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UN chief Guterres chides India on human rights record

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UK PM Liz Truss says shes not a quitter

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Shaheen soars high during small cameo

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Briefs

Bilawal celebrates PPP win

NAZIR SIYAL

MALIR: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, talking at a public rally in Malir, said that the people of Malir have reassured their faith in the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), media reported. The PPP Chairman addressed the participants of a public rally, held in Malir to celebrate their victory against PTI in the by-polls in NA-237 on October 16. He added that he is proud of the way the PPP workers have worked in the by-polls. He also thanked the PDM alliance for their cooperation in defeating the PTI chief in the constituency.

No change in policy towards Pakistan

DNA

WASHINGTON: US Senate Foreign Relations Committee member Chris Van Hollen believes that President Joe Biden's "off the cuff" remarks on Pakistan do not suggest that Washington's policy towards Islamabad has changed. "President Biden's remarks were off the cuff [there is] no change in American policy," said the Democratic party senator. He added that the US State Department's explanation of the statement indicated that the presidential remarks were not made on purpose.

Rana visits Police Line headquarters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan visited Police Line Headquarters Islamabad and distributed orders of police medals among police officials who showed bravery in the line of duty. According to the details, 14 officials of Islamabad Capital Police have been awarded Quaid-e-Azam Police Medals and 14 were awarded Pakistan Police Medals, while IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatta has been awarded with "Tamgha-e-Shujaat".

Industrial boom nears CPEC set to enter next phase: PM

Terms ML-1 project the 'backbone' of the country with high prospects of progress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was set to enter the next business-to-business (B2B) mode after the productive government-level phase. Chairing a review meeting on CPEC, the prime minister said the government had rejuvenated the multi-billion dollar project that faced hiatus during the previous government. The meeting focused on infrastructure projects, particularly Main Line-1 (ML-1), Karachi Circular Railway and Karakoram Highway. The project related to the production of 10,000-megawatt electricity from solar and wind sources also came under discussion. Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan was about to witness an industrial boom with the restoration of CPEC projects. He welcomed the interest of Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's solar projects. The prime minister said the ML-1 rail project would play an important role in the strengthening of the national economy by connecting the country's ports with China and Central Asia. He termed the ML-1 project the 'backbone' of the country with high prospects of progress. The meeting was attended by former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Salik Hussain, Syed Naveed Qamar, Mariyum Aurangzeb, Syed Murtaza Mehmood and Tariq Bashir Cheema, Adviser to the PM Ahmad Cheema, Minister of State for Petroleum

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Pakistan will not default: Dar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar Wednesday said Pakistan was well-positioned to manage around \$34 billion in external financing in the fiscal year 2023. "The total (borrowing) requirement for the current fiscal year is about \$32-34 billion. You will have \$22 billion liabilities due to the multilateral, and roughly \$12 billion deficit," Dar told journalists. "We can, God willing, manage that." "I assure you that you don't need to worry. We will get that," Dar added. Restructuring debt from the Paris Club and delaying the payment of matured bonds would be cliched steps, the finance minister said. "Pakistan's \$1 billion worth of Eurobond will mature in December as scheduled and be paid on time," Dar said. "There is no need to be nervous, Pakistan will not default," he said. Last week Dar attended the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington, where he also met credit rating agencies and US administration officials. Moody's slashed Pakistan's sovereign credit rating on

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Minister gets extortion letter from TTP in KP

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Senior Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Atif Khan has received a letter demanding Rs8 million in extortion from the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Sources within TTP have confirmed the issuance of the letter by their Mardan chapter. Atif also confirmed that he has received the extortion letter. Speaking to journalists, Atif said that he has shared the letter with the relevant officials. "We will take whatever action [needed] on the letter. Security agencies have been informed rest is up to them," said the minister. The letter comes after reports of TTP's resurgence in the KP. Later, the outlawed group rejected the reports that it had sent the letter to the minister, saying that it was "fake". Recently a terror attack also took place in Swat on a school van that killed a van driver. Following the incident, the National Security Committee (NSC) took stock of the security situation in the country. In the meeting, officials of the country's security apparatus gave a briefing on the security situation - in light of the recent terrorist activities. The meeting made it

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NA echoes with concern on Swat situation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers raised concerns over the worsening situation in Swat - where citizens have poured into streets against growing violence in recent days - during a National Assembly session on Wednesday. "What is happening in Pakistan is not an insurgency. It is terrorism," said Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman as she compared the situation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district with that in neighbouring Afghanistan prior to the end of a 20-year-long war. The PPP senator lashed out at violent elements for "hiding their nefarious designs behind religion. 'Sorry, it is only a fight for power. It is not a fight for religion, and have the guts to say it.' Recalling that the PPP became a 'soft target' for denouncing terrorism earlier, she added, "We have not come here to mince

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ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

PM, Kaira discuss Kashmir, GB affairs

KHAYMA ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here. During the meeting, they discussed the matters pertaining to Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan as well as the country's overall situation, a PM Office press release said. Meanwhile, members of the National Assembly from different constituencies separately called on the prime minister and discussed the issues about their respective constituencies. The parliamentarians who met the prime minister included Nasir Iqbal Bosal, Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar, Ali Zahid and Riazul Haq.

Rupee loses 1.16 against dollar

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan rupee continued to lose ground against the US dollar for the sixth consecutive session on Wednesday. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency closed at Rs220.87 after depreciating Rs1.16 or (0.53%) against the greenback. It closed at 219.71 a day earlier against the US dollar. Last week, analysts said that the rupee will trade range-bound in the ongoing week, depending on the demand for greenback by importers as the central bank has started to clear pending letters of credit. Economist and former adviser to the federal ministry of finance Dr Khaqan Hassan Najeeb said the movement of a currency in a market-based exchange rate can be largely influenced by three factors - market sentiment, speculation and fundamentals.

'Group of criminals imposed through foreign conspiracy' Imran vows PTI's long march for real freedom of nation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan lashed out at the imported government for adopting fascist approach of harassment and intimidation to muzzle and suppress the dissenting voices in media, saying that a group of criminals in the guise of politics was brought in to power through foreign conspiracy who were attacking the constitution and democracy. Talking to Social media officials of PTI North Punjab, who called on him here on Wednesday, PTI Chairman said that the imported government resorted to the worst fascism to silence the independent and neutral voices in the media but social media emerged as the most powerful voice of the people. Imran Khan said that the social media freed the media from the clutches of tyranny and fascism and further added to political maturity and consciousness of the people, adding that the PTI's long march was not for

achieving the traditional political goals but for the real freedom of the nation. He said that Pakistan was pushed into the quagmire of political and economic crises by ousting PTI government through foreign-backed conspiracy at the time when the country was making progress in almost every field. PTI Chairman stated that the nation reacted so strongly and spontaneously and took to the streets in such unprecedented number because they believed that it was an insult to the public mandate to de-seat the well-performing elected government through foreign conspiracy. During the meeting, they held detailed discussion on important issues including the country's political situation, the features of PTI's narrative on important national issues including the rising incidents of harassment and targeting of social media workers just for revenge by the fascist imported government. They also discussed in length

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Congress gets first non-Gandhi chief in 24 years

Kharge is seen as a loyalist of the Gandhi family

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: India's opposition Congress party declared veteran leader Mallikarjun Kharge its new chief on Wednesday, the first person from outside the influential Nehru-Gandhi family to hold the beleaguered party's presidency in 24 years. Kharge, an 80-year-old from the lowest rung of India's caste system, is seen as a loyalist of the Gandhi family, which has produced three Indian prime ministers and is expected to retain its clout over the party. The Congress hopes to revive its flagging fortunes with a new leader after losing two general elections and control of some state assemblies to Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "The most important issues facing the country right now is inflation, unemployment, a widening divide between the rich and poor and a growing environment of hatred spread by the ruling government," Kharge told reporters after his win. He overwhelmingly won the party vote held on Monday, defeating former U.N. diplomat Shashi Tharoor. Despite the change at the top of the Congress, the BJP, which advocates a hard-right, nationalist stance, appears to be in a strong position to win a third successive term in a general election due by 2024. The 137-year-old Congress, which helped win

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Ethiopia keen to boost trade, political co-op with Pakistan - Page 07

Turkiye support for the flood affected to continue: AFAD - Page 08

Putin declares martial law in seized regions

Putin also issued a decree restricting movement in and out of eight regions adjoining Ukraine

CENTRELINE REPORT

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin introduced martial law on Wednesday in four Ukrainian regions he says are part of Russia as some residents of the Russian-held city of Kherson left by boat after Moscow warned of a looming assault. The images of people fleeing Kherson were broadcast by Russian state TV which portrayed the exodus - from the right bank of the Rover Dniro to its left bank - as an attempt to clear the city of civilians before it became a combat zone. Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the local Russia-backed administration, made a video appeal after Russian forces in the area were driven back by 20-30 km (13-20 miles) in the last few weeks. They risk being pinned against the western bank of the 2,200-km (1367 miles)-long Dniro river that bisects Ukraine.

In a move which looked designed to help Russia firm its grip on four Ukrainian regions it partly occupies and seeks to fully control - including the Kherson region - Putin told his Security Council he was introducing martial law in them. Beyond much tighter security measures on the ground, it was unclear what the immediate impact of that would be. Putin also issued a decree restricting movement in and out of eight regions adjoining Ukraine. Andriy Yermak, the head of the Ukrainian president's office, accused Russia of laying on a propaganda show in Kherson. "The Russians are trying to scare the people of Kherson with fake newsletters about the shelling of the city by our army, and also arrange a propaganda show with evacuation," Yermak wrote on the Telegram messaging app. Eight months after

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Casses registered against violators

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: On the order of Deputy Commissioner Babar Rehman Warraich, cases have been registered against the people involved in the violation of the Punjab National Climate Protection and Relief Act implemented across the province to combat smog. On the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, under the anti-smog measures of the Department of Agriculture Extension and the Department of Environmental Protection, 3 persons who set fire to crop residues in the areas of Mouza Mirampur, Khoh Nawan Chak Hamta and Chafarid-wala Haveli Nasir Khan. IRs have been filed.

The Punjab government has imposed a complete ban on smog-causing activities like burning of paddy crop residues, emission of industrial fumes, burning of municipal waste, burning of tires and plastic items.

The government has also banned activities that cause air pollution and smog, including activities harmful to public health. On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Lodhran, special surveillance teams consisting of officers from Agriculture Extension Department and Environment Department have been formed to control smog. The Deputy Commissioner has issued immediate orders to refit the vehicles used by all government departments.

He has given orders to the heads of all the government departments to get the fitness certificate of the vehicles. He has directed to organize fine arts competitions on the subject of smog among the male and female students of schools to raise awareness about smog. The Deputy Commissioner has said that the district administration will ensure implementation of all necessary measures to control smog. He has said that there is a ban on setting fire to crop residues and strict legal action will be taken against those involved in the violation. He has said that concrete action will also be taken against vehicles and industries that cause pollution.

Elections not possible before Aug 2023

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal here on Wednesday said that the next general elections were not possible before July-August 2023 in the wake of relief and rehabilitation activities in flood hit areas of the country, and delimitation after results of new population census.

"In March 2023, the results of new population census would be received and after that, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would require at least four months to finalize delimitation across the country, so the time frame automatically goes till July-August 2023 and before this, holding of next general elections is not possible administratively," he said while talking to media.

Similarly, the minister said, the government will remain engaged in the rehabilitation of the people in flood areas for next six to eight months. Therefore during this period, holding of general elections will mean neglecting the poor people badly affected by the recent floods and torrential rains, he said.

"If Imran Khan is insisting to announce the date for elections, so I am giving him the date today that next general elections would be held in October 2023."

Court Notice

The court of
Ms. Afshan Younis Family Civil
Judge Gujarat
The right to establish a claim
requires recourse
Title: Zal Abbas son of Riyaz Ahmad
Turabi Resident of Mohalla
Bara Dari Behind Zahoora
Stadium Gujarat
vs
Shaukat Malik son of Chaudhry
Muhammad Akram Sakna Sabuwal
Tehsil District Gujarat
Every step of the above case,
the defendant is informed that
the next date of hearing of the
case is 14.11.2022 to attend
the court and follow the case
and answer, no excuse will be
accepted later.
Seal of Court CR Gujarat, Signature
of Ruler Authorized.

RCCI delegation calls on information minister



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Addressing issues of business community is the top priority of the government. The business community special

ly the private sector has played a vital role in uplifting the national economy. The Traders were the backbone of the country's economy. These views were expressed by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ms.

Maryam Aurangzeb in a meeting with the delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce headed by President Saqib Rafiq in Islamabad. The Information Minister also welcomed the recommendations from the delegation to solve

the economic problems. She also assured the delegation for arranging a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif next week so that they can convey these suggestions directly to the Prime Minister. President Saqib

Rafiq also briefed the Federal Minister on the ongoing activities and future programs of the Chamber. He emphasized for close liaison and frequent connectivity with Government functionaries for early resolution of traders issues.

Complex dynamics of world changed the balance of power

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural ceremony of a two-day flagship international seminar titled 'Global Strategic Threat and Response' (GSTAR) arranged by Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) was held at Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. Dr Arif Alvi, President Islamic Republic of Pakistan was the chief guest at the occasion. On his arrival at Air Headquarters, Islamabad he was received by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force.

President Dr. Arif Alvi in his Inaugural Address appreciated the PAF's key initiatives directed towards maximizing the field of knowledge into its operations. The President appre-

ciated the CASS administration for the conduct of a thought provoking seminar on the contemporary strategic issues. The President said, "The complex dynamics of the world politics has exponentially changed the traditional balance of power and security environment which demands befitting response through national cohesion. The present era marked the creation of new centres of power created by technology and wealth, therefore, there is a need to construct a new order on the basis of equality of humans, respect for human security, harnessing of new technology and a commitment to peace."

Earlier CAS in his welcome address said, that the growing rivalry between major powers had resulted in weakening of international institutions and emergence

of traditional and non-traditional security issues. In the context of new technologies, he highlighted the dangerous consequences of selective sharing and its effect on regional stability. The Air Chief emphasised on the need for international consensus to address the challenges of these technologies. He reiterated the resolve of the PAF to contribute towards securing the national interests of the country. In this regard, he informed about significant initiatives being planned in various domains including operations, capability enhancement, organisation and training, to make PAF a cutting-edge force.

