights, and development, and it bears on both older and younger populations worldwide. In addition, ageism regularly intersects with other forms of bias (such as racism and sexism)

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world needs to leverage the full potential of all generations. Solidarity across generations is critical for sustainable development. We must collaborate to foster prosperous and equitable intergenerational relations and partnerships to ensure "no one is left behind." While intergenerational solidarity and concern for future generations are being called for in tackling global issues, the UN Secretary-General recently proposed new renewed intergenerational solidarity.

Ageism continues to present a significant – yet, not sufficiently discussed, challenge to fostering collaboration and solidarity across age groups. The World Health Organization defines ageism as "the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) directed towards others or oneself, based on age." Ageism is an insidious and often unaddressed issue in health, human rights, and development, and it bears on both older and younger populations worldwide. In addition, ageism regularly intersects with other forms of bias (such as racism and sexism) and impacts people in ways that prevent them from reaching their full potential and comprehensively contributing to their community.

The Global Report on Ageism, launched by the United Nations in March 2021, highlights the many data gaps regarding ageism against youth. Despite this lack of research, young people continue to report age-related barriers in various spheres of their lives, such as employment, polit-

ical participation, health, and justice. On an individual level, these age-related obstacles can profoundly impact wellbeing and livelihoods not only during youth but also in adulthood. On a societal level, ageism prevents us from thinking and designing policies and social services that adopt a life-course approach and are fair for all ages.

The Global Report on Ageism identifies intergenerational interventions as one of the three key strategies to address ageism. Intergenerational activities can also create a greater sense of social connectedness and strengthen intergenerational solidarity.

World Youth Model United Nations (WYMUN), World Youth Model United Nations (WYMUN), also known as World Youth MUN, is a recognised United Nations Simulation Conference that will be held from 04 to 07 November 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. World Youth MUN serves as a platform for Young Leaders and Changemakers to exchange ideas and resolve the most challenging global issues. In addition, this UN Simulation will be an ideal avenue for Young Diplomats to grasp and grip the lobbying and critical thinking skill set that will enable them to become better diplomats.

World Youth Model United Nations (WYMUN) will have an International Grand Symposium where guest speakers featuring eminent diplomats and ambassadors will deliver talks on the central theme, i.e., Making Future Leaders. Delegate will also get a chance to debate and discuss the topics with their fellows and questions to distinguished speakers while enjoying a lavish diplomatic Dinner.

Countries will be assigned to the delegates at World Youth MUN, and they will role-play as diplomats and representatives during the various committee sessions. The topics will be specified for each council, and delegates will present and justify their viewpoints which will serve as a great test of their potential and oratory skills. Participating in World Youth MUN in Bangkok 2022 conference broadens the youth network by meeting many people from various countries. Critical thinking by having the experience of communicating effectively with others in finding solutions to complex problems.

Furthermore, by practicing diplomacy in Thailand 2022, youth will become more knowledgeable and experienced in negotiations between two groups in a result-oriented manner. At the conference, youth delegate experiences as a diplomat will be good examples for the other youth as a country representatives, make a decision as a leader & inspire others. Fostering intergenerational solidarity between generations is more than ever necessary to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery. As we navigate the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative to recognize the various age-related barriers to "build back better" in a manner that leverages all generations' strengths and knowledge.

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Briefs Audio leaks cause ripples in govt ranks

FROM PAGE 01 The PML-N vice president has publicly stated that she does not agree with the decision to hike petrol and electricity prices...

The second clip allegedly concerns a conversation between the premier and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Law Minister Azam Tahir, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and former NA speaker Ayaz Sadiq about the resignations of PTI lawmakers...

Imran Khan wants COAS appointed.. FROM PAGE 01 "Even the prime minister of Great Britain cannot live in a house where Hassan Nawaz lives because it costs Rs10 billion," he said.

FROM PAGE 01 "The military commenced the use of Afghan soil against Pakistan and urged Kabul to take action which prevents such an incident from taking place again. It added that the military was resolute in its resolve to protect the borders of the country..."

Two Army soldiers martyred... FROM PAGE 01 The military condemned the use of Afghan soil against Pakistan and urged Kabul to take action which prevents such an incident from taking place again.

No row urges world to prevent Afghanistan from isolation

He proposed the establishment of UN Counter-Terrorism Regional Office in Central Asia to successfully implement Global Strategy and continuously monitor implementation of the updated joint action plan

DNA NEW YORK: Vladimir Norov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, said the establishment of inter-civilizational and intercultural relations and dialogue is extremely important in relieving global tension, uncertainty and unpredictability.

the eve of constitutional reform to ensure the sustainability and irreversibility of fundamental transformation of the State system and public administration to guarantee inalienable rights and freedoms.



Establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Regional Office in Central Asia to successfully implement the Global Strategy and continuously monitor implementation of the updated joint action plan.

consequences for regional and international security. The international community should ensure restoration of the Afghan economy, integration into interregional economic processes, and the implementation of infrastructure and socially significant projects.

Joyce knocks out Parker in heavyweight classic



SPORTS DESK LONDON: Britain's Joe Joyce walked through the best New Zealander Joseph Parker had to offer to knock out his rival in the 11th round of a thrilling fight in Manchester.

book landed flush on the chin of Parker. Joyce claimed the WBO interim heavyweight title with the biggest win of his career and now has his eyes set on challenging heavyweight champion Oleksandr Usyk in 2023.

he was 31 after a late start to his amateur career. But Joyce showed a granite chin to become the first man to stop Parker, a former world champion. "I was in a tough fight and praise to Parker. I really enjoyed it and I had to dig deep to get through the rounds.

Kipchoge puts new world marathon record

BERLIN: Kenyan great Eliud Kipchoge has beaten his own world marathon record by 30 seconds, running 2hr 01min 59sec in Berlin on Sunday. At the halfway point the back-to-back Olympic champion in Rio and Tokyo looked set to become the first to officially run under the elusive two-hour mark.

in the women's field, Ethiopian Tigist Assefa ran the third fastest time in history, setting a course record of 2:15:57. Assefa was not among the pre-race favourites and sensationally beat her previous best by 18 minutes. Kipchoge, who on Friday said his only goal was "to run a good race", burst out of the blocks, clearly aiming not only for a world record but to beat his two-hour mark.

Argentina slam referee after four yellow cards and 22 penalties

JOHANNESBURG: Argentina coach Michael Cheika has slammed Australian referee Damon Murphy after four of his players were yellow-carded and they conceded 22 penalties in a weekend loss to South Africa. Two penalty kicks were also awarded against the South Americans when they attempted to stop driving mauls by the reigning world champions during the second half. The Springboks beat the Pumas 38-21 on Saturday in a scrappy, penalty-riddled final round Rugby Championship match at Kings Park in Durban.

Russia's Alexandrova shines in Seoul for third title

SEOUL: Ekaterina Alexandrova overcame nerves to win the third title of her career as she dismantled injury-hampered top seed Jelena Ostapenko 7-6 (7/4), 6-0 in the final of the Korea Open on Sunday. The two battled to a lengthy, tactical first set before an evenly matched housing-fist set in front of more than 10,000 spectators, a record for the Seoul event.



Russia's Alexandrova is enjoying the best season of her career, having also won the Libema Open in the Netherlands in June, and is set to rise to a career-high 21 in the world.

Germany on the brink as middle class shrinking

"The gov must be careful that the dramatic rise in energy price doesn't drive entire segments of the population into poverty," Timo Wollmershauser, chief economist at Munich's Ifo institute

BERLIN: Germany is expecting its worst economic crisis in 60 years, with diminishing prosperity, a shrinking middle class and growing inequality, according to a top middle-class magazine in its latest report. The report published on Thursday, high inflation, skyrocketing energy prices and a slowing economy are counted as Germany's recent crises that have worsened after Russia began a military operation in Ukraine in February.

example, are worried about social justice in the country as citizens must pay 1,000 Euros more a month for gas and electricity and purchase prices of 1 million Euros for a two-bedroom apartment. The report revealed that during the second quarter of this year, real wages fell by 4.4 percent. The Sparkassenverband savings banks association estimates that 60 percent of households in Germany soon will no longer be able to put money aside.

tion ticket (for somewhere between 43 and 69 Euros a month) and increased monthly child benefit payments for parents. Although the German government has now approved around 95 billion Euros in aid, 60 percent of Germans feel that the relief packages are not socially just, according to a survey conducted by pollster Crey on behalf of DER SPIEGEL.

Chairman Dubai Port donates \$2.5 Million

FROM PAGE 01 UAE and its leadership stands with the people of Pakistan in this time of distress. The dignitary committed to raise the issue of climate justice for Pakistan at the world forums. COAS thanked Sheikh Sultan for his valuable and timely support to Pakistan.

WB repurposes \$2b for...

FROM PAGE 01 concluded his first visit to Pakistan and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to supporting the people of Pakistan in the wake of catastrophic flooding. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives and livelihoods due to the devastating floods and we are working with the federal and provincial governments to provide immediate relief to those who are most affected," he said.

Miftah Ismail resigns...

FROM PAGE 01 former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a meeting, held under the chair of PML-N supremo Miftah Ismail. The meeting discussed overall political and economic situation of the country. It was the opinion that higher and stronger government had to steer the country out of the economic crisis caused by the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Bilawal, Egyptian FM agree to enhance ties

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhatto Zardari held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Egypt Sameh Hassan Shoukry and reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and agreed to enhance the frequency of bilateral political exchanges. According to Foreign Office, they met in New York on the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly session.

