



Islamabad POST

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Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral relations becoming stronger

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UN peacekeeping chief to visit Pakistan, Asia

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Kyrgios into Japan Open quarter finals

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Briefs

No time for politics

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has taken a jibe at PTI for trying to "divert" attention from floods while millions still await assistance, saying that there is no time for politics now. Bilawal said this while addressing a press conference in Karachi on Thursday. The foreign minister, while sharing Sindh's updated statistics of the people affected and lands still inundated by the catastrophic floods, said that the recent flooding has caused a bigger impact on the economy than the COVID-19 pandemic did.

No meeting with Nawaz Sharif

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said he is not in London to meet anyone from the Sharif family and doesn't entertain a desire to do so. Speaking to media, the Punjab Chief Minister said his visit to London was private and there will be no political meetings. "I am in London for around a week on break. I am not meeting Nawaz Sharif or anyone else. I have come here to meet the family of Moonis Elahi," he said. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said he had known Sharifs for too long and "after spending a lot of time one should learn and I know a lot about them."

Marriyum condemns torture on teachers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has condemned the brutal torture on teachers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a statement on Thursday, she said torturing teachers for demanding their rights is a shameful act. The Minister said these teachers are mourning on Imran Khan's so called economic revolution in KPK.

'Fraudster, liar'; PM slams Khan

IK committed treason, inflicted 'irreparable damage' to country's reputation, says PM Shehbaz

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday fired broadsides at PTI chief Imran Khan, calling him a "fraudster" and the "biggest liar in Pakistan's history". Shehbaz Sharif said by building a deceitful narrative of conspiracy against his government, Imran Khan committed a treason against Pakistan and its people, and inflicted an irreparable damage to the country's reputation. The prime minister, while referring to an audio leak revealing a conversation between the then prime minister Imran Khan and ex-principal secretary Azam Khan about using the classified diplomatic cable for political purposes, said the episode had badly damaged Pakistan's relations with the friendly countries.

He said sans the audio leak, the ambiguity might have prevailed for years but Allah blessed the nation by exposing Imran Khan's "fraud, deceit and worst conspiracy" against the country. "The audio tells all. Is there any doubt yet as to who hatched the conspiracy? Who are the real conspirators? Those were Imran Khan and his cronies," the prime minister told a press conference here at the PM House. He said the coalition government was trying to revive bit-by-bit the ties with

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Azadi March to be dealt with iron hand: Coalition

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of all the political leadership of the federal coalition government that met under Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif resolved that no one would be allowed to mount an assault on Islamabad while trampling the basic core of the constitution and relevant laws.

In an apparent reference to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan's call for converging his supporters in Islamabad, the meeting also cautioned the provincial governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to desist from becoming the second fiddle to PTI leader's in the creation of chaos and anarchy in the country, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Those who would cross the red line, would be liable to be dealt in with the relevant laws, it was declared. The meeting strongly condemned the attacks on the national institutions and warned that anyone who would try to cross the red line, would face the resistance of 220 million people of the country and the strength of law.

Power subsidy for export industries

Dar says expects industries to now increase exports

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday announced a power subsidy package for Pakistan's export industries with per unit electricity cost set at Rs19.99.

In a media talk after negotiations with the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) in Islamabad, he termed the demand for energy subsidies "just" and promised that the government would bear the difference between the new fixed price and the actual per unit production cost. "I expect the industries to now increase Pakistan's



exports." Dar said the annual burden of the subsidy would amount to around Rs90-100 billion, adding that the "all-inclusive" package was announced for the five major exporting sectors, and not just the textile sector. He denied that the subsidy would have any impact on the primary or budget deficit, assuring that "everything will be taken

care of". Meanwhile, in response to a question on whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was taken into confidence on the package, the finance minister said: "I don't need to take [the IMF] into confidence [...] when I know what I am doing then it is my responsibility to create [fiscal] space for it and I have done so." Dar added that he believed in taking "prudent decisions" and had a source of funds available for the package. "I will explain it myself" when talks are held with them [IMF delegation] and when they arrive on October 25," he added.

President urges lawmakers to decide date for election



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, in an address to the joint session of the Parliament on Thursday, called on politicians to end growing polarisation in the country and decide on an election date by coming together. "People can only be united if politicians are united," he said, highlighting that eliminating differences was the "need of the hour".