The Air Chief also announced the formal launch of the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) aimed at giving impetus to the process

of indigenisation and technology drive in the country. The first Park of its kind would be inaugurated this year while two others would follow in near future. Later, President Dr. Arif Alvi met Air Chief in his office. The President was briefed on the operational readiness and PAF's unflinching resolve to ward off any external threat to national security. CAS highlighted PAF's comprehensive plan for growth of in-country capabilities in the well-established as well as emerging disruptive technologies in Aerospace, Cyber, IT and Artificial Intelligence domains. While acknowledging the critical role of PAF in the defence of motherland, the President underlined the importance of Air Force in contemporary geo-political milieu.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of PAEI, Khurshid Barlas, along with Fahad Barlas and Shamraiz Iqbal giving the invitation of Property Expo to ambassador of Viet Nam to Nguyen Tien Phong. - DNA

ICCI for strict enforcement of IPRs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to ensure strict enforcement of intellectual property rights in the country to promote innovations, brands and attract more investment to the country. He said that due to lukewarm enforcement and IPR violations, the government was losing significant revenue besides endangering the life of the public exposed to counterfeit products. He said this while addressing an awareness seminar on IPR issues for women entrepreneurs and start-ups organized by ICCI in collaboration with Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IWCCI). Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that lengthy processing timelines for granting IP rights, complicated procedure for registration and long drawn judicial procedure for the protection of

IP rights are the key issues that should be addressed to promote their compliance. He was of the view that the better enforcement of IPRs would reward the innovators, increase value of businesses & start-ups and attract more local and foreign investment to Pakistan.

John Cabeca, US Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia gave a detailed presentation on IP Rights including utility patent, design patent, copyright, trade secret & trademark. He said IPRs encourage and protect innovations & inventions, promote commerciali-

zation and application of IP, incentivize investment and foster economic growth. Ms. Naima Ansari, former President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry stressed for creating maximum awareness about IP Rights in women entrepreneurs and start-

ups to encourage innovative solutions of the various problems being faced by the society. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that timely registration of copyrights, trademarks and patents supported by strict enforcement regime is crit-

ical for building confidence of the existing and potential foreign investors in Pakistan. Despite being a division from Gujarat district, the Kharian tehsil is still in frustration for the development work. No doubt worth billions of rupees started in Gujarat district, but the tehsil Kharian of overseas Pakistanis who earn billions of foreign exchange is dead from the development works. Make Sarai Alamgir and Dinga a new Tehsil and make Kharian a separate district.

Duel Carriage Expressway along Upper Jhelum Canal should be connected to Head Rasool, Trauma Center, Cardiology Ward, Children Ward, and Trauma Center in Lalamusa should be functional in THQ Kharian, Service Road in Kharian city, and Lalamusa in Kharian. Construction of bypass for heavy transport on T-road is necessary, special education center and DBS school should be built in Dinga, Kharian city, Mian Mohammad Safdar Friends of Kharian.



Trauma center in Lalamusa demanded

STAFF REPORT

LALAMUSA: A well-known social worker of Tehsil Kharian and President of Friends of Kharian, Mian Muhammad Safdar demanded from Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and said, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has achieved the feat of writing with golden letters after Gujrat University by making Gujrat a western country for which the whole district is grateful to Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, because after getting the status of Dwistaran, there will be development and prosperity locally, the standard of living of the citizens will be high, unemployment will be reduced, but since the Minister His Excellency Pervaiz Elahi has taken over the portfolio of the Chief Minister of Punjab. No significant development package has been approved for Tehsil Kharian. He said that a trauma

center, cardiology ward, and children's ward should be built immediately in THQ Hospital Kharian and Lal Musa. Kharian trauma center should be improved, while fulfilling the long-standing demand of the citizens of Lalamusa, Lalamusa Bypass should be constructed so that heavy transport will run on the bypass road, which will reduce accidents in the city and will not block traffic, Kharian City. And the Special Education Center in Dinga besides the Western Public School, Villas should be built, and the National Highway Authority should be directed to construct service roads and underpasses in Kharian city as soon as possible and from Dhal Bangash for the development and prosperity of Tehsil Kharian, Sir Alamgir and District Mandi Bahau Uddin. A double-carriage expressway should be constructed on the banks of the Upper Jhelum Canal up to Head Rasool.

GNSS Winter School starts at IST

ISLAMABAD: The second Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Winter School commenced at Institute of Space Technology, Islamabad on Wednesday with maximum participation of space enthusiasts. The winter school is being arranged by the GNSS Research Lab of National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), Institute of Space Technology (IST). The GNSS Winter School 2022 has been designed to equip the participants with concepts on space weather and its impacts on space-borne systems, aviation, and under extreme conditions, disruptions to radio navigation and communication systems; increased satellite drag; and geomagnetically induced currents affecting power grids, transportation, and oil/gas pipelines. —APP

Nature delivered a memo to humanity through floods

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: "What goes on in Pakistan [in terms of climate change] will not stay in Pakistan. The devastating recent floods in Pakistan were nature's memo to humanity delivered through Pakistan," said Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman. She was speaking at the event titled "Pre-COP 27: From Paris to Sharm El-Sheikh" jointly organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Wednesday.

Senator Sherry Rehman called for inclusive global decision-making on climate change and urged the international community to not only meet the commitments made under Paris Agreement but also to set more ambitious goals at COP 27. She highlighted that the vulnerable population of Pakistan was already experiencing impacts of climate change on their lives through changing weather patterns, crop losses, and water shortages, placing them among bottom 1% of climate risk pyramid. With reference to the upcoming COP 27, the Minister said that Pakistan's slogan would be premised around questioning the world on how long it was expected of a country like ours to tolerate this dystopia at our doorstep, especially considering, that we had a minimal part in inviting its creation.

She iterated that while Pakistan's share in global contribution to climate change was minimal, there is serious need among elite faction in the country to rethink their carbon-rich lifestyles which directly affected vulnerable communities. In addition to major behavioural and lifestyle changes, the Minister added, a comprehensive risk reduction mapping, developed consultatively with the provinces and the federating units was vital for effective engagement on climate change globally. Most importantly, climate financing must be reoriented toward facilitating the developing countries, she added. Senator Rehman said that the materialization of approved projects followed unrealistic timelines, amplifying the root cause(s) of the crisis in the process. She stressed that responsible and effective mitigation lied in capacity-building in three areas, i.e., resilience, adaptation, and financing.

Earlier, in his welcome remarks, President IRIS Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz shared that half of the world was susceptible to climate change in the twenty-first century. He shared that COP 27 will aim at providing viable options for climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, and increasing ambitions. The Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Mr Nicolas Galey highlighted that the assistance provided by the French government to Pakistan in providing relief to the victims of floods. He called for greater attention toward the needs of the vulnerable communities in the aftermath of natural disasters in Pakistan. Mr Tarek Dahroug, the Ambassador of Egypt to shared that climate change could reduce global economic output by 4% by 2050. He further added that efforts will be made during COP 27 to urge the international community to meet its climate financing goals without any delay.

NAVTTCC-NAC accredits 655 TVET institutes

ISLAMABAD :National Accreditation Council for Technical and Vocational Stream (NACTVS) granted approval to grant accreditation to seventy-eight (78) TVET institutes, which makes total count of nationally accredited institutes to 655. The approval was given during 5th meeting of NACTVS held here Wednesday at National Vocational Technical Training Commission (NAVTTCC). The list of accredited institutes was uploaded on the website of the Commission. —APP

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.....9266044

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 Exchange 9270831-5

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

PM for national plan on construction of houses

Pakistan Climate Change Council was established on the pattern of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) with all the federal and provincial stakeholders on board

ISLAMABAD :Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who made history by chairing the first meeting of Pakistan Climate Change Council (PCCC), in a major decision regarding the rehabilitation of flood affected people and to avoid environmental dangers in future, has directed to devise a national plan for the construction of houses and infrastructure that could withstand climate change effects. He also directed to propose measures for adopting the housing and construction styles as per climate changes and formulating a strate-

gy in coordination with the federal and provincial governments to tackle the environmental issues timely and on permanent basis.Pakistan Climate Change Council was established on the pattern of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) with all the federal and provincial stakeholders on board. The prime minister besides directing to make PCCC a fully functional institution also called

prime minister referred to the recent devastation caused by climate change induced floods in

Sindh and Balochistan and said that despite less than 1 percent share in carbon emissions, Pakistan was among the top 10 climate change effected countries. He said that without forgetting this devastation, they had to prepare for future and rehabilitation of the flood affected people. The Climate Change Council had a vital role in that respect, he added. The prime minister said that the focus should be on identification of dangers, provision of resources, and improvement in capacity of damage assessment.

Work should also be done on how to avoid dangers, get the masses prepared and train the administration, he stressed.The prime minister said with the area of Sindh delta dried due to climate change and the need to protect Pakistan from the danger of severe drought, meaures should be proposed as per the experts' opinion.He also called for proposals to check the incidents of wildfire. Proposals should also presented for the protection from severe monsoon rains and three times melting of glaciers.--APP

ISLAMABAD: Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh received his Letter of Commission appointing him as the Consul General of Malaysia to Davao, Philippines from the Honourable Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah. Mr Deddy Faisal will be leaving Pakistan on 28 October 2022 after serving in Islamabad for 3 years, 2 months and 10 days as Minister Counsellor / Deputy Head of Mission at the High Commission of Malaysia.--DNA

Expired passport was used by Faisal Vawda as evidence :SC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the Supreme Court Wednesday remarked that another lie of PTI leader Faisal Vawda has been caught as the court took up the former federal minister's petition against a lifetime ban imposed on him by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The observation from the apex court judge came during a hearing of a petition filed by the former MNA against the ECP ruling which was given in the dual nationality case. A three member-bench

headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ayesha Malik heard the petition. At the outset of today's hearing, Faisal Vawda's counsel, Waseem Sajjad argued that the Returning Officer satisfied himself after reviewing the cancelled American passport. At this, Justice Ayesha Malik remarked that the cancelled passport at which the counsel is relying upon was expired in 2015 and shown to the RO in 2018. "When you get the new passport, the older one is stamped cancelled. How can a cancelled passport can be

an evidence of renouncing the nationality," she asked. To this, CJP Bandial said that the issue has become very serious. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah then said, "another lie of Faisal Vawda has been exposed". Faisal Vawda's counsel argued that in the affidavit it was said that the PTI leader didn't have a passport from any other country. At this, Justice Mansoor said that the affidavit was about ascertaining the dual nationality [of a candidate]. Justice Ayesha remarked that the registration num-

ber of the passport on record differs from the one which was cancelled, which means a new travel document was issued. Vawda's counsel reiterated that the ECP does not have powers to disqualify a member for life. However, Justice Mansoor remarked that the high court has the authority to impose a lifetime ban. Later, the hearing was adjourned for two weeks after Wasim Sajjad asked for more time for preparation. At this, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said, "you will not get answers of these queries even after a week."

Big industry grows by 0.6 percent in August

ISLAMABAD The production of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) witnessed a growth of 0.6 per cent on year-on-year (YoU) basis during the month of August 2022 as compared to the same month of last year. According to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here Wednesday, the LSMI index went up

from 114.1 points in August 2021 to 114.8 points in August 2022. On month-on-month basis (MoM), the industry grew by 3.9 per cent during the month under review as compared to 110.05 points during July 2022. However, overall the Large-Scale Manufacturing Sector has shown a decline of 0.4% during July-August (2022-23) when compared with the same period of last year. The LSMI during the first two months of the current fiscal year was recorded at 112.6 points as compared to 113.1 points during July-August (2021-22). The main contributors towards the overall negative growth of 0.4 per cent were, garments (5.3), petroleum products

(-1.2), cement (-2.0), fertilizers (-0.2) and iron and steel products (0.5). The major sectors that showed positive growth during July-August (2022-23) included wearing apparel (5.3%), leather products (0.1%), paper and board (0.1%), chemicals (0.2%), iron and steel products (0.5%), furniture (2.3%) and other manufacturing (0.1%). The commodities that witnessed decline during the period under review included food (1.1%), beverages (0.03%), tobacco (1.1%), textile (0.8%), coke and petroleum products (1.2%), pharmaceuticals (2%), rubber products (0.01%), non-metallic mineral products (1.4%), fabricated metal (0.1%).--APP

IRSA releases 100,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD :The IRSA on Wednesday released 100,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 64,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.46 feet and was 138.46 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 35,100 cusecs while outflow as 40,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1174.20 feet--APP

Food exports surge by 5.70% in Q1 FY23

ISLAMABAD :Food group exports from the country witnessed an increase of 5.70 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.The exports of various food commodities were recorded at \$1,077.834 million during July-September (2022-23) as compared to the exports of \$1,019.676 million in July-September (2021-22), according to PBS data. The food commodities that contribute in positive growth in trade included vegetables, the exports of which grew by 44.34 percent, from \$50.082 million to \$72.289 million. The other food commodities that contributed in positive growth included fish and fish preparations, the exports of which increased by 40.20 percent, from \$56.959 million to \$79.855 million whereas the exports of tobacco rose by 74.66 percent, from \$7.900 million to \$13.798 million. The exports of leguminous vegetables (pulses) increased by 100 percent, from zero exports to \$0.047 million; meat and meat preparations by 21.68 percent, from \$78.283 million to \$95.254 million whereas the exports of all other food items increased by 26.75 percent, from \$221.017 million to \$280.136 million.The food commodities that contribute in negative growth in trade included rice, the exports of which decreased by 5.10 percent, from \$423.192 million to \$401.629 million. Among the rice commodities, the exports of Basmati rice went down from \$153.671 million to \$129.896 million, a decrease of 15.47 percent whereas fruits exports decreased by 30.76 percent from \$114.373 million to \$79.196 million. The exports of spices dipped by 18.74 percent, from \$23.163 million to \$18.823 million; oil seeds, nuts and kernels by 17.67 percent, from \$44.707 million to \$36.806 million. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports of food commodities witnessed nominal decrease of 1.26 percent during the month of September 2022 as compared to the same month of last year. The food exports during September 2022 were recorded at \$354.816 million against the exports of \$359.331 million. On month-on-month basis, the exports of food commodities also decreased by 3.31 percent in September 2022 when compared to the exports of \$366.945 million in August 2022, PBS reported.--APP

