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Nishioka sinks Shapovalov for Seoul crown

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Marriyum terms Imran a misogynist

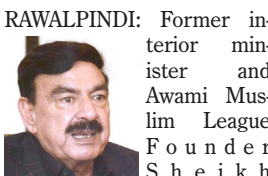
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that the followers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan have become deaf, dumb and blind and they will not return to the right path. This she said in a tweet, quoting the 18th Ayat of Sura Baqarah in the Holy Quran with regards to the attitude of PTI leaders, workers and followers. She said Maryam Nawaz was right about Imran Khan. The minister said that it was unfortunate that on one had to even mention this sorry excuse for a human being who continued to stoop to new lows of misogyny.

Rulers won't benefit from Khan's arrest

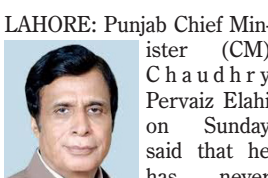
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RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League Founder Sh e i k h Rashid Ahmad has cautioned that if the Supreme Court of Pakistan does not investigate the cipher, then the situation may become serious while alerting the rulers that they will get nothing from the disqualification and arrest of former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan. Taking to his Twitter handle on Sunday, Sh Rashid wrote: "If the Supreme Court does not investigate the cipher, the situation may become dire. The low witted rulers take every step against themselves."

Will continue to support Imran Khan

DNA



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Ch a u d h r y P e r v a i z E l a h i on Sunday said that he has never done revenge politics like Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and has always established positive political traditions. The Punjab CM met with the PTI leader Humayun Akhtar Khan at the CM House on Sunday. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, political situation and public welfare programs.

Cypher audio leaks Cabinet okays legal action against Imran

The federal cabinet approved the summary through circulation

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The cabinet has formally given the go-ahead to hold an inquiry into the audio leaks purportedly featuring PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his party leaders, it emerged on Sunday.

On Friday, the cabinet suggested that legal action could be taken after a steady stream of audio recordings surfaced, most recently of informal conversations allegedly between Imran and his aides — Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Asad Umar and his former principal secretary Azam Khan — purportedly discussing the cypher that the PTI chief has for long presented as evidence of a "foreign conspiracy" to oust him from office.

According to Cabinet Division documents dated October 1, which Dawn.com has seen, the Friday meeting had constituted a sub-committee "to deliberate and recommend actions regarding the conversation of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan, his political associates and the then secretary to the PM, available on the internet regarding the cypher message received from Parep Washington (Cypher No. 1-0678 dated March 7, 2022)". "Therefore, the apex investigation agency (FIA) may be directed to inquire into the matter by constituting a team of senior officers, which may co-opt of officers/officials from other intelligence agencies for the purpose, and to proceed further against the perpetrators in accordance with the law," the memo said.

The cabinet also sought the implementation report on its suggestions "immediately".

In a handout issued after the Friday huddle, it was revealed that a copy of the cypher had gone "missing" from the Prime Minister House records, and the cabinet had subsequently formed a special committee which would determine the legal action to be taken against all those involved, including the ex-premier, ex-principal secretary to prime minister Azam Khan and senior ministers. "The cabinet committee will consist of the representatives of the coalition parties in the government, along with ministers," the handout issued had said.

The handout had declared that the "theft of diplomatic cypher records is an unforgivable crime" and violation of the Official Secrets Act, 1923. The cabinet was told that the audios purportedly featuring Imran and his aides exposed "the criminal conspiracy of the former government", while the cypher was given "fictitious meanings for political mileage and subsequently it was stolen after fraud, forgery, fabrication."

Meanwhile, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz maintained that the cypher was not just a piece of paper, saying "it belongs to the state of Pakistan." "Whoever violates the interests of the state by betraying the national trust should be made an example so that no foreign agent dares to harm the country in a political guise."

Meanwhile, reacting to the government's decision on audio leaks purportedly featuring former prime minister Imran Khan and other PTI leaders, the party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said that the cabinet summary has proved that the US cypher is a reality.

Floods in Pakistan Egyptian military leadership extends condolences to Pak

The messages have been sent to Defence Minister and Chief of the Army Staff

ISLAMABAD: The Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Minister of Defence and Military Production General Mohamed Zaki have sent a message of solidarity and condolences for the victims of the recent floods in Pakistan. The message has been sent to Khawaja Mo-Asif the Minister of Defence and General Nadeem Raza the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of Pakistan, praying to Allah Al-

mighty to have mercy on the flood victims and to inspire their families' patience and solace. The Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Osama Askar also sent solidarity and condolences message to the chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, expressing the solidarity of the Egyptian armed forces with the Pakistani armed forces, in this difficult time. — DNA



General Mohamed Zaki

Lt. General Osama Askar



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairman BOI Ch. Salik Hussain, Ambassador of Korea Suh Sangpayo and others cutting cake to celebrate National Foundation Day and the Armed Forces Day of Korea. DNA

England beat Pak to win T20 series

DNA

LAHORE: England on Sunday defeated Pakistan by 67 runs in series decider final T20i at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium to win the seven match series 4-3. Pakistan, after losing early wickets in chase of a mammoth target, couldn't really bring the momentum in their favour as the visitors dominated all three aspects of the game. Earlier, after being invited to bat first by Babar Azam, England set a massive 210-run target for Pakistan to chase in the seventh and final T20. Star of the show for England was Dawid Malan, who smashed an unbeaten 78 off 47 to

Continued on Page 06

Ukraine claims full control of key logistics hub

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Ukraine on Sunday claimed full control of the eastern logistics hub of Lyman, Kyiv's most significant battlefield gain in weeks, providing a potential staging post for further attacks to the east while heaping further pressure on the Kremlin. The stinging setback for Russian President Vladimir Putin came after he proclaimed the annexation of four regions covering nearly a fifth of Ukraine on Friday, an area that includes Lyman. Kyiv and the West have condemned the proclamation as an illegitimate farce. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the capture of the town, where Ukrainian flags were raised over civic buildings on Saturday, demonstrated that Ukraine is capable of dislodging Russian forces and showed

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Imran slams Govt 'dramas' of cipher disappearance

"The master copy of the cypher is still present in the foreign office"

OUR CORRESPONDENT / DNA

TAXILA: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan on Sunday rebuffed a claim of the government over disappearance of the cypher, saying that the government is pretending that the cypher is lost while the original copy is in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Addressing a public rally in Taxila, the former PM said he showed the cypher to the whole nation, and the message was clear in it to oust Imran Khan's government, adding that he took the matter to the Assembly and before the National Security Committee. "I want to thank Maryam Nawaz who never tell truth to give new life to cypher. I want to thank you for proving my statements [regarding the cypher] true," Imran said "They stage a new drama now that the cypher is missing. Maryam Bibi! The cypher is not missing but you should ask the

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Cypher a reality: PTI reiterates

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to the government's decision on audio leaks purportedly featuring former prime minister Imran Khan and other PTI leaders, the party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said that the cabinet summary has proved that the US cypher is a reality. His reaction came after the federal cabinet formally approved the decision to launch legal action against PTI Chairman Imran Khan over his recent alleged audio leaks about the US cypher. Addressing a press conference in Multan, Qureshi said that the government has accepted their stance on

Continued on Page 06

Germany enhances flood relief support to €56 mn

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas has announced that Germany scaled up financial assistance to 56 million for families affected by floods. In his tweet, the German Ambassador said the aid was increased to help families and deal with the devastating effects of recent flooding, adding, "We will continue to stand by the brave people of Pakistan and extend our help and support during this tragic time." The aid will supply food, hygiene products, medical supplies, etc., to the flood victims in Pakistan. "Our thoughts are with the victims' families, as expressed by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and federal chancellor Olaf Scholz in their letters of condolences to their respected counterparts. Federal Minister Svenja Schulze held a video conference with the minister for climate change Sherry

Rehman, on 7 September, he added. He said that the homeless would be able to return to their home regions as quickly as possible. Pakistan has asked for international help, and Germany is coordinating its support towards Pakistan with other donors. It is pertinent to mention that several projects of bilateral support for Pakistan have been implemented already, e.g., for Baluchistan, or announced. In close cooperation with the government of Pakistan, Germany has expedited its short-term humanitarian assistance and middle-and long-term cooperation for Pakistan in this difficult situation. The total amount of German support for Pakistan currently adds up to approx. €56m. The ministries in charge are in close contact with their Pakistani partner institutions. Germany will continue to cooperate closely with Pakistan in addressing the devastating effects of climate change. — APP

Inside...

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Saudi crown prince shifts into high gear — Page 05

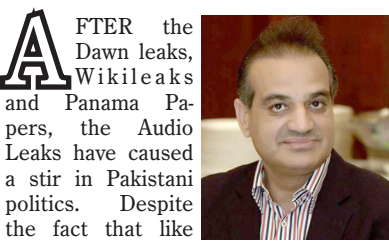
At least 174 dead in Indonesia football stadium stampede — Page 06

Strike hits UK railways as workers demand pay rise — Page 07

Blood donation camp at Indonesian embassy — Page 08

Situationer

ANSAR M BHATTI



AFTER the Dawn leaks, Wikileaks and Panama Papers, the Audio Leaks have caused a stir in Pakistani politics. Despite the fact that like the past leaks, these leaks too would ultimately die down without causing any major dent to those mentioned in these leaks, it remains a fact that the political climate has become charged and rough. It appears as if the leaks have been released very carefully making sure that they cover all leading political parties and their leaders. Some more leaks are expected to be disclosed in near future covering those stakeholders, which have hitherto not been mentioned. Historically, such leaks have never altered the dynamics of Pakistani politics. Their effect has always proved transitory in nature.

The Dawn leaks were perhaps the biggest challenge that Pakistani politicians and especially the PNL N had to face. In those leaks the then government of Nawaz Sharif reportedly got news published in Dawn that the extremist outfits were supported by the Pakistani Establishment. Ostensibly, the story had certain other dimensions as well but this was the point that adversely affected the PML N government and the Establishment relationship. The PML N government and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif were able to survive that jolt but perhaps for the time being.

In 2016 when the Panama Papers made headlines across the globe, the scandal badly hit the Pakistani politicians as well. The Sharif family particularly had to bear the brunt of this scam, which ultimately cost Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif his post. The Supreme Court disqualified him for hiding his employment facts in his statement submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan.

In the same case Maryam Nawaz was also sentenced for ten years for aiding in that 'crime'. But interestingly last week

she was exonerated from all charges and acquitted by the Islamabad High Court. Nawaz Sharif too wants to get relief in the case. The Dawn leaks and Panama Papers, as a matter of fact, did not play any role in sending the Nawaz government packing, however they, for sure, set the very basis for that. Isn't it an irony of Pakistani polity that the arch rivals of the past seem to have become 'trusted' partners now !!

The Audio leaks, in my view, won't be able to make any difference for such kind of disclosures or security breaches are taken seriously only in those countries where morality rules supreme. In Pakistan's case morality is simply a non-existent factor when it comes to politics and running the government affairs. And then the most important thing is as to how the prime minister office was bugged? I can predict that this matter may never be investigated and even if it is probed, the conclusions may never see the light of the day.

All said and done, time is running out for the major political players such as PML N, PTI and to some extent PPP

as well. The PPP indeed has gained a lot from the incumbent arrangement because in normal circumstances it was impossible for them to grab so many ministerial and advisory positions. Therefore the PPP would like to continue to the hilt with a view to making maximum out of this arrangement. The party knows very well that in the next elections it cannot win so many seats therefore this is the best time to make fortunes.

The stakes for the PTI and PML N nevertheless are quite high. Both parties are equally poised in the political arena. It is also a fact that the incumbency factor may damage PML N in the elections as it has failed to come up to the expectations of masses. After Ishaq Dar's return the economy is likely to improve a bit but still challenges ahead are stupendous. After Dar's return the internal differences are likely to subside because Ishaq Dar shall play a role of the unifying factor. His presence however may also eclipse PM Shehbaz' stature as Dar happens to be a powerful person within the party.

Even when Nawaz Sharif was the Prime Minister, Dar was often dubbed as the de facto prime minister. A similar situation may also crop up again. Regarding US Cypher, it has been my consistent view that the cable was very ordinary in nature but Imran Khan and his party need full marks for exploiting it successfully in their favour. It is too late now for the audio leaks to make any dent to the popularity of the PTI because it has already built a very strong narrative against its govt dismissal on the basis of that cipher. The government plans to tighten the noose around Imran Khan to stop him from launching any mass movement. The hawks within the PML N believe in an early arrest of the PTI Chairman while others do not support this idea with the fear that the move may backfire. Imran Khan on his part needs to act quickly if he really wants to reap benefits of his narrative because any delay may cost him dearly. It is an established fact that in politics timing is the most important thing. Those who have the ability of rising to the occasion indeed can gain a lot.

