



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Germany's Scholz extends nuclear power plants' lifespan

Detailed News On Page-06

Kremlin denies availability of Iranian drones

Detailed News On Page-07



White House slams Trump's comments

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

PPP clean bowled PTI captain

DNA

MULTAN: PPP central leader Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Tuesday Pakistan Peoples Party clean bowled PTI captain and vice captain, who had claimed that they could never be defeated. Talking to People's Lawyers Forum (PLF) here, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani paid rich tribute to the lawyers for their struggle to stop rigging. He said PLF is an asset of Pakistan Peoples Party. The masses rejected false narrative of Imran Khan and defeated PTI candidates in Multan and Karachi. Gilani hoped that PPP would be victorious in next general elections.

Govt to ensure gas availability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik has assured that the gas availability during this winter season will be better as compared to the previous year. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said government is making all out efforts in this regard. He said we have arranged two additional LNG Cargoes for the months of January and February. He said the Prime Minister has also directed to arrange more LNG cargoes in order to provide maximum relief to the consumers.

Case against Aitzaz disposed of

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday disposed of a contempt of court petition against PPP leader Aitzaz Ahsan for his statement about state institutions. During the hearing, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah remarked that if Pakistan Bar Council or any other bar did have doubts about this court's impartiality, then why should the court should pay attention to an "irresponsible" statement of any person.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of federal cabinet. DNA

Military rebuffs US concerns over safety of nukes

COAS reiterates resolve to defend motherland against all threats

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army's Corps Commanders have expressed full confidence in country's robust nuclear command control mechanism, saying Islamabad has taken all steps necessary to buttress its nuclear atomic regime. This was the outcome of the 252nd Corps Commanders' Conference which was held at General Headquarters (GHQ) with Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in the chair. According to a readout of the meeting released by the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military high command undertook a comprehensive review of the prevailing internal and external security situation and operational preparedness of the army. The

forum was apprised of Army's assistance to civil administration for relief and rehabilitation efforts in the flood-affected areas and post-flood situation particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. While expressing satisfaction over operational preparedness of the formations, the COAS reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the motherland against all threats. The forum reposed full confidence in Pakistan's robust nuclear command and control structure and security arrangements related to country's strategic assets. As a responsible nuclear weapon state, Pakistan has taken all measures necessary to strengthen its nuclear security regime, at par with international best practices, the forum was informed. The COAS lauded formations' operational readiness

Continued on Page 06

Long March this month: Imran

Says will never accept a weak govt again

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday admitted to weakness within his government and said that he will never accept a weak government again. These views were expressed by the PTI chief [Imran Khan] while meeting the delegation of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) and National Press Club Islamabad. During the meeting, the former premier said, for the last 26 years, he has been doing politics of justice for the sake of democracy and people. Talking about his long march, Imran Khan reiterated that the party's long march for actual freedom (real freedom) will take place this month. Talking about the country's development back in the 1960s, Imran went on to say that in the 60s, Pakistan was economically ahead of Singapore and South



Korea, now Singapore's per capita income is \$70,000, while Pakistan's per capita income is only \$2,000. The PTI chief added that Singapore developed on the basis of transparency and justice. "When our government came, Pakistan was bankrupt, the incumbent government has bankrupted Pakistan in six months. When our government was overthrown, the growth rate in Pakistan was 6 per cent. I had only five days off, that too when I contracted the coronavirus", said the former prime minister [Imran Khan]. Taking a swipe at PM Shehbaz Sharif, Imran Khan said, "After coming to power, he [Shehbaz Sharif] was acquitted of the cases. When I was in government, the pressure on me increased. NAB and courts were not under my control. Now, the mafias took over the system in Pakistan. They are trying their best to disqualify me, that's why they

Continued on Page 06

Palestine welcomes Australian decision

RAMALLAH: The State of Palestine welcomes the assertion of the Australian Government and Secretary of State Senator Penny Wong that Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved through negotiations between Palestine and Israel. Reversing the Morrison government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is a step in the right direction toward the effective implementation of the two-state solution and the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. It should be noted in this context that East Jerusalem is an inseparable part of the occupied Palestinian territories, and Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem in 1980 on the pretext that Jerusalem is "complete and united" as its capital is a flagrant violation of international law and has been condemned. As such through numerous UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. We hope that the current Australian government will recognize the State of Palestine without further delay to salvage the two-state solution, in accordance with international law and UN resolutions. — DNA

Australia reverses Jerusalem decision

NEWS DESK

CANBERRA: Australia on Tuesday overturned a decision made by the previous administration to recognize West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, stating that Israel and the Palestinians should negotiate a peace agreement to determine the city's status. Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong said Australia "will always be a steadfast friend of Israel" and was committed to a two-state solution in which Israel and a future Palestine coexist in peace within internationally recognized borders. The government "recommits Australia to international efforts in the responsible pursuit of progress towards a just and enduring two-state solution," she said in a statement. Israel's Foreign Ministry voiced "deep disappointment"

Continued on Page 06

Fazal calls PDM meeting

Pak to host Central Asian states: PM

Conference of Central Asian Countries will further strengthen Pakistan's relations with these countries: Shehbaz Sharif

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the Cabinet that soon a conference of Central Asian states shall be convened in Islamabad. The conference will further strengthen relations between Pakistan and these states. He told the Cabinet about his recent visit to Kazakhstan where he met leaders of the Central Asian and other countries. After discussing agricultural commodities, gas, rail, road, infrastructure and connectivity and energy corridors in these meetings, it was decided that Pakistan will soon hold a summit meeting of Central Asian states in Islamabad, in which Central Asian states will be connected from Gwadar and Karachi ports. The Federal Cabinet has decided that federal government in collaboration with provinces will ensure the provision of wheat seeds to farmers of flood affected areas. The decision was taken during its meeting held in Islamabad on Tuesday with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair. For this purpose, the provinces and the federal government will ensure the provision of funds with a contribution of 50 percent. In this

regard, the ECC approved a supplementary grant of 3.2 billion rupees to NDMA for procurement of wheat seed and distribution to districts identified by the provinces, which was approved by the Cabinet. The federal cabinet gave in-principle approval to extend the project of installation of advanced meters in Islamabad to other parts of the country and also to install advanced meters on transformers to reduce line losses. On the recommendation of the Power Division, the Federal Cabinet also approved measures to promote the use of low-cost solar energy as an alternative to expensive imported fuel across the country. Considering the average of 7 percent line losses as unsatisfactory, the Prime Minister immediately called for a comprehensive plan to reduce them according to the rate of line losses prevailing at the international level. The Prime Minister directed to prepare recommendations for reform measures in the electricity distribution companies and for this purpose, a committee was established under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Khawaja Asif. The committee will formulate a comprehensive action plan after consultation within two weeks and submit it to the cabinet.



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Azerbaijan celebrates 31st anniversary of restoration of its Independence — Page 07

France allocates 1 mn EUR for flood victims — Page 08

Briefs

29 students,
drivers
injured
in two
accidents

PARACHINAR: Thirty-two people including 29 students and drivers were injured in two separate traffic accidents in Parachinar city on Tuesday. The injured were rushed to District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital while three critical injured were shifted to Peshawar. The accident occurred at Shalozan on main highway when a vehicle while avoiding collision with another vehicle crashed into an electric pole while the second incident happened on Tal-Parachinar Highway when an over-speeding motorcar carrying school children went out of the driver's control and fell into a deep ravine. The injured driver and students were rushed to DHQ hospital. Talking to media persons, Deputy Medical Superintendent (DMS) DHQ Hospital Parachinar, Qaiser Abbas confirmed the shifting of 32 injured to the hospital, out of which three critically injured had been shifted to Peshawar. He said that the treatment of the remaining injured persons was continuing and most of them were in stable conditions. The persons with minor injuries after getting first-aid are being discharged from the hospital. DC Kurram, Wasil Khan Khattak and AC Amir Nawaz directed the provision of better treatment. – APP

Serena Hotels' awareness event on breast cancer

Experts on the panel included Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed, Dr. Abida K. Sattar, Ms. Shireen and Aizaz Chaudary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Our sustained and continuous efforts of raising awareness regarding breast cancer are yielding results, as women in far-flung areas of the country are becoming aware of the deadliness of breast cancer, since a rise in early-stage breast cancer detection is being reported in health care centres all over Pakistan." These remarks were expressed by the Honourable First Lady of Pakistan, Begum Samina Alvi; an active advocate for breast cancer awareness, during her keynote address at a high-profile panel discussion on Breast Cancer Awareness hosted by Serena Hotels under the banner of Raabta – a Public Diplomacy initiative. Raabta is curated by renowned broadcast journalist Sidra Iqbal, and uses the convening power of Serena Hotels to bring thought leaders, policymakers, experts, and the civil society together to advance debate and curate knowledge about important socio-economic topics. The experts on the panel included Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed, Head of Radiology Department and Incharge Federal Breast Cancer Screening Center at the Pakistan Institute for Medical Sciences (PIMS); Dr. Abida K. Sattar, Head of Breast Surgery at the Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi; Ms. Shireen Gheba an author, blogger, painter, and a cancer survivor, diagnosed in 2021 who is now cancer free; and Mr. Aizaz Chaudary, the Director of Institute of Strategic Studies and former Foreign



Secretary of Pakistan, who is also a male survivor of breast cancer. With 2.3 million diagnoses in 2020, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths in women worldwide. Pakistan has the highest prevalence of breast cancer in Asia, with 1 out of 6 women expected to be diagnosed with the disease at some point in their lives. The honourable First Lady appreciated the efforts of Serena Hotels for annually organising awareness sessions for the public, though the utilisation of the Raabta Platform, as it has a valuable

outreach and the discussion of the experts and cancer warriors is indeed an inspiration for all. Sidra Iqbal remarked that with 90,000 women being diagnosed with breast cancer every year and the high death rate from the disease, indicates a dire need to break the cultural and traditional barriers to disease prevention and cure. Dr. Ayesha Isani Majeed stressed that yearly mammograms for women over 40 and regular breast self-examinations should become a part of women's self-care routine. She informed that the Federal Breast Cancer Screening Centre

at PIMS is the first public sector facility in Islamabad which offers initial screening and detection, biopsy, ultrasound and mammography to patients under one ceiling, and was built to facilitate the growing demand of patients especially those unable to afford the costs of private hospitals. Dr. Isani also spoke of the need to create support groups for those suffering from the disease as the willpower to fight the disease played a major role in recovery. Mr. Aizaz Chaudhary said that there was a need to target men in awareness campaigns by distributing pamphlets and informational

material. Sharing his personal experience, he said he faced a delay in diagnosis due to the ignorance related to the prevalence of male breast cancer. Dr. Abida K. Sattar from the Aga Khan University Hospital said that the disease is often hereditary, and it has nothing to do with the character of a woman as surmised by some ignorant segments. She urged measures for early detection, as it was the biggest weapon towards the eradication of the disease. Dr. Abida shared that there is IVF fertility treatment now available for women whose fertility might be adversely affected by chemotherapy.

Plice IT
branch
recovers 56
mobiles

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

BAHAWALPUR: In the last 15 days, the Police Information Technology Branch has recovered 56 mobile phones worth lakhs of rupees that were stolen and handed over to the original owners. It is our commitment to bring the criminal elements to justice according to the law. DPO Ibadat Nisar. According to details, under the direction of DPO Bahawalpur Ibadat Nisar, the crackdown on criminals continues. In the short period of last 15 days, Bahawalpur police recovered 56 mobile phones worth lakhs of rupees and handed them over to the original owners with the help of e-gadget. The use of e-Gadget app of Punjab Police is proving to be effective. If a mobile phone is stolen or stolen, it can now be easily recovered. The Punjab Police has introduced a mobile app called e-Gadget which can be easily downloaded for free from Play Store after which any shopkeeper can download it. With the help, he will be able to easily know that the mobile phone in his possession, which has come for sale, is not involved in any incident or stolen. At present, many incidents are being traced by the use of modern technology by the police, which is increasing the prestige of the police in the society. Education Unit Traffic Police Bahawalpur Traffic Awareness Campaign Conducted.