The joint session of the National Assembly today was called in line with articles 54(1) and 56(3) of the Constitution. The session was sparsely attended, with the majority of MNAs missing from both benches. Those in attendance were seen freely mingling and talking amongst one another while the president was speaking. Meanwhile, Jamaat-i-Islami Senator Mushtar Ahmed chanted slogans calling for



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addresses a press conference. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb is also present on the occasion.—DNA

Court cannot direct NA speaker: IHC CJ

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah on Thursday asked PTI to inform the court about its intention of returning to Parliament in five days but stopped short of issuing an order on a petition filed by the lawmakers whose resignations have been accepted. IHC CJ Athar Minallah remarked that the court cannot issue orders to the speaker and advised the PTI to return to the Parliament as it was the forum to resolve political matters. The IHC CJ made the observations while hearing the petition of the PTI MNAs whose resignations were accepted by NA Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf and subsequently denotified by the Election Commission of Pakistan. At the outset of the hearing, Justice Minallah stated that the court respects the Parliament, adding that a similar petition was also filed before as well on this matter.

Forces kill one terrorist

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Mattani, Peshawar. According to an ISPR statement, intense fire exchange took place between troops and terrorists during the conduct of operation. Resultantly, one terrorist got killed. Weapon and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist. The killed terrorist remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens.—DNA

PML-N and ECP behind audio leaks, alleges Imran Khan

Says he believes that the plan to disqualify him has been made

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Thursday accused the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of being behind the audio leaks scandal. During his meeting with journalists, the PTI Chairman once again demanded ECP CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja should tender his resignation, while Imran also challenged the open hearing on the Toshakhana case and said that the long march is not far away from here. Claiming that the people would head to the long march in large numbers, the former premier [Imran] challenged that no one could stop them [PTI] from staging a long march. Claiming that due to the PTI, overseas Pakistanis are facing a ban on joining the political party, Imran said that if the overseas Pakistanis are not 'acceptable', then there

Imran gets pre-arrest bail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A local court of Islamabad on Thursday granted interim bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan till October 13 in a case pertaining to his threatening remarks about a female judge and police officials. District and Sessions Judge Kamran Basharrat Mufti heard the case filed by Imran Khan through his counsel Dr Babar Awan. The PTI chairman appeared before the court along with his legal team. After listening to the arguments, the court granted the pre-arrest bail to Imran Khan against surety bonds of Rs 50,000 and sought comments from the Islamabad Police regarding the plea. The case was adjourned till October 13. The Margalla Police had lodged a first information report (FIR) for threatening a female judge.

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Wapda, Army to fight for Women's Basketball C'ship — Page 06

Election will be open, fair, and just, says Tokayev — Page 07

Indonesia-Pak bilateral ties becoming stronger — Page 08

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Increase in encroachment, a matter of concern

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed concern over the ever-increasing encroachments in different localities of the city and demanded the district administration especially Cantonment to remove these encroachments to end frequent traffic jams affecting their business. All major markets and Bazaars of the city are facing encroachment and traffic congestion. Talking to the delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajran Rawal-

pindi Cantt, Saqib Rafiq, the newly elected president of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce said that encroachment is the biggest problem, it is difficult to walk in Sadar bazar, due to traffic congestion, and customers face difficulty in shopping. He said that the Cantonment Authorities have failed to fulfill their responsibilities. Saqib Rafiq said illegal car parking was common even in the presence of traffic cops, creating massive traffic jams and customers have stopped coming to the shops for shopping. Busi-

ness activities are severely affected. He assured the delegation that the chamber will take up the matter with the district administration in a comprehensive manner to eliminate encroachments and reduce traffic congestion. The delegation, which was led by President Cantt Sheikh Hafeez, also congratulated the newly elected officials on assuming charge of their office and expressed confidence in the new team's capabilities. Group leader Sohail Altaf said that the ongoing campaign of the chamber

"Rishwat se inkar ba izzat karobar" will be promoted so that the efficiency of the departments can be improved. Zafar Qadri, Munir Baig, Mushtaq Khan, Rashid Waien, Hasan Mustafa, Asim Malik, Aamir Malik and other members were also present in the delegation. Group leader Sohail Altaf, former presidents Najam Rehan, Jalil Malik, Asad Mashhadi, Manzar Khurshid, Malik Shahid Saleem, Nadeem Rauf, executive members and members of the chamber were also present on the occasion.