Briefs

Serbia's FM defends deal with Russia

DNA BELGRADE: Serbia's foreign minister on Sunday sought to downplay the importance of an agreement with Russia after the Italian state, which is seeking European Union membership, faced criticism for signing it. Nikola Selakovic signed the agreement Friday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, where most Western delegations shunned Russia's top diplomat over the country's invasion of Ukraine.

Storm Fiona hits eastern Canada

DNA TORONTO: Powerful storm Fiona lashed into eastern Canada on Saturday, cutting power to thousands and washing houses into the sea as it pummeled the area with fierce winds and rains "like nothing we've ever seen," police said. Two women were swept into the ocean in Newfoundland, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police reported. One was rescued, but the other is still missing. Mayor Brian Robison of Channel-Port aux Basques, at the southwestern tip of Newfoundland, told CBC News that the scene there was one of "total devastation," adding, "this has become bigger, and worse, than we had imagined."

Swiss vote on factory farm ban

GENEVA: Switzerland votes Sunday on a slew of issues, including a proposed ban on factory farming and divisive pension reform that would raise the retirement age for women. After aborted attempts in 2004 and 2017, Bern is hoping to garner enough votes to "stabilise" Switzerland's old-age security system, under pressure as life expectancy rises and the giant baby-boomer generation reaches retirement age. The most controversial part of the reform would require women to work until the age of 65, the same age as the current retirement age for men, before receiving a full pension. They currently bow out a year earlier at 64. Parliament approved the key measures, which include a sales tax hike, last year, but left-leaning parties and unions decry the reform "on the backs of women" and pushed the issue to a referendum under Switzerland's direct democratic system. While backers of the reform argue that men and women retiring at the same age is not unreasonable, the move has sparked significant pushback, especially from women. Opponents argue that women face a broad gender pay-gap in Switzerland, meaning they receive far smaller pensions than men. - APP

Tehran: Huge crowds of people hold rallies to denounce riots

Despite Iranian officials' clarification on the circumstances surrounding Amini's death, violent street protests have led to attacks on security officers and acts of vandalism against public property and sanctities

NEW DESK TEHRAN: Huge crowds of people have taken to the streets in the Iranian capital Tehran to denounce acts of vandalism and desecration of Islamic sanctities by rioters over the past week following the death of a young Iranian woman after she was taken into a police station. The protesters carried placards and chanted slogans against the police station and the death of a young woman, who died at hospital days after collapsing at a police station in the capital Tehran. People took the streets in many cities and towns, including the holy city of Mashhad, the northwestern city of Qazvin, the central city of Esfahan as well as the

removed women's headscarves on the streets. The massive protest in Tehran's protest over hostile attempts by London-based Persian-language television channels to further instigate deadly riots that have erupted in several Iranian cities over the death of a young woman, who died at hospital days after collapsing at a police station in the capital Tehran. "In response to the hostile atmosphere being created by the London-based Farsi-language media outlets against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UK ambassador [Simon Shortell] was summoned by the foreign ministry's Director General for Western Europe," the ministry announced in a statement released on Sunday. It added that a strongly-worded note of protest was lodged on the British diplomat over London's hosting the media, which have fiercely sought in recent days to provoke violent protests and incite riots against the Iranian government and the public. - DNA

Iran summons British ambassador

TEHRAN: The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned Britain's ambassador to Tehran to express Tehran's protest over hostile attempts by London-based Persian-language television channels to further instigate deadly riots that have erupted in several Iranian cities over the death of a young woman, who died at hospital days after collapsing at a police station in the capital Tehran. "In response to the hostile atmosphere being created by the London-based Farsi-language media outlets against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UK ambassador [Simon Shortell] was summoned by the foreign ministry's Director General for Western Europe," the ministry announced in a statement released on Sunday. It added that a strongly-worded note of protest was lodged on the British diplomat over London's hosting the media, which have fiercely sought in recent days to provoke violent protests and incite riots against the Iranian government and the public. - DNA

western cities of Hamedan and Yasuj, to show their unity and outrage over the recent acts of sabotage perpetrated by rioters. They strongly condemned the crimes and evil acts committed by a handful of mercenaries serving foreign enemies, who set fire to the Holy Qur'an, mosques, and the national flags and forcefully removed women's headscarves on the streets, among other things. Despite Iranian officials' clarification on the circumstances surrounding Amini's death, violent street protests have led to attacks on security officers and acts of vandalism against public property and sanctities.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday that those who have disrupted the security and peace of the country will be dealt with "decisively." Speaking on Friday, Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said the riots that have followed Amini's death, had nothing to do with the tragic event, stating that the issue was being exploited by rabble-rousers to incite chaos and wreak havoc across the country. Last week, Iranian police released CCTV footage, which shows Amini collapsing in the police station. The video rejected claims that she was beaten up, denying any physical contact with her.