US CG, Sindh culture minister sign MoU

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The U.S. Consul General Nicole Theriot and Sindh Culture Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah signed the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the four Lincoln Corners (LCs) located in public libraries in Karachi, Hyderabad, Khairpur, and Larkana. Lincoln Corner Karachi at the Liaquat Memorial Library is the largest in Sindh and features a unique one-of-a-kind space in Pakistan called "StartUp Lab" where aspiring entrepreneurs can turn ideas into a startup business using the latest technology and equipment – all for free. Lincoln Corners are partnerships between the United States and Pakistani pub-

lic libraries, universities, and community centers. They are event spaces and resource centers that connect young leaders with the United States. Online and in-person programs are free and open to the public, a tangible symbol of the strength and breadth of U.S.-Pakistan relations, according to a communiqué. "As we celebrate 75 years of U.S.-Pakistan relations, our Lincoln Corners in Pakistan contribute to expanding our people-to-people ties, bringing Pakistanis and Americans together, and providing access to educational resources and information. Lincoln Corners highlight the shared values among Pakistanis and Americans, especially with regard to education and democracy," noted Consul General The-

riot at the ceremony. Since 2013, in partnership with the Department of Culture, the Government of Sindh and the U.S. Consulate General Karachi have supported these four Lincoln Corners at the public libraries of Sindh. The Lincoln Corners in Karachi, Hyderabad, Khairpur, and Larkana are a part of a network of 18 Lincoln Corners throughout Pakistan and over 600 American Spaces around the world. The Pakistan American Cultural Center (PACC) has been providing programming and logistical support to the Lincoln Corners in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces through a \$1 million grant funded by the U.S. Government.

Seminar on
Pakistan's
FP held

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) and the Centre for China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) organized a seminar titled 'Pakistan's Foreign Policy in a Changing World' here at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI welcomed the guests and delivered introductory remarks. Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow, IPRI, expressed views. The chief guest, former Foreign Minister and Ambassador of Pakistan, Inam ul Haque, gave a detailed presentation on the title after which an interactive session was held. Key takeaways from this seminar would be shared in a 'Grand National Dialogue'. – APP

Strengthening
employment prospects
for returning migrants

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: For smooth integration and economic empowerment of returning migrants, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) organized a ceremony where returning migrants were presented toolkits in the trades of electrician, plumber, carpenter, motor cycle mechanic and mason as an In-Kind support to help them start sustained self-employment. The activity is part of OPF efforts to support returning migrants to make a new start in Pakistan and achieve a sustainable employment. OPF is implementing a program on economic reintegration of returnees in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Pakistan. It is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development Germany (BMZ) and is part of BMZ support

for voluntary return & sustainable reintegration. A Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) has been established in OPF premises, Lahore with an advisory desk in OPF head office Islamabad. PGFRC is supporting and assisting returning migrants and the local population to have a sustainable source of income. The ceremony was attended by the Chief Guest, Syed Mustafa Haider, Director welfare OPF, trade specific toolkits were handed over to 80 returning migrants as an In-Kind Support. These migrants have also completed a comprehensive business development training from PGFRC. Dr. Mansoor Zaib Khan, Head of PGFRC, GIZ officials, members of Senate and National Assembly Standing Committees on Overseas Pakistanis & HRD, Members, OPF Board of Governors, senior government officials, representatives of international organizations and civil society

representatives also attended the ceremony. Syed Mustafa Haider, Director welfare OPF said that today's ceremony is a testament to the commitment of Government of Pakistan which considers overseas Pakistanis as its roaming ambassadors abroad and is actively engaged in resolving their reintegration issues in Pakistan. Ministry of OP&HRD, through OPF is working in a focused manner on this issue. Dr. Mansoor Zaib Khan, Head of PGFRC is informed that PGFRC is open to all Pakistani's and all our services are free of charge. PGFRC is providing advice on training and skills development, technical and vocational training, advice on job market trends and opportunities, advice on finding a job in Pakistan, entrepreneurship and start-up support, psychosocial support, and information on the health system in Pakistan, information on living conditions and advice on getting microfinance and loans.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industries, Khurshid Barlas giving invitation to ambassador of Brail to Pakistan, Olyntho Vieira. Executive member Muhammad Amin ur Rehman, Fahad Barlas and Mohsin Khalid are also present on the occasion.

CM Khan approved free health for children

The Chief Minister directed that families should be informed phase wise in order to ensure prior preparedness adding that youngest children should be prioritized

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has formally approved free treatment for Children suffering with cochlear disorders adding that the cognitive learning abilities are of paramount importance among children and the provincial government will go all out in helping children suffering from these diseases. According to details, a total of 127 requests have been received through "Khalid Wazir Ala Cell" and other welfare organizations from 25 districts of the province. Nine cases have also been received from the merged districts including District Aurakzai, Bajaur, Kurram and Khyber. The treatment will incur a total cost of Rs 250 million and will

be carried out in three Phases as approved by the Chief Minister. In the first phase, 38 children belonging to flood hit districts of the province ie: Charsadda, DI Khan, Shangla and Swat districts will be prioritized whereas in the second phase, families having three or more children with cochlear diseases will be provided with free treatment. The remaining cases will be treated in the third phase. The Chief Minister directed that families should be informed phase wise in order to ensure prior preparedness adding that youngest children should be prioritized in order to ensure that their cognitive learning abilities are restored on priority basis. The Chief Minister said that hearing ability is directly linked with cognitive learning and any disorder directly effects the

overall learning process among children. He added that immediate treatment of children suffering from this disease is of paramount importance in order to enable them to live a complete, healthy and conscious life. Touching upon the priority initiatives taken by his government in health sector, Mahmood Khan said that the provincial government is not only aware of the



problems faced by people in the health sector but has also taken multiple steps to provide quality and free healthcare to its citizens. The Chief Minister said that extension of Sehat Insaf Card to cent percent population of the province is undoubtedly an unprecedented effort of his government under which millions of people across the province have been provided with free treatment facilities so far. Apart from this, significant resources are being spent on revamping the hospitals and healthcare centers in the province in order to provide best treatment facilities to people at their doorsteps. Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, administrative secretaries of Health & Finance Departments and other officials attended the meeting.

CRBC
donates
\$100,000

ISLAMABAD: China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), a key Chinese State-owned company Tuesday donated US\$ 100,000 in Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund for the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims in Pakistan. President of CRBC, Wang Lijun presented the donation cheque to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque in a simple ceremony held at the Embassy here. Sharing his condolences with the bereaved families, President Wang Lijun said, his company would continue to support the flood affected victims in Pakistan who were facing the havoc. – APP

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
PLOT NO.42, STREET NO. 6, SECTOR H-8/2
ISLAMABAD

PUBLIC HEARING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT FOR THE
PROJECT CONSTRUCTION OF BHARAKAHU BYPASS, ISLAMABAD

All stakeholders interested/affected persons and the general public is informed by this notice that the Federal Agency (Pak-EPA) has admitted application of Mr. Shams-ul Haq, Deputy Director (Roads-II), Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad for accord of environmental approval. All stakeholders, interested / affected persons and the general public are invited to submit their comments for / or against the grant of Environmental Approval. The comments should be submitted to Director (EIA/Monitoring) within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of this notice.

The detailed documents of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report submitted by Mr. Shams-ul Haq, Deputy Director (Roads-II), Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad are available at the following locations for general public review during the office hours.

1. Green library
Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA)
Plot # 42, Street # 06, Sector H-8/2
Islamabad
2. Mr. Shams-ul Haq
Deputy Director Roads-II
Capital Development Authority (CDA)
Islamabad

A public hearing will be conducted at 11:00 am on 18th November 2022 at Convention Center Islamabad (Committee Room # 101, 1st Floor). All stakeholders interested/affected persons and the general public are invited to attend the public hearing or send their comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

Oct 01 / China

National Day

Oct 01 / Cyprus

National Day

Oct 01 / Republic of Korea

Armed Forces Day

Oct 01 / Nigeria

Armed Forces Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea

National Day

Oct 02 / Guinea

National Day

Oct 03 / Germany

Unification Day

Oct 03 / Republic of Korea

National Foundation Day

Oct 05 / Indonesia

Armed Forces Day

Oct 06 / Egypt

Armed Forces Day

Oct 09 / Uganda

Independence Day

Oct 12 / Spain

National Day

Oct 23 / Hungary

National Day

Oct 24 / UN

United Nations Day

Oct 25 / Romania

Armed Forces Day

Oct 26 / Austria

National Day

Oct 27 / Turkmenistan

Independence Day

Oct 28 / Czech Republic

National Day

Oct 29 / Turkey

Republic Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133

Marriott.....051- 2826121

Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.....1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police....92266044

Motorway Police..9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

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

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtwari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a souvenir to Rana Sanaullah Interior Minister, on Tuesday. DNA

Pakistan, Uzbekistan agree to enhance cooperation in education

Uzbekistan had strong ties within Central Asia and Pakistan would enhance its ties to with Uzbekistan and Central Asia as well

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Uzbekistan Tuesday agreed to enhance mutual cooperation, especially in the field of education and vocational training. It was agreed during a called on meeting held here between Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain, and Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov. The senior officials of the ministry were also present the meeting. Rana Tanveer welcomed the Uzbek delegation and said that the two countries had always had friendly and cordial relations. said that Uzbekistan had strong ties within Central Asia and Pakistan would enhance its ties to with Uzbekistan and Central Asia as well. Rana Tanveer discussed exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding Vocational and Technical Training. He said that the two countries should benefit from the experience of each other. Rana Tanveer Hussain welcomed the exchange of students to further mutual cooperation especially for

Skilled Vocational Training. He said that there was significant potential in cooperation between the two countries. The ambassador invited Rana Tanveer on the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education. He informed Republic of Uzbekistan would host

the Second World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECE), co-organized with UNESCO from November 14 to 16 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He informed the minister that The World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECE)

was a UNESCO intergovernmental meeting (Category II) that aimed to reaffirm the right of every young child to quality care and education from birth to age 8, and to urge Member States" renewed commitment to investing in Sustainable Development Goal

(SD) Target 4.2 to ensure "all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education." Rana Tanveer said that a Joint Working Group (JWG) should be formulated to

streamline and execute cooperation between the two countries on priority basis. The minister said that a JWG could enhance collaboration in the field of education. He said that University to University cooperation and Technical Institution to Technical Institution collaboration was the way forward. Rana Tanveer said that the future was in Vocational Training of the population of Pakistan. He said that it provided the best opportunity to the people to find jobs. He said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan through NAVTTC should exchange teachers and students to learn from the expertise of each other. Rana Tanveer praised the current governments' efforts in modernising the education system of Pakistan. The minister thanked the ambassador and highlighted the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries. At the end the ambassador stressed to further enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field of education.—APP

MMBL partners with TPS to boost its business agility, digital readiness

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) has signed a strategic partnership with renowned global banking solution provider, TPS for the induction of its ground-breaking and all-encompassing digital banking suite to boost business agility and digital readiness. Through this partnership, MMBL is dedicated to transforming its digital payments infrastructure while increasing its efforts toward bringing the unbanked and underbanked into the fold of financial inclusion, said a news release. Mobilink Microfinance Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across

seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population. President and CEO MMBL, Ghazanfar Azam, and Group CEO TPS, Shahzad Shahid signed the partnership agreement at MMBL Headquarters in Islamabad in the presence of senior management from both organizations. The partnership will further MMBL's ambition to enhance its digital infrastructure to meet the evolving banking and financial needs of its individual as well as enterprise customers by offering them an array of

digital banking solutions including real-time fund transfers, fast and secure login, contactless payments, bulk disbursements, service requests, ATM/branch locator and many more. Under the agreement, TPS, a leading banking solutions provider across 30+ countries in Asia and Africa, will provide MMBL with a state-of-the-art digital banking suite to enable the integration of multiple channels on a single platform. The suite will work as an open Application Programming Interface (API) gateway that will host various banking and payment platforms and serve as a high-speed channel and transaction processing engine to provide an integrated and seamless customer experience.—APP

Senate body passes AIC merger bill

DNA ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture on Tuesday passed the Iqbal Academy Pakistan Bill, 2022 by majority vote. The Senate Committee on Tuesday met under the chairmanship of Dr Afnan Ullah Khan here at Parliament House and vetted upon the Bill. The Iqbal Academy Pakistan Bill, 2022 as passed by the National

Assembly and moved in the Senate Sitting held on 18th August, 2022. Engr. Amir Muqam, Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Heritage stated that through the bill the talented energies will be combined and an improved effort to keep the works of the legend alive and for the preservation of the assets of our county will be better executed. The Committee examined the bill clause by clause and proposed amendments however

the committee believed that no substantial change could be observed in the recommendations to the objective of the bill for merger of Aiwan-e-Iqbal (AIC) with Iqbal Academy Pakistan (IAP) therefore the committee passed the bill by majority vote. The officials presented that Iqbal academy of Pakistan (IAO) was founded in 1951 by the Iqbal Academy Act and re-enacted through the Iqbal Academy ordinance No XXVI 1962.