Participants of 52nd PNSC visit IPS

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Participants of the 52nd PN Staff Course at Pakistan Navy War College (PNWC), Lahore, visited the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad to get exposure to independent think tanks and their role in the contemporary world and in enhancing strategic capabilities. The delegation, headed by Cdr Fahad Malik and Cdr Ahmed Raza Tahir, comprised faculty members of PNWC and officers from 11 friendly countries - including Bahrain, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, South Africa, and Sri Lan-

ka - pursuing MS Defense Studies at National Defense University, Islamabad, till May 2023, under 52nd PN Staff Course. Vice Chairman IPS Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain introduced IPS, its mandate, and its research domains to the delegates, while General Manager Operations Naufil Shahrukh apprised them of the Institute's activities to promote research, dialogue, publishing, and human and technological development activities for policy and governance with special reference to its maritime policy desk. While addressing the officers, Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman explained how the world and warfare have

been changing over the centuries. Unlike the past several centuries, in the contemporary world, mere physical and military might is not enough. He stressed how it has become necessary over time to build a case and justify the cause of waging war. In addition to convincing the world of the legitimate cause of war, the militaries must also justify the intent of war and follow the rule of proportionality. All these requirements of warfare in the contemporary world demand expertise and proficiencies of a pool of experts and intellectuals. This role is effectively performed by the research organizations and think tanks which, by default, have a

pool of experts, netted intellectuals and practitioners, and archival support to provide genuine opinions and analyses. Moreover, with the extended outreach capacity, think tanks represent a concept that provides knowledge and bridges the gap between research and policy. He further emphasized that, in today's world where merit and morality were being sacrificed against money and market, wars and conflicts will not stop happening. That's why the militaries and nations need to ensure preparedness. At the end of the event, Lt Cdr Fakhra Mahmood thanked IPS officials on behalf of PNWC for hosting the delegates. #

All Pakistan Naat competition held at Radio Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Annual All Pakistan Naat competition, jointly organized by Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW), was held at the National Broadcasting House here on Thursday.

Raja Ahkam Mushtaq from Azad Jammu and Kashmir bagged the first position, while Faizan Ahmad from Balochistan came second and Awais Karni from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secured third position in the competition under the boys' category (below 15 years). In the girls' category (below 15 years), Ayesha Noor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa came first, Aliya Akbar from Punjab second and Iman Fatima from AJK secured the third position. In the category of boys in the age bracket of 15-25

years, Muhammad Ali from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa got the first position; Ali Nawaz from Punjab took the second position, whereas Syed Saadat Ali Qadri from AJK secured the third position. In the category of girls between 15-25 years, Sumaiya Noor from Sindh got the first position, Javeria Muhammad Shoukat from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took the second position and Zohra Aziz from Balochistan got the third position. First position holders were awarded cash prize of 100,000 rupees, second position

holders 75,000 rupees and third position holders 50,000 rupees. Other participants who reached the final were also given a cash prize of twenty-five thousand rupees. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor congratulated Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television for organizing the Naat competition. He said humanity could solve its problems by following the life of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW).—APP

Korea to increase flood relief support

Ambassador Sangpyo said Pakistan was recently facing huge floods that had increased concentration on water monitoring whereas he also had witnessed the recent UN Flash Appeal podcast organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Korean Ambassador Suh Sangpyo on Thursday said the Republic of Korea would increase its ongoing support for flood relief efforts in Pakistan and the Korean community based here would also share their contribution to support the flood victims. He made these remarks at a one-day training workshop jointly organised by Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) in collaboration with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) on enhancing SDG 6 Water Quality Monitoring in Pakistan. Ambassador Sangpyo said Pakistan was recently facing huge floods that had increased concentration on water monitoring whereas he also had witnessed the recent UN Flash Appeal podcast organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan. "Some \$816 million have been pledged for the flood victims of Pakistan through the flash appeal which is five times more than the amount asked in the previous flash appeal," he added. The Korean ambassador said there were various epidemics breakout in flood affected areas and the Korean government would provide assistance to address this issue.