Anti-Russian sanctions hugely harm Europe

DNA NEW YORK: Large-scale restrictions and measures imposed by the European Union against Russia because of the situation around Ukraine cause great harm to Europe and European economies, Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter Sijaric said in an interview with Russian media on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. "If you look at the sanction policy of the European Union, not in an ideological but in a political but in a professional manner, then it's obvious that it is extremely painful to Europe, extremely painful. Inflation is skyrocketing, energy prices are in the skies, price for commodities food is increasing like hell. So this sanction policy is harmful to Europe and European people," he said. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address on February 24 that in response to a request by the heads of the Donbass republics he had made a decision to carry out a special military operation in order to protect people "who have been suffering from abuse and genocide by the Kiev regime for eight years".

24 dead after boat sinks in Bangladesh

DHAKA: At least 24 people were killed and around the same number were missing on Sunday after an overcrowded boat carrying pilgrims capsized on a river in Bangladesh, police said. "Firefighters and divers are searching for more bodies," local police official Shafiqul Islam told AFP, confirming that 24 deaths had been confirmed so far, most of them women and children. The boat was packed with up to 50 pilgrims, police said. They were travelling to a centuries-old temple when the vessel suddenly tipped over and sank in the middle of the Karota river near the town of Boda in northern Bangladesh. Another police officer said up to 25 people had been rescued. Local media said at least 10 people had been rescued and sent to hospital. Mobile phone footage aired by TV station Channel 24 showed the overcrowded boat (pictured) capsizing over, spilling the passengers into the muddy brown river. Dozens of people watching from the shore around 200 metres away started shouting and screaming. The weather was calm at the time. "Thousands of Hindus in Muslim-majority Bangladesh visit the Bodeshwari Temple every year. Sunday marked the start of Durga Puja, a Hindu festival in Bangladesh - and also eastern India - drawing large crowds to the temple. The incident was the latest in a string of similar tragedies in the low-lying delta country which is crisscrossed by rivers. - APP

Typhoon Noru slams into the Philippines

MANILA: Super Typhoon Noru slammed into the Philippines, battering the heavily populated island of Luzon with strong winds and heavy rain that have forced hundreds of people to flee their homes. The storm was packing maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometres (121 miles) an hour as it charged towards the archipelago nation after an unprecedented "explosive intensification," the state weather forecaster said. Noru, the strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year, made landfall in Burdeos municipality on the Palawan island, part of Quezon province, at 5:30 pm (09:30 GMT). "We ask residents living in danger zones to adhere to calls for evacuation whenever necessary." - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugiao met with the President of Pakistan at the Islamabad Airport en route to Karachi to receive the humanitarian aid sent by the Indonesia government. - DNA

NASA scrubs Artemis I moon launch due to tropical storm

HOUSTON: NASA on Saturday decided to scrub next Tuesday's launch of the Artemis I moon rocket due to Tropical Storm Ian. Citing official weather forecasts, Jim Free, NASA's associate administrator for exploration systems, told the vehicle assembly building at Kennedy Space Center on Sept 27 Artemis launch attempt. "Ian is expected to strengthen into a hurricane by Monday, so NASA officials decided to scrub this third blastoff attempt due to safety." "NASA is foregoing a launch opportunity Tuesday, Sept. 27, and preparing for rollout, while continuing to watch the weather forecast associated with Tropical Storm Ian," tweeted the US space agency. NASA is now taking steps to return the Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft to the vehicle assembly building at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. "To protect our employees and the integrated stack, we will begin configuring the vehicle to roll back," said Free. The two previous launch attempts were scrapped here on Aug. 29 and Sept. 3 due to fueling and engine issues. During the Sept. 3 cancellation, engineers had to address a relatively large leak of hydrogen that emerged during fueling, in addition to straightening out the chilling process for the engines which were also a concern during the Aug. 29 scratch. The next backup date for a potential take-off is Oct. 2. If that attempt is scrubbed, the next window for a possible launch is between Oct. 17 and Oct. 31. The Artemis I mission is the first of three space flights in NASA's space exploration project. - DNA

Scholz cites energy supply 'progress' on UAE visit

ABU DHABI: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Sunday his country was determined to never again rely on a single energy supplier and touted "progress" in gas projects while visiting the United Arab Emirates. Scholz, who is touring the Gulf in the hope of sealing new energy deals to replace Russian supplies and mitigate the energy crisis resulting from Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. "We have made progress on a whole series of projects here in terms of the production and transport of diesel and gas," Scholz told reporters in the Emirati capital Abu Dhabi. "The fact that we are dependent on one supplier and also dependent on its decisions will certainly not happen to us again," he added. - APP