Annual Lok Mela on Nov 25

ISLAMABAD :The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) will organize its annual mega cultural event Lok Mela on November 25 at Lok Virsa complex. The 10-day Lok Mela will culminate on December 4, an official told APP on Tuesday. He said it was a privilege for the Lok Virsa to hold such a festive event every year which provided an opportunity to showcase culture and traditions of all the ethnicities of the country. The official said it was the regular feature of the Lok Virsa, however, this year the mega event had been dedicated to flood victims. Divulging details of the event, he said that provincial cultural pavilions, folkloric songs performances, dance ensembles, traditional cuisine stalls, craft shops and cultural evening would be organized under the festival. He said the festival would culminate with colorful award ceremony scheduled on the last day of the Mela in which award would be distributed among the most talented and deserving artisans on the recommendations of national jury. He said Adviser to the Prime Minister for National Heritage and Culture Engr. Amir Muqam expected to inaugurate the event and thousands of people would attend the mega show. Highlighting the importance of the event, he said that the festival was aimed at promoting indigenous folk heritage and encouraging traditional practitioners including master artisans.

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Gold rates increase by Rs 750

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs 750 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs 149,050 against its sale at Rs 148,300 the previous day. The price of 10 gram 24 karat also increased by Rs 643 and was sold at Rs 127,786 against Rs127,143; whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went up to Rs117,137 against its sale at Rs 116,548, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and 10 gram silver witnessed an increase of Rs30 and was sold at Rs1590 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs25.72 and was traded at Rs1363.16. The price of gold in international market decreased by \$4 and was sold at \$1653 against its sale at \$1657, the association reported.—APP

64% work on IJP road completed: Minister

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Interior Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju Tuesday informed the National Assembly that 64 per cent of construction work on IJ Principal Road is completed. Responding to calling attention notice regarding the undue delay in the construction of the IJP road from Faizabad to Pir Wadhai Morr, he said, that the work on the project was started on October 15, 2021, and construction work on the project would be completed on April 14, 2023. "The project will be completed on time," he added. He disagreed with the mover of the notice accusing delay in the completion of the project. He said that under the project, four lanes on each side of the IJP Road will be constructed including two rigid and two flexible lanes while two flyovers will be constructed one at 9th Avenue and the other at Faqeer Appe Road while two bridges will be constructed at Katarian and Pirwadhhi respectively. He said that to ensure a smooth flow of traffic, the traffic police deployed more personnel on the road during rush hours. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was taking a keen interest in the project. He also invited the lawmakers to visit the site of the project and witness the progress of the work.—APP

Briefs

**Sacrifices
of Karsaz
martyrs to be
remembered**

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Tuesday said that the sacrifices rendered by Karsaz martyrs will always be remembered in history. In a statement, he said the loyalty of Karsaz martyrs to democracy is unmatched. They sacrificed their lives for the protection of democracy and their leader Muhtar Benazir Bhutto, he added. The Speaker said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has rendered matchless sacrifices for the continuity of democracy in the country. He said that a democratic system is the only way through which we can lead this country to the path of progress and prosperity. The Speaker sympathized with the families of the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy, and pray to Allah Almighty to help them to bear these irreparable losses.

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Safe City Project to cover commercial areas : IGP

He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with Islamabad Police to make the Capital a crime free city

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that cameras installed in commercial areas and markets would be connected with the Safe City Project to ensure high vigilance and improved security in the city. He said this while addressing the business community during a visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that all markets and commercial areas should try to install security cameras that would be connected with the safe city project to ensure better

monitoring of the business areas. He said that the installation of new cameras would increase the coverage of key locations and help improve law and order situation in the city. He said that intolerance in society is one of the reasons for increasing crimes and stressed that better education of society is needed to improve tolerance that would bring down the crimes. Later on, he along with President ICCI visited F-10 Markaz to inaugurate the installation of cameras in the market. He appreciated TWA F-10 Markaz for installing cameras on a self-finance basis. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of

Commerce & Industry said that along with installation of cameras, police patrolling in markets and industrial areas should be increased and added that ICCI is ready to donate motorbikes to police for this purpose. During a visit to F-10 Markaz, he lauded the efforts of Traders Welfare Association, F-10 Markaz, Islamabad for installing cameras in the market with their own resources and said that other markets and commercial areas should follow this good precedent to improve security. He said that installation of cameras would help curb the incidents of thefts, mobile snatching and other crimes in business areas and the city. He assured that

ICCI would fully cooperate with Islamabad Police to make the Capital a crime free city. Ahmed Khan President Traders Welfare Association F-10 Markaz and Tahir Abbasi Group Leader said that the cameras in the market have been installed at a cost of Rs.5 million by pooling resources from the traders. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Ameer Hamza, Ashfaq Hussain Chatha, Muhammad Yahya, Khalid Chaudhry, Nasira Ali and others also spoke at the occasion and highlighted various police related issues of their markets that needed the close attention of IGP for redress.

PAJCCI lauds changes in Cross stuffing SRO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PAJCCI appreciates priority response of DG Transit Trade Pakistan Customs and Ministry of Commerce on approving the amendment in Cross Stuffing SRO to allow transfer of goods from one container to another container or any other mode of transportation, in the premises of the port or at off-dock terminal. In addition, cross-stuffing of containerized cargo under Afghan transit trade will be allowed both inside seaport terminal where

cargo arrived as well as at any approved off-dock terminals (ODT) at separately demarcated areas. Previously cross stuffing was only allowed at off-dock terminals which increased the cost of doing business and limited the options available for high volume transit trade via Afghanistan. Both countries use each other's facilities to conduct transit trade with CAR and huge quantity of goods are transferred from one to another containers. Cross stuffing is important to reduce detention and demurrage charges incurred due to using of ship-

ping lines containers. Cross stuffing gives opportunity to use local containers in either country or make use of any other mode of transportation for goods movement. After the recent meeting of Zubair Motiwala; Chairman PAJCCI with Naveed Qamar; Minister of Commerce, Government of Pakistan, the long pending SRO on Cross-stuffing of containers for Afghan transit trade covering both forward and reverse cargo was issued. PAJCCI further advocated the amendment keeping in view the needs of business community and momentum of the transit trade.

Seminar on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy in a Changing World"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) and the Centre for China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Research Institute (IPRI) organised a Seminar on

"Pakistan's Foreign Policy in a Changing World," on October 18, 2022.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests and delivered introductory remarks. Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow, IPRI, expressed his views on the "Grand National Dialogue." The chief guest,

former Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr Inam ul Haque, gave a detailed presentation on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy in a Changing World." The presentation was followed by an interactive session.

Key takeaways from this seminar would be shared in a "Grand National Dialogue" being sponsored by the National Security Division (NSD) and organised by IPRI.

CTP launches smog awareness campaign

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a smog awareness campaign to sensitise people of the twin cities to avoid any health or safety hazards during smog season. According to a spokesman, the campaign has been launched on the special directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Naveed Irshad with an aim to raise awareness about best practices to keep oneself safe and healthy during smog season. Therefore, drivers and car owners should bring the vehicle on the road while keeping it in good condition. In this regard, the teams distributed pamphlets and face masks among motorcyclists, motorists, and pedestrians and urged them to avoid waste burning to control the smog formation to protect themselves from breathing problems, eye, nose, and throat infections. The teams briefed that heart and breathing patients should take extra measures to avoid any situation and using protected sunglasses while going outside could be helpful to avoid any sort of eye infection.—APP

Textile exports increase by 3.68% to \$4.58 billion in Q1

ISLAMABAD: The exports of textile goods increased by 3.68 percent during the first Quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The textile goods' exports were recorded at \$4,583.610 million in July-September (FY2022-23) against the exports of \$4,420.883 million in July-September (FY2021-22), showing growth of 3.68 percent, according to the latest data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Tuesday. The textile products that contributed in trade growth included cotton cloth, the exports of which grew by 4.21 percent to \$580.524 million from \$557.081 million while the exports of knit wear increased by 15.40 percent, from \$1,144.587 million to \$1,320.897 million. Likewise, the exports of tents, canvas and tarpaulin increased by 40.56, from \$21.177 million to \$29.766 million, ready-made garments by 5.85 percent, from \$861.169 million to \$911.514 million and art, silk and synthetic textile by 0.35 percent from \$107.947 million to \$108.321 million. The exports of raw cotton witnessed cent percent growth by growing to \$5.908 million, according to PBS data. The textile goods that witnessed negative growth in trade included cotton yarn, the exports of which declined by 18.14 percent, from \$288.617 million to \$236.263 million. Likewise, the exports of cotton (carded or combed) declined by 85.47 percent, from \$1.473 million to \$0.214 million, yarn (other than cotton yarn) by 4.97 percent, from \$12.426 million to \$11.808 million, bed-wear by 2.93 percent from \$803.259 million to \$779.703 million, towels by 1.67 percent, from \$241.307 million to \$237.280 million, made-up articles (excluding towels, bedwear) by 8.97 percent, from \$197.428 million to \$179.722 million while the exports of all other textile materials went down by 1.48 percent, from \$184.412 million to \$181.690 million. Meanwhile, on year-on-year (YoY) basis, the textile goods' exports increased by 2.68 percent in September 2022 to \$1,527.071 million against exports of \$1,487.144 million in September 2021.—APP

**Police
conducts
search
operation in
Lal Kurti**

RAWALPINDI: The police on Tuesday launched a search operation in Lal Kurti and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of the Civil Lines police station, said the police spokesman. He said that heavy police contingent comprising Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police along with officials of Civil Lines police conducted search operations during which they visited 109 hotels, collected data of 21 tenants, checked 13 shops and interrogated 278 suspects. The operation was conducted on the special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari. According to the spokesman, the search operations to arrest criminals and proclaimed offenders were regularly being conducted under the National Action Plan.—APP