Pakistani politics is always on the boil

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya
Revolution Day

Sept01 / Tanzania
Defence day

Sept01 / 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




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Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812




Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949




Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20




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PIAFlightInfo.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
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WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....561116
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Ahsan Bakhtawari takes charge as President ICCI

He vowed that he would work hard to promote the interests of traders and industrialists and take all possible measures to resolve their key issues. He said that he would also work for the better development of markets, industrial areas and the overall city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has taken over charge as President, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam as Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the year 2022-23 during a ceremony held at Chamber House. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Farid, Zahid Maqbool, Nasir Qureshi, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Baser Daud, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed and others were present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Bakhtawari said that taking over charge of ICCI Presidency was a great honor for him and he has come with a mission to serve the business community. He vowed that he would work hard to promote the interests of traders and industrialists and take all possible measures to resolve their key issues. He said that he would also work for the better development of markets, industrial areas and the overall city. Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik congratulated the newly elected President Ahsan Bakhtawari, Senior Vice President Faad Waheed and Vice President Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar on assuming charge of their portfolios and expressed good wishes for them. He hoped that the new team would play an effective role in resolving the key issues of the business community. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI assured that they would make all possible efforts to deliver up to the expectations of the business community. Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Farid, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Nasir Qureshi, Zahid Maqbool, Baser Daud, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, and others congratulated the new Office Bearers of ICCI and assured them of their cooperation in the efforts to serve the cause of business community.



ANF recovers 921 kg narcotics; arrests 20

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Sunday warned that real disaster may emerge after receding waters in flood-hit areas, therefore Pakistan needs massive financial support from the international community to help the flood affected people return to normal lives. Speaking at a seminar on "Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in flooded Areas of Pakistan" organized by the college of Earth and Environmental Sciences Punjab University, he said that during his visit to Sindh province earlier this month, the UN Secretary General, António Guterres had said that he had never seen such "climate carnage", and also warned of more such disasters in future. He said, as Guterres had pointed out, that makes massive financial support for Pakistan a matter of justice, not generosity. So far, other governments have pledged only a tiny proportion of the estimated \$30bn needed for recovery in a country already in dire economic straits, he said and added that they must do better in funding reconstruction as they must do more in tackling their carbon emissions, and funding vulnerable countries to prepare for future disasters. He said a study by an international team of climate scientists has found that the intense rainfall was made worse by global heating. This year alone, the country had already experienced a gruelling heatwave, wildfires and drought. He said climate catastrophes will be disproportionately experienced by developing countries, which have made a minimal contribution to global heating. He said, the World Health Organization warned of a "second disaster" as waterborne diseases and other illnesses spread by the disruption soar. He said the displaced, now living in makeshift camps, face rising levels of dengue fever, malaria and diarrhoea. Beyond that immediate threat lie the challenges of housing and feeding people. He said, in all, 33 million people in Pakistan is equivalent to half the population of the UK have been affected. He said international experts say it will take months for the waters to fully drain from Sindh, the hardest-hit province. Agricultural land has been devastated, and huge quantities of livestock lost. Roads and railway lines have been washed away he added.

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas of the country, managed to recover over 921 kg narcotics and arrested 20 drug smugglers during last two weeks. The ANF spokesman told on Sunday that while conducting raid on Sunday near Angoor Adda at Pak-Afghan border, the ANF managed to recover nearly 23 kg charras concealed in bushes. The spokesman informed that in other operation, the ANF recovered nearly 900 kg narcotics and arrested 20 accused. In another operation, it recovered 6,505 grams heroin tactfully concealed in trolley bag at Bacha Khan International Airport and arrested a passenger going to Malaysia. The ANF Lahore in an operation near Kala Shah Kaku Interchange, recovered 36 kg charras and 26,400 kg opium from a vehicle. A drug smuggler was also arrested on the spot. In a raid, the ANF Karachi recovered Ice drug tactfully concealed in 16 books being sent to Australia through a courier company. The ANF Rawalpindi in an operation at Islamabad International Airport recovered 45 Ice and heroin filled capsules weighing 360 grams, from the possession of a passenger, going to Doha. The ANF Peshawar recovered 132 kg charras and 43,200 kg opium besides netting an accused. In another raid conducted on Islamabad Expressway, ANF seized 1200 grams charras and 1000 grams Ice from the possession of two accused. The ANF also recovered 1200 grams charras and 300 grams Ice drug from the possession of two drug smugglers including a woman, netted during the operation near Faizabad Bus Stop area. The ANF Balochistan in an operation conducted a raid near Gaddani Mor, RCD Highway at Hub and foiling a drug smuggling bid from Balochistan to Sindh recovered over 345 kg charras, concealed in secret cavities of a pick-up. ANF also arrested two accused during the operation. In an operation at Islamabad International Airport, the ANF recovered 114 charras-filled capsules, weighing 734 grams and 10 Ice-filled capsules weighing 69 grams from the possession of passenger, going to Abu Dhabi. The Anti-Narcotics Force in an operation conducted a raid near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza and recovered over 52,600 kg narcotics including 45.60 kg charras, four kg heroin and 3,600 kg opium, concealed in secret cavities of two cars. The ANF also arrested three accused during the operation. According to ANF spokesman, the force managed to recover 110 charras-filled capsules, weighing 636 grams from the possession of an accused at Islamabad International Airport. The accused was going to Bahrain, he added. In another raid, the ANF Karachi recovered 1840 grams heroin from a parcel booked for Canada at a courier company. In an operation on main Korangi Road Karachi, the ANF recovered 252 kg charras tactfully concealed in secret cavities of three cars. The ANF team also arrested four accused during the operation. He informed that separate cases have been registered against the accused. The spokesman said that accomplices of the accused would also be sent behind the bars.—APP

Healthy lifestyle vital to avoid breast cancer

Nation pays rich tribute to Umer Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Pink Ribbon Pakistan Omer Aftab on Sunday stressed upon the need to create an awareness regarding breast cancer in the month of October and focus on the healthy lifestyle and self-care.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that October is marked as the breast cancer awareness month every year across the world including Pakistan, by different demonstrations, contributions such as holding of awareness walks, fund raising events and media awareness campaigns.

Pakistan has the highest ratio of breast cancer in Asia, he said, adding, with the disease burden increasing every year, breast cancer poses a very serious public health threat.

He further highlighted that a lifestyle (healthy or unhealthy) can either be a cause of breast cancer or may prevent breast cancer. So, it would be better that the women should adopt a healthy lifestyle to live a healthy life. He also stressed to eliminate social stigmas attached to breast cancer and said women in Pakistan even feel shy talking to their parents about their basic health issues adding that social and cultural taboos were still attached to different female health issues and it made it more difficult for girls to talk about them to others.

He said the Pink Ribbon has launched an awareness drive during this month, since, it is known as breast cancer awareness month, which engages everyone from grassroots level to the policymakers. Omer Aftab informed that almost 70 to 90% of early stage breast cancers are curable, adding, every year, breast cancer kills women around the world.—APP

ISLAMABAD: People from all walks of life through social media platforms have paid rich tributes to renowned actor, King of Comedy, TV and stage personality, Umer Sharif on his first death anniversary today (Sunday). He was born on 19th of April, 1960 in Karachi. Umer Sharif started his career from Karachi as a stage performer at the age of 19 in 1974.

Some of his extremely popular comedy stage plays were Bakra Qistoon Pe and Buddha Ghar Pe Hy. He received National awards for Best Director and Best Actor in 1992, electronic channels reported.—APP

Mass sensitization vital to eliminate drug addiction

ISLAMABAD: Initially, drug addiction either begins in fun, for momentary pleasure, or just to get acceptable in a particular social circle, but it surly ends up to devastate the ill-fated individual as well his/her family.

Experts believe that Pakistan's goal to become a drug-free society can be achieved through creating awareness at the grassroots level against the deadly addiction. It is possible to achieve the goal when people get the ability to understand the repercussions of addiction to save the future of the coming generations. Therefore, Pakistan is striving hard to eliminate drugs to achieve the set goal of a "Drug-Free Society" besides vigorously executing its globally assigned tasks with utmost dedication and determination. For this purpose, nationwide "Anti-Drug Awareness Campaigns" are launched across society in collaboration with public and private educational institutions to keep the younger generation safe and away from the curse. "The campaigns are aimed at creating awareness among students and citizens about the lethality of drugs and measures for its prevention," a senior official of the Ministry of Narcotics Control told APP.

He said the youth was Pakistan's greatest asset, which constituted 66% of the population. "They are our future and we have to protect them from the harms of drug addiction." Protecting the country's youth and the future generation from the menace was inevitable for the prosperous future of Pakistan, he said, adding "To protect our youth, the ANF is working tirelessly in coordination with other law enforcing agencies of Pakistan." The Spokesperson of ANF said the department was playing a leading role in mass awareness and community participation programs to educate the people against drug abuse. "We are constantly putting our efforts at the national and international level." He stressed the concerted efforts by all the quarters concerned to fight the menace of drug addiction, particularly among youth. The force was sparing no effort in carrying out its duties and protecting the young generation from the dangers of drugs, he said "We pledge to carry forward our manifesto with utmost determination, sincerity, and devotion." He informed that while conducting raids in different areas of the country, the ANF managed to recover over 4,716 kg of narcotics and arrested 81 drug smugglers during August and September only. Dozens of bids were also foiled to smuggle narcotics to foreign countries and the drug smugglers were sent behind the bars, the spokesperson said. "Anti-drugs efforts are underway on all fronts and the ANF is striving hard to make society drugs-free." He said the ANF was doing the best it could and had achieved significant successes in all three regimes of operation i.e. Drug Supply Reduction, Drug Demand Reduction and International Cooperation. "Men and women of ANF are fully committed to protecting our compatriots from the peril at cost of risk to their own lives." The spokesperson said the ANF was also running four Model Addiction and Treatment Centres (MATRCs) in Islamabad, Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sakkar and since their raising over 12,500 patients had been treated.

Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shazain Bugti said that his ministry wanted to recruit around 10,000 personnel from across the country to effectively combat the menace of drugs. He said the ministry had sought permission from the prime minister for the recruitment. Currently, the minister said the ministry's staff strength was 3,600 as its personnel were performing duties at airports, ports, and other border areas.

He said the ministry was in contact with education ministries and provincial governments for the legislation to prevent drug-selling activities in educational institutions. It had been proposed to impose a fine amounting to Rs two million over those educational institutions where drug-selling would be found, while Rs4 million on those found involved in selling narcotics there, he added. The minister said the annual seizure of narcotics in Pakistan stood at \$8 billion and drugs worth \$3 billion had been recently burnt in Quetta.

"Pakistan has recently launched the next phase of the Country Program in collaboration with the World Anti-Doping Agency, which includes separate barracks in prisons for drug addicts and a national database of drug offenders, as well as anti-drug drugs. In addition, a total of 40,000 people will receive special training about drugs," he said.

He said the ANF in its counter-narcotics strikes across the country has recovered 9,558 kg of drugs, and 27,784 kg of prohibited chemicals and arrested 222 accused in 2021. —APP

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Afshan Younas Civil Judge Gujrat
Title: Muhammad Ashraf etc.

Versus
Province of Punjab etc.

Notice to:
7. Muhammad Sharif deceased through legal heirs, Bashiran Begum widow, Asif Parvez, Zahid Sharif, Shahid Parvez, Shafqat Naheed, Rukhsana, Naila sons and daughters of Muhammad Sharif deceased, Muhammad Hanif, Muhammad Jameel deceased, Muhammad Jameel deceased through legal heirs, Farida Yasmeen widow, Mehmood Akhtar, Doctor Faisal Masood, Muhammad Adnan sons, Shaheen Kousar, Aneela Anwar, Nadia Sajid, Umair Asif, Saima Riaz daughters of Muhammad Jameel deceased, Muhammad Aslam (deceased) sons Ibrahim through legal heirs, Sabra Bibi widow, Babar Rizwan, Doctor Tahir Shahzad, Doctor Usman Aslam, Kamran Aslam, Muhammad Bilal Aslam, Muhammad Umar Farooq sons, Robina Kousar, Sameena Aslam, Ayesha Aslam, Aroosa daughters of Muhammad Aslam decess Caste Arain Residents of Dinga Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat

Suit for Declaration
Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 13-10-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Umar Rizwan Civil Judge Gujrat
Title: Muhammad Nazir

Versus
Khadim Hussain etc.

Notice to:
8. Intizar S/O Khushi Muhammad Resident of Menowal Kalan, Tehsil and District Gujrat

Suit for Permanent and Mandatory Injunction
Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 05-10-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Umar Rizwan Civil Judge Gujrat
Title: Raheel Akhtar etc.

Versus
Muhammad Yaqoob etc.