He added the workshop was intended to improve water quality monitoring and ensure the implementation system on water quality management. Moreover, he said it would also help in exploring how efficiently KOICA could collaborate to improve water quality in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary MoCC Asif Hyder Shah expressed gratitude to the Korean government for supporting the Ministry in handling critical project of water quality management. Commenting on the flood devastation, he said, the country was expecting this kind of disaster after 15 years but it had become a ground zero due to this tragedy as this was one of the biggest climate crisis ever faced by the country. "For Pakistan climate crisis is water crisis. We need to prepare resilience against both water scarcity and abundance. Our agriculture is highly dependent on Indus river and that is dependent on glaciers." However, he regretted that the country despite accumulating so much water would become water scarce in the coming few years, whereas the problem of safe drinking water had aggravated in the country. The health issues and water borne diseases were the next challenge that the govern-

ment was going to face, he added. The workshop consisted of four sessions: Involving Introduction of Enhancing SDG 6 Water Quality Monitoring in Pakistan led by KOMIR, Perspective of Water Quality Monitoring in development agenda of Pakistan led by MoCC, Water Policy in Korea led by K-Water and Climate Change and Water Resource Management in Pakistan led by MoCC. Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is a government aid agency of the Republic of Korea (ROK), founded in 1991. KOICA implements Korea's grant and technical cooperation of the ROK, supporting the socio-economic development of many developing countries. In 2010, KOICA opened its regional office in Islamabad, Pakistan. The office implements various projects in Transport, Energy, Water Management and Health, Rural Development. Similarly, Capacity Building on Water Quality Monitoring and SDG 6 (6.1) Reporting Project was signed as agreement to extend cooperation on enhancing water quality monitoring and to improve capacity of the Government of Pakistan to achieve SDG 6 between Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) with a cost of \$7.42 million from 2019 to 2024.



KARACHI: Japanese CG inaugurated international photo exhibition

Japanese CG inaugurates Int'l photo exhibition at Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Japan, an international photo exhibition was organized under the umbrella of the Pakistan Association of Photojournalists in collaboration with the All Japan Association of Photographic Societies, Japan's multi-circulation daily Asahi Shimbun and the Consulate of Japan in Karachi. The exhibition will be open to the general public from October 7 to October 13. The international exhibition was inaugurated by Odagiri Toshio, Consul General of Japan in Karachi, Zahid Hussain founder of the Pakistan Association of Photojournalists, Sakuma Yasuo, former photojournalist of daily Asahi Shimbun visiting from Japan, Azmat Ataka, MOHAMMAD Zubair, Kaleem Farooqi, the president of Pakistan Japan Business Forum and Faysal Edhi. Speaking on the occasion, the Consul General of Japan Odagiri Toshio said that this photo exhibition will play an im-

portant role in the promotion of friendship between Japan and Pakistan. He also appreciated the efforts of Azmat Ataka, the Pak-Japan Business Forum, PAPJ and the Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association, and expressed determination to strengthen Pakistan-Japan friendship. Sakuma Yasuo also expressed hope that the relations between the two countries will be strengthened through cooperation with Pakistani photojournalists. Zaid Hussain, founder of PAPJ, while appreciating the cooperation and relationship with the Japan Professional Photographic Society, hoped that this exhibition would give Pakistani photojournalists an opportunity to understand and learn about international standards of photography. PAPJ's representative for Japan, senior photo and video journalist MOHAMMAD Zubair, announced on this occasion that a photographic exhibition of Pakistani photojournalists will be held in Tokyo in December 2022. He said that both countries have friendly and cordial relations and for the pro-

motion of cultural relations, such exhibitions will be continued. The exhibition showcases photographs from the 81st Annual International Exhibition held in Japan, which includes photographs by photographers from 30 countries including photographs of Pakistan's senior photojournalist Muhammad Zubair based in Japan and Pakistan's internationally renowned photojournalist Jahangir Khan. Sakuma Yasuo, a former senior photojournalist of Asahi Shimbun, has visited Karachi to participate in the exhibition, he has expressed the hope that friendly relations between Japan and Pakistan will be strengthened through this photo exhibition. Adeel Khan, the senior member of PAPJ, said that through this exhibition, the relations between the photojournalists of Pakistan and Japan will be reinforced and the people of both countries will understand each other's society and culture in a better way. Internationally renowned photojournalist Jahangir Khan, who has received photography education and

training from Asahi Shimbun in Japan, said that this is a unique photo exhibition in Pakistan called Color of the World. He said that Pakistani photojournalists and photographers will be able through this exhibition to understand new techniques and angles. Jahangir Khan said that photographs of photographers from about 30 countries have been exhibited in this exhibition while during the next exhibition which would be held in Japan, the photographs of Pakistani photojournalists will also be included. PAPJ has specially invited photojournalists, photographers and students to see the exhibition while photojournalists from all across the country have arrived in Karachi to participate in the exhibition. On the occasion, Senior official of Pakistan Japan Cultural Association, President Pakistan-Japan Business Forum Kaleem Farooqi, Muhammad Zubair, a Senior Photo-Video Journalist, a PAPJ Representative in Japan, and Faisal Edhi and a large number of people from different walks of life were also present.