**Nine held
for carrying
illegal
weapons**

RAWALPINDI, Oct 18 (AP-P): Police have arrested nine illegal arm holders and recovered arms ammunition and bullets from their possession during crackdown here on Tuesday, informed police spokesman. According to the details, Waris Khan police recovered 1 pistol of 30 bore from Haider Ali. Similarly, New Town police held Wajid and recovered 1 pistol of 9 mm from his possession. Meanwhile, Taxila police recovered nabbed Zul Qarnain and recovered 1 pistol of 30 bore from his custody. Gujjar Khan police recovered 1 pistol of 30 bore from Iqbal. Following operation, Dharmyal police arrested Waqas and recovered 1 pistol of 30 bore from his possession. Kalar Syedan police recovered 1 pistol of 30 bore from Shahrooz and same police recovered 1 Kalashnikov from Atiq while 10 round pistol 09mm from Hasnain and city police recovered 20 round pistol of 30 bore from Hamza Younas. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress. Divisional SPs appreciated the performance of police teams adding that crackdown against those possessing illegal weapons would be continued.—APP

**Fazl to chair
JUI-F CEC's
meeting on
Wednesday**

ISLAMABAD: Jamait Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman is going to chair an important meeting of his party's Central Executive Committee (CEC) on Wednesday, October 19, in the federal capital. In an exclusive talk with APP, JUI-F Spokesperson Muhammad Aslam Ghauri told that the arrangements of meeting had been finalized and the CEC members had started reaching Islamabad to attend it. He said besides reviewing performance of the federal ministers belonging to the JUI-F, the future strategy would be devised keeping in view the recent results of bye-elections, held on various seats of national and provincial assemblies across the country in the meeting. The flood situation would also be the focal agenda of the meeting as well, he maintained. Criticizing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s rallies, he said Imran Khan should avoid making comparison with the JUI-F rallies adding that the JUI-F had held more than a dozen million marches and neither damaged a single flowerpot nor occurred any untoward incident. Aslam Ghauri said the participants of JUI-F rallies stayed for 15 days in the federal capital but with discipline and restraint while the unruly mob of PTI attacked on national institutions including Parliament House, Pakistan Television headquarters and other buildings. He said the PTI chief wanted to disintegrate the federating units and create chaos in the country in the lust of power. The government would establish the writ of state at all costs to get rid of this mischief.—APP

Pak needs preventive healthcare system for : Alvi

Charles Twort, Chair Membership of Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) Examinations, UK, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan needs comprehensive disease prevention and early detection disease health eco-system to counter communicable and non-communicable diseases which would provide better healthcare to the people and help reduce the burden on the country's overstrained curative health system. The President made these remarks while talking to a delegation of the Royal College of Physicians UK led by Prof. Charles Twort, Chair Membership of Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) Examinations, UK, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The President expressed the need for strengthening collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), UK to bring about a fundamental change in the quality and standards of the healthcare system of Pakistan. Such collaboration would provide cutting-edge quality healthcare to the people of Pakistan and help meet the WHO 2030 targets, he added. The President emphasized that the MRCP exam was an important opportunity for medical students to improve their clinical examination, communication skills with patients and diagnosis interpretation. He also expressed his satisfaction over declaring CMH Lahore as the second centre for holding

MRCP exams after Islamabad-Rawalpindi on his recommendations and expressed the need for declaring other big cities of the country as MRCP exam centres, especially in Part-II Clinical to reduce the backlog of the exam aspirants across the country. The President underlined the need for creating institutional capability and capacity in the

health sector of Pakistan so as to retain and absorb highly qualified medical professionals and trained human resources and to attract expatriate Pakistani physicians and healthcare providers back to Pakistan for meeting the acute shortage of healthcare providers in the country. He said with concern that the estimated 24 per cent of our population was facing

mental health conditions which were causing stress and tension in society, besides increasing the vulnerability of the stressed population to resort to drug use, violence and extreme behaviors. He urged the government to take immediate, meaningful and practical speedy measures for increasing the number of trained and qualified psychiatrists, psychologists and supporting staff on a top priority basis which would strengthen the mental health care system in the country. While commending the Future Hospital Pakistan Program of the Royal College of Physicians, the President stressed the need for forging better cooperation and sharing of best practices amongst the renowned medical educational institutions and hospitals of the country for the provision of high-quality health services to the people of Pakistan.

The President also appreciated Professor Aamir Ghafoor Khan for being the first Pakistan-based physician to be awarded the Practical Assessment of Clinical Examination Skills (PACES) Champion Award for the year 2021-2022. Prof. Charles Twort, Chair MRCP-UK Exam, Royal College of Physicians informed the President that RCP was working with partners in Pakistan under the future hospital Pakistan program, which was an entirely modern model of integrated healthcare support aimed at enhancing patient care in hospitals and community settings.



Nord Stream probes must be transparent

The European Union's agency for criminal justice cooperation, Eurojust, recently proposed a joint investigation team be established to probe the explosions that ruptured the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines in September. However, Stockholm has blocked the initiative on the grounds that there is information in Sweden's own investigation "that is subject to confidentiality" as it is directly linked to national security, according to Mats Ljungqvist, the prosecutor leading Sweden's criminal investigation into the pipeline leaks in its economic zone.

Sweden won't even share the findings of its investigation into the explosions with the Russian authorities or the operator of the pipelines, Gazprom. Although Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin sent a letter to the Swedish government requesting that the Russian authorities and Gazprom be involved in the Swedish investigation, Sweden denied the request. Russia has consequently said that it will not recognize the results of any probes unless its experts are allowed to take part in them.

Initially, Sweden, Denmark and Germany planned to conduct a joint investigation to determine what happened to the pipelines that link Russia and Germany via the Baltic Sea. But they have each subsequently conducted their own separate investigations. Considering the complicated relationships of the parties involved, it is hard to imagine any of them changing their position. But the unwillingness to cooperate and include Russia in an investigation will only allow the finger-pointing and blame game to continue.

This in turn means a lack of transparency about whether the explosions were caused by sabotage, World War II munitions that had been dumped in the area, or some other cause. Given that the leaks have released huge amounts of temperature-raising methane into the atmosphere, they are also an environmental catastrophe that demands determining the cause.

Meanwhile, Europe, which previously relied on Russia for about 40 percent of its gas, was already facing an acute winter energy crisis in the aftermath of Moscow drastically cutting supplies of gas in retaliation to the EU sanctions on Russia. The damage to the Nord Stream pipelines has made the EU's energy crisis worse. Although it is in line with the EU's climate goals for Europeans to try and save more energy, having to save energy because of a shortage of energy is different from choosing to save it.

The enforced shutdown of the Nord Stream pipelines might even delay the bloc's green transition by reducing people's enthusiasm for an end to the use of fossil fuels. Germany, for one, has already reopened coal plants that had been mothballed.

A joint investigation into the Nord Stream explosions could not only help shed some light on what actually happened, but also dispel suspicions and lay the groundwork for the necessary work to repair the pipelines and restore supplies of gas, which would in turn help the EU to stay on its green transition track.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 69

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

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General Qamar Bajwa’s tenure and security challenges

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Pakistan Army under his command launched a comprehensive anti-terrorism operation with the name of Radd-ul-Fasaad. It is an intelligence-based operation, which is going since 2017. Pakistan Army and law enforcement agencies are working hand in hand and in close collaboration with common citizens. Major elements of the program are, right of the use of power rests with the State, securing the western frontiers under WBMR, elimination safe heavens of terrorists, ending of violent extremism, and welfare initiatives in terror-hit areas

The role of Pakistan Army in combating terrorism and other security issues faced to the country for the last three decades is evident from every inch of the soil. The current peace perspective is witness to it. Undoubtedly, it was not possible without the continued and popular support of our successive governments. Though the operation, Zarb-e-Azb was launched during the tenure of General Raheel Shareef, his successor Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa made it a long-lasting success through his institution's combined endeavors. Gen Bajwa, who is on way to complete his term as the army chief, assumed this office 6 years ago. During his tenure, he led Pakistan to fight at many fronts including terrorism, hybrid warfare and secure the CPEC.

Thus, it is right time to analysis his tenure in the context of security challenges. It will help to understand his contribution to secure the interests of the country or how his programs can be further refined or is there any shortcoming in his policies. Although, there is a long list of interventions, but I will focus on four most important interventions.

First, Pakistan Army under his command launched a comprehensive anti-terrorism operation with the name of Radd-ul-Fasaad. It is intelligence-based operation, which is going since 2017. Pakistan Army and law enforcement agencies are working hand in hand and in close collaboration with common citizens. Major elements of the program are, right of the use of power rests with the State, securing the western frontiers under WBMR, elimination safe heavens of terrorists, ending of violent extremism, and welfare initiatives in terror-hit areas.

Military and LEA conducted over 3 lakh IBOs operation, confiscated illegal weapons and ammunition. Army also captured a decent number of terrorist and ensured the conviction of terrorists. It was estimated that conviction rate of the terrorists was 70%. Pakistan Army also trained almost 40 thousand police official to enhance

their capacity in fight against terrorism. The operation created a sense of security among the citizens. Better security environment also helped to build the trust of international community, especially of investors and businessmen. It helped to attract foreign direct investment, which was direly needed at that time.

Second, army started to build capacity and capabilities to fight the Fifth Generation Warfare (FGW) or hybrid warfare (HWF). First stage was to put in place infrastructure to counter the hostile elements of FGW/HWF. Second, stage was to train human resource to effectively take lead in the fight. Third stage was to deploy the resources and make human resource familiar with ground realities and engage in real-time fight. It was required, rather urgently required, because Pakistan was/is one of the worst victims of FGW/HWF. The enemies of Pakistan have unleashed the all-around cyber ware and sabotage activities against Pakistan. Launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) further antagonized the opponents and enemies of Pakistan and China. Thus, they accelerated the propaganda, cyber war and sabotage activities. Fortunately, Pakistan was able to counter the propaganda and cyber warfare due to well-placed and functional system of FGW/HWF.

Third, sudden withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan created a difficult situation for the region. Pakistan being frontline ally was put at greater risk. The enemies and opponents of Pakistan considered it a good opportunity to create law and order situation in Pakistan. It was propagated by them that a new wave of terrorism will engulf Pakistan. However, timely measures and well-functional anti-terrorism system and initiatives like Radd-ul-Fasaad helped Pakistan to control the situation. In addition to that fencing of 2600Km border with Afghanistan (which was completed by Pakistan armed forces in 4-years) also helped to control the free movement of terrorist across the border. Although, Pakistan witnessed some incidents of terrorism, but at large

situation remained under control. Now Pakistan is trying to further strengthen the mechanisms of anti-terrorism in accordance with new needs and requirement.

Fourth, Pakistan armed forces also played a leading role in the implementation of National Action Plan. Armed forces implemented all actions (9 actions), which were assigned to them. Army also played a leading role to strengthen mechanisms of de-radicalization. Paigham e Pakistan is another excellent initiative, which helped to bring down the radicalization.

Fifth, CPEC is huge program, which can transform the economic and social landscape of Pakistan. It brought enormous investment to Pakistan, at a time when Pakistan strangled in multiple problems and our friends, especially allies of war terror left us. Rather, they were running campaigns against investment in Pakistan. In this context, China invested in Pakistan. It was bad news for the opponents of Pakistan, and they launched numerous programs/actions to sabotage CPEC. Pakistan armed forces, by realizing the importance of CPEC and security needs stepped forward and erected a comprehensive framework of security. Owing to security framework, armed forces and LEA successfully defended the CPEC related investment during the first phase of CPEC.

Despite, such huge success, there are certain areas, which further need to be refined. Thus, the new leadership will have to focused attention on those areas. For example, now CPEC has entered second phase, which is entirely different from first phase of CPEC. Thus, there is need to refine the security framework according to needs of second phase of CPEC. Moreover, global dynamics are also changing very fast, and many major players are not in favor of CPEC. Russia-Ukraine crisis is further worsening the situation. USA departure from Afghanistan is also aggravating the regional situation. In this context, there is need to redefine the security arrangements for CPEC.