Israeli settlers break into al-Aqsa Mosque

Palestinian resistance movement Hamas warned of "repercussions" over Israel's incursions into al-Aqsa Mosque before the start of the Jewish holidays when settler raids on the super-sensitive compound mount OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Israeli settlers have once again intruded into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound before the start of the Jewish holidays in the least act of provocation against the sacred Palestinian site. Palestine's official Waafa news agency reported that scores of Israeli settlers, escorted by military forces, broke into the compound through the Moroccan Gate and provocatively performed rituals and Talmudic prayers. Hundreds of settlers, some carrying the Israeli flag, entered the Mosque from the west. The incident took place amid calls by Israeli settler organizations to hold mass break-ins into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound ahead of the Jewish holidays on September 29. In a statement on Thursday, Palestinian resistance movement Hamas warned of "repercussions" over Israel's incursions into al-Aqsa Mosque before the start of the Jewish holidays when settler raids on the super-sensitive compound mount. "The continuation of the Zionist aggression and their brutality against al-Quds and the holy shrines will be the cause of a major battle," said Mahmal Zahar, a senior member of the Gaza-based resistance movement. Pointing to Palestinian concerns that a long-standing convention by which Israeli settlers may visit but not pray in the holy site was being covertly tested, Zahar said Israel would be held "fully responsible for the repercussions of such violations." Such mass settler break-ins almost always take place at the behest of Tel Aviv-based temple groups and under the auspices of the Israeli police in al-Quds. The al-Aqsa Mosque compound, which sits just above Western Wall plaza, houses both the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque. Jewish visitation of al-Aqsa is permitted, but according to an agreement signed between Israel and Jordanian government in the wake of Israel's occupation of East al-Quds in 1967, non-Muslim worship at the compound is prohibited. - DNA

Why was the AGP report on TBTT 'leaked'?

According to audit para it was astonishing to observe that some officials did fake reporting of the project achievements which were duly verified by the monitoring team of the PMU



MUMTAZ AHMED BHARTI

ISLAMABAD: Scope and jurisdiction of AGP emanates from Article 179 (2) of the Constitution of Pakistan. The Constitution mandates Auditor General of Pakistan to audit the accounts of the Federal and of the Provincial Governments and the accounts of any authority or body established by, or under the control of, the Federal or a Provincial Government. This jurisdiction is further elaborated in AGP ordinance 2001 Section 08 and 09 that the Auditor General shall audit all expenditures from the consolidated Fund and Public Accounts of the Federation and each Province. Audit all receipts which are payable into the Consolidated

Fund or Public Accounts of the Federal Government and of each Province and in the accounts of each district; and to provide assurance that these were payable, have been properly and correctly deposited; and internal controls are in place for their proper assessment and collection; audit accounts of stores and stock kept in any office or department of the Federation or of a Province or of districts. Audit all trading, manufacturing, profit and loss accounts, balance sheets and other subsidiary accounts in any Federal or Provincial department and public-sector enterprises. Audit the accounts of anybody or authority substantially financed by loans or grants from the Consolidated Fund of the Federal or Provincial or District Government and to provide assurance as to the fulfillment of the conditions subject to which such grants or loans were given. According to the law, this is the scope and jurisdiction of AGP. If the AGP works within this scope and jurisdiction, then it is in accordance with the law and if it works outside of this scope and jurisdiction, it will be a violation of the law. According to the law, audit report by AGP office which has been reported in the media, the audit team of AGP has exited the domain & exceeded the mandate.

TBTT was specially audited according to the audit para. According to audit para it was astonishing to observe that some officials did fake reporting of the project achievements which were duly verified by the monitoring team of the PMU. The fake reporting was carried out in Chitral, Dir Kohistan, Lower Dir, Malakand, Kunhar Watershed and Unhar Watershed Forest Divisions. The auditor is of the view that reporting fake areas was a fraudulent practice that might not be justified. After the test check, the auditor was of the view that fake monitoring reports were generated for the entire Mardan Division. There was a high chance of misappropriation of government resources utilized under the TBTT. Fake monitoring reports put a question mark on the transparency of plantation activities to check and evaluate monitoring reports. Then how did they make a paragraph on the monitoring reports? It is simply Exited the domain & exceeded

the mandate. Look at another audit paragraph. It was noticed that different forest divisions showed plantation of eucalyptus in violation of the PC-1 allocation of 10% of the total plantation. The scrutiny of the record revealed that 36% eucalyptus plantation was made against the 10% provision of the PC-1. The irregularity was a violation of PC-1, resulting in financial loss of Rs11.96 besides huge usurpation of water, leading to dryness of land and creating a threat to the environment. Different forest divisions had distributed 19,706,685 plants free of cost to locals, but the record revealed that only 15,981,000 plants were distributed. This indicated that either the distribution was not carried out or only paperwork was done. How did the audit team know that instead of ten percent, eucalyptus was planted thirty six percent? The audit team has checked the record, but there is no such information in the record. How can the audit team write that Eucalyptus uses more water? While there are many researches in this regard, in some it is written that Eucalyptus uses more water and in some it is written that it uses less water. The experts have not yet reached the conclusion regarding Eucalyptus, but the audit team