More than 10 kg drugs recovered during crackdown

RAWALPINDI:Police have arrested 13 drug dealers and recovered more than 10 kg of drugs from their possession during a crackdown here on Wednesday, informed a police spokesman. According to the details, Waris Khan police recovered 3.8 kg drugs from Naseer and the same police recovered 590 grams of charas from Haseeb. Similarly, City Police held Atif and recovered 160 grams of charas from his possession and the same quantity of drug was recovered from Abbas. Meanwhile, Pirwadhi police arrested Sher and recovered 1.2 kg drugs from his

custody. Bani police nabbed Yasir and recovered 570 grams of charas from his possession and the same police recovered 550 grams of charas from Haseeb. Following an operation, Airport police arrested Junaid Tariq and recovered 1.3 kg of drugs from his possession and Morgah police held Daniyal and recovered 240 grams of charas from his possession. Taxila Police arrested Shahzad Maqbool and seized 300 grams of charas from his possession. Rawat Police held Umair Rashid and recovered 300 grams of charas from his possession.--APP

AIOU organizes seminar on Sindhi women

ISLAMABAD :A seminar on 'Sindhi Women: Past, Present, and Future' was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday. Head Iqbal Chair of the University, Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik, presided the seminar while Pakistan's well-known TV host, former Secretary of Education, and Information/former member of the Sindh Assembly, Ms. Mehtab Akbar Rashdi was the keynote speaker. Senior Advisor, Excellence Center Mohammad Rafiq Tahir, and Head History Chair, Inamullah Sheikh hosted the event. Mehtab Akbar Rashdi said that due to education, Sindhi women were freed from the shackles of society and were appearing in every sphere of life. She said that in the past, Sindhi women used to live a life of backwardness and were limited to domestic work. Mehtab Rashdi said that during the Pakistan Movement, Sindhi women played a role together with Fatima Jinnah. The women of the reliable families of Sindh took part in the wars with the men. Mehtab said that the woman of Pakistan is a ray of hope for the country. She added that no nation in the world has progressed until the men and women of the nation move forward together. Professor Fateh Mohammad Malik and Inamullah Sheikh also addressed the event.--APP

57 more infected with dengue virus in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI :As many as 57 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 3,777. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Wednesday said that among the new cases,11 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, eight each from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi and Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Chaklala cantonment and Kahutta, while one of each case arrived from Potohar rural, Taxila, Kalar Syeda and Gujjar Khan. Dr Sajjad added that 203 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 77 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital(BBH), 73 to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and 53 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH). He informed that out of the total admitted patients, 145 tested positive, with 107 belonging to Rawalpindi.--APP

CDA starts Waste Segregation Pilot Project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In line with directions of Chairman CDA Captain (r) Muhammad Usman Younis, CDA has started Waste Segregation Pilot Project in sector D 12/4. Initially 30 houses have been provided bags for segregation of non recyclable and recyclable waste for a month and are guided by staff trained by UNDP. Blue bags for recyclable waste and green for non-recyclable waste. Based on results, the pilot will be expanded in future. At present 2 way segregation has been piloted with organic and non recyclable to be lifted in green bags and recyclable in blue bags.

Court Notice

In the Court of Zeba Chaudhry Additional District Judge Islamabad West Suit for Recovery of RS.444635/- Case Title. Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Vs Naseem Yousuf H No. 16 Khayaban-e-Iqbal Sector F.8/3 Islamabad it is proclaimed of the said defendant does not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the court on 24.10.2022 at 8.30 am ex-parte proceedings will be taken against him/her

Sarah Inam murder: Shahnawaz Amir's mother arrested

On October 1, a district and sessions court in Islamabad had extended the interim pre-arrest bail of Sameena in the murder case of the Canadian national.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Police on Wednesday arrested Sameena Shah, mother of Shahnawaz Amir – the main accused in the Sarah Inam murder case. The law enforcement agency arrested Shah after Additional Sessions Judge Sohail Sheikh dismissed her bail plea. Police Station Shehzad Town's personnel arrested the accused outside the courtroom after she appeared before the judge with her lawyer. She will be shifted to the women's

police station. On October 1, a district and sessions court in Islamabad had extended the interim pre-arrest bail of Sameena in the murder case of the Canadian national. The bail was extended after the court on September 26 had accepted the pre-arrest bail plea of Sameena against a surety bond of Rs50,000 and directed her to join the probe. Shahnawaz allegedly killed his wife Sarah at home after a row over a family issue on September 23. Shahnawaz – who was detained by the police from

a farmhouse in Islamabad's Chak Shahzad area for being a suspect in his wife's murder – confessed to committing the crime and said that he "thought" his spouse was having an affair with someone else.

The couple was married for just three months. Police registered a first information report (FIR) on the complaint of Station House Officer (SHO) Nawazish Ali Khan last month under Section 302

(punishment for murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). The FIR mentioned that the suspect's mother, Sameena, called the police on Friday (September 23) to inform them that her son, Shahnawaz, had killed his wife with a dumbbell. According to the FIR, Sameena told the police that her son was in the house and had hidden the body of his wife. Following this, the police raided the house. In the complaint, the police said that Shahnawaz had locked himself inside his room and when the per-

sonnel broke inside, there were blood spots on his hands and clothes. Once the police got hold of Shahnawaz, he, according to the FIR, confessed to hitting his wife repeatedly with a dumbbell during an argument and then later hiding the Canadian national's body in the bathtub. The "murder weapon", the FIR quoted Shahnawaz as saying, was hidden under his bed. Police, after examining the dumbbell, reportedly found blood and hair on it. They later sent it for forensics.

Briefs

Education minister for creating awareness about climate change

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain said that there was dire need to create awareness about Climate Change among the general public as it was vital to protect the country from climate disasters. In a Tweet, Federal Minister said that "I have already directed the Director of National Curriculum Council (NCC) to ensure that the topic is meaningfully incorporated/covered in our curriculum".

He further said that the same directions had been given to the Higher Education sector. He informed that Higher Education Commission (HEC) & Universities would focus on Climate Change Research in Pakistan. However, in another Tweet, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that "I am surprised at how Imran Khan is jumping as if he has conquered South Asia in by-elections where he looked fool by contesting himself & not trusting his comrades".

He said that to claim to have won the hearts of people at the cost of targeting institutions and Pak's foreign relations was 'no win'.—APP

Khan stands exposed in front of public: Uzma

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) leader Uzma Bokhari Wednesday said that the real face of Imran Khan had finally been exposed in front of the people.

Replying to a question about torture on Shahbaz Gill, she emphasized that he had to prove his evidence of medical report of torture. 'He had been playing tricks with people in order to win their sympathies,' she said while talking to a private news channel.

'Imran Khan was frustrated and wanted to come back in political power through marches and sit-ins but he would never succeed in his mission,' she added.

She also said that Imran Khan had been misguiding the public only to achieve his own personal interests.—APP

'Dialogue should be initiated'

DNA

ISLAMABAD Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said PTI should start positive negotiations after winning the by-elections.

PTI should play its role in bailing the country out of the political chaos otherwise people will continue to pay the price of instability, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the economy is also paying the price for continued political instability in the country.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that all political parties must work together and agree on a charter of the economy to pull the country out of the economic vortex.

Failed state-run corporations should be sold without any delay and losses in the power and gas sectors, circular debts and ever-increasing trade deficits should be tackled through political consensus.

A national action plan can be made for this, otherwise, the people affected by inflation and the flood victims will continue to suffer, he warned. He said that usually the political temperature is low after the election but the temperature is continuously rising in Pakistan. It is uncertain whether any stakeholder will benefit from unrest, but the economy is sure to be affected. The opposition will not be able to achieve its political goals by increasing the pressure on the government at this stage.—APP

China maintains growth engine of world economy

The average growth rate of China's GDP reached 6.6 percent from 2013 to 2021, higher than the world's average growth rate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Numerous reports of World Bank and IMF have clearly indicated that the Chinese macro-economy has been a driving force for further development and recovery from the global crisis since 2008, said Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Executive Director of the Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) in a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

Moreover, its multidimensional role in the further development, recovery, stability and sustainability of the regional as well as global economies has been enhanced which is commendable.

In this connection, despite global gloomy & doomy economic conditions, financial crunch, widening energy & food crises, imposition of socio-economic sanctions against China by the US and punitive legislations against China and developing countries, China is now playing an increasingly important role in driving and consolidating global economic recovery

which vividly reflects its increasing role in the global economy and governance alike during the last decade.

The most recently published report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) upholds that China accounted for 18.5 percent of the global economy in 2021, 7.2 percent points higher than in 2012, remaining the world's second-largest economy. Moreover, its GDP exceeded RMB 114 trillion (about \$18.1 trillion) in 2021, registering an increase of 8.1 percent over the previous years.

The average growth rate of China's GDP reached 6.6 percent from 2013 to 2021, higher than the world's average growth rate of 2.6 percent and that of the developing economies at 3.7 percent. China's per-capita GDP reached 80,976 yuan (\$11,684) in 2021, up 69.7 percent from 2012 which rightly showcases its upward socio-economic prosperity and immense social development in the country catering to the basic needs and skills of its population.

NBS further reveals that China's per-capita disposable income

reached 35,128 yuan (\$4,903) in 2021, up 18,618 yuan (\$2,599) from 2012. Moreover, from 2013 to late 2020, around 100 million poor rural residents were successfully lifted from absolute poverty. The total value of China's trade in goods and services reached \$6.9 trillion in 2021 the report says. Imports and exports were both up from the previous year. Chinese companies have actively invested abroad. According to Sheng Qiuping, assistant minister of commerce, China, in the past eight years since the BRI was introduced, the overseas economic and trade cooperation zones set up by Chinese enterprises have paid a total of \$6.6 billion in taxes and fees to host countries and created 392,000 local jobs.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, China's emerging cross-border e-commerce platforms and logistics have promoted the introduction of global products into the Chinese market and sent domestic products and services abroad.

According to customs statistics from China, China's cross-border

e-commerce imports and exports have increased by nearly 10 times in the past five years, reaching 1.92 trillion yuan (\$269 billion) in 2021, up 18.6 percent year on year. It means that China is the pioneer of e-commerce which has further strengthened global economic integration.

China's average contribution to global economic growth exceeded 30 percent during 2013-2021, ranking first across the world, NBS data showed. Over the past decade, China has seen a better economic structure and more coordinated growth.

On the green development front, China's renewable energy facilities and services have become a global leader during the last ten years. Now its cities are enjoying fruits of green energy in terms of qualitative air and environment. In 2021, the share of coal in China's total energy consumption decreased from 72.4 percent in 2005 to 56 percent, and the share of non-fossil energy consumption increased to about 16.6 percent, which shows Chinese

strong pledges towards climate change threats.

China's accumulative afforestation area amounted to approximately 59.44 million hectares from 2013 to 2021. It is also the biggest wind turbine manufacturer and a major supplier of photovoltaic components in the world which demonstrates its constant persuasions towards green future and green technologies.

To conclude, China has successfully transformed itself from a poor agrarian country to a global economic titan today. During the last ten years, it has built technological giants, built modern infrastructure, brought free-market forces into its national economy, and become an integral part of the global supply chain.

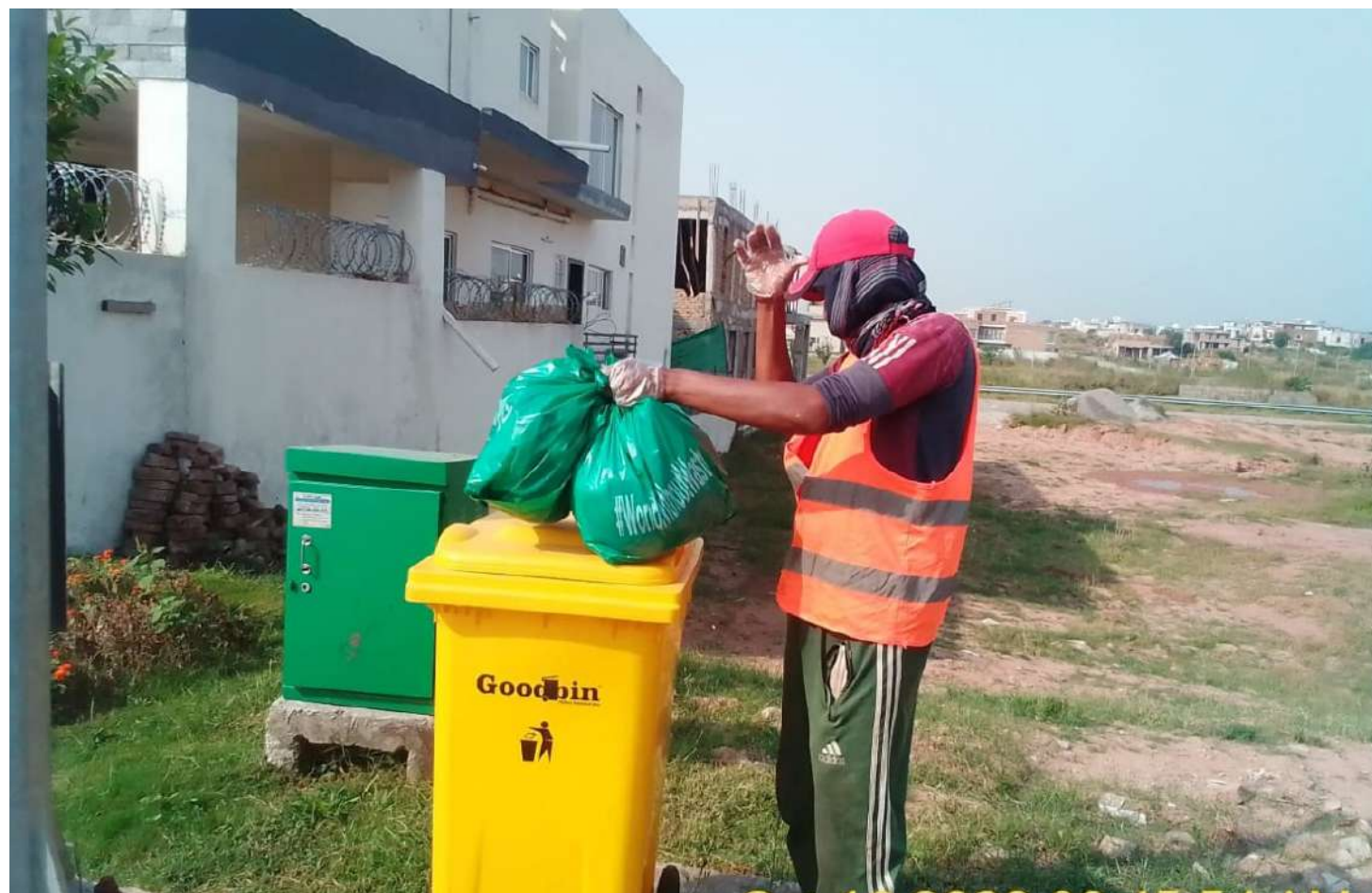
China has been the world's major growth engine. A report published the World Bank upholds that China's share of global GDP has been sustainable i.e. 16.74%, 17.26%, 18.24%, 18.62 % respectively during 2018-2021 which is indeed a great achievement and recognition at international level for CCP, the report added.