Belarus joining the Ukraine war could be risky, even for Putin

Katia Glod

On October 10, the Belarusian leader announced the deployment of a “joint Belarus-Russia military group” in response to the alleged threat of attack from Ukraine. This step represents a significant escalation in Belarus’s role in the war to date. It signals that Lukashenko is preparing the Belarusian public – which since the beginning of the conflict has stood strongly against the deployment of the Belarusian armed forces to fight in Ukraine – while also looking for a formal justification, however unrealistic, for Belarus’ greater involvement

For the past eight months, Belarus has managed to stay away from direct involvement in the war in Ukraine, although it has served as a springboard for Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour. In February, Russian forces started their unsuccessful march to Kyiv from Belarusian territory.

Minsk has also provided logistical support, supply lines, medical care for Russian soldiers and airfields to launch air attacks on Ukraine. There have also been reports that shipments of Belarusian tanks and ammunition have been made to occupied Donbas and Crimea. But earlier this month, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko indicated that his country may join the fighting in the Russian-Ukrainian war. On October 10, the Belarusian leader announced the deployment of a “joint Belarus-Russia military group” in response to the alleged threat of attack from Ukraine.

This step represents a significant escalation in Belarus's role in the war to date. It signals that Lukashenko is preparing the Belarusian public – which since the beginning of the conflict has stood strongly against the deployment of the Belarusian armed forces to fight in Ukraine – while also looking for a formal justification, however unrealistic, for Belarus' greater involvement in the conflict.

Direct involvement in the war, however, may be too risky for the regime in Minsk and even for the Kremlin itself and may be too difficult to carry out. Russia's recent annexation of four Ukrainian regions has squeezed Lukashenko's space for manoeuvre vis-à-vis Russian demands to help the war effort. The joint Belarus-Russia military group is part of the union state common defence policy. By announcing its deployment, Lukashenko effectively declared that Belarus is in a “pre-war situation”. It is unclear what exactly this could entail in military terms and how big the force would be. But a “rapid deployment”, which Lukashenko referred to, usually involves bringing troop numbers up to full strength, intensifying intelligence activities, setting up communication and operational systems, and strengthening combat readiness, among other things. It may also lead to partial mobilisation of reservists and putting on combat alert the territorial defence troops, which have participated in frequent exercises on Belarusian soil in recent years. Currently, the Belarusian army has some 65,000

troops, about 20,000 of whom are support staff and cadets. That means that about 45,000 regular forces. Their combat readiness, however, may not be that high, given that in peacetime only a part of the available troops is serving.

However, according to media reports covert mobilisation, under the cover of testing the troops' military capabilities and readiness, has begun. At this stage, it might include support staff and target men in small towns and villages. Belarusian soldiers have been reportedly banned from travelling abroad. Russian President Vladimir Putin has enough leverage to pressure Lukashenko into sending Belarusian forces to the battlefield. The question is whether it is reasonable to do it. The Belarusian leader's political fate has been in the Kremlin's hands since the fraudulent 2020 presidential election when its backing helped hold his regime together and crush the mass anti-government protests. Since then, Lukashenko's ability to resist Russian demands has diminished. He has conceded large parts of economic and defence sovereignty to the Kremlin by signing various “integration” documents and aligned Belarus's foreign policy with Russia's. Putin could also press for the creation of a joint Belarus-Russia military command – something Belarus has never agreed to before. If that happens, Belarus would retain a say in decision-making only on paper, particularly as far as the deployment of the Belarusian troops across the border could be concerned. In practice, however, decisions are likely to be taken by Russian generals. But how useful Belarusian troops, which lack war experience, could be to Russia is unclear. They will not only be small in number but also would likely be low in morale, which could make them more of a liability than an asset.

Russia itself also lacks large numbers of well-trained and equipped troops to open a new front line along Belarus's border, which Ukraine, from its own side, has now fortified and mined, and blown up its bridges.

Ukrainian military experts have also warned that Ukraine might strike pre-emptively if it were to spot an armed force moving from Belarus, and its targets could include critical Belarusian infrastructure. That would also hold Lukashenko back from getting his troops cross the border. With civil society structures in Belarus crushed

and protesters and opposition leaders in jail or abroad, the chances of immediate popular unrest, if Lukashenko announced mobilisation or sent Belarusian troops to fight in Ukraine, may be slim. Yet a general draft would still pose high political risks for Lukashenko. Russia's war in Ukraine has been highly unpopular among the Belarusian public since the very beginning. According to a recent Chatham House survey, just 9 percent of respondents support sending Belarusian troops to Ukraine. Doing so could dwindle Lukashenko's already low levels of public support and destabilise his regime. Sending troops to the border or to fight in Ukraine would also leave the Belarusian president with no properly trained and equipped army in Minsk to protect him. After all, a number of Belarusian army units had to be mobilised in 2020 to help put down the mass protests. The Belarusian opposition could try to use this to its advantage. Some opposition forces have already been showing more appetite for less peaceful resistance after civilian protests failed to bring about political change.

Apart from that, according to opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, 1,500 Belarusians are fighting on the side of the Ukrainian army and more are training to join. If Lukashenko were to mobilise troops and send them to Ukraine, the West would most definitely impose even harsher sanctions, which would harm the already struggling Belarusian economy. That, combined with the president's unpopularity, would make it easier for the opposition to encourage defections from the Belarusian political elite and could trigger popular unrest. Lukashenko would demand more political, economic and security support from Moscow, which could distract Putin's attention from Ukraine. A popular uprising in Belarus could also be highly dangerous for the Russian president, as it could eliminate one of his closest allies and inspire political turmoil in Russia itself.

In short, the deployment of Belarusian troops to the war theatre in Ukraine might not be very effective on the ground and may hasten Lukashenko's downfall – something the Kremlin is likely aware of and taking into consideration when making decisions.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Military rebuffs US concerns over....

From Page 01

and sustained efforts during flood relief duties. The reassurance about the nuclear safety system came after US President Joe Biden remarks about Pakistan's atomic weapons. The United States, however, had said that it had confidence in Pakistan's ability to control its nuclear arsenal after President Joe Biden expressed alarm, leading Islamabad to summon the US ambassador.

Long March this month: Imran

From Page 01

are filing cases against me," Reiterating that early and transparent elections are the only way out of the current political and economic crisis, Imran said that preparations should be made to carry the movement to its logical conclusion vigorously within the framework of the constitution and law. The PTI chairman, Imran Khan further said that the political struggle of the PTI is for the supremacy of the constitution and the law, adding that it is impossible to create a prosperous society without the rule of law and justice. Talking about PTI leader and Senator Azam Swati, Imran said that the culture of lawlessness has flourished and the shameful tradition of violence against Senator Azam Swati and other political activists for mere expression has been revived.

Australia reverses...

From Page 01

with the decision and said it would summon the Australian ambassador. "Jerusalem has been the capital of the Jewish people for 3,000 years and will continue to be the State of Israel's eternal and united capital, regardless of this-or-that decision," the ministry said in a statement.

Previous Prime Minister Scott Morrison had reversed decades of Middle East policy in December 2018 by saying Australia recognized West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel but would not move its embassy there immediately.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump had recognized Jerusalem as the capital a year earlier, without elaborating on the boundaries of a city whose eastern sector – the location of major Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites – Palestinians want for their future capital. Wong told reporters Morrison's 2018 decision "put Australia out of step with the majority of the international community," and was met with concern by Muslim-majority neighbor Indonesia. "I regret that Mr. Morrison's decision to play politics resulted in Australia's shifting position and the distress these shifts have caused to many people in the Australian community who care deeply about this issue," she said.

Morrison had flagged moving the embassy from Tel Aviv in 2018 just days before a by-election in a Sydney electorate with a strong Jewish representation, which his Liberal party nonetheless lost. The Guardian first reported a change to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website to remove language describing West Jerusalem as the capital on Monday.

Wong said the decision was made by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Cabinet on Tuesday. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, a centrist lagging behind his conservative predecessor Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of a Nov. 1 election, accused Canberra of being misled by a media report about Jerusalem. "We can only hope that the Australian government manages other matters more seriously and professionally," he said on Twitter. Wong earlier told reporters the department website had been updated "ahead of government processes." Morrison's Liberal-led coalition lost a national election in May, returning a Labor government for the first time in nine years.

Pak HC Australia, Squash ACT launch Jansher Khan Open

During his career, Jansher Khan won the World Open a record eight times, and the British Open a record six times

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural Jansher Khan Canberra Open 2022 – a USD \$20K Professional Squash Association (PSA) event, will be held at Woden Squash Centre, Canberra, Australia from October 18-22. To officially commence the Jansher Khan Canberra Open, an inaugural ceremony was held at the High Commission for Pakistan, Canberra. The event will see 24 top rating professional squash players from all over the world. Jansher Khan Canberra Open is named after the legendary Pakistani squash player. During his career, Jansher Khan won the World Open a record eight times, and the British Open a record six times. He is a winner of World Super Series and a Guinness World Records holder. Jansher Khan was



also known as "the fastest man in squash". Speaking on the occasion, High

Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri thanked the organizers, sponsors and the players taking

part in the Tournament. The High Commissioner highlighted the glorious history of domination by

Pakistani players in the field of Squash. He said that the journey began with Hashim Khan who was the first Pakistani to win the British Open in 1951 and Pakistan reached its peak in the 1980s and 1990s during the reigns of Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan. Between 1950 and 1997, he said, Pakistan amassed over 30 British Open titles, 14 World Open titles and many more Professional Squash Association (PSA) professional titles. The High Commissioner expressed the hope that Pakistan will regain its lost glory in Squash. President of Squash ACT Michael Nuttall appreciated the High Commission for the excellent initiative to promote Squash. The event was attended by officials from Squash ACT, sponsors, event volunteers, international players, and media persons.

Benzema wins Ballon d'Or as Putellas retains women's prize

PARIS: Karim Benzema was rewarded for his remarkable success with Real Madrid by winning the Ballon d'Or at a star-studded ceremony in Paris on Monday, while Spain's Alexia Putellas retained the women's prize.

Benzema, who is the first French winner of the most prestigious individual award in football since Zinedine Zidane in 1998, scored 44 goals in 46 games for his club last season as Real won the Champions League and La Liga. Fifteen of his goals came in the Champions League, including hat-tricks in knockout wins against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea and three more across both legs of a stunning semi-final defeat of Manchester City.

The 34-year-old, who also won the UEFA Nations League with France, succeeds Lionel Messi with the Argentine not nominated this year after claiming the prize for the seventh time in 2021. "The Ballon d'Or might be individual but it's still a collective award. This is the Ballon d'Or of the people," Benzema declared. "Winning this trophy was



always something that was in the back of my mind," he added.

Benzema pushed Sadio Mane into second place, although the Bayern Munich and Senegal star did have his off-field work recognised as he was given a new award named after former Brazil star Socrates.

Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City was third, with Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski coming fourth.

Winning the award, organised by France Football magazine, caps a remarkable career revival for Benzema, who was frozen out of the France team for five and a half years because of his involvement in a black-mail scandal over a sextape involving teammate Mathieu Valbuena. He was later handed a

one-year suspended prison sentence and fined 75,000 euros (\$73,848).

He returned to the national team for last year's European Championship and will now go to the World Cup in Qatar with France next month.

"There were moments that were much more difficult for me, for example when I wasn't with the national team, but I am really, really proud of my journey," he added.

Benzema turns 35 on December 19, the day after the World Cup final, and is the oldest winner of the Ballon d'Or since the very first, Stanley Matthews in 1956.

The former Lyon striker is also the fifth Frenchman to win the prize, with Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini and Jean-Pierre Papin all

getting their hands on the trophy before Zidane.

The award was previously based on a player's performances over the course of the calendar year.