Notice to:
2.Nisar Ahmed son of Ghulam Haider, 3.Muhammad Malak S/O Muhammad Bashir, 4.Zahra Bibi D/O Said Bibi, 5.Ihsan Ullah, 6.Aman Ullah, 7.Waqas Ullah, 8.Ikram Ullah sons of Muhammad Riaz, 9.Anwar Ali S/O Akbar Ali Caste Jatt Residents of Bhoon Hazari, Tehsil and District Gujrat, 10.Aurang Zaib, 11.Mubashar Ahmed, 12.Mudassar Ahmed sons of Muhammad Aslam, 13.Muhammad Afzal deceased S/O Lal Khan through legal heirs, 13A.Nadeem Akhtar, 13B.Azeem Akhtar sons, 13C.Naseem Akhtar D/O Muhammad Afzal Residents of Bhoon Hazari, Tehsil and District Gujrat

Suit for Possession through Partition
Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 07-10-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Briefs

Pakistan received US\$ 90.2 million from China for flood relief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As large swaths of Pakistan are inundated by floodwaters and over 33 million people have been affected by the unprecedented monsoon rain-triggered floods, China's continuous response efforts for Pakistan have exceeded 644.1 million RMB (equivalent to US\$90.2 million). According to Gwadar Pro, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan shared details about China's support for Pakistan in flood relief. As per details, the Chinese government extended support of RMB 400 million, the Chinese Army RMB 100 million, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries donated RMB 125 million, and the Red Cross Society of China provided RMB 2.1 million. "All walks of life in China are motivated to assist Pakistan in fighting the floods. In the face of disaster, China stands with Pakistan," reads a statement shared on the Embassy's official Twitter account. The monsoon rains and floods have affected over 33 million people in the country as well as killed 1678 people and left 12864 others injured. As per NDMA's latest updates, 2,045,349 houses have been totally or partially damaged. The floods also damaged 13,074 km of roads and 410 bridges. Several Pakistan-based Chinese companies are also taking part in relief activities while the Chinese government is also expected to help the country in rehabilitation activities. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and other Pakistani officials have time and again expressed profound gratitude to President Xi Jinping and the government of China for their sincere efforts and financial assistance during this critical time.

T-5 completion to enhance Tarbela hydel generation

ISLAMABAD: The hydel generation capacity of Tarbela Dam will touch 6418 MW from the existing 4888 MW with the completion of 5th Extension Hydropower Project (T-5) scheduled to be completed in 2025. The under-construction (T-5) will add 1530 MW to the already installed capacity of 4888 MW, sources told APP here. They said before commissioning of Tarbela 4th Extension, the installed capacity of Tarbela was 3478 MW but with the addition of 1410 MW, the capacity rise to 4888 MW. Now, with the addition of T-5, Tarbela will be largest hydel generation dam in the country, they said. Tarbela Dam has been phenomenally contributing towards economic and social development in Pakistan since its completion in 1974. It is worth mentioning that Tarbela Dam has been a vital project for irrigated agriculture and economy of the country, because it provides water for agriculture, mitigates floods and generates a sizeable quantum of low-cost and environment friendly hydel electricity to the National Grid. As many as 64 million acre feet of water are released annually from Tarbela Dam to meet irrigation needs of the country.—APP

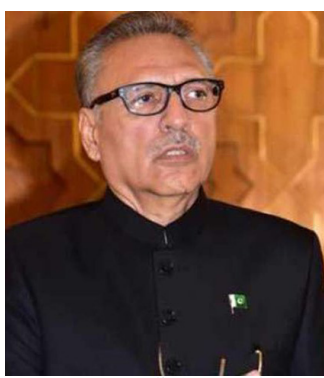
COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Umar Rizwan Civil Judge Gujrat
Title: Muhammad Nazir Versus Khadim Hussain etc.
Notice to: 8. Intizar S/O Khushi Muhammad Resident of Menawal Kalan, Tehsil and District Gujrat
Suit for Permanent and Warranted Injunction Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 05-10-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Alvi dismisses DG PEMRA from service

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has awarded the major penalty of dismissal from service to a Director General of Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and also enhanced the fine from Rs2 million to Rs2.5 million. He held that it had been established beyond any reasonable doubt that the female employee was harassed by the accused with verbal, vulgar, sexual, and demeaning comments and demands by the appellant (DG). The president held the decision of the Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH). The president observed that he took a strong exception and used the full force of the law when such matters were brought to light and were proven beyond doubt to ensure a safe working environment for the female gender. This, he said, was aimed at unleashing their great economic potential which remained unexploited due to their fear of harassment at the workplace. The president further ordered that the amount of compensation should be recovered from arrears of pay (if any), pension emoluments or any other source (property) of the appellant as per

Section 4(i)(d) of the Protection Against the Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010 and be given to the complainant as compensation in lieu of the hardships faced by her at the hands of the appellant. "This landmark decision was announced after the President gave personal prolonged hearings to the accused, the complainant and their counsels on 22.07.2022 and 25.07.2022, besides factoring in the evidence and recording the statements of the witnesses on record and minutely perusing the entire proceedings of the case," President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. In his decision, the president noted that the accused continued harassing the complainant unabated even during the proceedings of the case by FOSPAH, in his suspension period, by filing applications against the complainant to IG Police, Islamabad and to DG (FIA), Cyber Crime Wing, Islamabad, thus, inflicting grave mental torture to the complainant and putting her reputation at stake. He said that the act of accused was a flagrant violation of the laws of Pakistan, particularly the Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010, and a blatant example of how



women were discouraged, even those brave ones who come forward risking their reputation, to file cases of harassment. "The statistics with reference to the number of cases are infinitesimal as compared to the anecdotal discussion of the frequency of harassment in our society", he added. In his order, the president wrote that women, who were more than 50% of our society, were unable to work freely because of possible harassment. "Public spaces are reduced for them; educational opportunities which is their right have been denied to them by their parents in certain cases because of the fear of harassment at the educational institutions as they look for 'girls'

women only institutions". As a result, women in our society are mostly undereducated, severely underemployed, financially constrained, denied proper inheritance and discriminated against at the time of promotions," the president observed. He said that Islam kept women in high esteem and provided them with the right to pursue gainful occupations and employment by ensuring a safe, secure, dignified and respectful workplace environment. He said that due to these reasons, Bibi Khadija (RA), the wife of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), was a businesswoman and Hazrat Umar (RA) appointed Al-Shifa' bint Abdullah as the custodian of the market who was entrusted with the portfolio of the Accountability Court and Market Administration. The president further said that Hazrat Umm-e-Kulsum bint Ali was sent on a diplomatic mission to the court of the Queen of Rome and many women took part in battles including Hazrat Ayesha (RA), Umm-e-Salim (RA), Umm-e-Ammara (RA) and Umm-e-Saleet, Safiyya bint Abd al-Mutalib, Umm-e-Atiya al-Ansar (RA) Rifa'ida Al-Aslamia and Asma bint Yazid ibn Al-Sakan who protected

the Prophet (PBUH) in battles, treated the wounded soldiers and provided them logistic support and served them with water and food. The president also quoted a recent judgment of the Supreme Court in a case of harassment wherein it was noted, "It is time to pave the way towards the actualization of robust and unwavering constitutional ideals and values by embracing the participation of women in all spheres of life with honour and dignity", and that "No nation can rise to the height of glory", in the words of the Founder of our Nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, "unless your women are side by side with you. We are victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the houses as prisoners. There is no sanction anywhere for the deplorable condition in which our women have to live." Keeping in view the established facts of the case, the president directed the relevant authority to implement the order in letter and spirit and furnish compliance to Registrar FOSPAH within the stipulated period.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Players exhibiting Korean martial arts on the occasion of the National Day of Korea.-DNA

Collapse of small dams Increased flood intensity

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



ISLAMABAD: Collapse of small dams increased flood intensity? Where did

small dams break across the country? Are small dams smashed due to poor construction or something else? How much truth is there in the news of damage to a large number of small dams? The number of small dams swept away in the flood in Balochistan province could not be accurately estimated. Dams were washed away in Quetta, Mastung, Ziarat, Qila Abdullah and Chaman. There are reports of dams being washed away in Sindh

as well, but the number of dams washed away in flood in Sindh is very less than Balochistan. Fake news will continue to mislead the public until the exact number of small dams washed away in the flood and the financial loss caused by the destruction of small dams are not accurately estimated. Due to the worsening situation of climate change, it became necessary to revise the PC One of all small dams

and change the specifications. If necessary measures are not taken in this regard, then do we have the financial strength to bear the loss of large number of small dams washed away from every coming flood? Impression is spreading that the reasons why small dams are so easily washed away by floods are the negligence of engineers, corruption and not ensuring the quality of work. This is the opinion of

non-technical people. It is very important to know the real reasons and facts of small dams being washed away. The destruction of small dams in large numbers in Balochistan and relatively less destruction of small dams in Sindh is also a big question. After a discussion with the engineers who constructed the small dams, a detailed, unique report based on ground realities and facts will be published soon on the small dams destroyed in Balochistan and Sindh.

Two suspected dacoits arrested after police encounter

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A team of investigators of Police Station Naseerabad faced heavy gunfire while carrying out a raid to arrest the suspected dacoits in 'Bokra' area in the jurisdiction of Naseerabad Police Station, informed a police spokesman on Saturday. However, all the cops remained unhurt and two suspected dacoits including an injured condition were rounded up during an exchange of firing. Later, the injured suspected dacoit was moved to the hospital for medical treatment, he said. According to the police spokesman, a police team acting on a tip-off conducted a raid in 'Bokra' Road area. As the police party reached the spot, the accused opened unprovoked firing on the police party, he added. After the exchange of fire, the accused identified as Naseeb and Ahmed who was injured were rounded up. A case was registered against the accused after recovering pistols along with ammunition. During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed to have killed a person namely Sohail Abbas in a dacoity few days ago. City Police Officer, Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari appreciated Superintendent of Police, Potohar and the police party for netting the suspected dacoits.

Huawei launch all acenario all flash storage solution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Pakistan successfully held the Huawei IT Summit Pakistan 2022 and launched All Scenario All Flash storage solution in Islamabad. Federal Secretary IT and Telecommunication Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq, HEC Mr. Faisal Rafique, New Horizon Mr. Qaiser Sarwar, Nayatel Mr. Jahanzeb Arshad, Future Wei Mr. Wang Yong, Wateen Mr. Aftab Siddiqui, TechAccess Mr. Kashif Ali along with other officials and experts from IT industries and Huawei were all present at the Summit. In the summit key speakers and experts highlighted how data has become the catalyst for the digital economy. Such explosive data growth, however, places added pressure on traditional data centers, which provide the centralized storage, computing and data resource exchange needed for enterprise to tap into the value of data. Huawei launched All scenario Flash storage to combat the challenges of today's world to facilitate business growth and digital transformation across industries. As the Chief Guest, the Federal Secretary Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq appreciated Huawei effort to organize Summit and said "Huawei has worked closely with the Ministry of IT and Telecommunications on various projects and has always been extremely supportive." Talking about the cooperation with Huawei in Pakistan, operation VP Nayatel Mr. Jahanzeb Arshad saying "We wanted to work with global providers and provide the same level of service but more cost effective to our customers. Critical components of our services is Storage, certain customers require high IO performance from storage, and Huawei help us with the storage required for us to set up our open-stack Cloud. It was a very smooth and stable integration with Huawei Dorado Storage." COO of New Horizon Mr. Qaiser Sarwar also shared experience with Huawei "We have evolved as more of a 'Storage Expert'. Our journey with Huawei started three and half years ago and we evaluated the storage at that time and realized that it has the potential compared to other storages in the market.—APP

Healthcare camps provide care to 5,544 patients in flood hit areas

ISLAMABAD: The flood relief medical camps have provided treatment to over 5,544 heavy rain and flood affected patients the other day to help jump start their recovery, said Minister for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Saturday. The medical assistance camps established in various flood hit areas were treating different diseases including diarrhea, dengue, skin diseases, respiratory issues, malaria, gastroenteritis, dog and snake bites and others to the victims affected by the devastating floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains in the country. He said camps have already provided medical assistance to 1,305 children of under five years age. More than 758 children were vaccinated against polio in the camps. A total of 312 children were also vaccinated against other viral diseases in the health camps. Giving details of medical assistance in the camps, he said as many as 1,130 patients were provided medical assistance in flood hit areas of Punjab, 4,896 patients in Sindh and 4,390 victims were treated in Balochistan. Likewise, a total of 47 health camps have been established in various areas of country including 16 camps in eight districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, four in two districts of Punjab, 14 in seven districts of Balochistan and 13 camps were established in 10 districts of Sindh to provide quality medical assistance to patients. The minister said providing quality medical facilities to flood victims was moral and religious responsibility of the government and concrete steps were being taken in this regard.—APP

'National Economic Council Pivotal for Sustainable Development'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The role of National Economic Council was pivotal in the sustainable development of the country, said Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, SAPM on Government Effectiveness. He was addressing an in-house seminar at Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad. While highlighting the various 5-year plans over the decades, he emphasized on having the political stability and policy continuity for better implementation of the devised programs. He further highlighted the performance of Pakistan's economic progress as below par when compared to other regional countries like India and Bangladesh and stressed upon having the public-private partnerships in order to enhance economic outputs. Furthermore, he added that Pakistan was listed among those few countries whose export-to-GDP ratio was less than 10 per cent. Only remittances were not enough to devise economic plans

but rather employment of skilled labor to improve the quality of our goods was also essential. He further alluded that the quality could only be upgraded through competitiveness and for that, government needed to encourage foreign direct investments inside the country. While presenting various lists such as the HDI, Ease of Doing Business, Gender Parity, Prosperity Index, and others, he mentioned that Pakistan's standings in each list was below than the regional competitors. Dr Jehanzeb concluded by stating that dysfunctional institutions, climate disasters, growing population, lack of skilled labor and less focus on capacity and building and optimization were some of the challenges on which the government needed to devise effective policies. Through policy regulations and inclusion of the private sector, the government could be better equipped in overcoming the aforementioned challenges and developing a resilient development model for the general public, he added.