Marriyum rebukes Imran for vile remarks

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday condemned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan for using vile language against anchor persons Ghareeda Farooqi and Saleem Safi.

"Imran Niazi's despicable utterances to malign journalists was a reflection of mentality, training and nature of foreign-funded 'Fitna'", the minister tweeted while responding to Imran Khan's remarks during his meeting with the delegation of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) and National Press Club Islamabad the other day.

She also criticised the PTI chief for befooling the people in the name of turning Pakistan into a Madina state, saying even he did not spare national institutions and martyrs. The certified liar who had diminished the distinction between right.—APP



ISLAMABAD: CDA staff install dustbins in Sector D 12 in order to ensure cleanliness in the area. DNA

UBL joins hands with NICK to empower women

ISLAMABAD :United Bank Limited (UBL) collaborated with LMKT and National Incubation Center, Karachi (NICK) to host BuiltByHer 3.0 Hackathon to address women's economic inclusion in Pakistan whilst simultaneously promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

The prime objective of the event was to empower aspiring female entrepreneurs in creating technologies to improve Pakistani women's economic inclusion, while promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ('STEM') education amongst young women, said a news release received here Wednesday. At the event, 13 participating teams pitched innovative solutions driven to make formal banking accessible and inclusive. The female-led teams took the stage and pitched their solutions to a panel of banking and startup industry leaders. The panel included Aliya Ahmed (Head of Digital Channels, UBL), Zohair Saif (Head of Innovation, UBL), Omar Abedin (Project Director, NICK), Sana Shah (Program Manager, NICK) and Faizan Laghari (Managing Director, Bykea).

The event was also attended by Sharjeel Shahid, Group Executive-Digital Banking Group, UBL. After an intense round of pitches, the panel of industry experts selected the two submissions that stood out from the rest. Team Oval 2.0 won the competition. It took home a seed money prize of Rs. 750,000- for its cutting-edge and innovative solution. Using VR technology, the team gave an immersive look into a complete end-to-end banking experience in the metaverse. Team FromHer from Gilgit Baltistan took home the second prize and won Rs. 350,000. Their solution focused on training women from far-flung areas in the use of digital banking channels and financial rights and literacy as a whole. The introduction of such solutions into Pakistan's economic value chain will open up new opportunities for economic growth as more of the under-banked population begins to adopt formal banking solutions.—APP

Solution lies in following constitution

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif said on Wednesday that the solutions to all the problems being faced by the country, lies in following the constitution. Speaking on the National Assembly floor, he asked the political parties inside and outside the parliament to work for the strengthening of democracy and the parliament. He criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan for pursuing an anti-state narrative. He said that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) had rendered unmatched sacrifices for protecting the interests of the state and it would never allow anyone to cause any harm to the country or institutions.—

QAU requests amendment in bypass plan

ISLAMABAD: Academic Staff Association (ASA) of Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad on Wednesday requested the authorities concerned to amend the Bhara Kahu Bypass plan as they said it was bifurcating university's land which would create problems for its future expansion and endeavours.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, the ASA recording their concern over the project said, "the teaching faculties, major stakeholders, were not consulted over it and its completion would affect botanical garden, residential colony and also disturb communication between affiliated sections." The ASA also represented by Dr. Pervez Hood Bai said the project was taken up in a haste and the alternate solution was Bhara Kahu flyover on Murree Road. "They also expressed resentment over the demolition of university's boundary wall for the construction, creating safety and security issues for the staff and the students.

The ASA said future of coming generations was linked to this institution and ongoing project would affect the education and research process in country's top ranked varsity. The ASA also expressed dissatisfaction over the alternative provided and land which they said was five kilometers away from the university and this, "distance would create a lot of problems for different educational and managerial sections."—APP

Third convention of Tehreek Tarique-o-Kamal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Tehreek Tarique-o-Kamal is an emerging political party. The third convention of the party was held last Sunday in a local hotel in Karachi.

Sindh president of Tehreek Tarique-o-Kamal Shiraz Ahmed and party vice-chairman Hasan Farooqi hosted the convention. The third major convention of Tehreek Tarique-o-Kamal was attended by people from various walks of life, especially the youth in large numbers who appreciated the party's manifesto and policies.

"Karachi is a reflection of Pakistan and systems are always fixed only by political struggle", these views were expressed by the Chairman of Tehreek Tarique-o-Kamal, General (R) Farrukh Bashir while addressing the workers' convention in Karachi. Chairman of Tehreek Tarique-o-Kamal, General (R) Farrukh Bashir said, "We have to promote the

spirit of patriotism in the Pakistani nation and take Pakistan in the direction of development so that we can join the ranks of developed countries". "To be able

to introduce the beloved country to the world, the progress and perfection movement will prove to be a pleasant breeze in the politics of Pakistan and,

God willing, the progress and perfection movement will bring a positive change in the political scenario of Pakistan and make the slogan of politics for service a

reality. It will set an example worthy of imitation for other political parties", he continued.

On this occasion, Vice Chairman of Tehreek



Tarique-o-Kamal Hasan Farooqi while addressing the workers convention said, "All of you should participate in politics practically and we should not waste our time watching talk shows but we should solve the problems of the people. We will have to struggle and today we have been provided with such a platform for progress and perfection that we will have to struggle for the problems of the oppressed people from this platform".

On this occasion, Bilal Ahmad Alvi, General Secretary of Tehreek Tarique-o-Kamal said, "We have to serve the people by devoting ourselves to the spirit of politics for service and we have to fight practically to end the sense of deprivation from the country. The purpose of going is to go down the graph of Pakistan because Karachi is mini Pakistan and we cannot develop without removing the deprivations of Karachi".

Riaz Pirzada stresses parliament role

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Wednesday stressed the need for empowerment of the Parliament with the focus to perform its role as per real spirit of constitution and take cognizance for resolving the issues of the people.

Speaking on a point of order in National Assembly, he said that all institutions should perform its role as per constitution and protect the interests of the country. The minister cited some incidents of sectarian killing and land grabbing in Punjab and urged for concrete steps to curb such activities. He also responded to the Balochistan related issues raised by BNP-M Parliamentary Sardar Akhtar Khan Mengal and said that grievances of Balochistan should be resolved on priority.

He said that interests of country should be protected rather than raising hue and cry over petty issues.

The minister said that a person contested elections on multiple seats and was involved in threatening institutions and people.

A huge amount had been spent on these elections for political gains which was really painful, he added.

The minister said that Parliament must take cognizance and to protect the interests of the country because it had the real representation of the nation.—APP

Khawaja Asif for resolving Balochistan problems

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif on Wednesday said the political leadership should take the initiative to find a permanent solution to the problems faced by the people of Balochistan. Responding to the points of Akhtar Mengal of the Balochistan National Party in the National Assembly, he said "we are one nation and cannot stay indifferent to the problems of any federating unit."

Khawaja Asif said the points raised by Akhtar Mengal regarding the Balochistan situation were genuine and there was a dire need to heal the wounds of the people of the province. He said the problems of Balochistan could be addressed by sitting together with the leaders and people of Balochistan.

The Defense minister also voiced concerns over the security situation in Swat and other areas, warning this could also spread to other areas. He said responsibility rested with all the institutions to find a solution to the threats faced by the state. He was appreciative of the people of Swat for standing up against the terrorist elements.

Khawaja Asif also alluded to the devastation caused by floods in the country. He said the PTI government was removed through a constitutional way, regretting that its chairman was now trying to blackmail.

Balochistan National Party's Akhtar Mengal highlighted the issue being faced by the people of Balochistan. He asked the federal and provincial governments to provide security to the people of the province.—APP

MoHR launches inheritance rights' awareness campaign

ISLAMABAD :The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has launched a campaign to create awareness about the inheritance rights of women and other human rights to help make them sovereign citizens. Details shared by an official of MoHR revealed that the awareness campaign titled "Hamare Haqqoq" would highlight issues faced by women, children, minorities and other marginalized segments of society by showcasing documentaries and advertisements on official media including PTV and PTV World. The narrative of empowering and uplifting women and protecting their legal property rights has to be developed to protect their rights and access to the relevant country's laws. The campaign would help empower women to make independent decisions.—APP

Borrell’s statement is condemnable

In a recent speech at the inauguration of the new Diplomatic Academy in Belgium late last week, the European Union’s top diplomat made a speech that likened Europe to a garden, with the rest of the world beyond its borders a jungle. One can only hope that this was a rare slip from Josep Borrell, the High Representative of European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, rather than being meant with the full context and connotations inextricably inherent in an overtly racist sentiment.

That Borrell’s speech was delivered in the new centre in Bruges, meant to be the incubator for the next generation of diplomats, certainly seems out of lockstep. The reality is that since the worst of the refugee crisis seven years ago, where millions were displaced from social, political, religious and economic unrest across much of the wider Middle East, sub-Saharan and near-East regions, the bloc of 27 nations that Borrell represents, has largely failed to integrate large numbers of the most desperate within its borders.

With the exception of Germany, which under former Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed a million refugees from Syria and Iraq, governments in several European nations have erected logistical, administrative and indeed physical barriers to shut frontiers to refugees from the Middle East and elsewhere. And the recent surge of refugees from Ukraine shows the double standard that is implicit in Borrell’s ‘gardening’ sentiments.

The EU’s top diplomat would do well to fully realise that the political and economic body he represents relies to a large part on playing its full role in the world economy. In a statement issued by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC), the Ministry expressed its rejection of Borrell’s remarks, characterising them as racist and noting that these statements contribute to a worsening climate of intolerance and discrimination worldwide.

The remarks are a disappointing development, the UAE noted, that comes at a time when all parties are aware of the importance of respect for other religions, cultures, and ethnic groups, as well as values such as pluralism, coexistence, and tolerance.

The EU’s top diplomat would do well to fully realise that the political and economic body he represents relies to a large part on playing its full role in the world economy.

That is a global marketplace where people from every background meet, produce, buy and sell, and the overtly racist sentiments expressed in Borrell’s speech undermine the EU’s commitment to a full and inclusive place in the wider global economy.

Long gone are the days where Europe was economically dominant from its imperial and colonial activities – and exploitation – on foreign shores. No, we live in a world where there is no place for such institutionalised racist ideology.

Borrell would do well to reflect on his hurtful words, his sentiments and indeed on his position as the EU’s top diplomat. A full retraction is in order.

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China’s development not about ‘contesting’

Bloomberg on Monday sketched out four scenarios for China’s economy in the next decade and came to a basic conclusion that China likely wouldn’t overtake the US within the time period previously expected by the outside world. Speculating when China’s GDP will surpass that of the US has been one of the most interesting topics for US and Western public opinion in recent years. But most of the time they are talking to themselves: asking a question and then answering it themselves, reversing themselves, arguing within themselves, etc.

The exclamation that “China could overtake the US in GDP” first came from the US, which triggered and stimulated widespread anxiety in US society. Now the forecast that “the overtaking time” will be delayed or even that “China’s GDP will not overtake that of the US” have also spread from the US. Curiously, this has not eased the nervousness of Washington elites in the face of China’s rapid development. They are the ones who say China “can,” and they are the ones who say China “cannot” as well. To a certain extent, the topic itself is an embodiment of some Americans’ inner struggle.

Compared with GDP figures, the pragmatic Chinese people care more about whether their living standards are rising, environment is improving, and their development opportunities are increasing. They work hard day after day for achieving these goals. Under the guarantee of state policies, such common, real and modest aspirations, combined with the hard work and ability of the Chinese people, become the huge engine driving China’s economic growth. China’s development philosophy is people-centered, and emphasizes high-quality development, which means that quality, not quantity, is the focus.

There is no denying that GDP is a crucial economic indicator that can allow us to see where we are in general and make development plans accordingly. But it is more important to translate GDP into a sense of gain, happiness, and security for the people. As for being second or first in the world in terms of data, it cannot replace people’s feelings about their livelihoods, nor is it the ultimate goal of development. At the end of the day, Chinese people have always been trying to live their lives as well as possible and earn the respect they deserve in the international community. The fear of being overtaken by China in terms of GDP has become a sore point for Washington, or its demon. To slow down China’s development, Washington even risks damaging itself, such as pursuing “decoupling” from China. In fact, there is no need to do so, because China is committed to making a big cake that benefits its own people and, at the same time, provides more development opportunities for the world, including the US. As long as the US lets go of its obsessions and overcomes its sore point, it will apparently see the massive potential for win-win cooperation with China.