But the format has changed, with the prize now based on a player's record over the last season. That may have helped Putellas win the women's award despite suffering a serious knee injury in July that saw her miss the European Championship with Spain.

Instead, Putellas's performances with Barcelona were recognised after she top-scored in the Women's Champions League to help the Catalans reach the final, which they lost to Lyon. "It makes me even more annoyed to be injured, but I am very happy to be here," Putellas said.

"To retain the trophy is much harder. When I injured my knee I thought my chances of winning it had gone but in the end the jury based their decision on the whole of last season, of which I only missed one month."

The 28-year-old edged out Beth Mead, who scored six goals for the England side that won the Euro on home soil. — Agencies

Binny replaces Ganguly as Indian cricket board chief

MUMBAI: World Cup winner Roger Binny was Tuesday appointed head of India's cricket board – the sport's richest body – replacing Sourav Ganguly after he was reportedly forced out in a political tussle.

Binny, 67, was elected president at a meeting of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in Mumbai, where secretary Jay Shah won another term in office, vice-president Rajeev Shukla told reporters.

The BCCI, which has a net worth reported at \$2 billion, enjoys significant clout internationally in cricket but has been in chaos and there have been a slew of court cases involving the powerful organisation. Bangalore-born Binny, who was part of India's historic 1983 World Cup-winning squad, steps into the shoes of Ganguly, widely regarded as one of cricket's greatest captains. Ganguly, 50, had initially been tipped to earn a second term as president but reports said he was shunted out because he refused to join India's ruling party. Ganguly's political allegiance has been a regular source of media speculation, especially after the country's Home Minister Amit Shah, father of BCCI secretary Jay, visited him at home earlier this year. Politicians from Ganguly's home state of West Bengal, where the former player enjoys near-godlike status, alleged that the former batsman was forced out.

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been pushing hard to win power in the eastern state, falling short in elections marred by deadly violence last year.

Ganguly's departure was a "political vendetta" by the government, opposition lawmaker Santanu Sen said on Twitter. Shah's Hindu nationalist BJP has denied any involvement in Ganguly's removal and accused their opponents of politicising the issue. Ganguly has not spoken publicly on his departure but reports said he had been hoping to continue, especially after India's top court recently relaxed a rule that barred sporting officials from consecutive terms in office in the same position. Commentators said Binny was well suited for the high-profile role, having burnished his credentials on and off the field. "He has got the cricketing stature and he is no stranger to cricket administration," said sports journalist R. Kaushik. "He has what it takes when it comes to administration and obviously what he has achieved as a cricketer, we know what he has done on the field," he told AFP.

Born in an Anglo-Indian family, Binny as a batsman could either open the innings or bat in the middle order. In 27 Tests, he scored 830 runs while accumulating another 629 runs from 72 ODIs. — APP

Scholz extends nuclear power plants' lifespan

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said he will extend the operation of Germany's last three nuclear power plants, in what's been described as a snub to the Greens in his coalition government. Against the backdrop of an unprecedented energy crisis, the government had so far only agreed to keep two of the three power stations beyond the end of 2022, the date initially planned for a nuclear phase-out. A letter from Scholz to the government asks the economy, environment. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain distributed prizes as Chief Guest at the final polo match of the Islamabad Open 2022 in Islamabad Club.—DNA

Sri Lanka, Netherlands win at T20 WC

It was only the fifth hat-trick at a T20 World Cup, and the first-ever for the UAE in any T20 international

SPORTS DESK

GEELONG: Karthik Meiyappan lit up the Twenty20 World Cup with a hat-trick Tuesday but it was in vain as Sri Lanka crushed the United Arab Emirates to get their campaign back on track, while the Netherlands toppled Namibia. The Asian champions were stunned by Namibia in the tournament's opening game on Sunday, a crushing 55-run defeat that left no room for error against the UAE. They responded by bowling out the UAE for 73 for a convincing 79-run victory, but not before some drama. Sri Lanka were cruising at 117-2 in Geelong when spin

bowler Meiyappan derailed their plans in the 15th over, removing Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka and skipper Dasun Shanaka in successive balls.

It was only the fifth hat-trick at a T20 World Cup, and the first-ever for the UAE in any T20 international. Shanaka's team recovered to post 152-8 with Pathum Nissanka making a gritty 74 and Meiyappan ending with 3-19. "Really disappointed with the way we ended the innings (with the bat). We could have scored 180-190," said Shanaka. "But it was important to get a win, we focused on a win only. He (Nissanka) was outstanding." Earlier, Bas

de Leede took two wickets and made an unbeaten 30 as the Netherlands took a giant step towards the Super 12 stage with a tense five-wicket victory over giant-killing Namibia. It left Group A finely poised heading into the third and final matches on Thursday, where net run rate could prove decisive. Sri Lanka, the 2014 champions, face the unbeaten Netherlands next, needing another win, while Namibia take on the winless UAE.

After being put into bat, Sri Lanka made a strong start, reaching 42 before Kusal Mendis (18) was trapped lbw by Aryan Lakra. Nissanka was

joined by Dhananjaya de Silva and with the trumpets blowing from the Sri Lankan fans, they both crunched big sixes.

But their 50-run partnership came to an end with an amateurish runout. Nissanka drove the ball and De Silva set off, but his partner did not respond, leaving him stranded. Nissanka brought up his eighth T20 half-century with a cover shot but then watched as Rajapaksa, Asalanka and Shanaka all fell to Meiyappan.

Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva was snared by Aayan Afzal Khan four balls later as they lost four wickets for three runs. Nissanka kept calm at

the other end and began swinging his bat, before being dismissed in the final over.

Dushmantha Chameera quickly rattled the UAE in their reply, clean bowling Muhammad Waseem and Aryan Lakra in the space of five balls. The UAE had no answer to the pace attack, slumping to 21-4 in the sixth over and they never recovered as Sri Lanka ran riot. Chameera ended with 3-15 but hobbled off late in the game. In the earlier match in Geelong, Namibia were restricted to 121-6, with the Dutch using seven different bowlers to put the Europeans, boosted

by former South Africa and India coach Gary Kirsten on their staff, were cruising at 91-1 in the 14th over in reply before Namibia took four late wickets to set up a nervous finale.

The Netherlands needed six runs off the last over, with De Leede the hero, hitting a boundary and then scoring two to secure the win with three balls left.

"We lost wickets at bad times, we can't afford to do that and we can learn from that as a team," said De Leede.

"But the self-belief has always been there and it's nice to win two tight games. Maybe it opens up a bit more freedom for the boys."

Ashrafi for support to meet climate challenges

CAIRO: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said the developed and financially influential countries should support the under-developed countries with less resources in order to cope with the challenges arising from the climate change.

Talking to the media following the 'World Fatwa Conference' in Cairo, Egypt, Ashrafi said it was high time to recognize the reality of climate change, as flash floods in Pakistan have inundated 70 percent area of the country, which has caused more than \$30 billion loss to the national economy.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, said Islam stressed to take advantage from conventional knowledge and use of modern sciences for water conservation and tree planting were the commandments of Islam.

He said the debates and discussions between Islamic scholars on the conventional issues was a very important step for resolving the problems of the present age.

Ashrafi said the Islamic scholars had invited the leaders of all the religions to come forward to resolve the conventional problems of the world.

The Makkah Declaration was result of the continued efforts on part of the Muslim World League and similarly, the 'Charter of Akhuwat-e-Insania' by Sheikh Al-Azhar, and 'Ulegham-e-Pakistan' by Ulema and Mashaykh of Pakistan for promoting unity and consensus in view of interfaith dialogue, he maintained.

He said Islam was guarantor of survival and security of the humanity, and it taught us the promotion of peace, affection, and tolerance. In this scenario, it was necessary that the leadership of all religions and religious sects should raise awareness about challenges of the climate change, he added. —APP

German cybersecurity chief sacked

BERLIN: Germany's cybersecurity chief was sacked on Tuesday after a TV satire show accused him of having ties to Russian intelligence services, with the country on high alert over potential sabotage activities by Moscow.

Arne Schoenbohm, head of the Federal Cyber Security Authority (BSI), had been at the centre of intense speculation since the popular show accused him in early October of contacts with Russia.

He has now been relieved of his duties "with immediate effect", an interior ministry spokesman told AFP on Tuesday, citing "the allegations revealed and widely discussed in the media" as one of the reasons behind the move. The allegations "have permanently damaged the necessary public trust" in Schoenbohm as head of the authority, the spokesman said. —APP

Summary ready to empower local bodies

KARACHI, Oct 18 (APP): Administrator Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said a summary had been prepared to give powers to local bodies. The Administrator said this while addressing a function organized on the occasion of distribution of offer letters among the teachers who passed the IBA test here at the auditorium of Sindh Boys Scouts Association.

He said, "After the signature of the Sindh Chief Minister, immediate legal action will be initiated, under the prepared summary and the Mayor will have wide powers as he will be the chairman of Karachi Development Authority, Karachi Water and Sewerage Board and Solid Waste Management Board."

In 2018 general elections, the National Assembly seat in Malir was taken away from PPP which has been regained. —APP

Briefs

Death toll from military plane crash in Russia rises to 13

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: The death toll from a military plane crash in Russia's southern city of Yeysk rose to 13, including three children, authorities said on Tuesday. The rescuers found ten more bodies while clearing the rubble, the Emergency Ministry said in a statement. Nineteen people were also injured in the crash, with three of them in intensive care, it added.

During the rescue operation, 68 people were saved and 360 others were evacuated, according to the ministry. The emergency services continue relief efforts at the scene of the crash, it said. On Monday, the Russian Defense Ministry said a Su-34 military plane crashed while it was climbing to perform a training flight from the military airfield of the Southern Military District. The pilots successfully ejected and reported the ignition of one of the engines during takeoff as the cause of the accident, the ministry added. The crash caused a fire in a residential area in Yeysk, and a nine-story apartment building caught fire from leaked plane fuel and collapsed. President Vladimir Putin instructed top officials to travel to the accident site to personally control the situation and address the problems. The Russian Investigative Committee launched a criminal case following the incident.

UK worries amid ex-military pilots recruitment by China

AGENCIES

LONDON: The Chinese army's employment of former British fighter pilots is concerning for the UK, a top British official said on Tuesday. James Heappey, minister of state for armed forces, said a law prohibiting such employment would be introduced to stop pilots from being recruited by China's People's Liberation Army. According to reports, as many as 30 former military jets and helicopter pilots are in China as training pilots with an annual salary of £240,000 (\$272,000).

"It's been a concern within the MoD (Ministry of Defence) for a number of years, counter intelligence people have been looking at it closely," Heappey said, speaking to Sky News. "We have approached the people that are involved and being clear with them that it is our expectation that they would not continue to be part of that organization," he said. "And we are going to put into law that once people have been given that warning it will become an offense to then go forward and continue with that training." "China is a competitor that is threatening UK interests in many places around the world," Heappey said, adding that the Asian country was also an "important trading partner." "But, there is no secret in their attempt to gain access to our secrets."