Experts for proactive environmental reporting

ISLAMABAD: The experts at the conclusion of a two-day media training workshop on Thursday called for facts based and proactive environmental reporting of the issues related to country's growing environmental vulnerability and recurrence of natural disasters. The Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) organised the two-day media training workshop on "Climate Extremes with Emphasis on Health Impacts" in collaboration with the NIH, PAMI and Environmental Journalists Association (EJA). At the conclusion, Head of Agriculture and Coordination, GCISC Dr Arif Goheer said Climate Change itself was a very vast issue which was taken as a leftover agenda in the media as it was mostly dominated by political news. "The message through effective and fact based environmental journalism has to be made forceful by journalists to replace political agenda. I demand all participants to utilise the knowledge acquired from this workshop for nation building and human good," he said. During the second day, three technical sessions were held on diverse topics including forecasting of monsoon, weather.—APP

International pro wrestlers to help flood victims

ISLAMABAD: A group of renowned international pro wrestlers on Thursday said they would play their role to help Pakistan's flood victims to get back to a prosperous life. The wrestlers including Tiny Iron, Adam Flex, Amale Dib, Maria May and Baadshah Pehalwan Khan, who are in Pakistan to promote wrestling and help flood victims held a news conference at National Press Club Islamabad after visiting some flood-hit areas. They pledged to raise

funds for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people. "I'm really sad to see the situation in the flood-hit areas. Flood victims need food and shelter and we all should play our role to help them," British wrestler Tony Iron said. "We'll try our best to help them rebuild their lives," he added. Irish wrestler Adam Flex said he was sad to see the plight of flood victims. "Our heartfelt sympathies go out to them. We'll play our role for their betterment and rehabilitation," he said.

French wrestler Amale Dib expressed her best wishes for the flood victims and said they would do whatever they could for them. "We wish they can resume their full and prosperous lives as soon as possible" she added. The wrestlers will feature in fights under the banner of Ring of Pakistan in next few days at three different venues - Multan, Karachi and Islamabad. Wrestlers from around 20 countries are likely to chip in in these fights.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (Works Division-II)

Invitation for bids

(Construction of Roads and Brigdes/Culverts at Diplomatic Enclave-II, Islamabad)

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) invites sealed bids under single stage two envelop procedure from firms registered with PEC having valid registration certificate for the year 2022-23 in Category C-3 and above with relevant codes CE-01, CE-02, CE-09, CE-10, EE-04, EE-06, EE-10 as also mentioned in the bidding documents who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the captioned project. Interested firms/ Contractors can purchase the bidding documents from the office of Dy. Director Works-II, CDA Room No.22 Ground floor Old Naval HQ, G-6, Islamabad upon submission of application along with Cash amounting to Rs.5000/- non-refundable being cost of the bidding documents during office hours before 28.10.2022. The detail terms & conditions are included in the bidding documents. The bidders are required to submit two sealed envelopes simultaneously (one containing the Technical proposal and the other financial/ price bid) enclosed together in and outer single envelop. The bids shall be received in the office of Director Works, CDA room No.21 Old Naval HQ, G-6, Islamabad on dated 31.10.2022 at 11:30 AM and will be opened on the same day at 12:00 Noon.

- The Financial/ price bids will remain sealed and will be held in custody of CDA until evaluation of technical bids however time for opening of financial bids will be intimated subsequently.
- The firms providing unsubstantiated and or incorrect information are liable to legal action and disqualification.
- The CDA reserves the rights to reject all the application as per PPRR rules. Advertisement is also available at CDA & PPRR websites.