Going global and CPEC

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

The most noticed protest in the recent past with the slogan of ‘Gwadar ko haq do’, ‘Give rights to Gwadar’ led by Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, a generally acceptable figure, has also raised questions about mishandling of local administration. One of the participants expressed his concerns in these words, “When we go out to the sea, we cannot return home because the Chinese VIP movement is happening. Imagine that we spend eight hours working at the sea and then we are blocked because some Chinese engineer is moving about.”

Two high profile initiatives of Going Global strategy of China which laid foundation for departure from self-reliance to become

global actor are belt and road initiative and capacity cooperation. According to Tristan Kenderdine from Australian National University and Han Ling from Columbia University, “Belt and Road is part of a wider attempt to recreate complex interdependence and provides the macro geopolitical setting, it is a much broader canvas, one which China hopes to use to smooth its longer term integration into both the world economy and the global security apparatus. Unlike Belt and Road (B&R), which is a linear geopolitical concept, capacity cooperation is rather a practical financial measure for shifting China’s excess industrial plants offshore to perpetuate the investment-driven project system model of economic development.” Going Global 2.0 started focusing on China’s claim to become the champion of free trade. China quickly adapted weaknesses of Going Global 1.0 policy to control corruption and governance issues. China also realized that it is not the high-handedness and rent-seeking which can create space for China as global actor but the partnership and engagement can open doors of global markets for China. Terminologies which we noticed in several agitations in Baluchistan particularly in Gwadar clearly indicate lack of awareness about the transformation in China’s going global policies on one hand and probably some on-ground mismanagements on the other hand which created unrest in local masses. The most noticed protest in the recent past with the slogan of ‘Gwadar ko haq do’, ‘Give rights to Gwadar’ led by Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, a generally acceptable figure, has also raised questions about mishandling of local administration. One of the participants expressed his concerns in these words, “When we go out to the sea, we cannot return home because the Chinese VIP movement is happening. Imagine that we spend eight hours working at the sea and then we are blocked because some Chinese engineer is moving about. Even if it is a Chinese cook, we have to wait on the roads for hours together. The situation is so bad that we cannot even take a patient to the hospital if the coastal highway is blocked by the security forces.” This certainly indicates mal-

administration of people in-charge of daily affairs. There is a need to educate masses in Baluchistan and Sindh and particularly in Gwadar that China’s foreign implementation of the “flying geese model” drives the economic development of underdeveloped countries at one hand and provides an opportunity to utilize China’s expertise on other therefore making it a three dimensional policy together with the benefits of B&R initiative. According to the GRISP Development Forum, “The flying geese (FG) model intends to explain the catching-up process of industrialization of latecomer economies from the three aspects. Intra-industry aspect: product development within a particular developing country, with a single industry growing from import to production to export enabling sustainable growth. Inter-industry aspect: sequential appearance and development of industries in a particular developing country, with industries being diversified and upgraded from consumer goods to capital goods and/or from simple to more sophisticated products. International aspect: subsequent relocation process of industries from advanced to developing countries during the latter’s catching-up process.” If we take FG model optimistically, we can create a win-win situation for both China and Pakistan and particularly those who are directly exposed to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from Gilgit to Gwadar. Capacity cooperation model can benefit on two fronts: first, building industrial parks focusing ‘comparative advantage’ for different goods and services; second, upgradation of facilities and infrastructure through Sino-Pak industrial collaborations utilizing proposed industrial parks. Policy makers have to consider anxiety of local population when they exclaim that Baluchistan contains richest mineral resources, its people receive little of the income derived from those resources and are deprived of the education, medical care, and are subject to environmental challenges due to extensive mining activities. China has exceptionally progressed in latest technologies while Pakistan has a vibrant youth to contribute to the global demand of technologically skilled human resource. Instead of transferring only

aging or environment unfriendly industries to the proposed technology parks included in the master plan of CPEC, relevant authorities should deliberate working on a wide variety of options considering both absolute advantage and comparative advantage to develop reliable infrastructure for future needs of industrial and technological developments. It is not that complicated to develop frameworks utilizing both absolute and comparative advantages which according to Investopedia, “largely influence how and why nations and businesses devote resources to the production of particular goods and services. Absolute advantage describes a scenario in which one entity can manufacture a product at a higher quality and a faster rate for a greater profit than another competing business or country can accomplish. Comparative advantage, on the other hand, takes into consideration the opportunity costs involved when choosing to manufacture multiple types of goods with limited resources.” Pakistan is a country of diverse seasons and lands with innumerable dimensions of producing variety of both agricultural and industrial goods based on local environment and resources. Politics and economics of CPEC are intertwined due to several internal and external stakeholders to the project. It is indeed a challenging task to ensure smooth execution due to numerous interest groups and regional forces being impacted by the progress and completion of CPEC. Currently the most important aspect is to address local resistance because despite the promises of connectivity and development of the entire nation CPEC projects have become a target of terrorist attacks due to both inability to comprehend scope and benefits of the project and interventions of forces which consider CPEC as a threat for their regional and global hegemony. This can be achieved by inculcating consensus, effective stakeholder management, public education & engagement, and inclusion of indigenous communities & all relevant segments of the society.

—The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus

Saudi-US ties should not be used as election card

Hassan Al-Mustafa

So, if Saudi Arabia did not politicize the energy file with a country like Iran, which engaged in hostile actions toward the Kingdom, why would Riyadh use oil as a weapon against a “strategic ally” like the US? Isn’t that something that calls for contemplation before some American politicians launch a propaganda campaign against Saudi Arabia because of the recent OPEC+ decision to reduce oil production? The claim that Saudi Arabia is siding with Russia against the US is baseless because the Kingdom’s economic model, the nature of its foreign relations and its political and security alliances are closer to the Western-American liberal model

Oil expert Anas Al-Hajji wrote an article entitled “The US-European energy crisis has nothing to do with the decisions of Saudi Arabia and OPEC,” which was published on the Independent Arabia website on Oct. 11. In the article, Al-Hajji analyzed the reasons for the rise in gasoline prices in the US market, saying that “the energy problems that the United States in general and California, in particular, are suffering from are locally caused, and the extremist government policies that sacrificed energy security for the sake of the climate have lost both.” He indicated that “the decline in gasoline stocks, compared to their level in previous years, was caused by the closure of refineries, which are no longer profitable due to strict environmental laws and taxes imposed by the California state government.” Accordingly, Al-Hajji believes that blaming Saudi Arabia and OPEC+ is not wise. Rather, the US government should review its internal policies, especially those related to exploration and financing new projects. The opinion presented by Al-Hajji relied on analyzing data on the ground, away from politics, which Saudi Arabia has called for more than once, while striving for the work of OPEC+ to be purely economic and professional, especially if we notice that the organization includes two countries that are politically not on good terms, namely Saudi Arabia and Iran. Although Iran, through its militias in the Gulf, have targeted Saudi oil refineries, Riyadh did not seek to complicate the relationship with Tehran within OPEC, but rather worked as much as possible to neutralize political differences in the international organization. Previously, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman talked about the relationship that linked him with the former Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, describing him as “my friend” and noting the bilateral cooperation between them in order to solve problems and maintain the stability of oil prices, despite the political differences between the two countries and the intensity of the media discourse. So, if Saudi Arabia did not politicize the energy file with a country like Iran, which engaged in hostile actions toward the Kingdom, why would Riyadh use oil as a weapon against a “strategic ally” like the US? Isn’t that something that calls for contem-

plation before some American politicians launch a propaganda campaign against Saudi Arabia because of the recent OPEC+ decision to reduce oil production? The claim that Saudi Arabia is siding with Russia against the US is baseless because the Kingdom’s economic model, the nature of its foreign relations and its political and security alliances are closer to the Western-American liberal model. The Kingdom also realizes that technical, military and health progress is based on “Western civilization,” of which the US is currently the main leader. Saudi people and GCC citizens are influenced by American culture and, despite their reservations about some of its values, it is the closest to them. Hence, Saudi Arabia “is biased towards trying to ensure the stability of the oil markets, which is in the interest of consumers and producers alike,” according to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir. He also noted that “the decision to reduce quotas was taken unanimously by 22 countries. The markets responded very positively to this matter and oil prices have fallen since last week, not increased.” This clear Saudi perception, which Al-Jubeir pointed out, is consistent with what was stated by Prince Abdulaziz when he indicated that “we are concerned first and foremost with the interests of Saudi Arabia.” He added that the government has “an interest in being part of the growth of the global economy.” Today, Saudi Arabia’s national interests are a priority for the political leadership and take precedence over the wishes of allies and friends. Just as the US cares about its foreign interests and achieving the greatest returns for the American economy, so does Riyadh. The national creed puts economics ahead of everything else and politics becomes one of the tools of economics, not the other way around. The Saudis do not want to clash with an important country like the US. With the exception of some emotional and inexperienced writers on social networks, all Saudi government officials support having the best relations with Washington. Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said in an interview with Al Arabiya TV that “the relationship with Washington is old and strategic and has provided great benefits to both countries, and cooperation

between them serves the common interests.” However, a problem arises when the US seeks to make this relationship between a leader and a follower, which Riyadh has rejected. A statement issued by the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs referred to the rejection of external dictates, revealing that “the Kingdom made it clear, during its consultation with the US administration, that postponing the decision to cut production for a month, as was proposed, would have negative economic consequences.” One of the reasons for this campaign against Saudi Arabia in the US is the midterm elections of the US Congress, which take place on Nov. 8. These are important elections for the Democratic and Republican parties. Each party wants a majority in both houses and there are no external issues more attractive than energy, Saudi Arabia and oil, through which some politicians seek to justify failures by assigning them external causes, as if the problems of inflation and anxiety about the economic stagnation that Americans are suffering from are caused by OPEC+ decisions. In addition to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia has worked on proactive and active diplomacy as it seeks to refute the narrative of a tacit alliance between Moscow and Riyadh against Washington and the efforts to portray the Kingdom as supporting the Russian invasion of Ukrainian lands. This is the narrative that was refuted by last week’s call by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in which he thanked Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for supporting Ukraine’s territorial integrity during the UN General Assembly and expressed his appreciation of Saudi Arabia’s continued efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. Saudi Arabia last week also announced a humanitarian aid package for Ukraine worth \$400 million and, before that, it contributed to the release of a number of prisoners in Russia. These facts indicate that Saudi Arabia is not an ally of Russia working against the US. Relations between Riyadh and Washington are important for both parties and it is wise for politicians not to use them as a card in electoral seasons or propaganda campaigns. These relations need to be based on respect, cooperation and understanding and be between state institutions, not through individuals or pressure groups governed by political or ideological visions.

—Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

CPEC set to enter next phase: PM

FROM PAGE 01

Dr Musaddik Malik, special assistants Tariq Fatemi, Zafaruddin Mehmood, Jahanzeb Khan and Syed Fahad Hussain, PM's Coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal, Badar Shehbaz and senior officials. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah joined the meeting through video link.

Pakistan will not default: Dar

FROM PAGE 01

October 6 by one notch to CaaI from B3, which it said was because of increased government liquidity and external vulnerability risks following the floods, in a move strongly contested by the Pakistani government. Saying that "poverty neither comes nor does it go in just six months", Dar boasted the coalition government had succeeded in saving the country from defaulting on its international obligations.

Minister gets extortion letter from...

FORM PAGE 01

clear that the blood of every citizen is precious and noted that the law will strictly deal with those involved in the bloodshed of innocents. "Our citizens rendered unprecedented sacrifices along with the armed forces and played a historic role in the war against terrorism," read a statement. The forum decided to constitute an apex committee headed by PM Shabbaz and revive the National Counter-terrorism Authority (Nacta), which will work in collaboration with the provincial-level counter-terrorism departments to prevent any resurgence of terrorism in the country.

NA echoes with concern on Swat...

FROM PAGE 01

words on this [issue]. Neither are we here for terrorism to rear its head again—and rear its head again in Swat. "This is our country and we have to save it." Earlier, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif called for sitting together on the situation in Swat, among other issues of grave importance. He recalled that a similar situation in Swat was seen 11 to 12 years ago when concerns were raised that "those in Swat may not be too far away from Islamabad". Today, after a gap of 12 to 13 years, a similar scenario is being witnessed in Swat, he regretted, although adding that presently, it was not of the same "velocity and gravity" as more than a decade ago. However, he continued, a positive was that the people of Swat had come out and were united against without any discrimination or political differences.

Putin declares...

FROM PAGE 01

being invaded, Ukraine is prosecuting major counter-offensives in the east and south to try to take as much territory as it can before winter after routing Russian forces in some areas. Kherson is the biggest population centre Moscow has seized and held since it began its "special military operation" in Ukraine on Feb. 24. The city is on territory which President Vladimir Putin says is now formally incorporated into Russia, a move Ukraine and the West do not recognise. The conflict has killed thousands, displaced millions, pulverised Ukrainian cities, shaken the global economy and revived Cold War-era geopolitical fissures. Ukrainian cities have also been struck in recent days by drones and missiles, and Vitali Klitschko, Kyiv's mayor, said the capital's air defences were in action once again on Wednesday. In Kherson, Stremousov said the city and especially its right bank could be shelled by Ukrainian forces, adding that residents who left would be given accommodation inside Russia. "I ask you to take my words seriously and to interpret them as a call to evacuate as fast as you possibly can," he said.

Hamza, Noor win first round of CAS-Serena Squash C'ship

PSF in collaboration with PAF, Serena Hotels and Combaxx Sports, is organizing Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International for Men and Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Squash Championship for Women which will be concluding on 23 October, 2022

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan emerging stars Hamza Khan and Noor Zaman starting their winning campaign by defeating strong opponents in the first round of Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship for Men here at Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with PAF, Serena Hotels and Combaxx Sports, is organizing Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International for Men and Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports Interna-

tional Squash Championship for Women which will be concluding on 23 October, 2022.