Leopard's daytime patrol 'no threat' to humans

ISLAMABAD :The Common Asian Leopard's daytime patrolling is natural and not an abnormal movement or threat to humans venturing into the MHN. The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) recently captured a male leopard strolling in the leopard preserve zone during the afternoon at 13:30 hours which gained huge traction at the social, print and electronic media. However, the IWMB Chairperson clarified that the movement was inside the protected zone and it was not a threat to the human entering into the national park. When contacted senior IWMB member and the most experienced naturalist and ornithologist of Pakistan, Prof Dr Zahid Baig Mirza told APP that the approaching cool weather would induce male leopards to attempt to enter female territory with full consciousness of female's tolerance mood.

Gwadar Free Zones to get 17 MW

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar local power authority has agreed on the supply of electricity of around 17 MW for Gwadar Free Zone I and Gwadar Free Zone II, promising impetus to economic activities and acceleration of industrialization in Gwadar. A senior official from the local branch of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) conceded to make available 17 MW to both Free Zones in Gwadar. Around 5 MW was sought for Gwadar Free Zone I and 12 MW was requested for Gwadar Free Zone II. WAPDA is a government-owned authority responsible for regulation, integration, and maintain rapid development and maintenance of water and power resources of the country. In Balochistan, WAPDA works with Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO) which is responsible to distribute and supply of power to all areas including Gwadar. Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) official told Gwadar Pro that China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) held talks with local officials of WAPDA and succeeded in obtaining the minimum required electricity. GPA will take on board both authorities to ensure the supply of 17 MW for both zones. "Usually power cost varies between Rs 28 to Rs. 32 per unit as per normal and peak hours but with intermittent pattern to the private sector. However, for Gwadar Free Zone I and Gwadar Free Zone II, power fare will range between Rs 40 to Rs. 45 in accordance with normal and peak hours as it will be supplied in an uninterrupted manner free from outage like 24 hours," he disclosed. It is expected that after a formal letter drafted by COPHC in collaboration with GPA lands in the office of Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO), due process to sanction the power supply will take its course as per rules. After the summary is nodded positively, COPHC will have to pay the cost of power distribution lines to be laid down at the allocated sites. A few days back, Government announced to purchase 100 MW of electricity from Iran to meet the power demand in Gwadar. Meanwhile, COPHC proposed to get 50 MW through the installation of IPP power plant in collaboration with Chinese power producers in Gwadar. The basic reason behind the proposal was that for long, Chinese companies have been overstressed by overpriced power production by 8.5 MW generators in Gwadar Free Zone against the backdrop of non-availability of power supply from government. With passage of time, the cost of electricity has ballooned excessively, putting extreme burden on corporate finance. Gwadar Port used to purchase petrol at a cost of Rs. 20.3 million monthly. Chinese companies in Gwadar Free Zone were charged Rs. 49 per unit accordingly, which was very high. "In a new scenario, the monthly purchase cost for Gwadar companies has soared to Rs. 25.5 million. It is more than 25 percent rise," a COPHC official said.—DNA

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Dengue outbreak out of control

DENGUE fever cases continued to surge in Pakistan as at least three more deaths were reported in different parts of the country in the last 24 hours, the Ministry of National Health Services said. One death took place in Punjab, one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one in Sindh. In the last 24 hours, 415 more people were diagnosed with the disease in KP, the provincial health department reported. The number of active cases in the province currently stands at 1,720 and the total number of cases this year has reached 8,485. Punjab reported 401 new cases in the last 24 hours, the provincial health authorities said. Lahore reported 174 new cases, followed by Rawalpindi with 115 cases. The total number of dengue cases in Punjab this year has now gone up to 6,378. In the last 24 hours, 330 new infections were reported in Sindh, said the provincial health department. The worst-hit area was Karachi, the provincial capital, which reported 275 new cases. With the newly reported dengue cases, the September figure to date for the province has risen to 7,257, bringing the local total tally to 9,826 this year. Islamabad reported 104 new dengue cases in the last 24 hours, the health authorities said. The city's total tally has risen to 2,435 this year.

In the federal capital, the total cases have gone up to 2,435 while six people lost their lives to the viral disease in the current year. As per the sources, Sindh reported the most cases and deaths, media reported. As districts in Pakistan continue to be affected by massive monsoon rainfall and unprecedented levels of flooding, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned of significant public health threats facing affected populations, including the risk of further water spread and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. The country is continuing to report more and more dengue virus cases daily, with panic and fear spreading among the public as a shortage of fever medicines has also surfaced. Adding to the catastrophic situation, the fumigation drive was halted because the Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC) ran out of fuel, sources said. Record monsoon and heavy floods in Pakistan have given rise to hunger and various illnesses which have affected 33 million people and the experts believe that the situation would aggravate in the coming days as the flood affectees are forced to live under the sky depriving the required resources. Around 888 health facilities have been damaged in the country, of which 180 are completely damaged, leaving millions of people lacking access to health care and medical treatment, as reported in many affected districts.



US, Pacific Island countries' partnership

THE first US-Pacific Island Country Summit was held in Washington on September 28 and 29 with leaders and representatives from 14 Pacific Island countries taking part in it. This is the first time that Pacific Island countries have received an invitation from Washington collectively. The US has carried out high-profile propaganda, repeatedly hyping the summit as a "milestone." However, public opinion generally believes that this is an "unprecedented diplomatic effort" made by the US to counter China, while at the same time, some island countries are already worried about being forced to take sides.

Washington exaggerated the significance of this summit. This is a new move of a series of actions taken by the US to win over the region since last year after Washington began to take the friendly exchanges between China and the Pacific Island countries as a thorn. According to Kurt Campbell, coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs of the National Security Council, "the purpose [of the summit] is not just to listen to Pacific leaders, but to put tremendous resources on the table." At the summit, US President Joe Biden announced \$810 million in new funding for Pacific Island countries to "meet priorities." Perhaps, in Washington's view, the "privilege" of "getting invited to the White House for the first time," the reception involving the red carpet and limelight, and "big dollar" aid are enough to make the Pacific Island countries feel extremely flattered and be obedient to the US. But Pacific Island nations enjoy independence and sovereignty, so they want genuine respect from the US, not letting it use a symbolic one with high-profile ceremonies that practice interventionism or use flamboyant new concepts to revive the model of hegemony based on the subordination of small states.

The US' attitude toward Pacific Island countries has changed from the long-time neglect for nearly 80 years after World War II to the sudden attention aimed at containing China's influence. What hasn't changed is the mindset of treating the region as its "backyard," and what has continued is its hegemonic logic. Such "pride and prejudice" cannot be covered up by a few new missions, visits by senior officials, and declarations of big dollar aid. It is hoped that the US can truly change the way it views the world and other countries and treat Pacific Island countries with sincere respect and equality. This is not only the proper demeanor that a major power should have, but also the minimum responsibility it should assume for regional peace and stability.

Saudi crown prince shifts into high gear

James M. Dorsey

The potential bid did not stop soccer icon Cristiano Ronaldo from dashing initial Saudi hopes to attract a superstar to the kingdom's top football league when he turned down a US\$258 million offer to play for Al Hilal, one of Saudi Arabia's top clubs. Similarly, Saudi Arabia's endeavour to bankroll Liv Golf, a challenger to PGA Tour, the organizer of North America's main professional men's golf tournaments, has turned into a public relations fiasco amid allegations that the kingdom was seeking to launder its reputation.

A refusal by major broadcasters to secure rights to air League's tours exemplifies its problems. Religion has proven to be the arena in which Saudi Arabia may have scored its most prominent public relations fete

SAUDI Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is simultaneously speed dating and playing on multiple diplomatic, religious, and economic chessboards. The latest feather in his crown, his appointment as prime minister, aims to ensure that he can continue to do so with as little collateral damage as possible. The appointment shields him from legal proceedings in the United States, France, and potentially elsewhere, including the International Criminal Court in the Hague, in which plaintiffs assert that Mr. Bin Salman was responsible for the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. As a head of government, Mr. Bin Salman enjoys sovereign immunity, a status he could not claim as heir-apparent. While the legal manoeuvre is certain to succeed, it is unlikely to significantly improve his image tarnished by the killing and his domestic crackdown on dissent that in recent weeks produced outlandish sentences to decades in prison for little more than a tweet.

Reputational issues have not stopped Mr. Bin Salman from shifting into high gear as he pushes ahead with efforts to diversify Saudi Arabia's oil-dependent economy; replace regional competitors like the United Arab Emirates and Qatar as the center of gravity at the intersection of Asia, Africa, and Europe; demonstrate his diplomatic clout and relevance beyond oil to the international community; and position himself and the kingdom as the beacon of a moderate, albeit an autocratic, form of Islam. Mr. Bin Salman's multi-pronged dash has produced mixed results. In his latest foray onto the international stage, Mr. Bin Salman sought to display his diplomatic skills and relevance to the international community by securing the release by Russia of ten foreign nationals captured while fighting for Ukraine. The foreigners' release was part of a Ukrainian-Russian prisoner swap negotiated by Turkey.

Although Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan al Saud rejected as "very cynical" assertions that Mr. Bin Salman was seeking to shore up his image by associating himself with the swap, it seems likely that Russian President Vladimir Putin was happy to give him a helping hand. In a similar vein, people close to Mr. Bin Salman see mileage in asserting that the crown prince's lifting of a ban on women's driving and enhancement of women's rights and professional opportunities is what inspired women-led protests in Iran that have entered their third week as well as Iran's recent relaxing of its prohibition on women attending men's soccer matches. Ali Shihabi, an analyst who often echoes official Saudi thinking, claimed in a tweet that "Saudi reforms for women have had a big impact on the world of Islam. As the previous upholder of ultra orthodoxy #MBS's dramatic changes have sent a powerful signal that has undermined Uber conservatives across the region like the Mullahs in Iran." Mr. Shihabi was referring to Mr. Bin Salman by his initials. The nationwide protests were sparked by the death of a young woman while in the custody of Iran's

morality police. The police had arrested 22-year-old Mahsa Amini for what authorities described as sporting an "improper" hijab.

By contrast, Mr. Bin Salman's economic diversification efforts appear to be producing more unambiguous results. For example, the Saudi industry and mineral resources ministry issued over 500 industrial licenses in the first six months of this year, primarily in the food, steel, and chemicals sectors. The ministry reported that the number of factories that commenced operations doubled, from 303 to 721. Buoyed by massive oil export revenues, Mr. Bin Salman hopes to brand a 'Made in Saudi' label as part of his non-oil export drive. Even so, foreign investment in manufacturing has been slow to take off, particularly in Mr. Bin Salman's, at times, futuristic mega projects like his US\$500 billion city of Neom on the Red Sea. New Jersey-based Lucid Group broke the mold when it announced in February that it would build its first overseas electrical vehicle production facility in the kingdom. More controversial are plans for a beach in Neom scheduled to open next year that envision a wine bar, a separate cocktail bar, and a bar for "champagne and desserts" in a country that bans alcohol. The plans seem out of sync with religious sentiment among a significant segment of Gulf youth if a recent opinion poll is to be believed, Forty-one per cent of young Gulf Arabs, including Saudis, said religion was the most important element of their identity, with nationality, family and/or tribe, Arab heritage, and gender lagging far behind.

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. In contrast to economics, the going in turning the kingdom into a sports and esports hub has been rougher. In his latest move, Mr. Bin Salman launched a US\$38 billion "National Gaming and Esports Strategy" to make Saudi Arabia an esports leader by 2030. The budget includes US\$13 billion for the acquisition of "a leading game publisher." The kingdom has already invested in Capcom, Nexon, Nintendo, ESL Gaming, SNK, and Embracer Group. In addition, Saudi music entertainment company MDL-BEAST saw a business opportunity in the 2022 Qatar World Cup that would also help project the once secretive kingdom as a forward-looking modern state. MDL-BEAST has invited 56 top international and regional performers to entertain soccer fans on a custom-built stage in Doha during the 28 days of the tournament.

On an even grander scale, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, two of the world's more notorious human rights violators, together with Greece, are considering bidding to host the 2030 World Cup—a move that sounds like an invitation to a perfect public relations fiasco, if Qatar's experience is an indicator. The potential bid did not stop soccer icon Cristiano Ronaldo from dashing initial Saudi hopes to attract a superstar to the kingdom's top football league when he turned down a US\$258 million offer to play for

Al Hilal, one of Saudi Arabia's top clubs. Similarly, Saudi Arabia's endeavour to bankroll Liv Golf, a challenger to PGA Tour, the organizer of North America's main professional men's golf tournaments, has turned into a public relations fiasco amid allegations that the kingdom was seeking to launder its reputation. A refusal by major broadcasters to secure the rights to air the League's tours exemplifies its problems. Religion has proven to be the arena in which Saudi Arabia may have scored its most prominent public relations fete.