has reached the conclusion that they have neither education nor training in this regard. Another audit para report said that in Upper Kohistan it was noticed that an expense of Rs 500,000 was incurred on a scheme, but no detail or record was available. Similarly, in Lower Kohistan, Rs 4,000 million was spent on developing rainwater, harvesting and water source schemes, but no detail or record was available. Ostensibly, corruption happens but not in the way the audit team is describing. The details can be given only by the concerned DFOs. It is an audit para which the audit team makes to show its efficiency. And then the Para has to be withdrawn. It was noticed that Rs-25.97 million were incurred for the purchase of various materials, but no stock register as well as tender documents were shown for audit to authenticate the procurement, usage and issuance of the said material, which made the whole expenditure of Rs. 25.97 million doubtful. It is not possible to single department pockets all the funds. Some percentages can be eaten by manipulating the records. KP has a target to raise 10 billion plants at a cost of Rs 27.3 billion, equally shared by the PSPD and the ADP. However, up till now, only Rs 11 billion had been re-

leased to KP with approximately 50% from the ADP and the PSPD. Approximately Rs 3 billion have been released to Nigbalhans of enclosures while Rs 2 billion to Chowkidars of various interventions through crossed cheques. Furthermore, the total amount of about Rs 3 billion for 30 tractors, 30 water vehicles, plants, polythene bags, soil, etc had been spent. It is a very competitive tender process. Employees have been paid through cross checks. All purchases are made through tenders, payments are made only by cross checks. If the audit team's allegations are true, there have been Rs3.49bn irregularities. Does this mean that all the funds of the plantation have been misappropriated? Then even a single plant would not have been on ground. AGP's own audit report has questioned the competence of the audit team. Will there be a similar report in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, AJK and GB also? It is clear that the audit report is biased. The Auditor General of Pakistan should conduct an inquiry and take action against those responsible. With a biased report, the audit team tried to damage the reputation of the Auditor General of Pakistan and tried to discredit TBTT which is praised by the world.

Briefs

Moscow pledges 'full protection' to annexed areas

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russia has sought to defend its seven-month old war at the United Nations, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov saying that regions of Ukraine where widely-decried referendums are being held would be under Russia's "full protection" if annexed by Moscow. The referendums in four eastern Ukrainian regions, aimed at annexing territory Russia has taken by force since its invasion in February, were being staged for a third day on Sunday and the Russian parliament could move to formalise the annexation within days. By incorporating the four areas of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia into Russia, Moscow could portray attacks to re-take them as an attack on Russia itself, a warning to Kyiv and its Western allies. The Russian announcements raise the risk of a direct military confrontation between Russia and the NATO military alliance as Western arms are being used by Ukrainian troops. Ukraine and its allies have dismissed the referendums as a sham designed to justify an escalation of the war and a mobilisation drive by Moscow after recent battlefield losses. President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered Russia's first military mobilisation since World War Two. The move triggered protests across Russia and sent many men of military age fleeing.

North Korea test-fires ballistic missile

DNA

PYONGYANG: North Korea fired a ballistic missile into its eastern sea, South Korea's military said on Sunday. The launch came a day after South Korean officials said they detected signs that Pyongyang was preparing to test a missile designed to be fired from submarines. Japan also confirmed the launch and said it reached a maximum altitude at 50 kilometers (30 miles) and may have flown on an irregular trajectory. Japan's Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the missile fell outside Japan's exclusive economic zone. "North Korea's action represent a threat to the peace and security of our country, the region and the international community and to do this as the Ukraine invasion unfolds is unforgivable," Hamada said. North Korea has carried out more than 30 missile tests this year. The country's leader Kim Jong Un has told his parliament this month that he would never abandon his nuclear weapons and missiles he needs to counter what he perceives as US hostility.

Cargo ship carrying relief from UAE arrives

DNA

KARACHI: United Arab Emirates (UAE) continues to send relief goods for flood victims in Pakistan as a cargo ship carrying relief goods equal to 30 containers reached Karachi port. According to the UAE consulate, the relief goods include food items, medicines and other goods for the thousands of flood victims in Pakistan. The Gulf nation has contributed most for the flood affectees. UAE has already sent around 20 flights with relief goods to Pakistan. The material was handed over to the Pakistani authorities at the Karachi port. Earlier this week, the first flight from Russia carrying relief goods for the flood victims landed at Jinnah International Airport. Russia sent rice, palm oil, dry milk, tents, water and other relief goods for the flood victims of Pakistan. The material was received by Sindh minister Rasool Bux Chandio.



ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour hosted a reception to bid farewell to her female colleagues. Seen in the picture are Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Austria, Maldives, the Netherlands, EU, Kenya, Bulgaria, Dr. Malecha Lodhi and others. - DNA

Zelensky urges Russians to defy 'criminal mobilization'

The strikes come two days after a similar incident left two civilians dead and resulted in Ukraine downgrading Iran's diplomatic presence in the country over its supply of weaponry to Russia

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called on Russians who have been drafted as part of the partial mobilization to not join the invasion force in Ukraine. "It is better not to take a conscription letter than to die in a foreign land as a criminal," he said during his nightly address late on Saturday. Zelensky also pledged to protect Russian soldiers who voluntarily surrender, saying they would be treated "in accordance with all conventions" and that they would not let it be known that the soldier had surrendered voluntarily. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday signed into law an amendment to the criminal code to increase jail time for those found to have committed voluntary surrender. The Ukrainian president also slammed Russia's "criminal mobilization," saying "Russian commanders do not care about the lives of Russians - they just need to replenish the empty spaces left by the dead, wounded, those who fled or the Russian soldiers that were captured." Here's a roundup of other news from or concerning the war in Ukraine on September 24. Two people were killed in a missile strike that hit a hotel in the occupied Ukrainian city of Kherson, pro-Russian authorities have said. An official said that pro-Russian former lawmaker Olesiy Juravko was one of those killed. Authorities said Russian media were also in the hotel dur-



ing the strike. "Today, at around 05:30 (02:30 GMT), the Ukrainian armed forces fired a missile on the 'Phy Hotel' by Ribas" the regional Russian-controlled administration said in a statement. "According to preliminary data, two people died in this terrorist act. Rescue workers are still combing the rubble to search for victims." Kherson is one of the regions where occupying forces are carrying out a so-called "referendum" on whether regions of Ukraine should join the Russian Federation. Ukraine said on Sunday that Iranian-made drones were once again used overnight in a strike on the southern port city of Odesa. "Odesa was attacked again by enemy kamikaze drones," the Ukrainian army's Operational Command South said on Facebook. "The enemy hit the administrative building in the city center three times," it said, adding that one drone was shot down and no casualties had been reported. The strikes come two days after a similar incident left two civilians dead and resulted in Ukraine downgrading Iran's diplomatic presence in the country over its supply of weaponry to Russia. A 500-meter (0.3 mile) long queue had formed at the important Vasilinka crossing on the Russian-Finnish border on Sunday morning, according to Matti Pitkanen, head of the International Affairs Unit for the Finnish border guards. Finland saw a total of 4,572 Russian citizens cross into the country on Saturday, up from 5,286 a week ago, Pitkanen said. Most Russians were entering with Schengen visas for other countries and thus were just passing through. But Helsinki has said it plans to impose an entry ban, even for tourists with Schengen visas. The border has seen an uptick in crossings since Moscow announced its partial mobilization of hundreds of thousands of men to be sent to fight in Ukraine.

Philippines Embassy celebrates Kadayawan Festival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Pakistan held a celebration of the Kadayawan Festival at the Domingo Luciano Hall, Charoery of the Embassy of the Philippines in Islamabad, through a watch-party and on-the-spot making of Puto Maya (Rice cake) and Sikwate (native Philippine chocolate), for members of the Diplomatic Corps and other guests. The Kadayawan festival, the main festival of Davao City located in the Southern Philippines, is held every August and is a celebration of life, a thanksgiving for the gifts of nature, the wealth of culture, the bonities of harvest and serenity of living. The program was hosted by Ms. Sumaira Domsaj Khan-Bagporo, spouse of the Embassy's Officers-in-Charge, Mr. Dan Erwin C. Bagporo. In her welcome remarks, Ms. Khan-Bagporo, the host of the program, honored the Kadayawan festival to a celebration of a mother providing food for her children, in the same way that nature provides food for all people. She mentioned that as we give thanks for the blessing of food, family and joy, we keep to heart the practice of not wasting such blessings and give importance to the conservation and appropriate use of what we are given. The event started with a watch-party that featured a short video of the actual Kadayawan Festival celebration in Davao City, followed by an instructional video on how to make Puto Maya and Sikwate. All the Participants were then called to the front to do a live demonstration and plate their own version of Puto Maya using the provided pre-cooked rice and banana leaves. The demonstration was led