30% of Ukraine's power stations destroyed

KIEV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced on Tuesday that 30% of his country's power stations have been destroyed since Oct. 10, causing massive blackouts across the country. Sharing a video from a state-affiliated account on Twitter, Zelenskyy described Russian attacks as "terrorism" which targeted Ukrainian energy and critical infrastructure. "Since Oct. 10, 30% of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed, causing massive blackouts across the country," Zelenskyy noted. He also expressed that there is "no space left for negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime." Zelenskyy's statement came amid Russian forces having launched a new series of airstrikes on Kyiv and multiple regions in Ukraine since last week. - Agencies

Azerbaijan celebrates 31st anniversary of restoration of its Independence

Asked whether her economic aims were no different, she said she "remains committed" to her vision, but that the government "will have to deliver that in a different way"

DNA

BAKU: This year, on October 18, the Republic of Azerbaijan celebrates the 31st Anniversary of Restoration of its Independence. History proves that to preserve independence is much more difficult than to gain it. Life has turned out that for the century Azerbaijan had to regain its sovereignty twice. Unfortunately, the first opportunity was lost shortly and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which was established in 1918, existed only 23 months. Azerbaijan could ensure its state independence after the collapse of the Soviet empire in 1990s. The Constitutional Act on the State Independence of Azerbaijan was adopted on October 18, 1991, at a session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan. With this significant historical document, the Azerbaijani people gained long-awaited freedom after years of oppression. On March 2, 1992 Azerbaijan became a member of the UN. The first years of independence was not easy for the young sovereign country and it faced tremendous difficulties. On the one hand, the Armenian military aggression continued, on the other hand, the economy was in a paralyzed due to the collapse of the existing system, and internal stability was disturbed in the country. There were concrete threats and risks to Azerbaijan's statehood. Namely in that hard period the great Leader Hey-

dar Aliyev returned to Azerbaijan and came to power in 1993 upon insistent demand of Azerbaijani people. Heydar Aliyev eliminated the chaos and anarchy, economic, political, spiritual and psychological tensions. Independent Azerbaijan marked a new course of development. Thus, he made the country's independence eternal and irreversible.

Today, Azerbaijan, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, is one of the rapidly developing countries of the world from not only economic points of view, but also all spheres. Azerbaijan has become a leading country in the region, which has achieved a stable domestic political situation and sustainable economic development. Azerbaijan has become a major player, actively initiating huge projects to bring stability and security to the region. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, Baku

Tbilisi-Kars railway route, the South Caucasus Pipeline, TANAP and TAP projects could greatly contribute to the prosperity of the nation. The Republic plays an active role in the creation of transport corridors, forming a modern transport infrastructure in the region. It is not just coincidence that the East-West and North-South transit routes pass through Azerbaijan.

Energy projects implemented under the leadership of Azerbaijan, not only serve the welfare of the nation, but also serve in



the interest of European energy security. The authority and fame of Azerbaijan in the international world is growing continuously. The stability in Azerbaijan and carried out reforms positively affect the extension of the international relations. Azerbaijan, as an independent state, expanding and deepening its activities at the regional and global levels, including cooperation in the international arena, has become a member of the United Nations (UN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),

the Council of Europe. Azerbaijan skillfully uses its economic and political potentials to realize its own national interests, as well as strengthen regional and global positions. Under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan is recognized as a leader in the region and a reliable partner in the international arena.

This year Azerbaijan celebrates second anniversary of liberation of its territories from Armenian occupation. Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territories were under Armenian occupation for almost 30 years although UN

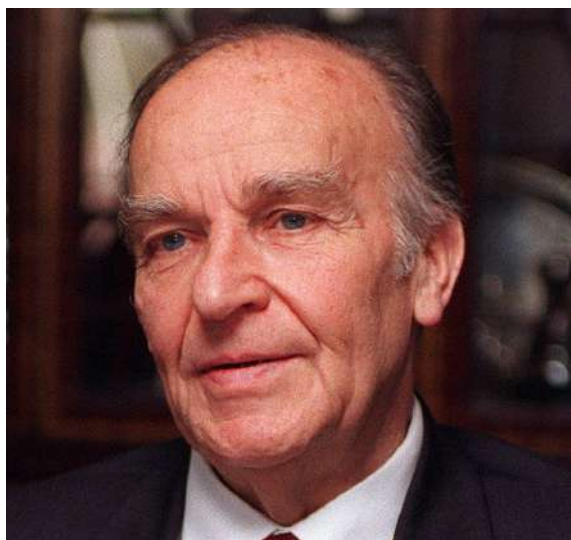
Security Council's resolutions demanded immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from Azerbaijan's territories. Right after the liberation, Azerbaijan started a massive reconstruction and restoration works in the liberated areas. In 2021 and 2022, the Azerbaijani Government allocated nearly \$3 billion to the large-scale reconstruction and restoration activities in the liberated lands. Fuzuli International Airport which was built just in 8 months is operational now. 2 more international airports namely Zangilan and Lachin are under construction and they will be also operational very soon. First Azerbaijani IDPs have already returned to liberated Zangilan region's Aghali village, which was rebuilt based on the "smart village" concept.

Shusha, the cultural capital of Azerbaijan has already become a venue for international events. "Pakistan Colors" group performed the "Bhangra" dance at the 5th "Kharibulbul" International Folklore Festival which was held in Shusha in May 2022. Now, bringing the new reality to the region which will lead to opening all transport communications, Azerbaijan will ensure peace, development and security in the region. It should be noted that Pakistan was one of the first countries that recognized Azerbaijan's independence and from the first day of former Karabakh conflict, as well as the during Patriotic War in 2020 morally and politically supported just position of Azerbaijan.

Bosnia commemorates 19th death anniversary of Alija Izetbegovic

BELGRADE: Bosnia and Herzegovina on Tuesday marked the 19th death anniversary of Alija Izetbegovic, the first president who led the country to independence from the former Yugoslavia. Izetbegovic – a politician, writer, and lawyer who came to international prominence during the country's bitter 1992-1995 war – is commemorated every year on his death anniversary. Often dubbed the "Wise King," Izetbegovic is one of the most important Muslim thinkers of the last century. The first president of Bosnia Herzegovina managed to gain independence for his country on March 1, 1992, months after Slovenia and Croatia broke away from the former Yugoslavia.

He died in Sarajevo on Oct. 19, 2003, due to natural causes, having served as president of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1996 and as chairman of the Bosnian presidency until October 2000. Many Muslim families, including Izetbegovic's, moved to the northwestern city of Bosanski Samac in 1868 due to Serbian excesses in Belgrade. His grandfather, father, and their families lived for nearly 60 years in a two-story house until the move in 1928. Izetbegovic was born in Bosanski Samac city on Aug. 8, 1925, as one of five children of the couple Mustafa and Hiba and the grandson of a Turkish woman (Sidika). Here, he spent his first years of childhood. When he was 21, he was arrested and sentenced to three years in prison for his activities with the Young Muslims organization in 1946. After his release, Izetbegovic enrolled in the Faculty of Law and earned a degree at the University of Sarajevo. It was in Izetbegovic's Islamic Declaration, published in 1970, that Bosnian independence, national consciousness, and the expansion of Islamic thought found an audience. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador designate of Pakistan to France, Asim Iftekhar calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharid. – DNA

Kremlin says 'no information' about deliveries of Iranian drones

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday he has no available data about deliveries of Iran's unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to Russia. Speaking at a press briefing in Moscow, Peskov said Russian weapons are used in Ukraine, and recommended sending a request for further details to the Defense Ministry. "No, we don't have that information (about deliveries of UAVs from Iran). Russian weapons are used, as you know, with Russian brands. All other questions can be addressed to the Ministry of Defense," the Kremlin spokesman said, responding to a question if Russia has bought or is using Iranian UAVs in Ukraine. Asked if Russia's "nuclear umbrella"

covers the new territories, Peskov said Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia "joined the country recently," and so "the work is underway to integrate them into the legal, economic, and social spheres of the country, as well as into its security system." "All these territories are an integral part of the Russian Federation, and, accordingly, they are all protected and their security is provided at exactly the same level as the rest of Russia," he said. Commenting on the partial military mobilization, announced in Russia on Sept. 21, Peskov said there was no decree about its termination, adding that the number of people summoned to the military service under the call cannot exceed 300,000. Turning to the accident at the Nord Stream gas pipelines in the Baltic

Sea last month, Peskov said the statements from Germany, France, and Denmark show their intention to put the responsibility on Russia for what happened.

He added: "The data that our intelligence has, as already stated, indicate the opposite. In addition, of course, you just need to use elementary logic to understand that such sabotage causes great damage to Russian interests." About the extension of the deal on grain exports from Ukraine, Peskov said the talks are ongoing and that a relevant statement will be released when the results are out.

He also noted that there is information that the explosives, used to blow up the bridge connecting Russia and Crimea, were transported from Ukraine's city of Odesa via the grain deal route.

UK Premier Liz Truss apologizes for mistakes

Truss' position as prime minister is in serious doubt, with a handful of her MPs already publicly calling on her to resign. She however pledged to "lead the Conservatives into the next election"

LONDON: British Prime Minister Liz Truss spoke Monday night to local media for the first time since her catastrophic mini-budget was almost entirely reversed by her new chancellor, taking the opportunity to apologize to the country. "I do want to accept responsibility and say sorry for the mistakes that have been made," Truss said in the interview. "I put in place a new chancellor with a new strategy to restore economic stability, and now what I'm focused on is delivering for the public," she said. Truss' position as prime minister is in serious doubt, with a handful of her MPs already publicly calling on her to resign. She however pledged to "lead the Conservatives into the next general election." "I'm not focused on internal debates within the Conservative Party," she said. "We simply cannot afford to

spend our time talking about the Conservative Party rather than what we need to deliver. That is my message to my colleagues," she added.

"I completely acknowledge that there have been mistakes. I have acted swiftly to fix those mistakes. I've been honest about what those mistakes were, and what we now need to do is move forward and deliver for the country because that's ultimately what people care about." Truss won the internal Conservative leadership election by promising to break with economic orthodoxy and borrow money to cut taxes in order to boost growth. Asked whether her economic aims were no different, she said she "remains committed" to her vision, but that the government "will have to deliver that in a different way." "We have to make sure though that we have

economic stability, and that has to be my priority as prime minister," she said. In a separate interview with Sky News late Monday, Jeremy Hunt, the new chancellor, called on the Conservatives to back Truss as prime minister. "People who want her to go need to ask themselves whether more political instability is going to keep mortgage rates down," he said. "I don't think political instability is the answer. She's been prime minister for about five weeks and we need to give her a chance." "I would rather a leader who listens, learns and changes, and I think we would have more instability, much more instability, if we were to have a leadership process," he added. Hunt said he believed Truss would still be prime minister come Christmas and ruled himself out of running for prime minister himself, say-

ing: "I rule it out, Mrs. Hunt rules it out, three Hunt children rule it out." -Truss under pressure On Monday morning, Hunt made an emergency TV speech reversing almost all of the tax cuts in the unfunded mini-budget last month. The mini-budget was announced by his predecessor Kwasi Kwarteng and was in line with Truss' economic vision. Later on Monday, Hunt gave a longer statement in parliament expanding on his economic plans. He said there would be "decisions of eye-watering difficulty" to come as he sought to shore up Britain's financial credibility in the eyes of the market. Markets reacted positively, if modestly, to Hunt's statements. Sterling rebounded slightly and gilt yields eased. Labour Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves went on the attack, saying: "This is a Tory (Conservative) crisis made in Downing Street,

but ordinary working people are paying the price. All that is left after these humiliating U-turns are higher mortgages for working people and higher bonuses for bankers." People would be "paying a Tory mortgage premium for years to come," Reeves added. Last week, Truss told parliament there were no planned cuts to public services, but Hunt said spending would have to fall in some areas. Reeves said "the prime minister is barely in office, and she is certainly not in power. Only five days ago, she said at Prime Minister's Questions there would be 'absolutely' no public spending reductions." "But after what we heard from the Chancellor today, every single public service is again at risk from the Conservatives, from our NHS nurses to our schools and to our servicemen and women, with the country paying the price for their incompetence." - APP

White House condemns Trump's anti-Semitic comments

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The White House sharply rebuked former President Donald Trump on Monday for making comments that targeted Jewish Americans, claiming they fit into a long line of similar remarks from the ex-commander-in-chief. "Donald Trump's comments were anti-Semitic, as you all know, and insulting, both to Jews and to our Israeli allies. But let's be clear, for years now, Donald Trump has aligned with extremist and anti-Semitic figures," spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

"Just like we called out our Democratic friends and colleagues last week... we will condemn and call this out as well. So we need to root out anti-Semitism everywhere it rears its ugly head," she added. The remarks come after Trump claimed Sunday that Jewish Americans were not supportive enough of him and his policies toward Israel, warning them to "get their act together." "No President has done more for Israel than I have," Trump said in a post on his social media platform Truth Social. "Somewhat surprisingly, however, our wonderful Evangelicals are far more appreciative of this than the people of the Jewish faith, especially those living in the U.S." "Those living in Israel, though, are a different story – Highest approval rating in the World, could easily be P.M.!" he added.