The Muslim World League, Mr. Bin Salman's primary vehicle to garner religious soft power and propagate an autocratic version of Islam that is socially liberal but demands absolute obedience to the ruler, achieved a public relations coup when it forged an unlikely alliance with Nahdlatul Ulama. Nahdlatul Ulama. Nahdlatul Ulama is arguably the world's only mass movement propagating a genuinely moderate and pluralistic form of Islam.

Moreover, as the world's largest Muslim civil society movement in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country and democracy, Nahdlatul Ulama's words and actions have an impact. As a result, the League counted its blessings when Nahdlatul Ulama recognised it as a non-governmental organization rather than a de facto extension of Mr. Bin Salman's rule. The recognition opens doors for the League, which has so far traded on Saudi Arabia's custodianship of Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest cities; lofty statements and conferences that produced little, if any, real change; and funding of emergency and development aid in various parts of the world. It allowed Nahdlatul Ulama to invite the League, a major promoter of Saudi ultra-conservatism before Mr. Bin Salman's rise, to co-organize the newly established Religion 20 (R20), a summit of religious leaders under the auspices of the Group of 20 that brings together the world's largest economies. The first R20 summit, scheduled for early November in Bali, is part of the run-up to the meeting of G20 leaders later that month hosted by Indonesia, the group's chairman for the year. The R20, the G20's latest official engagement group, aims to "position religion as a source of solutions rather than problems across the globe." The limits of Saudi tolerance were evident last month when authorities arrested a pilgrim to Mecca for dedicating his pilgrimage to Britain's Queen Elizabeth, a non-Muslim who had just died. Nahdlatul's outreach to the League is part of a bold and risky strategy. However, Nahdlatul Ulama believes that engagement creates an opportunity to persuade the League to embrace a more genuine and holistic vision of moderate Islam rather than one that is self-serving. That may be a long shot, but it also may be a way of launching Saudi Arabia on a path that would help it repair its badly tarnished image. That is if Mr. Bin Salman pairs genuine religious moderation and pluralism with a rollback of domestic repression and greater political pluralism. So far, that appears to be one thing the crown prince is unwilling to consider.

Car Free day – A myth for the Cities of Pakistan

M Abdullah & Maria Ali

Road congestion may never be completely eliminated by government, but there are a number of steps cities and states may do to reduce it. Contemporary conditions of the Islamabad's roads are becoming worse due to heavy traffic. There is no room for a three foot wide cycling lane but there is a room for eight foot parking bays on both side of the street in the capital. Now it's high time to redesign our city for people, not for cars. Such initiatives that will aid in lowering the number of vehicles on the road must be started

WORLD Car-Free Day is observed annually on September 22 in cities all around the world, encouraging drivers to give up their cars for the day. The event draws attention to the many advantages of going car free to urban residents, including less air pollution and the encouragement of walking and cycling in a safer environment. But is this possible in our cities especially in Islamabad, to celebrate car-free day? Is it possible for us to avoid using our vehicle on this car free day? Islamabad—A city of cars. If you are a car, it is a great place to live. This lovely city is losing its allure, natural beauty, and peacefulness with each passing day. Islamabad, which was once renowned for its calm evenings and minimal traffic flow, is currently coping with the problem of growing vehicular traffic density. The general atmosphere of this metropolis is suffering greatly as a result of the increased traffic. With its population reaching almost 2.5 million people and the number of registered vehicles crossing 1.3 million, Islamabad is becoming a hard city to live in terms of mobility. Our capital is widening its highways to accommodate more vehicles at a time when contemporary cities like Singapore and Oslo are waging a war against cars. Everyone is aware of the fact that an increase in the number of cars on the road results in an increase in traffic accidents, which cost the lives of tens of thousands of people annually around the globe. According to the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2013, by the World Health Organization (WHO) road

accidents will become the fifth major cause of deaths by 2030. Several factors contribute to the disturbing picture projected by our roadways when it comes to traffic. Law-abiding and sensible commuters are frequently at danger of accidents as a result of ruthless bikers' excessive speeds, frequent lane changes, wrong overtaking, and zigzagging. It has gotten worse in recent years with the growing vehicular traffic density.

Whenever we discuss the issues related to cars and transportation, we frequently highlight fatal accidents, air pollution, or traffic congestion. We don't often think about how much space cars actually occupy in our cities. Instead of moving towards vertical expansion of our cities, authorities are leaning more towards massive horizontal expansion providing a way for expansion of road infrastructure. More expansion, more cars, more pollution, hence more problems. The existing conditions demand an approach which will change people behavior to use private cars. There will be fewer cars on the road if more people use public transportation. In order to promote people to use cars less and public transport more we need a world class efficient public transport with maximum accessibility. In the capital city, there is currently no such type of public bus service. Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metro bus serves Islamabad and its twin city, Rawalpindi. However, there is one approved route for the metro bus service and it does not yet extend throughout the entire city. Office

workers, students, and other commuters use private transportation because the capital has no reliable public transportation outside of the metro bus service that connects the twin cities. Moreover, an outdated network of privately operated wagons also makes up the current form of public transportation. These wagons are not subject to any government regulations or maintenance requirements. Only a few routes are serviced by the wagons, and the fee is not negotiable. In this case, a proactive strategy by the authorities is essential for ensuring the regulation of existing public transportation regulations.

Road congestion may never be completely eliminated by government, but there are a number of steps cities and states may do to reduce it. Contemporary conditions of the Islamabad's roads are becoming worse due to heavy traffic. There is no room for a three foot wide cycling lane but there is a room for eight foot parking bays on both side of the street in the capital. Now it's high time to redesign our city for people, not for cars. Such initiatives that will aid in lowering the number of vehicles on the road must be started. Additionally, laws that discourage local residents to use cars can be put in place, like providing incentives to shift people from their own cars into public transport and like prohibition on free parking. We need to invest more on expanding public transit capacity, footpaths and, cycling lanes. This can help us in saving environment, fuel import and economic loss due to mobility barriers.

Briefs

National Women's Basketball C'ship kicks off Monday

ISLAMABAD: Hosts Islamabad would compete against Lahore in the opening match of the National Women's Basketball Championship beginning Monday here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex. According to the championship organizing secretary and Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) General Secretary Ouj-e-Zahoor all arrangements have been completed for the five-day championship.

"Top eight teams were taking part in the event to be divided into two pools. Pool 'A' comprises defending champion Pakistan Wapda, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Quetta while Pool 'B' includes teams from Pakistan Army, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar." Ouj-e-Zahoor said that Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari would be the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the championship hosted by Federal Basketball Association under the umbrella of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF). – APP

Vietnam reports 672 Covid cases

HANOI: Vietnam recorded 672 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, according to its ministry of health. Among the new cases, one was imported and the rest were all locally transmitted, said the ministry. The newly reported infections brought the total tally to 11,480,028. The country reported a new death from the pandemic in the southern Tay Ninh province on Saturday, bringing the total fatalities to 43,149. As of Saturday, there were 91 severe cases in need of assisted breathing in the Southeast Asian country, according to the ministry. Nationwide, 10,592,592 COVID-19 patients, or over 92 percent of the total infections, have recovered. Nearly 260.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the country, including roughly 220.5 million shots on people aged 18 and above, said the ministry.

Sri Lanka reduces price of petrol

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's state-owned petroleum retailer Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will reduce the price of petrol with effect from midnight Saturday, Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera said. Prices of both 92 Octane and 95 Octane petrol will be reduced. The price of 92 Octane petrol will be reduced by 40 rupees (0.11 U.S. dollars) and price of 95 Octane petrol will be reduced by 30 rupees (0.08 dollars). The revised price of a liter of 92 Octane petrol is 410 rupees (1.12 dollars), while the price of a liter of 95 Octane petrol is 510 rupees (1.40 dollars). Prices of other petroleum products will remain the same, Wijesekera added.

England beat Pakistan to win series

FROM PAGE 01
power the tourists to 209-3. He was aided by Harry Brook in the second half of the innings. The right-handed batter contributed a 29-ball 46 and also remained not out. Also coming to England's aid were Pakistan fielders who generously dropped at least three catches. The biggest culprit was the skipper himself, who dropped two, with Mohammad Wasim grassing the third. It was a night to forget for Wasim, who leaked 61 runs in his four overs and went wicketless. His final over was bled for 20 runs. The series – England's first tour of Pakistan for 17 years – was tied at 3-3 with the visitors winning the first, third and sixth games. Pakistan made four changes from the last game, bringing in Mohammad Rizwan, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain and Khushdil Shah at the expense of Shahnawaz Dahani, Mohammad Haris, Haider Ali and Aamer Jamal.

At least 174 dead in Indonesia football stadium stampede

"People were pushing each other and... many were trampled on their way to the exit gate. My eyes were burning because of the tear gas. I fortunately managed to climb up the fence and survived," he said

MALANG: At least 174 people died at an Indonesian football stadium when thousands of angry home fans invaded the pitch and police responded with tear gas that triggered a stampede, authorities said Sunday. The tragedy on Saturday night in the city of Malang, which also left 180 injured, was one of the world's deadliest sporting stadium disasters. Arema FC supporters at the Kanjuruhan stadium stormed the pitch after their team lost 3-2 to the visiting team and bitter rivals, Persebaya Surabaya. Police, who described the unrest as "riots", said they tried to force fans to return to the stands and fired tear gas after two officers were killed. Many of the victims were trampled or choked to death, according to police. At least 174 people died, East Java deputy governor Emil Dardak told broadcaster Kompas TV on Sunday afternoon, raising the toll from 129.

Survivors described panicking spectators in a packed crowd as tear gas rained down on them. "Officers fired tear gas, and automatically people were rushing to come out, pushing each other and it caused many victims," 43-year-old spectator Doni, who declined to give his last name, told AFP. "Nothing was happening, there was no riot. I don't know what the issue was, they suddenly fired tear gas. That's what shocked me, didn't they think about kids, women?" President Joko Widodo ordered an investigation into the tragedy, a safety review into all football matches and directed the country's football association to suspend all matches until "security improvements" were completed. "I deeply regret this tragedy and I hope this football tragedy will be the last in our country," Widodo said. A hospital director told local TV that one of the victims was five years old.

Images taken from inside the stadium during the stampede showed police firing huge amounts of tear gas and people clambering over fences. People were carrying injured spectators through the chaos. "It was so terrifying, so shocking," 22-year-old survivor Sam Gilang, who lost three friends in the crush, told AFP. "People were pushing each other and... many were trampled on their way to the exit gate. My eyes were burning because of the tear gas. I fortunately managed to climb up the fence and survived," he said. Video footage circulating on social media showed people shouting obscenities at police, who were holding riot shields and wielding batons. Torched vehicles, including a police truck, littered the streets outside the stadium on Sunday morning. Police said 13 vehicles in total were damaged. The stadium holds 42,000 people and au-

thorities said it was a sell-out. Police said 3,000 people stormed the pitch. Fan violence is an enduring problem in Indonesia, where deep rivalries have previously turned into deadly confrontations. Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya are longtime rivals. Persebaya Surabaya fans were not allowed to buy tickets for the game due to fears of violence. However Indonesia's coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs, Mahfud MD, said organisers ignored the recommendation of authorities to hold the match in the afternoon instead of the evening. And he said the government had recommended only 38,000 tickets be printed, but there was instead a sell-out crowd of 42,000. Before Widodo's announcement, the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) apologised to victims' families and suspended football matches of Indonesia's

top league, BRI Liga 1, for one week. It also banned Arema FC from hosting home games for the rest of the season. The association had communicated with FIFA about the stampede and hopes to avoid sanctions from the world football governing body, PSSI secretary general Yunus Yussi told a press conference. On why police used tear gas inside the stadium, he said they "had to take some measures to anticipate" spectators entering the pitch. The Asian Football Confederation, the governing body for football in the region, expressed its regret at the loss of lives in the disaster. Indonesia is to host the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in May at six stadiums across the country. The Kanjuruhan stadium in Malang is not included in that list. It is also bidding to replace China as host of the 2023 Asian Cup alongside South Korea and Qatar, with a decision due later this month. – APP

Real Madrid chief insisting on ESL

MADRID: Real Madrid president Florentino Perez again insisted on the idea of a European Super League when speaking at a club members assembly on Sunday. In April 2021 a dozen of Europe's biggest clubs signed up to a controversial new project but it crumbled after a strong backlash from supporters and football's governing bodies. Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus stayed on board while other clubs abandoned ship and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (CJEU) is to rule over whether European football governing body UEFA is acting as a monopoly by blocking the project. "The Super League has never been closed off with a concrete format," Perez told Madrid members. "We think that it could change depending on different contexts. "The objective of the Super League is to modernise football. It is essential to offer fans games of great quality. UEFA, with their changing and remodelling of the Champions League is mistakenly going the other way." The Real Madrid chief compared football to tennis, where the top players usually face each other multiple times a year. "What sense does it have depriving fans of big games?" he asked. "(Rafa) Nadal and (Roger) Federer have met over 40 times. Nadal and (Novak) Djokovic have played 59 times, is this boring? "Liverpool and Real Madrid have only met nine times in 67 years." – DNA