by Ms. Khan-Bagporo, Ms. Yvette Alejandro, and Mr. Billy Aguilar. A contest was held to see which participant or pair of participants was able to make the best designed putomaya plate, with the participants voting for who they think was the best designed plate amongst themselves. Mr. Abdul Mubdi Osman, the Acting High Commissioner of Brunei, won first place with his Japanese-inspired design that resembled a plate of sushi. Mr. Peter Pirotych and Ms. Saraswathi Pasupathy, won second place with their design which paid homage to the volcanoes in the Philippines. Mr. Gaurav Thakur from the Indian High Commission, Ms. Emilia Deddy from the Malaysian High Commission, and the pair of Ms. Henry Lyda from Indonesian Embassy and Ms. Nurhanifah Hidayat, all tied for third place. The event was attended by diplomats from the High Commissions of Malaysia, Australia, Brunei, Mauritius and India, and from the Embassies of Indonesia and Germany, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the Philippine Embassy's media partners. Native Filipino food such as tokneneng (coated chicken egg), fishballs, tofu isig, chicken barbeque, biko (rice cake), pandesal (Filipino bread) with cheese pimiento spread, sago tulaman, were also served, along with Putomaya and Sikwate. The Philippine Embassy's Kadayawan Festival is part of the Fiestas Filipinas program held all year round by the Philippine Foreign Service. The program facilitates the celebration of Philippine festival each month abroad, and is currently in its second season.

(Detailed coverage in the October issue of Centreline magazine)



BISP disbursed Rs. 25000 per family

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme has disbursed Rs.25,000 per family among 122,208 flood affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan on Sunday. So far a total of Rs.42,633,300,000 has been disbursed among 1,705,332 flood affected families under Flood Relief Cash Assistance. In Balochistan, 144,080 flood affected families have received Rs.3,602,000,000. 1,218,674 affected families of Sindh have received Rs.30,456,850,000. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 156,828 families have received Rs.3,920,700,000 whereas 185,505 families of Punjab have received Rs.4,637,650,000. In Gilgit Baltistan 244 flood affected families have also received Rs.6,100,000. Despite weekly holiday Special Payment Campaign were kept open to facilitate the flood affectees. A control room has been established at Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters to ensure smooth payments.

Seven more crop-laden ships leave Ukraine

KYIV: Seven more ships laden with agricultural produce left Ukrainian ports on Sunday, the country's infrastructure ministry said, bringing the total to 218 since a U.N-brokered corridor through the Black Sea came into force at the start of August. Ukraine, a major agricultural producer, was left unable to export through the Black Sea after Russia's invasion on Feb. 24 until the agreement of the grain deal, which promises safe passage for ships carrying crops. In a post on Facebook, the ministry said this brought the total amount of agricultural production for countries in Africa, Asia and Europe left the ports of Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdnyy, the ministry said. Ukraine shipped up to 6 million tonnes of grain per month before the war. - Agencies

Türkiye's 12th 'Kindness Train' departs for Pak

The official noted that while the initial target was to deliver 55,000 parcels, as of today, 62,000 have been sent to Pakistan, adding: "Hopefully, with the program prepared for the next week, this target will be revised to 72,000"

ISLAMABAD: The latest 'Kindness Train' carrying humanitarian aid to disaster-hit Pakistan departed from Türkiye's northwestern Kocaeli province, local media reported on Sunday. The 12th train is loaded with humanitarian aid materials prepared with the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) under the coordination of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). According to a statement by the local government's office, over 768 tons of humanitarian aid material was packed onto the 'Kindness Train' consisting of 28 wagons at the Kocaeli Logistics Directorate.

The official noted that while the initial target was to deliver 55,000 parcels, as of today, 62,000 have been sent to Pakistan, adding: "Hopefully, with the program prepared for the next week, this target will be revised to 72,000." In other words, we, as a region, have exceeded the number of parcels given to us in the Marmara region. We would like to express our gratitude to our neighboring provinces, industrialists in our province, AFAD employees, TCDD, and everyone who contributed to the delivery of these parcels to our province. - APP

Iran summons UK and Norwegian envoys

TEHRAN: Iran summoned the British and Norwegian ambassadors over what it said was interference and hostile media coverage of nationwide unrest triggered by the death of a woman detained by morality police, the semi-official ISNA news agency said on Sunday. Demonstrations which broke out more than a week ago at the funeral of the 22-year-old Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, have spread across the country and turned into the biggest wave of protest in years. Iran's state television says 41 people have been killed. Authorities have restricted internet and mobile services to prevent footage of the protests and the response by security forces from getting out, activists say. President Ebrahim Raisi has said Iran ensured freedom of expression and that he had ordered an investigation into the death in detention of Amini, who was arrested by police enforcing the Islamic Republic's restrictions on women's dress. He also said that "acts of chaos" were unacceptable and that Iran must deal decisively with the unrest. At the United Nations, he said extensive coverage of Amini's case was "double standards," pointing to deaths in U.S. police custody. Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Britain's ambassador on Saturday in response to the "hostile character" of London-based Persian language media, ISNA news agency. The Norwegian envoy was also summoned to explain the "interventionist stance" of the country's parliament speaker, who has expressed support for the protesters on Twitter. - APP