Besides Pakistan, a group of 30 world ranking Men & Women players from Austria, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Serbia, Singapore & USA are participating in championship. Air Marshal Aamir Masood, Senior Vice President, Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) graced the occasion as Chief Guest in the opening ceremony. Detailed results 1st round matches of Men & Women are appended below. **Men Event** Moustafa El Sirty (EGY) Got Bye,

Hamza Khan (PAK) bt Ammar Altamimi (KUW) 14-12, 11-9, 9-11, 11-9 (41 Min), Ibrahim Elkabbani (EGY) bt Farhan Mehboob (PAK) 11-8, 11-9, 11-13, 11-8 (47 Min), Christopher Gordon (USA) Got Bye, Yassin Elshafei (EGY) Got Bye, Darren Rahul Pragasm (MAS) bt Zeeshan Zeb (HUN) 7-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-9 (38 Min), Ahsan Ayaz (PAK) bt Alireza Shamili (IRI) 11-7, 11-9, 12-10 (31 Min), Balazs Farka (HUN) Got Bye, Yahya Elnawasany (EGY) Got Bye, Adeen Idrakie (MAS) bt Muhammad Ashab Irfan (PAK) 11-8, 11-7, 11-9 (39 Min), Noor Zaman (PAK) bt Mohamed Nasser (EGY) 10-12, 12-10, 11-8, 11-3

(38 Min), Curtis Malik (ENG) Got Bye, Syed Azlan Amjad (QAT) Got Bye, Farhan Zaman (PAK) bt Israr Ahmad (PAK) 11-4, 11-5, 11-3 (20 Min), Viktor Byrtus (CZE) bt Abdallah Elmasry (EGY) 12-10, 4-11, 11-1, 6-11, 11-9 (48 Min) and Mohamed ElSherbini (EGY) Got Bye.

Women Event

Saskia Belnhard (GER) Got Bye, Nour Heikal (GEY) bt Sammer Anjum (PAK) 11-5, 11-2, 11-7 (12 Min), Haya Ali (EGY) bt Komal Khan (PAK) 11-3, 11-2, 11-4 (12 Min), Sofia Masteos (ESP) Got Bye, Au Yeong Wai Yhamn (SGP) Got Bye, Yashmita Jadishkumar (MAS) bt Mehwish Ali

(PAK) 11-2, 11-2, 11-4 (13 Min), Sadia Gul (PAK) bt Arisha Khan (USA) 11-8, 11-4, 11-8 (22 Min), Malak Khafagy (EGY) Got Bye, Fayrouz Aboelkheir (EGY) Got Bye, Rushna Mehboob (PAK) bt Saima Shaukat (PAK) 11-5, 11-8, 5-11, 11-6 (18 Min), Noor Ul Huda (PAK) bt Kincso Szasz (Hun) 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 12-10 (27 Min), Katerina Tycova (GER) Got Bye, Jacqueline Peychar (AUT) Got Bye, Zynab Khan (PAK) bt Aiman Shahbaz (PAK) 11-8, 11-9, 11-7 (16 Min), Jelena Dutina (SRB) bt Anam Mustafa Aziz (PAK) 12-10, 11-9, 11-7 (17 Min) and Marta Dominguez Fernandez (ESP) Got Bye.

Pakistan, Indonesia agree to enhance tourism co-op

DNA

JAKARTA: Ambassador of Pakistan to Indonesia, Timor Leste and ASEAN H.E. Muhammad Hassan called on Indonesian Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno in his office today to discuss bilateral cooperation in tourism sector. During the meeting, the Ambassador briefed the Minister about bilateral relations in diverse fields, including political, economic, trade, defense and culture and the desire of the government to further expand the bilateral cooperation in all these areas. He gave a detailed presentation on Pakistan's tourism potential including, adventure tourism, halal tourism, cultural tourism, and religious tourism etc. The



Ambassador also stressed on the need for starting direct flights between Pakistan and Indonesia, easing

the visa requirements for Pakistani nationals, and proposed granting them visa on arrival.

Minister Salahuddin acknowledged the historical and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Indo-

nesia and the tremendous scope for cooperation in tourism sector between both the countries.

He expressed his keen desire to expand this cooperation. He mentioned that Indonesia had six (6) polytechnic institutes of tourism which could train Pakistani tour operators in Indonesia. He also proposed to cooperate in other sectors of creative economy including culinary, fashion, arts, handicrafts, etc. Regarding visa on arrival facility for Pakistan nationals, the Indonesian Minister assured that they would give this proposal positive consideration. He also promised to look into the cumbersome visa process and in consultation with other stakeholders would try to make it easier and more friendly. Both sides also agreed to expedite signing MoU in tourism sector.

Yoon stresses importance of firm belief in liberal democracy

SEOUL: President Yoon Sukyeol said Wednesday it is important to maintain a firm belief in the liberal democratic system amid challenges in the economy and national security. Yoon made the remark during a lunch meeting with the heads of local chapters of the ruling People Power Party (PPP), according to his office. "The economy is struggling in and outside the country, and the security situation is tough as well," Yoon said, according to deputy presidential spokesperson Cheon Hyojong. "At times like this, the most important thing is for us to maintain a firm belief and confidence in the liberal democratic system." Yoon was responding to an attendee commenting on North Korea's recent provocations and threats, and the importance of standing firm against North Korea sympathizers, according to the presidential office.—APP

PCB 'disappointed' by BCCI remarks on Asia Cup 2023

PCB is surprised and disappointed by India's refusal to tour Pakistan and insistence on shifting tournament to a neutral venue

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has responded to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s remarks about Asia Cup 2023.

The PCB is surprised and disappointed by India's refusal to tour Pakistan and insistence on shifting the tournament to a neutral venue. "The PCB has noted with surprise and disappointment of yesterday's comments made by the ACC President Mr Jay Shah with regards to shifting of next year's Asia Cup to a neutral venue," the PCB said in a press release. "The comments were made without any discussion or consultation with the Board of the Asian Cricket Council or the Pakistan Cricket Board (event host) and without any thoughts towards their long-term consequences and implications," it added.



The PCB also reiterated that "Pakistan was awarded the ACC Asia Cup with an overwhelming support and response from the ACC Board Members". The Ramiz Raja-led cricket body also warned that such statements could have a devastating impact on the relationship between ACC members and future ICC events in India. "The overall impact of such statements have the potential to split the Asian and international cricketing communities, and can impact Pakistan's visit to India for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and

future ICC Events in India in the 2024-2031 cycle," the press release further stated. The Asia Cup in 2023 will be a 50-over event as it will be used to prepare for the ODI World Cup in India next year. India have not toured Pakistan since 2008 due to strained relations between the two countries. "Neutral venue for Asia Cup is not unprecedented and we have decided that we will not travel to Pakistan," Jay Shah, the secretary of the BCCI and also the president of the ACC, said on Tuesday. "I have decided that we will play at a neutral venue." The last bilateral series between the arch-rivals took place in 2012, when Pakistan toured India for limited-overs matches. Over the past few years, the two countries have only faced each other in ICC and ACC events. APP

Iran dismisses accusations it provided Russia with weapons

TEHRAN: The Iranian government says it is ready to talk to Ukrainian officials to address allegations that it is arming Russia and plans to ramp up military cooperation with it, as the war in Ukraine nears the end of its eighth month. In a statement issued late on Tuesday, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani reiterated Tehran's denials about sending drones to Russia to be used in the conflict, and for the first time expressed readiness for "dialogue and negotiation with Ukraine to clear these allegations". It came after Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Monday he had proposed to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy the formal breaking of diplomatic ties with Iran after Russia's latest attacks, which killed several people and damaged infrastructure. Kuleba said the Ukrainian government had no doubts that Iranian Shahed-136 "kamikaze" drones were used in Monday's attacks, and believed Tehran would possibly continue supplying arms to Moscow.—APP

North Korea confirms firing artillery shells

PYONGYANG: North Korea's military has confirmed firing over 250 artillery shells into maritime buffer zones near the inter-Korean border, describing it as a "serious warning" against the South's ongoing joint war games with the United States. A spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA) said in a Wednesday statement that Pyongyang had launched the "warning" shots as a "powerful military countermeasure" against joint US-South Korea war games in the area that began on Monday and are due to continue until Saturday. The statement, carried by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), demanded that the South immediately halt the "reckless and inciting provocations" that have raised military tensions on the peninsula. The announcement came hours after the North launched the artillery shells into waters off its east and west coasts. Pyongyang's acknowledgment of firing the artillery

shells came hours after Seoul reported them, while calling on the North to immediately stop such actions. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a statement early on Wednesday that its northern rival had fired nearly 100 shells off its west coast and 150 rounds off its east coast, adding, "We strongly urge North Korea to immediately halt its actions." Pyongyang's artillery firing came despite speculation that it may refrain from staging retaliatory military measures against Seoul's Hogue war games during China's ongoing 20th Congress of the Communist Party. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula flared last week after North Korea tested a missile, shot more than 500 artillery shells, and flew a multitude of fighter jets near the skirmish-prone sea border in response to joint military drills held by the South. Seoul condemned Pyongyang over the move, saying it violated a 2018 bilateral military pact banning "hostile acts" in the border area.—Agencies

'Group of criminals imposed...

FROM PAGE 01

the PTT's preparations for the Long March and the public enthusiasm in this regard. Condemning the shameful arrest of PTI Senator Azam Swati and his custodial torture, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman said that it was beyond comprehension as to why production orders of Azam Swati was not issued. Talking to Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi who called on him here on Wednesday, Imran Khan strong condemned the imported government for undermining the dignity of the Parliament, especially the Upper House. Chief of Staff of PTI Chairman Senator Shibli Faraz was also present on the occasion. During the meeting, they discussed the overall political situation of the country, the role of PTI in the upper house threadbare.

Imran Khan expressed his shock over the indifference of other political parties in the Senate, adding that the imported government consisting of criminals was attacking the sanctity of the constitution and parliament. PTI Chairman said that the shameful arrest of a 74-year-old member of the upper house and his custodial torture was sheer violation of the constitution and the law. He went on to say that no civilized country in the world can allow such inhumane treatment and deprivation of all constitutional rights mere for expression of opinion.

Congress gets first non-Gandhi...

FROM PAGE 01

India's independence from colonial power Britain and then dominated politics for decades, has long championed a secular polity. "This symbolic change of the president is a very powerful moment for the Congress," said Neelanjana Sircar, a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research think tank. "Its desire to change will have to reflect in organisational change on the ground." Disgruntled senior party members have in recent months challenged the party's operation under its interim president, Sonia Gandhi, who took charge after her son, Rahul Gandhi, resigned following the party's loss to the BJP in a 2019 general election. Sonia and Rahul are the widow and son of assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who followed his mother Indira Gandhi and grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru. The three collectively ruled India for all but around four of its first 40 years of independence. Kharage said Rahul Gandhi had congratulated him on the phone and told him that he would keep working as a "foot soldier" of the Congress.

Pak, WI T20s re-scheduled

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Cricket West Indies (CWI) have mutually agreed to re-schedule their three-match T20I series in the first quarter of 2024. The series was originally billed to be played in January 2023 in Pakistan. The decision has been made considering 2024 is an ICC Men's T20 World Cup year, with the event due to be hosted in the West Indies (WI) and USA in June 2024, and the shortest format matches will, therefore, help both the sides to prepare for the tournament. The three-match T20I series in January 2023 is not part of the recently announced 2023-2027 ICC Future Tours Programme. The West Indies played their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches against Pakistan in Multan in May 2022, while the December 2021 series comprised three T20Is in Karachi. —APP

Shaza hails PSCF team for silver medal

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19 (AP-P): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday congratulated players of Pakistan Street Child Football (PSCF) team for securing silver medal at the world cup held in Qatar, this month. Pakistan Street Child football team visited Prime Minister's Office after their outstanding world cup performance, said. —APP

Shaheen soars high again, but rain ruins fun

Rizwan hadn't opened his account even after facing eight balls, while Babar scored six runs off six balls. The total of 19 runs after 2.2 overs was courtesy 13 wides bowled by Afghanistan

SEAPORTS DESK

PERTH: Pakistan's opponents in the Super 12 round of the T20 World Cup were given a hint of what to expect when they will face Shaheen Shah Afridi, as the pacer was looking his usual best, against Afghanistan in the warm-up match. Pakistan elected to field first in the warm-up match against a Mohammad Nabi-led side and Shaheen delivered a one-run over with a wicket at the top, sending a warning that he has recovered fully from the knee injury. Such was the venom in Shaheen's fifth delivery of the first over that Rahmanullah Gurbaz had to be taken to the hospital for a scan on his toe, as his left foot came in the way of



Pakistani pacer's in-swinging yorker and the stumps. Shaheen then bowled Hazratullah Zazai with a low full-toss as the Afghan opener tried to move back and hit him over the covers. In the last warm-up match before Pakistan face India in their blockbuster Super 12 opener, Pakistan tried six bowlers, but were unable to dismiss the complete Afghan batting line-up. After losing four wickets for a paltry 48, Afghanistan recovered courtesy Ibrahim Zadran's stead 35 off 34 balls. Pakistan bagged two quick wickets on the score of 81 and 82, but to their surprise the pair of captain Nabi and lower-middle-order batter Usman Ghani put on a valuable partnership to steer Afghanistan to a respectable 154-6 in 20 overs.

Briefs

UK inflation jumps back above 10 %

LONDON: British inflation jumped back above 10 percent in September on soaring food prices, official data showed on Wednesday, with the country gripped by a cost-of-living crisis.

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) accelerated to 10.1 percent on an annual basis, up from 9.9 percent in August, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

The September rate matched the level in July and is the highest in 40 years also as a result of sky-high energy bills.

Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices were the biggest driver of inflation in September as they rose by 14.5 percent, the biggest jump since April 1980, according to historic modelled estimates of the CPI.

Hotel prices also increased in September, the ONS said. "I understand that families across the country are struggling with rising prices and higher energy bills," Britain's new chancellor Jeremy Hunt said in a separate statement.

"This government will prioritise help for the most vulnerable while delivering wider economic stability and driving long-term growth that will help everyone." The government has been rocked by chaos in markets in the wake of a budget that pledged uncosted tax cuts. The majority of those measures have since been reversed, leaving Prime Minister Liz Truss fighting to save her job.

Following widespread criticism over the budget, Truss sacked Hunt's predecessor, Kwasi Kwarteng, after fewer than six weeks in the role.—APP

Ukraine downed over 200 kamikaze drones

KIEV: Ukrainian forces have destroyed 223 Russian drones since Sept. 13, Ukraine's Defense Ministry announced on Wednesday.