Islamabad to compete Lahore in Women's Basketball opener

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD, Oct 02: Host Islamabad will compete against Lahore in the opening match of the National Women's Basketball Championship starting from today (Monday) here at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex. According to the championship organizing secretary and Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) General Secretary Ouj-e-Zahoor said that all arrangements

have been completed for the successful five-day championship where top eight teams taking part in the event have been divided into two pools. He said that Pool "A" comprises defending champion Pakistan Wapda, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Quetta while Pool "B" includes teams from Pakistan Army, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. Ouj-e-Zahoor said that Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari will be chief guest

in the opening ceremony of the championship hosted by Federal Basketball Association under the umbrella of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF). Four matches will be held on daily basis in the championship as matches between Islamabad and Lahore, defending champion Wapda and Quetta, Army and Peshawar, Karachi and Rawalpindi will compete on the opening day. The semi-final round of the championship will be played

on October 6 while the final will be played on October 7. **Schedule:**
October 3 (Day-1): Lahore vs Islamabad; Karachi vs Rawalpindi; Wapda vs Quetta; Army vs Peshawar.
October 4 (Day-2): Wapda vs Rawalpindi; Army vs Islamabad; Karachi vs Quetta; Lahore vs Peshawar.
October 5 (Day-3): Wapda vs Karachi; Rawalpindi vs Quetta; Islamabad vs Peshawar; Army vs Lahore.
October 6 (Day-4): Semi Finals
October 7 (Day-5): Final

Rovanpera clinches World Rally Championship title

AUCKLAND: Finland's Kalle Rovanpera praised the perseverance of his team after clinching a historic World Rally Championship title with two rounds to spare on Sunday, after he won the Rally New Zealand in Auckland. One day after his 22nd birthday, Rovanpera became the youngest-ever world champion, smashing the record set by Briton Colin McRae, who was 27 when he won the 1995 title. The son of former WRC driver Harri Rovanpera, the Finnish prodigy was a class above his rivals through the rain-plagued four-day rally in the upper North Island that tested driver skill to the limit. Rather than simply defending his overnight lead, a confident Rovanpera extended his advantage over four short stages. He wrapped up the title by winning the 17th and final powerstage, earning sufficient bonus points to ensure he cannot be overhauled by nearest rival



Ott Tanak over the remaining WRC rounds in Spain and Japan. Rovanpera was on course to secure the title even earlier in the season after winning five of the first seven rounds, but he struck problems with his Toyota in successive rallies in August to open the door for 2019 champion Tanak. There was a release of emotion immediately after victory was sealed, with Rovanpera dancing atop the roof of his Yaris vehicle alongside co-driver Jonne Halttunen.

After that, he embraced his father. "It's quite a big relief after such a good season and finally we are here", Rovanpera said. "It was a small wait after a few difficult rallies. The biggest thanks goes to the team of course, they made a rocket this year – a reliable and fast car. "Even after the difficult rallies, they were all the time believing in us." The overnight positions remained unchanged, with French eight-time champion Sebastien Ogier finishing second, 34.6 seconds off the pace, while Tanak was 48.5 seconds behind Rovanpera in third. Estonian Hyundai driver Tanak said there was no doubt his young rival – whose 237 points eclipses his own 173 – deserved the rally win and the championship. "We had a far from good weekend but anyway, Kalle and Toyota has been very strong and they have beaten everybody fair and square, no question at all," Tanak said. – APP

Oliveira wins rain-hit Thai MotoGP

LONDON: Miguel Oliveira delivered a wet-weather masterclass to win the Thai MotoGP on Sunday, but world champion Fabio Quartararo finished 17th and saw his lead at the top slashed to two points. Portugal's KTM rider Oliveira took the chequered flag ahead of Australia's Jack Miller, with title contender Francesco Bagnaia of Italy third. He is now just two points behind Yamaha's Quartararo in the standings with three races left. It was a nightmare day for France's Quartararo and Spain's Aleix Espargaro – third in the title chase – hardly had a great time either. He came 11th on his Aprilia in the first MotoGP in Thailand since 2019 and is 20 points off Quartararo. The title race is too close to call. Australia is up next, in two weeks, and Ducati's Bagnaia smells his chance. "It will be very important to be competitive but it won't be easy," the man with all the momentum said after closing the gap once more on Quartararo. "It's one of my favourite tracks. I feel we can do something good." The race was delayed for almost an hour because of heavy rain over the Buriram circuit and it played out in treacherous conditions. "Every time we get a chance to ride on the wet I'm always super fast," Oliveira said after outpacing the title contenders. For Miller it was a second podium finish in a row, after his victory last weekend in Japan. He is fifth in the championship standings. "I was pushing hard there, I didn't give up on victory," Miller said. – DNA

City thrash Utd

LONDON: Manchester City's Erling Haaland became the first player to score three successive Premier League home hat-tricks as Manchester United were humiliated in the derby at Etihad Stadium. Haaland's rampage this season continued as he made it 17 goals in 10 games since his move from Borussia Dortmund and Phil Foden also scored his first treble for City as they closed the gap on pace-setters Arsenal to one point. This was a brutal reality check for United after their recent improvement, as the reigning Premier League champions ran riot to illustrate the gulf in class between the teams. City's lightning start was rewarded when Foden swept home Bernardo Silva's cross after eight minutes before Haaland inevitably joined the action with a header from a corner 11 minutes before half-time. As United subsided, Haaland slid in a third from Kevin de Bruyne's perfect pass then turned provider to set up a simple finish for Foden before the break. – APP

King Charles III won't attend COP27 after Truss 'objected'

LONDON: King Charles III will not travel to next month's United Nations climate summit in Egypt, Buckingham Palace confirmed on Sunday, after UK Prime Minister Liz Truss reportedly "objected" to the keen environmentalist attending. Britain's new monarch, who took the throne when his mother Queen Elizabeth II died last month, had intended to deliver a speech to world leaders gathering at the COP27 summit on November 6-18, the Sunday Times reported. But the plan has been axed after Truss – who was appointed prime minister by the late queen just two days before the latter died – opposed it during a personal audience with Charles at the palace last month, the newspaper said.

Queen Elizabeth addressed the last UN climate summit in November 2021, with the blessing of the Tory government led by Truss's predecessor Boris Johnson. Charles III's office appeared to distance itself from the incendiary newspaper report, insisting the king had sought Truss's advice. "With mutual friendship and respect there was agreement that the king would not attend," it told the BBC. The Sunday Times story comes amid speculation Britain's new leader – already under fire over her economic plans which have sparked market turmoil – could controversially scale back the country's legally binding climate commitments. Her newly assembled cabinet contains a number of ministers who have expressed scepticism about the so-called 2050 net zero goals, while Truss herself is seen as less enthusiastic about the policy than predecessor Johnson. The newspaper said she is unlikely to attend COP27 – the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. – APP

Nishioka sinks Shapovalov for Seoul crown

Nishioka is listed at 170 centimeters, but even that seems a bit generous. Clearly, though, height has no way of measuring the heart of the two-time ATP champion, who believes he can inspire young players short in stature

SPORTS DESK

SEOUL: As one of the shortest players in men's tennis today, Yoshihito Nishioka feels like he has to fight tooth and nail for every point on the court. Opponents may find the 27-year-old Japanese annoying, given the way he manages to return shots that most other players have no business even getting to. And that's what Canadian player Denis Shapovalov felt Sunday, in losing the exciting final to Nishioka in straight sets at the ATP Eugene Korea Open in Seoul. Nishioka took that as a compliment. "I always try to be annoying," Nishioka said with a wry smile after his 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) victory for his second career ATP title. "If he feels like that, then my plan was working." Nishioka is listed at 170 centimeters, but even that seems a bit generous. Clearly, though, height has no

way of measuring the heart of the two-time ATP champion, who believes he can inspire young players short in stature. "Hopefully, young players will watch me and figure out how to play bigger opponents," he said. "I think shorter players have to think like this: they have to fight in every match and focus on every point. And if they play against me in tour events, that will be great." Nishioka said that type of mentality should apply to Asian players in general, as they are typically smaller than European or North American opponents. "I think many Asian players, when they have chances, they can't take it. They wait a little bit," Nishioka observed. "You have to grab it and just take it. Don't be shy, and just go for it. That's very, very big for Asian tennis players." The one player Nishioka looks up to for more than just the physical side of tennis is Rafael Nadal, the greatest left-handed player in tennis histo-

ry with 22 Grand Slam singles titles. Since Nishioka is left-handed himself, he said he would try to emulate Nadal's game growing up, but he just didn't have the power to do so. But Nishioka has also been inspired by the way Nadal carries himself, win or lose. "His attitude is like (that of) a king," Nishioka said. "Even when he loses, he looks like a king. I think I can learn the mentality and attitude. Hopefully, I can be like him on the court." Nishioka's previous title came in 2018. Then in August this year, he made the Citi Open final in Washington in August this year for his first final at an ATP 500 tournament. Though he lost to Nick Kyrgios in that final, Nishioka left Washington with a ton of confidence, which served him well at the Korea Open, a lower-tier event as an ATP 250 tournament. "I had a lot of confidence to win the tournament (Sunday)," he said.



Imran slams Govt 'dramas' of cipher disappearance

FROM PAGE 01

foreign ministry as the copy of the cypher is still there. The master copy of the cypher is still present in the foreign office," the PTI chairman added. The former PM challenged the rulers to arrest him instead of giving threats. "This is the movement of real independence and we are ready to face jails. I am ready to go to jail and my nation as well. We are not afraid of jail." He said that the nation is ready to sacrifice their lives for real independence.

Cypher a reality: PTI reiterates

FROM PAGE 01

the cypher. He maintained that they never took a step that harmed national security. "The government is in a frenzy," the PTI leader said, adding they were not afraid of an investigation. Meanwhile, sharing a copy of the summary prepared by the sub-committee of the cabinet, Fawad Chaudhry pointed out the date of the cypher received to the then government and said that he hoped that PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz "will not change her position on cypher investigation from independent commission". "The date of cypher says it all," wrote Fawad Chaudhry. On his part, PTI leader Shibli Faraz said, "Cipher is a reality." He maintained that it was shared by PTI's government with the then National Assembly speaker and Chief Justice of Pakistan amongst others. Criticising the coalition government, he said, "Current govt is result of its contents." "What is the discussion about? Is it to divert the attn from tanking economy or smoke screen Dar's & Maryum NRO?" he asked.

Ukraine claims full control of key logistics hub

FROM PAGE 01

the impact Ukraine's deployment of advanced Western weapons was having on the conflict. "As of 1230 (0930 GMT), Lyman is fully cleared," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a short video clip on his Telegram channel. "Thank you to our troops ... Glory to Ukraine!" "Over the past week, the number of Ukrainian flags in Donbas has increased. There will be even more a week's time," Zelenskyy said in an earlier overnight address, using the name for the combined Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Russia's defence ministry said on Saturday that it was pulling troops out of the Lyman area "in connection with the creation of a threat of encirclement".

Bulgaria holds early general elections

WEB DESK

SOFIA: Bulgaria went to the polls Sunday for early general elections for the fourth time in less than two years. The snap elections are the third and final attempt to form a government in the country that failed this summer.

The Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) was given a mandate on July 18 to form a government and officially returned it to President Rumen Radev.

The Balkan country has been marred by political instability since Prime Minister Kiril Petkov's government collapsed in a no-confidence vote in June.

Twenty-two political parties and six coalitions are competing in a 240-seat parliament in the European Union member state with 6.52 million people, where 1 million Turks and Muslims are part of the population.

The Central Election Commission (Z K) said the voting process will be conducted digitally in 9,400 places in the country and 290 abroad. The polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (GMT +1) local time. A total of 11,063 machines will be used to enable voting in a digital environment.

Meanwhile, 8 million paper ballots were printed just in case. Bulgaria will open ballot boxes across the world for its diaspora and dual citizens. Türkiye has the most with 166 ballot boxes.

Polls conducted at the beginning of the election campaign showed that at least eight political powers could pass the 4% entry threshold into Bulgaria's 48th parliament.—APP

Centrists win Latvia general election

RIGA: Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins's pro-Western centrist party has won elections in Latvia while parties supported by the Baltic state's large Russian-speaking minority have suffered major setbacks, official results showed on Sunday. With almost all ballots from Saturday's vote counted, Karins's New Unity party was in first place with 18.94 percent while the Harmony party, traditionally backed by Russian speakers, may not have won enough votes to enter parliament.