Türkiye to host Islamic conference of info ministers

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The 12th Conference of the Information Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will be held in Istanbul on Oct. 21-22, the Turkish Communications Directorate said on Tuesday. Ministers and high-level representatives from 57 countries will discuss issues that will deepen cooperation in the fields of media, communication, and information in the Islamic world, the directorate said in a statement.

The conference, which will gather under the theme Combating Disinformation and Islamophobia in the Post-Truth Era, aims to develop and strengthen the cooperation of Islamic countries in the field of media and communication.

During the conference, the representatives of the information organizations of the OIC member countries will seek ways to develop programs on combating disinformation and Islamophobia, according to the statement. Türkiye's Communications Director Fahrettin Altun will deliver the keynote speech of the conference and OIC Secretary-General Hissein Ibrahim Taha will also address the opening session. On Friday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will meet with the heads of the delegations and make a speech at the gala dinner to be held at the Mecidiye Pavilion. At the opening of the ministerial session on Saturday, the Saudi Arabian representative will hand over the term presidency of the OIC Information Ministers Conference to Türkiye.

Kyiv secures release of 108 Ukrainian women

KYIV: Ukraine has secured the release of 108 women in the first all-female prisoner swap deal with Russia since the war began in February, local media reported Monday, citing officials. "Another large-scale prisoner swap has been carried out today. Especially emotional and truly special – we have freed 108 women from captivity," said the head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office, Andriy Yermak, Ukrainian state news agency Ukrinform reported. "It was the first female-only exchange. Mothers and daughters, whose relatives were waiting for them, were held captive," Yermak said. Among the freed prisoners were 37 who had held out in the Azovstal steel works, 11 officers, 85 privates and sergeants. Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry said that 110 Russian citizens were also released as part of the swap. - Agencies

Briefs

Several bills introduced in National Assembly

DNA
ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly resumed its session at the Parliament House in Islamabad on Tuesday afternoon with Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani in the chair. The House transacted private members' business. Minister of State for Interior Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju has said construction of IJP Road from Faizabad to Pir Wadhai Morr will be completed within the stipulated time in April next year. Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Aliya Kamran and others, he said the project was launched in October last year and its completion time is 18 months. He said progress on the project is 64 percent and there is no delay in its construction. The Minister of State informed the House that extra deployment of traffic police has been made to facilitate the commuters till completion of the project. He said a 3.5 kilometer-long road from N-5 to Faqir Ippi Road will be completed next month. Meanwhile, several bills were introduced in the National Assembly.

These include; "The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2022", "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2022" (Amendment in Article-204, and 209)", "The Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022", "The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2022" and The National Commission on the Rights of Child (Amendment) Bill, 2022".

PTI files reference in SJC for dismissal of CEC

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday filed a reference in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and sought his dismissal from the office. The reference pleaded with the SJC to order removal of the CEC on account of "continuous and deliberate misconduct". Imran Khan and other PTI leaders has repeatedly alleged that the chief election commissioner is biased and favors ruling coalition, a claim which has been repeatedly denied by the Election Commission of Pakistan. It merits mention that while the Constitution allows the ruling and Opposition parties to name a chief election commissioner for five years after consultation, it doesn't allow them to remove the commissioner on their own. Article 215, Clause 2 reads that the Commissioner shall not be removed from office except in the manner prescribed in Article 209 for the removal from office of a judge.

4 alleged terrorists killed in CTD operation

DNA
QUETTA: At least four alleged terrorists were killed in the operation of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Kharan area of Balochistan. CTD spokesperson said CTD took action against the terrorists after receiving secret information in the area of Kharan district of Balochistan. Arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession. According to CTD spokesman, the dead terrorists were also involved in target killing in Kharan and adjacent areas, including the attack on the FC camp in Nushki. The process of further investigation is going on by encircling the area and collecting evidence. It should be noted that the former Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court Noor Muhammad Maskaize was martyred by unknown armed men in Kharan. On the other side, two days ago, five alleged terrorists were killed during an operation by CTD in the area of Mastung in Spalangi.

France allocates 1 mn EUR for flood victims

French government is pleased to support Action against Hunger, Secours Islamique - France and Médecins du Monde in their relief operations



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: France has allocated 1 million EUR to three French International Non-Governmental Organisations for humanitarian relief operations for flood-hit communities in Pakistan. These relief activities will provide critical assistance to vulnerable households, and contribute to reducing loss of lives and improving living conditions in flood-affected communities. France's financial assistance has been earmarked for the following relief operations: Action Against Hunger (ACF), for an integrated project combining health,

water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture, food security and livelihood for approximately 30 000 beneficiaries in the districts of Kambar Shadadkot and Khairpur in Sindh. The project will include the deployment of a healthcare clinic, the distribution of hygiene kits, the building of semi-permanent latrines, the rehabilitation of water supply schemes, and the provision of livestock kits and seeds. Secours Islamique - France (SIF), for a multi-sectoral emergency assistance to 40 000 beneficiaries in the districts of Quetta, Killa Saifullah, Pishin and Lasbela, in Balochistan. The project will include the distribution of food packs and shelter kits, the rehabilitation of water supply systems, the distribution of hygiene kits and school kits, and the distribution of fodder and medicines for livestock, and the distribution of seeds and agricultural inputs for agricultural land rehabilitation. Médecins du Monde (MDM), for the deployment of three mobile health teams, for 20 000 beneficiaries, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (districts of Nowshera, Charsadda and Chitral). The project will include the provision of primary health care services, medical equipment, and medicines. French Ambassador, Nicolas Galey, said: "French international non-governmental organisations, together with their Pakistani partners, play an

essential role in providing humanitarian assistance to flood-affected communities. French government is pleased to support Action against Hunger, Secours Islamique - France and Médecins du Monde in their relief operations. This financial support builds on other support provided by France, including the mission in September of a French medical team, the distribution of high-capacity water pumps, the provision of emergency equipment (tents, kitchen sets...), the current French civil security-led water purification operation in Dadu district, and the procurement of a portable bridge in the coming weeks", he added.

Essential role in providing humanitarian assistance to flood-affected communities. French government is pleased to support Action against Hunger, Secours Islamique - France and Médecins du Monde in their relief operations. This financial support builds on other support provided by France, including the mission in September of a French medical team, the distribution of high-capacity water pumps, the provision of emergency equipment (tents, kitchen sets...), the current French civil security-led water purification operation in Dadu district, and the procurement of a portable bridge in the coming weeks", he added.

Pak expresses solidarity with Saudi Arabia

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia in the wake of "statements made against the kingdom" following the Saudi-led Opec+ cartel's decision to cut oil production target despite objections from the United States. Opec+, the producer group comprising the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) plus allies including Russia, had earlier this month agreed to reduce two million barrels per day from November at a meeting in Vienna – a move that angered the US. Following the announcement, US President Joe Biden vowed to impose "consequences" on Saudi Arabia for siding with Russia in supporting the cuts. Commenting on the matter, the Foreign Office said it appreciated

Saudi Arabia's concerns about avoiding market volatility and ensuring global economic stability. In a statement, the FO said Pakistan encouraged a constructive approach on such issues based on engagement and mutual respect. "We reaffirm our longstanding, abiding and fraternal ties with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the statement added. Munition were recovered from their possession. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said a policy review would be conducted but gave no timeline for action or information on who would lead the re-evaluation. The United States will be watching the situation closely "over the coming weeks and months," she said. John Kirby, said Biden would work with Congress "to think through what that relationship ought to look like going forward."

Indonesia to rebuild stadium of stampede accident

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo said Tuesday that the government will demolish the Kanjuruhan stadium on the island of Java where more than 130 people have died in a stampede after a league match early this month.

Thus, the arena will be built in accordance with the guidelines of the world soccer governing body FIFA, the president told reporters in Jakarta after meeting with Gianni Infantino, the FIFA president.

"We will also demolish the Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang, and we will rebuild it according to FIFA standards as an example of a standard stadium with good facilities, ensuring the safety of spectators, players as well as supporters," he said.

Widodo said that he and Infantino were also discussing the management of stadiums in Indonesia and standards for organizing football matches.—APP

Afghan women protest after students expelled from dorms

FOREIGN DESK

KABUL: About 30 Afghan women protested in front of Kabul University on Tuesday after authorities expelled students from the dormitories allegedly for breaking rules.

The protesters claimed that all the evicted students were women in a move that comes as the Taliban has increasingly restricted girls' access to education. "Today's protest was for girls who have been expelled," organiser Zholia Parsi told AFP after Taliban forces dispersed the rally. Organisers also called for the reopening of girls' secondary schools, which have been shut since the Taliban returned to power last year.

In several cities, women have staged sporadic protests against harsh restrictions imposed by the hard-line Islamists. The rallies

are usually swiftly put down – often harshly – and journalists have increasingly been prevented from covering them. "Don't expel us... education is our red line," exclaimed the protesters in front of the university. The Ministry of Higher Education said Monday that an undisclosed number of students "who violated the rules and regulations of the university's dormitory" had been expelled from their accommodations. It did not say if they were all women.

In response to international pressure over girls' education, Taliban officials have said the secondary school closures are temporary, but they have also wheeled out a range of excuses for the shutdown – from lack of funds to time needed to remodel the syllabus along Islamic lines. Late Monday, Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada replaced the minister of high-

er education with a loyalist cleric, Neda Mohammad Nadeem, a government statement said. It was the sector's second reshuffle in a month, following the appointment of a new minister of education.

The Ministry of Higher Education oversees universities, while the Ministry of Education runs schools up to 12th grade. Nadeem, previously the governor of Kabul province, has for years held several key positions in the Taliban and was formerly chief of intelligence for the movement in eastern Afghanistan.

Nadeem's personal views on girls' education are unknown, and it remains unclear why his predecessor Abdul Baqi Haqqani was removed. "Given his proximity to the supreme leader and his performance he has been entrusted with key positions," a Taliban official who worked closely with Nadeem told AFP on condition of anonymity.

No truth in Imran's claims: US Senator

DNA

WASHINGTON: US Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen on Monday said that the claims of former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan that United States was behind his removal from power are not true.

Speaking during the event in the American state of Maryland, Chris Van Hollen said that Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan's statement that the United States had a hand in the overthrow of his government is an allegation that has no truth. He said that in my view the people of Pakistan need to make those decisions through elections and the United States needs to work with whoever the people of Pakistan choose.

He said that I worked with former Pakistani prime minister on many issues including stronger US-Pakistan relationship but I would say that his claim that US engineered his removal is not true. Earlier, The US State Department has said that there's "absolutely no truth" in Prime Minister Imran Khan's claim that Washington is behind an alleged conspiracy to overthrow his government. Mr Khan has been claiming that his independent foreign policy has annoyed 'foreign powers' and they have financed the opposition's no-trust move against him.

At a news briefing in Washington, a journalist reminded Deputy State Department Spokesperson Jalina Porter that in his address to the nation, Mr Khan renewed his allegation that the US had encouraged the no-confidence vote, saying that he had a diplomatic cable to prove it.



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