"As of Oct. 19, since the first downing of an Iranian-made Shahed-136 kamikaze drone on the territory of Ukraine, on September 13, 2022, in Kupiansk, air defenses of the Air Force and other components of the Defense Forces of Ukraine destroyed 223 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)," the ministry said in a statement.

The statement said anti-aircraft missile units, fighter aircraft, self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, man-portable air-defense systems, anti-aircraft guns, high-caliber machine guns, and other weapons have been used in downing the drones.

Kyiv recently accused Iran of providing military drones to Russia after multiple strikes rocked major Ukrainian cities and region, namely the capital Kyiv, as well as Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy.

Missile and drone strikes were also reported by Ukrainian authorities in the Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Kharkiv regions on Saturday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that he had "no available data" on deliveries of Iranian UAVs to Russia. Ukraine, meanwhile, accused Iran and Russia on the same day of violating UN sanctions over the shipments it said Moscow received.—APP

Blasts, firing kill 8 in Myanmar's prison

YANGON: Two blasts amid gunfire killed at least eight persons and injured 15 others in a prison in Myanmar on Wednesday.

The incident happened inside Insein Prison in Yangon when many civilians had come to meet their incarcerated relatives and provide them with food, Myanmar Now news website reported. "At around 9.40 a.m. (0310GMT), two parcel bombs went off near the main entrance of the prison: one detonated in a building where staff receives care packages for prisoners and another one went off outside," the report said.

The deceased include three staff of the prison and five civilians. Incidents of blasts and gunfire have seen a rise in city areas in Myanmar after the military toppled a civilian government last year.—APP

Ethiopia keen to boost trade, political co-op with Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula on 15 October 2022 conferred with Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and senior Management where they discussed a range of Issues related to trade, investment, tourism, technology transfer and institutional cooperation. To this Ambassador Jemal highlighted the overall investment environment, rules and regulations, incentives and one shop service for the FDI. Similarly, he said that Ethiopia has a very cheap clean energy and working to become the manufacturing hub of Africa due to its relatively trained and competitive labor force coupled with supportive government policy that make Ethiopia a preferred FDI destination. On top of that Ambassador said Ethiopia is the land of Origin for humankind, source of Nile longest river, and land of Coffee, BilaHabesh first Azan, and King Ne-jashi who well come the Ashaba, famous historical, archeological, and nature site seeing. "Ethiopian airlines will soon be flying in Pakistan

which will eventually boost tourism and bilateral trades between the two countries with marked improvement in people-to-people and business-to-business ties," Mr Jemal Beker remarked. He said Ethiopia had been offering online visas to the visitors as its incumbent government believed in opening up the country to boost its economy undertaking deep and penetrating reform that create conducive environment for FDI. Moreover, Ethiopia is a signatory of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) that protects and ensure the property and assets of the FDI and easy of repatriation of dividend. He said his country was a gateway to the African continent and Pakistani business community had vast opportunities to export their products to the entire Africa and import pulses, coffee, tea, oil seeds, and vegetables. Moreover, the Government of Ethiopia is ready

to sign a number of agreements and MOU with the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the trade, and investment cooperation and collaboration between the two sisterly countries. On the other hand, Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry appreciated the Government of Ethiopia support to the flood-affected families in Tent City of Sindh Province of Pakistan in which the Government of Pakistan

and its People will remember this good gesture and became a history between the two countries. Apart from this, the President said Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies of the African continent, which implementing home grown economic reform that prioritize agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT sectors that offer an immense opportunity for Pakistan companies to work together with their counterparts.

Attacks on civilians 'war crimes': EU

MOSCOW: The president of the European Commission on Wednesday accused Moscow of war crimes in Ukraine, calling the Russian military's deeds "acts of pure terror." "Russian attacks against civilian infrastructure, especially electricity, are war crimes," Ursula von der Leyen said while addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. "Targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure, with a clear aim to cut off men, women, children of water, electricity, and heating, with the winter coming - these are acts of pure terror.—APP

Liz Truss says she's 'not a quitter' in Parliament

LONDON: British Prime Minister Liz Truss described herself as "a fighter and not a quitter" Wednesday as she faced down a hostile opposition and fury from her own Conservative Party over her botched economic plan. Truss attended her first session of Prime Minister's Questions since newly appointed Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt ripped up the tax-cutting package unveiled by her new government less than a month ago. She apologized to Parliament and admitted she made mistakes during her short tenure as the U.K.'s head of government.

Some lawmakers shouted "Resign!" as she spoke. Asked by the opposition Labour Party's leader, Keir Starmer, "Why is she still here?" Truss retorted: "I am a fighter and not a quitter. I have acted in the national interest to make sure that we have economic stability." A package of unfunded tax cuts Truss' government announced Sept. 23 sparked turmoil on financial markets, hammered the value of the pound and increased the cost of U.K. government borrowing. The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prevent the crisis spreading

to the wider economy and putting pensions at risk. Under intense political and economic pressure, Truss last week fired her ally Kwasi Kwarteng as Treasury chief, replacing him with Cabinet veteran Hunt. On Monday Hunt scrapped almost all of Truss' tax cuts, along with her flagship energy policy and her promise of no public spending cuts. He said the government will need to save billions of pounds and there are "many difficult decisions" to be made before he sets out a medium-term fiscal plan on Oct. 31. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly urged Conservatives

to give Truss another chance, saying "mistakes happen." "What you've got to do is recognize when they've happened and have humility to make changes when you see things didn't go right," he said. Official figures released Wednesday showed U.K. inflation rose to 10.1% in September, returning to a 40-year high first hit in July, as the soaring cost of food squeezed household budgets. While inflation is high around the world - driven up by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its effect on energy supplies - polls show most Britons blame the government for the

country's economic pain. With opinion polls giving the Labour Party a large and growing lead, many Conservatives now believe their only hope of avoiding electoral oblivion is to replace Truss. But she insists she is not stepping down, and legislators are divided about how to get rid of her. Truss faces another test in Parliament later when lawmakers vote on an opposition Labour Party motion seeking to ban fracking for shale gas - a policy Truss recently greenlit.—APP

Uzbekistan set goal to create 600,000 jobs next year

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a meeting on the expected end-of-year results in the agricultural sector and tasks for the next year. According to the press service of the Head of our state, three years ago, Uzbekistan adopted the agricultural development strategy for 2020-2030 and launched large-scale reforms. In particular, the export of fruits and vegetables increased by 1.7 times and amounted to \$1.1 billion. As a result of the transition to market mechanisms in grain farming, the incomes of farmers increased by 2 times. This year, more than 1 million tons of food products have been grown due

to the distribution of land to the population. Due to climate change and the difficult situation in the world, food security is becoming a serious problem. It is expected that the prices of agricultural products in the world will grow. In such a situation, first of all, it is necessary to meet the demand of the population and make full use of export opportunities. At the meeting, the Minister of Agriculture reported on plans in this direction. The Head of the state outlined the current tasks in the sphere. "There is a reason why we pay special attention and often discuss agricultural issues. Since it makes up a quarter of our economy. The well-being of our people, price stability, jobs are connected with it,"

Shavkat Mirziyoyev said. The issue of increasing yields due to the effective use of land and water resources was considered. The importance of helping farmers determine the soil composition, choosing seeds, and protecting crops from pests was noted. The proposal to conduct laser leveling of 200 thousand hectares of land has been approved in this regard. Subsidies will be allocated for the lands on which the yield has grown, and farmers' expenses for the purchase of laser levelers will be compensated. The task was set to launch projects of effective water resources management in the regions together with foreign companies. Along with land and water, financing is among the most

important resources of agriculture. In this regard, the need for expanding farmers' access to financial resources, simplifying the obtaining of loans and subsidies was noted at the meeting. Another important area is the deep processing of fruits and vegetables. But so far the indicators in this direction are low. Only 20 percent of orchards and vineyards, and 7 percent of vegetable fields have implemented intensive methods. Therefore, 2 thousand 163 projects have been formed for implementation in the food industry. As a result of their implementation, imports of 25 types of food products will be reduced, exports will expand. More than 37 thousand people will be employed.

Taiwan 'fully prepared' for any Chinese invasion

TAIPEI: Taiwan's top defense chief on Wednesday said the military is "fully prepared" to defend the country against any Chinese invasion. "Taiwan's military would be 'fully prepared' for any Chinese invasion whether Beijing decides to move up or push back a purported timeline to do so," Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said. His comments came as the Taiwanese military held a live-fire drill early today "simulating the use of cannons and tanks to repel invading Chinese forces," official Focus Taiwan reported. The drills were held in offshore Penghu county. "The military knows what it will have to do, whether in the next second or the next hour, while preparing

for war. It will not sit idly by whether Beijing moves up or pushes back (its timeline to militarily invade Taiwan), it will have its own timeline, and it will pay attention to signs and make forecasts about possible developments accordingly," Chiu said. The minister reiterated the "need for the military to defend itself if it sustained a 'first strike' from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA)." "Just like if someone tries to push you, you must dodge or deflect him," he said. In Penghu county, the Taiwanese military held the monthly exercise, firing howitzers, mortars, machine guns, and automatic weapons "at simulated enemy forces attacking a beach."—APP

Oil spat unlikely to break US-Saudi ties

WASHINGTON: Despite growing anger in Washington and US President Joe Biden's threat that Saudi Arabia will face "consequences" over oil production cuts, analysts say a fundamental change in relations between the United States and the Gulf kingdom is unlikely. The furor over a recently announced oil output reduction is the latest display of tensions between the two allies, whose ties have endured a series of setbacks in recent years. "I don't think we're likely to see a divorce proceeding from this sort of troubled marriage," said Annette Shelina, a research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a US-based think tank. "But I do imagine that we may continue to see more discontent from both the Americans and the Saudis, and just this question of 'Why do we continue to take this from this country that calls itself our partner?'" Riyadh has faced a firestorm of criticism in Washington after OPEC+ - which brings together OPEC and other oil producers, namely Russia - announced the output cuts this month. The move will likely push up petrol prices for US consumers ahead of crucial midterm elections next month, and key Democratic Party lawmakers have called for fundamentally reassessing the US-Saudi partnership and for going so far as to end security cooperation with the kingdom.

As the world's largest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia is a major player in OPEC+, but members of the groups say they make decisions by consensus. Saudi Arabia insists that the decision to reduce oil production is "purely economic" and aimed at stabilising energy markets as central banks hike interest rates and fears of a global recession rise. Some of the country's supporters also have argued that the security relationship between Washington and Riyadh is mutually beneficial, not a favour from the US.

But the White House expressed disappointment at the OPEC+ announcement on October 5. Chuck Schumer, leader of the Democrats in the US Senate, called the decision an "appalling

and deeply cynical action" and promised to consider all legislative tools against Riyadh, including a bill called NOPEC. It would allow US courts to hear market manipulation lawsuits against OPEC. Lawmakers also introduced two separate measures to halt arms sales to Riyadh, and Bob Menendez, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged freezing "all aspects" of US cooperation with the kingdom. Still, Shelina said the outrage in Washington may be "a tempest in a teacup" because the US remains dependent on fossil fuels and its partnership with the kingdom, which goes back decades. Gerald Feirstein, a former US diplomat who now serves as director of the Arabian Peninsula Affairs programme at the Middle East Institute think tank, also said it is unlikely that the current tensions will substantially alter the alliance.

"We still have important interests with Saudi Arabia," Feirstein told Al Jazeera. "We still share a number of important objectives, including regional and global security and stability." Feirstein said the US alliance with Saudi Arabia is transactional, not a "deep relationship", but mutual interests are enough



to keep it going. "There have been issues; there have been flare-ups ... where the relationship looks a little bit unstable, a little bit rocky," he said. "But always it comes back to the reality that there are, despite everything, shared interests, and I think that that's what sustains it."

In addition to the oil cut's potential effects on the US energy market, critics of Saudi Arabia have accused the country of siding with Russia in its invasion of Ukraine. They argue that higher global oil prices would generate more income for the heavily sanctioned Russian government to fund the war. But the kingdom vehemently denied any political motives behind the move. In a statement last week, Saudi Arabia also appeared to confirm that the Biden administration had asked the country to postpone the oil cuts, presumably so they would not impact petrol prices before the US elections.

The Saudi foreign ministry said the kingdom "clarified through its continuous consultation with the US Administration that all economic analyses indicate that postponing the OPEC+ decision for a month, according to what has been suggested, would have had negative economic consequences". Feirstein said that while reducing production may make sense for the Saudis economically, the US also has valid concerns about energy stability and inflation with Russia waging a war in Ukraine and global markets not looking promising. "I think that both sides have a number of factors to point to to justify their position," he said. "... At the end, basically where you sit is where you stand." Still, some critics of the kingdom say the timing of the oil cuts cannot be ignored as they come so close to the US elections, which will decide which party controls Congress and will shape the rest of Biden's term. "I can't overstate the drama that the timing has produced," Bruce Riedel, senior fellow of the Brookings Institution think tank, said at a virtual event hosted by the Quincy Institute last week.—Agencies

Türkiye will be a natural gas hub: President

ANKARA: Türkiye will be a natural gas hub after having agreed with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday.

"Türkiye will be a hub for natural gas as well. In our last meeting, we agreed with (Russian President Vladimir) Putin on this issue. We will create a hub here with Turkish gas coming from Russia," Erdogan said at the Justice and Development (AK) Party's group meeting in the capital Ankara.

"And in his own words, Putin announced to the world that 'Europe can get its natural gas from Türkiye'," Erdogan added.

Erdogan said concerns are rising in Western countries amid energy crises, adding that Türkiye "does not have such a problem."

Last week, on the sidelines of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia summit in the Kazakh capital Astana, Erdogan held a closed-door meeting with Putin, who had proposed building a natural gas hub in Türkiye. After the meeting, Erdogan announced that Ankara and Moscow will work jointly on building a natural gas hub in Türkiye's Thrace region after a Russian proposal.—APP

Austria's annual inflation at 10.5%

VIENNA: Austria's annual consumer inflation rose to 10.5% in September fueled by surging household energy prices, according to a final reading from the country's statistical office on Wednesday.