Harmony came first in the last election in 2018. The results showed other centrist parties coming second and third and just one party associated with Russian-speakers, Stability!, scraping past the threshold to enter parliament with 6.75 percent. Latvians voted in the shadow of neighbouring Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with many concerned about Russian aggression and expansionism. National security and support for Ukraine were key issues for many voters, as well as the need for stability in this country of 1.8 million people on the eastern edge of the European Union and NATO. "Neither I nor my government nor my country reacts on fear," Karins told AFP on Saturday after polls closed. "We will continue to invest in our own defence as a NATO member state," he added.—Agencies

Florida death toll rises

WASHINGTON: Rescuers evacuated stunned survivors on a large barrier island cut off by Hurricane Ian and Florida's death toll climbed sharply, as hundreds of thousands of people were still sweltering without power days after the monster storm raged from the state's southwestern coast up to the Carolinas. Florida, with nearly four dozen reported dead, was hit hardest by the Category 4 hurricane, one of the strongest to make landfall in the United States. Flooded roadways and washed-out bridges to barrier islands left many people isolated, amid limited cellphone service and a lack of basic amenities such as water, electricity and the internet. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Saturday that multimillionaire businessman Elon Musk was providing some 120 Starlink satellites to "help bridge some of the communication issues." —APP



RAWALPINDI: Fahad Barlas Received a shield after completing two years as Executive Member of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Strike hits UK railways as workers demand pay rise

Network Rail said the offer they made represents 8% over two years but depends on workers accepting its modernization plans

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Thousands of railway workers in the UK went on strike Saturday amid economic turmoil and a cost of living crisis in the country. The two biggest workers' unions, RMT and ASLEF, organized the strike that paralyzed travel as workers demanded a pay raise on their terms and better working conditions. The unions called for the strike after talks stalled with the government and rail companies. They say salaries

should increase to reflect the rising cost of living as the country has seen the worst inflation rate, 10%, in the past 40 years.

Network Rail said the offer they made represents 8% over two years but depends on workers accepting its modernization plans. The RMT said the offer represents a real terms pay cut. Anadolu Agency visited Ashford International Station in Kent, which is closed because of the industrial action.

"We haven't had a pay increase since 2019 and we

are all struggling. People are not sitting down talking," said RMT union member, Suzanne Lewis. "Until they sit down with our leader, Mick Lynch, and talk properly, there are going to be strikes all the time."

Another member, Chris Joyce, suggested that the cost of living crisis has created conditions not seen since the 1950s.

"I have never known food poverty in this country, we are going back to the 1950s and it's disastrous. Lots of different unions are on strike today as part of

the enough is enough campaign," he said.

CWU member, Aubrey John said: "It's gonna be a difficult winter for everyone – it already is. We don't want to strike, we have been forced to strike, no one can afford to take a pay cut."

Justin Mulcahy, also from CWU, said: "Enough is enough, I've been working for Royal Mail for 30 years and this is the hardest strike action we have ever done." The disruption on railways caused inconvenience for many travelers. Daniel had bought a train

ticket online 9 minutes previously, only to turn up at the station with his young daughter to find it closed, with no trains running.

"Poor little Mia, you're not going to see granny today," he said.

Daniel said he was not supportive of the strike.

"If everyone gets a pay rise, the cost of living just keeps spiraling out of control, they have been offered a good deal." Hannah, who planned on going to London, said she supported the strike. "I'm French, so we strike a lot back home," and felt that

things had to change in the country," she said. "Not just fuel poverty, food is getting expensive, clothes are getting expensive."

It seems like the UK is headed for a difficult winter, with multiple workforces facing disruption and industrial action on a scale not seen in years.

All this is adding to the general feeling of worry and uncertainty about the rising cost of living and a government that seems to prefer tax cuts for the rich, to tackling issues such as fuel poverty.

'Khalistan-Pak Zindabad' slogans in Aam Admi Party's stronghold

ISLAMABAD: Secessionist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) has released a raw footage of "Khalistan-Pakistan" Zindabad and "Muslim-Sikh Bhai Bhai" slogans inscribed at Divisional Forest Officer Bathinda, a stronghold of Aam Admi Party (AAP).

The walls of the government office is also painted with slogans "Hindu-istan" Murdabad and "Punjab Hul Khalistan" with the Khalistan Referendum Voting Process starting from January 26, 2023 coinciding with India's 74th Republic Day.

Calling upon the People of Pakistan to support Punjab Independence Referendum to welcome new neighbour Khalistan, the SFJ General Counsel Gurbatwant Singh Pannun in a video message stated that "Lines were drawn between Sikhs and Hindustan after June 1984 attack on Sri Darbar Sahib and over 100,000 Pro Khalistan Sikhs laid down their lives for Independence".

"SFJ's global Khalistan Referendum with November 6, voting in Toronto is a step towards liberating Punjab from Indian occupation" added Pannun. Meanwhile, the timeline of various Khalistan referendums and the number of Sikhs who voted in favour of an independent Khalistan reflect that the demand of Sikhs for an Independent homeland in India is gradually being accepted globally.

According to an infographic released by Islamabad Policy Research Institute, the latest trends indicate increasing separatist senti-

ments, particularly amongst the Sikh diaspora. More than 110,000 Sikhs in Brampton, Canada participated in the Khalistan referendum which was held in Canada two weeks ago. In the referendum, organized by the pro-Khalistani and pro-separatist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Sikhs demanded freedom from India and the establishment of an independent state of Khalistan. Under the leadership of Sikh leader Gurbatwant Singh Pannu, Sikhs demanded their right in a peaceful and democratic way. The Sikh community raised anti-India and pro-Khalistan slogans during the referendum. Moreover, more than 2,000 cars reportedly took part in the rally.

The campaign has raised awareness in the global community with regards to atrocities committed against Sikhs by India and it is believed it will further pressurize India to hold an official referendum. During the press briefing to media outlets before the referendum, Pannu showed the Khalistan map with Shimla as its capital.

The Indian government urged its Canadian counterpart to act against the rising pro-Khalistani sentiment in Canada, which is home to over one million Sikhs but Canada has said it will not suppress the right of its free citizens to do as they like.

The Indian government tried to apply diplomatic pressure on the Canadian government ahead of the Khalistan referendum voting but failed. — APP

Voters in Bosnia head to polls

FOREIGN DESK

SARAJEVO: Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens head to the polls Sunday to choose lawmakers at the canton, entity, and national levels, as well as the three members of the Presidential Council. More than 5,900 ballot boxes across the country open at 7 a.m. local time (0500GMT) with polling stations to receive voters for 12 hours, according to the Central Election Commission, with 60,000 observers on duty on Election Day. About 3.3 million people are expected to vote for members of parliament in the country's two entities – the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska – as well as 10 cantons within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Voters are also choosing representatives for the national parliament Presidential Council and the national parliament. Bosnia Herzegovina's political structure is often dubbed as one of the most complicated in the world.

US suicides increased among teens: Report

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: Suicide is a serious public health problem among all age groups in the United States and has particularly increased among youth aged 10 to 34 in 2021 after two years of decline, according to the new US report. The Washington post in a report based on an analysis of provisional data released by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics said the 4 percent increase in suicide almost wiped out modest decreases in the two previous years.

The report notes "suicide in the United States, especially among people aged 10-34, is the second leading cause of death." The US suicide rate resumed its upward climb in 2021 after two years of decline, with young people and men hit hardest by the persistent mental health crisis. In the United States, suicide rates increased 35% from 1999 to 2018, then declined 5% through 2020 and

increased in 2021, boosting the rate to 14 per 100,000 people, up from 13.5 in 2020, according to CDC report. "A four percent rise is certainly disappointing," said Christine Yu Moutier, chief medical officer of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The rate for people aged 15 to 24 rose 8 percent and the rate for people aged 25 to 34 rose 4 percent. People in the 35-to-44-year-old and 65-to-74-year-old age groups also saw statistically significant increases. When looking at suicides broken down by sex, in 2021, like many other years, male suicides outnumbered female suicides by about 4 to 1, the data show.

There were 38,025 suicides among men and 9,621 among women. Among women, the report found that the small increase in the 2021 women's suicide rate was not statistically significant as the total number of suicides increased by 2% from 9,426 in 2020 to 9,621 in 2021, while the rate saw a statistically insignificant rise to 5.6 deaths per 100,000 from 5.5 per 100,000. — APP

Kuwaiti crown prince accepts govt resignation

KUWAIT CITY: Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah asks the outgoing government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah to remain in a caretaker capacity until a new cabinet is formed.

Kuwait's crown prince has accepted the government's resignation following a parliamentary election in the Gulf Arab country in which opposition candidates made considerable gains, state news agency KUNA reported.

On Sunday, Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who has taken over most of the ruling emir's duties, asked the outgoing government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah to remain in a caretaker capacity until a new cabinet is formed.

Kuwait, an OPEC oil producer, held early elections on September 29 after Sheikh Meshal dissolved parliament in a bid to end a political standoff between the government and the legislature that has hindered fiscal reforms.

The country, which bans political parties, has one of the most open political systems in the Gulf, though the emir has the final say in state matters. The crown prince had appointed Sheikh Ahmad prime minister in July after opposition lawmakers in the dissolved parliament pressed for a new premier and for the removal of the parliament speaker, who bowed out of the September polls.—APP

Protesters in Burkina Faso attack French embassy

ANKARA: Protesters attacked the French embassy in Burkina Faso's capital after supporters of the country's new coup leader accused France of giving refuge to the deposed interim president at a military camp.

A video shared on social media shows that the demonstrators attacked the embassy building and fire also broke out at the embassy. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, the now-former transitional president, "is said to have taken refuge in the French military base at Kamboinsin" and "he plans to launch a counter-offensive," the junta that is now led by Capt. Ibrahim Traore said on state television on Saturday.

The protesters blamed Damiba for failure to tackle insecurity and accused him of serving the interests of France, the former colonial power. The French embassy has denied any involvement in the latest developments.

"The camp where the French forces are located has never welcomed Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, nor has our embassy," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.—APP

Lula and Bolsonaro wrap up campaigns

LONDON: The two front-runners in Brazil's upcoming presidential election held their final campaign push on Saturday in the city of Sao Paulo a day before the vote will take place. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Jair Messias Bolsonaro both gathered with their supporters just a few miles apart amid a highly polarized environment in the South American nation. Far-right incumbent Bolsonaro participated in a motorcycle rally, starting in the north of the city and stopping to wave to the crowd of supporters, closely flanked by security.

Bolsonaro also lifted a motorcycle delivery bag with the face of his political rival, showing Lula behind prison bars, as the crowd shouted "Lula thief, your place is in prison!" Lula, a former union leader, was a candidate during the 2018 presidential election until a corruption and money laundering conviction curtailed his political aspirations. He was sent to prison and Bolsonaro, a former army captain, won the presidency. In 2019, Lula was released from prison after his convictions were overturned by the Supreme Court, allowing him to run again for office.—APP

Foes conspiracy for isolating Iran failed: Raisi

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Sunday that the enemy's purpose in designing a new conspiracy is to prevent the country from progressing, adding that the enemies entered the field intending to isolate the country, but they failed in this conspiracy as well. Speaking in the fourth meeting of the Supreme Council for the Promotion and Development of the Culture of Sacrifice and Martyrdom, President Raisi described attention to the culture of sacrifice and martyrdom and the Basij way of thinking as an essential need of the society and said that if there is a lack of promotion of the culture of sacrifice and martyrdom, other thinking and beliefs replace it. One of the crucial ways to protect the youth of our country is to pay attention to this culture. Emphasizing the strict and complete implementation of the laws related to the

families of martyrs and veterans in all executive bodies, the President stated that possible problems in the implementation of the law should not prevent its implementation, but the existing obstacles should be removed to implement the law and prevent wasted efforts.

Referring to some initiatives taken in Sacred Defense, such as the launching of Rahian-e Noor caravans or the action of the national media in reading the wills of the martyrs, President Raisi added, "We are still far from the ideal point in promoting the culture of Sacred Defense".

In another part of his speech, the President pointed out the media controversy of the West against the Islamic Republic of Iran and said about their double standards, "Although in Iran the issue of Miss Amini's death is being followed up completely and carefully and all the officials have emphasized it, but at the same



time, the enemy is trying to divert public opinion by preparing extensive media measures, while a group of Afghan girls are killed in a school by American-backed terrorist groups, and there

is no reaction from these self-proclaimed activists! In such a situation, is it acceptable to claim to pursue human rights and women's rights on the part of Westerners?

Describing the enemy's purpose of designing a new conspiracy to prevent the country from progressing, President Raisi said that when the Islamic Republic was overcoming economic

problems and becoming more active in the region and the world, the enemies entered the field with the intention of isolating the country, but they failed in this conspiracy as well.

Briefs

26 killed
as tractor
trailer
crashes

LUCKNOW: A tractor pulling a trolley packed with religious pilgrims in India overturned and plunged into a pond, killing 26 and seriously injuring 16, officials said Sunday. The trailer was carrying around 50 people, mostly women and children, when the incident happened in Kanpur in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, senior local official Sudheer Kumar said. "Twenty-six people died in the incident," Kumar said. Traffic accidents are frequent in India with more than 150,000 people killed last year, or over 400 per day, according to official statistics which are likely an underestimate. People being transported on tractor trailers is also common, particularly in rural areas, on often poorly maintained roads where there is scant regard for safety and traffic regulations. — APP

Deadlock
between
govt, farmers
persists

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The deadlock between the government and the protesting farmers in Islamabad continues for the fifth day. The farmers have said that the protest will continue until their demands are accepted. Earlier, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the sit-in by Kisan Ehtad was unjustified as all their demands had been heard and being considered. Rana Sanaullah also said that the Kisan Ehtad farmers had been informed about the proceedings. "The cabinet has formed a committee which is working for the reduction of the electricity bills of agricultural tube wells. The government is taking farmers' demands quite seriously," he added. The interior minister further said that the demand for deferring the tube well electricity bills had been accepted and notification had also been issued. "Red Zone is the Red Line, and Kisan Ehtad or no other group is allowed to protest in the Red Zone," Rana Sana stated. He also warned that law would come into action against any group that protested in the Red Zone. "The orders of the Supreme Court are very obvious. No protest will be held in Red Zone," he added.

Four dead
as migrant
boat found off
Canary Isles

MADRID: Rescuers said they found four bodies on a migrant boat off the Canary Islands Sunday, just hours after a lone survivor had been pulled to safety, with an NGO saying it had set sail with 34 people aboard. Spain's Salvamento Marítimo coastguard said on Twitter that it had "recovered the bodies of four people" from a boat some 150 nautical miles southwest of Gran Canaria island, with the lone survivor rescued on Saturday night by a passing merchant ship and then evacuated by helicopter. Helena Maleno, head of Caminando Fronteras, a Spanish NGO that helps migrant boats in trouble at sea and families searching for loved ones, said on Twitter they had received a distress call from the same vessel a week earlier after it set sail from Western Sahara. At the time there were 34 people on board. "On Saturday 24 September we received an alert about a boat which had left the coast just south of Laayoun at dawn that morning," she tweeted, saying they had alerted rescuers. After a week with no news, a boat was spotted south of the Canary Islands carrying "an exhausted 26-year-old man and four bodies.. By the end of the night, we knew it was the same boat that had gone missing with 34 people on board," she said. — APP

Blood donation camp at
Indonesian embassy

The camp was organized in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia organized a blood donation camp in collaboration with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS). Member of diplomatic corps and Indonesian students volunteered in donating blood. The Indonesian Embassy and PRCS have been cooperating to organize a blood donation camp to facilitate brothers and sisters of Pakistan since 2016. Pakistan Red Crescent Regional Blood Donor Center is known for being very responsible in supplying safe quality blood to the community by implementing a safe blood program that embodies the spirit of "Altruism" and the principle of Voluntary, non-remunerated Blood Donation. Ambassador Adam Tugio said, "Saving one life is equivalent to saving humanity and blood donation raises awareness of the importance of regular blood donations to help patients in need". Pakistan is currently facing a dengue outbreak, and demand for blood transfusion and platelets are significantly increased as a result all across Pakistan. In addition, Pakistan has an additional requirement for blood supply because of thalassemia patients, and the challenge has magnified due to the lack of blood donors amid COVID-19. Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Almadani who volunteered in blood donation said, "I am very happy to be a part of such an important drive, as it can help save or improve the lives of our Muslim brother or sister." Blood donation camps increase awareness among the general public and especially youth for "Blood Safety", and prevention of the spread of transfusion-transmitted diseases. It can also promote the concept of voluntary blood donation by removing the fears and superstitions associated with blood donation. Ambassador Tugio expressed his appreciation to the entire team of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and to all the blood donors, including youth for voluntarily donating blood and inspiring others to join hands and support a noble cause. "The collected blood will be distributed to critical patients with Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Cancer, Dialysis, and others who are in serious illness in hospitals in Islamabad and Rawalpindi", added a team member.

COAS meets UN chief's
military advisor

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa called on General Birame Diop (Senegal), United Nations' Military Advisor to Secretary General during an official visit to United States. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, overall regional security situation including natural disaster caused by floods across the country came under discussion, said a statement issued by the ISPR in Rawalpindi Sunday. The COAS appreciated the role of the office of UN Military Advisor in promoting UN core values and their response during crises. The UN

The COAS appreciated role of the office of UN Military Advisor in promoting UN core values and their response during crises

Military Advisor expressed his grief over the devastation caused by the ongoing floods in Pakistan due to climate changes and offered sincere condolences to the families of the victims. He assured full support to the flood victims. The UN dignitary acknowledged Pakistan's contribution in UN peacekeeping missions and extraordinary achievements in counter terrorism, said the ISPR statement.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa meets General Birame Diop (Senegal), United Nations' Military Advisor to Secretary General. — DNA

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, tent
city set up in remote village

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, named as a tent city have been set up by the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) in collaboration with the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), and Baitussalam Trust here in Bholari at Nooriabad Motorway. On the occasion, Turkish Consul General in Karachi, Cemal Sangu, Deputy Head of AFAD, Önder Bozkurt, and Air Vice Marshall Zaeem Afzal inaugurated the Tent facility on Sunday. The facility, comprising of 200 tents, accommodating over 500 people displaced by the catastrophic floods last month in Pakistan. This is the second housing facility established by the AFAD for flood victims across Pakistan. Another tent city established

last month is operating in the Dadu district of southern Sindh province told the spokesman. Addressing the ceremony, the Turkish consul general noted that the devastation caused by rains and floods is "so huge," and that Islamabad alone cannot handle it, he added, Ankara will stand by Pakistan in its efforts to mitigate the after-shocks of the catastrophe.

Not only in Türkiye, but the Turks living abroad "have also felt the pain of their Pakistani brothers, and are ready to help them." The Turkish government, he said, plans to set up the third tent city in Thatta district of Sindh province, which has been hit hard by the super floods. Over 30,000 tents have already been distributed by the AFAD in 19 different regions, providing temporary housing to around 200,000 displaced people, AFAD's deputy head, Bozkurt, said in his remarks.

Pope begs Putin to end
'spiral of violence and death'

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis for the first time directly begged Russian President Vladimir Putin to stop the "spiral of violence and death" in Ukraine, saying on Sunday that the crisis was risking a nuclear escalation with uncontrollable global consequences. In an address dedicated to Ukraine and made to thousands of people in St. Peter's Square, Francis also condemned Putin's latest annexation of parts of Ukraine as being against international law. He urged Putin to think of his own people in the event of an escalation. One Vatican official said the impassioned address was so sombre it was reminiscent of a radio peace appeal by Pope John XXIII in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. It was the first time Francis, who has often condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the death and destruction it has caused, had made such a direct personal appeal to Putin. Saying he was haunted by "rivers of blood and tears that have been spilled in these months," Francis also called on

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to be open to any "serious peace proposal". He was making an urgent appeal "in the name of God" for an end to the conflict and said it was "absurd" that the world was risking a nuclear conflict.

"My appeal goes above all to the president of the Russian Federation, begging him to stop this spiral of violence and death, even out of love for his own people," Francis said. "On the other side, pained by the enormous suffering of the Ukrainian population following the aggression it suffered, I address an equally hopeful appeal to the president of Ukraine to be open to a serious peace proposal," he said. Francis later tweeted both the appeals to the two leaders in Russian and Ukrainian. Speaking two days after Putin proclaimed the annexation of nearly a fifth of Ukraine and placed the regions under Russia's nuclear umbrella, Francis also emphasised all countries' right to "sovereign and territorial integrity". — Agencies

Iran, US hold 'intensive talks' on prisoner swap

Stephane Dujarric, a spokesperson for the head of the UN, confirmed the news in a statement Saturday, saying that the UN chief was "grateful" that Bagher had been "permitted to leave Iran for medical treatment abroad" and "pleased to learn" about his son's release from detention

TEHRAN: Iran and the US have held "intensive talks" in recent weeks mediated by a regional country regarding a prisoner swap and the release of Iran's frozen assets abroad, according to Nour News late Saturday. The news agency affiliated with Iran's top security body said the release of prisoners will happen simultaneously. It also said the release of Iran's frozen foreign exchange reserves will also take place "in the same framework," with Iran introducing new accounts for the purpose. The issue of prisoners has been one of the key sticking points in Vienna nuclear talks, with Tehran repeatedly asking Washington to not tie the issue with the nuclear deal. At least four American nationals with dual nationalities have been held in Iran for years on various charges, including espionage. Some Iranians are also jailed in the

US, primarily for bypassing sanctions. The announcement came minutes after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a Twitter post said his country "will never stop working until all US nationals held hostage or wrongfully detained around the world are home," while announcing the release of seven Americans detained in Venezuela. Reports had been doing rounds about one of the four Iranian-Americans imprisoned in Iran, Bagher Namazi, being allowed to for medical treatment due to failing health. Reports suggested that his son, Siamak Namazi, is also being freed. The father-son pair were convicted on charges of "collaborating with a hostile government" in 2016 and 2015, respectively, and each sentenced to 10 years in prison. Bagher's case was closed in 2020 but he was effectively barred from leaving the country. He served as a

provincial governor during the Pahlavi rule before 1979 and later became UNICEF's representative in several countries. His son is a businessman and the long-est-held American detainee in Iran. Stephane Dujarric, a spokesperson for the head of the UN, confirmed the news in a statement Saturday, saying that the UN chief was "grateful" that Bagher had been "permitted to leave Iran for medical treatment abroad" and "pleased to learn" about his son's release from detention. Last month, Bagher's family said the 85-year-old needed urgent surgery and urged the Iranian government to release his son to be with his father during the surgery. The two other Iranian-Americans currently held in Iran include Emad Sharghi and Morad Tahbaz, who are also expected to be released under the prisoner swap deal.

In August, Iran's Foreign Ministry had called on Washington to release Iranian nationals held in US jails and to address the issue independent of the ongoing talks to salvage the nuclear deal. The ministry expressed Iran's readiness to implement an existing agreement with the US on a prisoner swap, urging the Biden administration to not set "pre-conditions." Meanwhile, as announced by Nour News, Iran's blocked assets overseas, mainly in South Korea, are also likely to be released as part of the agreement being worked out. Tehran said more than \$7 billion in foreign exchange reserves have been blocked by Seoul under US pressure, which has led to strains in ties over the years. Negotiations to address the issue, including at the higher level, have failed to produce results. — Agencies

Indian troops
continue to
commit war
crimes in IIOJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: When the International Day of Non-Violence is being observed across the globe, today, Indian troops continue to commit war crimes in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The International Day of Non-Violence holds no relevance for the Kashmiris as Indian state terrorism continues to take heavy toll on the Kashmiris and they suffer under violent Indian military occupation, said a report released by the KMS Sunday. It said the people of IIOJK have been facing atrocities at the hands of brutal Indian troops for decades as Killings of innocent Kashmiris by troops continue unabated. The report lamented that 17 Kashmiris fell to Indian bullets in the last month of September and 96131 since January 1989 in the occupied territory. It said Indian actions in the territory can well be defined as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes as per international law and the best way to mark International Day of Non-Violence is to censure India for its war crimes against the Kashmiris. The world must stop fascist Modi from committing gross violations of human rights and international laws in IIOJK, the report maintained.

CTD shot
dead four
terrorist in
Balochistan

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) said four alleged terrorists who attacked the CTD vehicle early Sunday morning were killed after both sides exchanged fire in Naseerabad district at Nuttal National Highway. The unidentified armed men opened fire on a CTD vehicle. The CTD team also took positions and returned fire. Consequently, four [alleged] terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire, spokesperson for the CTD Balochistan said in a statement. While two personnel, including an ASI were wounded and shifted to the hospital. The department found three grenades, remote control devices, arms and ammunition during the encounter.

Protesters
target French
embassy in
Burkina

OUAGADOUGOU: Security forces fired tear gas to disperse angry protesters outside the French embassy in Burkina Faso's capital on Sunday, as unrest simmered in the impoverished, restive West African nation following the claim of a second coup this year. The latest upheaval began on Friday, when junior military officers announced they had toppled the country's junta leader, sparking deep concern among world powers. Late on Saturday, the junta leader, Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, said he had no intention of giving up power and urged the officers to "come to their senses". His comments came shortly after the army general staff dismissed the coup as an "internal crisis" within the military and said dialogue was "ongoing" to remedy the situation. In a statement read out on television on Sunday, the officers who claimed the coup said they had lifted a curfew they had imposed and called for a meeting of ministry heads for later in the day. The officers had accused Damiba of having hidden at a military base of former colonial power France to plot a "counteroffensive", charges that he and France denied. On Sunday, dozens of supporters of the new self-proclaimed putsch leader, Ibrahim Traore, gathered at the French embassy in the capital Ouagadougou. Security forces fired tear gas from inside the compound to disperse the protesters after they set fire to barriers outside and lobbed rocks at the structure, with some trying to scale the fence, according to an AFP reporter on the scene. — APP