The September figure, up from 9.3% in August, has exceeded the 10% mark for the first time since Oct. 1974, the Statistics Austria data showed.

Prices of housing, water and energy went up by 19.8% year-on-year in September.

"Fuel prices, which remained at a high level, were thus relegated to second place among the price drivers. Prices for food and restaurants also continued to rise strongly compared to the previous year," said Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Transport prices rose by 17.5% compared to a year earlier in September, and food and non-alcoholic beverages prices climbed 13.9% in the same period.

On a monthly basis, Austria's consumer prices index increased by 1.6% in September.—APP

ANTH, IMDC organize breast cancer awareness walk

ISLAMABAD: The Dr. Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH) and Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC) here on Wednesday organized an awareness walk to mark Pink Day and create awareness about breast cancer.

According to press statement issued by ANTH, the Pink Day was observed on October 19, commemorating breast cancer awareness month to raise public awareness about self-examination, screening, prevention and treatment of breast cancer.

In addition to awareness walk, the event included awareness stalls, bake sales, fun games, creative artworks, poster competition, pink ribbons and distribution educational materials.

Chairman ANTH/IMDC, Dr. Ghulam Akbar Khan Niazi, inaugurated the event in the presence of Managing Director Yasir Khan Niazi, Principal IMDC Prof. Dr. Syed Irfan Ahmad, and Director Hospital Col. (R) Ghulam Mujtaba Abbasi.

A large number of doctors, students, faculty members and people of other walks of life participated in the event. The chairman appreciated the management, staff, and students for their efforts to raise awareness about this fatal disease.

Yasir Khan Niazi said on this occasion that ANTH was committed to spreading awareness and providing quality breast cancer services in its One-Stop Breast Clinic, and emphasized the importance of early detection to cure this fatal disease as it is easier to treat when found early.—APP

Briefs

Pakistan
Indonesia
maintain
cordial ties

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday welcomed the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Adam M. Tugio during a call on paid by the envoy here and conveyed that Pakistan attached great value to its relations with Indonesia which were governed by mutual respect and cooperation. The Defence Minister expressed that Indonesia and Pakistan had maintained decades old close and cordial relations which had historical roots, a news release said.

He mentioned that Pakistan and Indonesia had shared perceptions on important regional matters. The Minister also appreciated the efforts of Indonesian Government for providing platform for creating a favourable and long lasting peaceful environment in the Asia Pacific Region in the form of Jakarta International Defence Dialogue (JIDD). Moreover, Minister for Defence reiterated that Pakistan strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He commended Indonesian Government's success in fighting terrorism and its concerted efforts to dismantle terrorists' networks. He informed that regional and global stability, security and peace were their common goals. – APP

IHC instructs
FIA to act as
per law

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday instructed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to take action in the prohibited funding case as per law and adjourned the hearing of PTI leaders' petition against their arrests till October 27. Justice Aamer Farooq of the IHC heard the case filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Senator Saifullah Khan Niazi. Petitioners' lawyer Faisal Chaudhry, Barrister Ali Gohar and Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Dogal appeared before the court.

Saudi Arabia welcomes
Australia's decision

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has welcomed Australia's decision to reverse its recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In a statement, the Saudi foreign ministry reiterated the Kingdom's "unwavering support" for the Palestinian people. Saudi Arabia called for "unifying international efforts to find a just settlement for the Palestinian issue, in a manner that fulfills the aspirations of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital in line with the international law and the Arab Peace Initiative," read the ministry's statement. Palestinians on Tuesday hailed Australia's decision as a "wise and courageous" decision.

Australia said it will no longer recognise West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, reversing a decision taken by the government of former Prime Minister Scott Morrison in 2018. "Today the Government has reaffirmed Australia's previous and longstanding position that Jerusalem is a final status issue that should be resolved as part of any peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian people," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said in a statement. Where Australia's defence minister said its military was investigating reports former pilots

were accepting training roles in China, as Britain said it could take legal action on national security grounds to stop its pilots being similarly recruited.

The British government said on Tuesday it was taking steps to stop former British military pilots training the Chinese armed forces, with British media reporting that a South African flight school was acting as an intermediary for China's People's Liberation Army to recruit pilots. read more British Armed Forces Minister James Heappey said in an interview with Sky News the government would change the law to make it an offence for a pilot to continue training a foreign military after being warned by British intelligence agencies.

The South African company, Test Flying Academy of South Africa (TFASA), did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on whether it had hired pilots from Britain, Australia and New Zealand to work for it in China. A New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) spokesman said it was aware of "four former serving personnel who have left to gain employment with (TFASA)". "NZDF personnel are free to be able to gain employment once they leave service, however depending on their decisions, there may be repercussions to any future employment with the NZDF," the spokesman said in a statement.

No letup on Israeli blockade of Nablus

WEB DESK

RAMALLAH: The Israeli army's blockade of 200,000 people in Nablus and surrounding villages in the occupied West Bank continued for an eighth day on. Several main arteries remain closed. Cement blocks have been used to block city entrances and random mobile checkpoints continue to disrupt the life of residents, Palestinian sources told Arab News. There has been no letup in the crackdown by the Israeli Defense Forces, internal security service Shin Bet, or Israeli Border Police forces in Nablus, Jenin and other West Bank towns. Dozens of people have been arrested and their light arms confiscated as Israeli authorities hunt for members of

local military group Areen Al-Osoud, which has been accused of targeting Israeli military forces and settlers. Its 150 fighters are not affiliated with traditional Palestinian organizations such as Fatah or Hamas.

Israeli settlers in the area have significantly escalated attacks on Palestinian farmers, targeting villages and towns, closing crossroads, cutting down trees, and smashing Palestinian vehicles. Analysts view the crackdown against the backdrop of the upcoming legislative election in Israel on Nov. 1. Some have expressed concerns that the attacks might escalate in the coming days as a form of collective punishment, as the heavy-handed treatment of Palestinians can help politicians gain votes among settlers in the West Bank, the number of which is

estimated at about 700,000. More than 120 Palestinians have been killed, dozens injured and hundreds arrested by the Israeli army since the start of the year in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Taysir Nasrallah, a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council in Nablus, told Arab News that the closure of the city, a commercial hub and the economic capital of the West Bank, has led to the complete paralysis of commercial activity in the city. "All furniture stores and restaurants are suffering from a decrease in the number of shoppers due to the suspension of the economic cycle in Nablus," Nasrallah said. "As an employee, I am not ready to spend four hours waiting at an Israeli military checkpoint to reach my workplace in Ramallah. After passing through the checkpoint,

I may be exposed to attacks from settlers scattered along the road between Nablus and Ramallah." The siege, at the height of the olive-picking season negatively, also affects farmers, he added. Markets in Nablus are mostly frequented by people from surrounding villages and towns. The residents of the city anticipate an Israeli military invasion as part of the crackdown on Areen Al-Osoud. Israeli authorities canceled entry passes to Israel for 164 relatives of groups members this week. Yassin Dwaikat, a member of Nablus Chamber of Commerce, told Arab News that the city's financial losses amounted to millions of dollars during the first week of the siege, adding that the tourism, restaurant, hotel, resorts, parks, retail and wholesale trade, health and education sectors were affected.

Turkiye support for the flood
affected to continue: AFAD

Turkiye Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci says both countries tied in strong bonds of brotherhood

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Pacaci has said there exists a strong bond between the people of Türkiye and Pakistan adding all the humanitarian assistance has been directed to Pakistan on behalf of the people of Türkiye. His country stands shoulder to shoulder with the brothers and sisters of Pakistan at this critical juncture. Ambassador Pacaci made these remarks while addressing a press conference, at the Türkiye embassy on Wednesday. The Vice President of AFAD also spoke to the media persons and highlighted the efforts of his organization.

The vice president said, more than 30 million-people have been adversely affected, more than a thousand people have lost their lives, hundreds of thousands of houses have been destroyed, and thousands of animals have perished in the floods disaster caused due to the monsoon rains that have been effective in Pakistan since 14 June. It has been reported by Pakistani authorities that approximately 35 billion dollars of financial damage occurred due to the flood disaster. He added, in order to send humanitarian aid to the region, GoodnessTrain Expeditions were established in cooperation with the Türkiye Ministry of Transport, and an Air Bridge was established in cooperation with the Türkiye Ministry of National Defense. In addition, preparations have been started for the Pakistan Goodness Ship expedition, which will depart from Türkiye. In addition to these aid bridges, AFAD Pres-



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Pacaci and Vice President of AFAD, Önder Bozkurt speak to the media persons. – DNA

idency personnel took charge as of August in order to coordinate the works in Pakistan and to ensure the process of receiving humanitarian aid from the local.

He said, as of 19.10.2022, a total of 15 planes carrying aid, 13 Goodness Train Expeditions and Local Supply to the region. The first humanitarian aid plane reached Pakistan on 28 August 2022 after the flood disaster was sent from Turkey. A total of about 227 tons of humanitarian aid (mostly medical products) materials have been transported on 15 planes shipped from Turkey so far. He said, under the coordi-

nation of our AFAD Presidency, together with our 22 NGOs, a total of 334 wagons on 13 goodness trains, consisting of tents and humanitarian aid materials, and which started on 30 August 2022; 7,222 tons of aid materials (408,847 food and hygiene packages) were sent to Pakistan. Aid materials are delivered to the logistics warehouse in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Balochistan Region, and then to the disaster-affected areas by trucks under the coordination of NDMA (Pakistan National Disaster Management Authority). He said over 51,380 food

packages were distributed to the disaster victims and distribution continues in the designated disaster areas. In total, 35,152 tents were set up and dispatched in 44 different regions under the coordination of AFAD Presidency. In these areas approximately 251 thousand people live.

He further said, a total of 77 personnel (19 AFAD personnel, 3 Health teams and 53 NGO representatives, 2 Academicians) have worked in Pakistan so far to coordinate the distribution of aid materials sent to the region by our Presidency and to assist in the establishment of tent cities.

Revocation of
Afghan student's
visas exposes
Indian hypocrisy

ISLAMABAD: The Indian apathy towards the people of war-hit Afghanistan stood exposed as the Narendra Modi government revoked the visas of Afghan students enrolled in Indian universities. According to the media reports, out of an estimated 14,000 Afghan students currently enrolled in 73 Indian universities, about 2,500 have been restrained from returning to India who were desperate to continue their education. Such a callous Indian attitude towards Afghan people is nothing new as India was among the first nations that closed their missions in Afghanistan, suspended flights between New Delhi and Kabul, and also halted bank payments to the Afghan government. The Indian government's decision to revoke Afghan

students' visas has exposed the claims of the Indian government's so-called renewed friendly and humanitarian overtures towards Afghans. Contrary to India, Pakistan has offered 4,500 fully-funded scholarships to Afghan students in addition to already existing ones. Since August 2021, out of 60,000 Afghan applications, India has granted less than 300 e-visas and that too to Afghan Sikhs and Hindus which was the manifestation of the Hindutva mindset of the BJP-led government. In addition to repression at home, drained finances, and visa woes, Afghan students face the apathy of Indian universities. Although Afghan students have paid their dues, students at various Indian universities have cut contact with their Afghan students. – DNA

Bolsonaro's
far-right
echoes
Trump's

RIO DE JANEIRO: Bolsonaro'smo," the Brazilian far-right movement built around President Jair Bolsonaro, shares much in common with ultra-conservatives in power in Europe – Hungary, Poland and soon Italy – but is closer to Donald Trump and the US alt-right. Whether or not Bolsonaro wins his uphill fight for re-election against veteran leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Brazil's October 30 runoff, the far-right's arrival in power in Brazil, as elsewhere, is linked to deep social upheaval, analysts say. "All these far-right movements are rooted in an economic and social crisis that is growing worse by the year: rising inequality, declining income for the working and middle classes," says Christophe Ventura, a Latin America specialist at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS). "That has triggered the rise of widespread mistrust." The response, he says, has followed a similar pattern internationally: a rejection of "rotten and incompetent" traditional politicians in favor of "virtuous citizens and a more authoritarian government" to right the wrongs unleashed by globalization and free trade – blamed for all ills. In Europe, Italy's Fratelli d'Italia, – APP

Covid still an
international
emergency

GENEVA: The World Health Organization said Wednesday it is too early to lift the highest-level alert for the Covid crisis, with the pandemic remaining a global health emergency despite recent progress. The WHO's emergency committee on Covid-19 met last week and concluded that the pandemic still constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), a status it declared back in January 2020.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters Wednesday that he agreed with the committee's advice. "The committee emphasised the need to strengthen surveillance and expand access to tests, treatments and vaccines for those most at risk," he said, speaking from the UN health agency's headquarters in Geneva. The WHO first declared the Covid-19 outbreak a PHEIC on January 30, 2020, when, outside of China, fewer than 100 cases and no deaths had been reported. – Agencies

Ukraine moves
to cut diplomatic
ties with Iran

WEB DESK

JEDDAH: Ukraine moved on Tuesday to sever diplomatic ties with Iran for supplying deadly "kamikaze" drones to Russia. Moscow has launched dozens of Iranian-made Shahed 136 drones at Ukrainian cities in the past two weeks, destroying energy infrastructure and killing civilians. "The actions of Iran are vile and deceitful," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Tuesday. "We won't suffer them, because all those actions were done while Iran told us that they didn't support the war and won't support any of the sides with their weapons." The Shahed 136 is a delta-winged aircraft used as a "kamikaze" air-to-surface attack weapon. It carries a small warhead that explodes on impact. Iran agreed to supply Russia with the drones, along with Fateh and Zolfaghar surface-to-surface missiles, in a deal signed on Oct. 6 when top officers from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps visited Moscow. NATO pledged on Tuesday to supply air defense systems to Ukraine to combat the drones. The Western military alliance "will in the coming days deliver counter-drone systems to counter the specific threat of drones, including those from Iran," its secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg said on Tuesday.

Russia has destroyed almost a third of Ukraine's power stations in the past week, President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Tuesday, as Moscow rained more missiles down on infrastructure in a campaign to intimidate civilians.

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