PID (I) No. 2180/22

(Jamil Ahmed)
Dy. Director Works-II, CDA

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

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- WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
- CAA.....9281092



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- MH.....5611116
- Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International.4603666



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- RDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Virgin Atlantic doing quite well in Pakistan

Liezl Gericke, the Head of the Middle East, Africa and India says 'We are currently flying with strong load factors on Pakistan routes. In September we flew with a 98% load factor Ex-Pakistan collectively across all routes and the outlook for the rest of the year is promising'



ISLAMABAD: Liezl Gericke, the Head of the Middle East, Africa and India of Virgin Atlantic addressing a press conference.—DNA

BUSINESS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Liezl Gericke, the Head of the Middle East, Africa and India Virgin Atlantic has said she was quite satisfied with the Pakistan operations adding the airline was doing its best to properly facilitate all its customers. She made these remarks while addressing a press conference at the Islamabad Serena Hotel, on Thursday. Flanked by staff of the Pakistan office, Ms Liezl said, 2022 is the start of a new phase for Virgin Atlantic, as we recover from the Covid pandemic and delivering our best for our customers and our people. Our vision is clear: to become the most loved travel company and sustainably profitable 'We're investing in our network our operations in Pakistan are integral to this journey. We are back strong, offering new routes, with more flights and brand new next generation aircraft, with the youngest fleet on the transatlantic, now just under 7 years on average. She thanked all the trade partners for supporting Virgin Atlantic from the day it launched flights in Pakistan. This journey would have not been possible without their

support, she said. To a question about floods in Pakistan and global warming, she said the climate crisis is the single greatest challenge of our lifetime. The climate crisis will not be solved by one industry, like aviation, or by one player within that industry, like airlines. It requires coordinated and consistent progress to be made against ambitious climate goals by individuals, industries and governments. 'Fleet transformation, aircraft technology, and SAF supply are crucial to the aviation industry decarbonising, but of equal importance is the need for the global industry to continue working together as a coalition of the willing. Realising the devastating impact of carbon emission on the environment, Virgin Atlantic has been striving to do better for our planet and we're taking action. We're investing in research, new technologies and innovation to reduce our impact in the air and on the ground', she added. Sharing Virgin Atlantic actions towards this end Ms Liezl said the time for action against climate change is now. We've announced a set of ambitious interim milestones to take Virgin Atlantic to net zero by 2050. We were the first airline to fly a commercial aircraft using sustainable

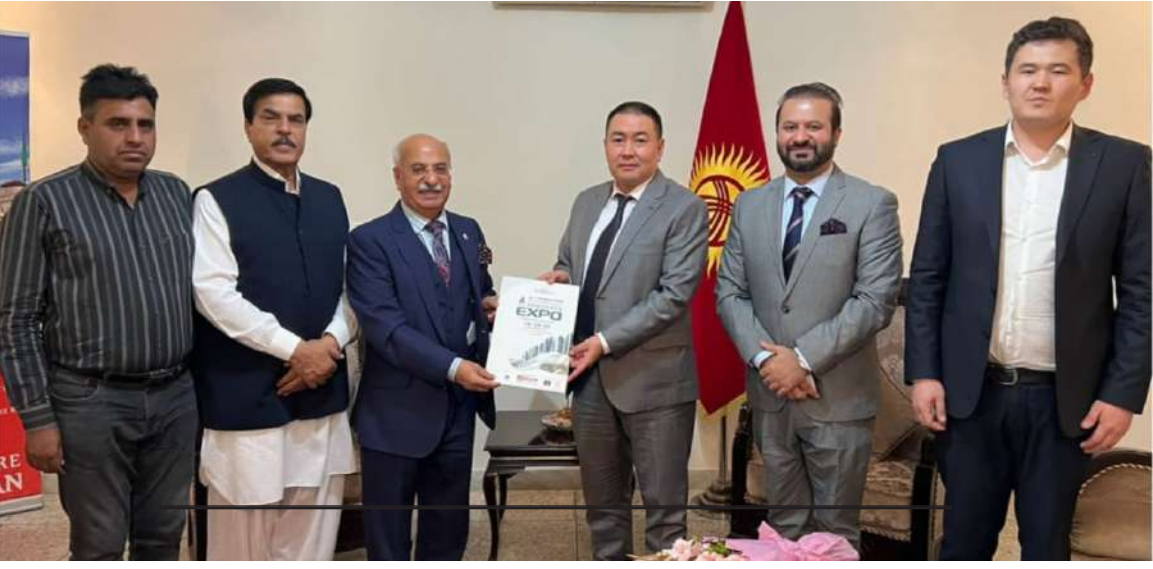
aviation fuel back in 2008 and by 2019 we had already achieved 18% reduction in CO2 emission through this initiative. She said, Pakistan is an extremely exciting opportunity for us as the UK is home to the largest Pakistani Diaspora community outside of Pakistan with over 1.5 million people. The UK-Pakistan market has always displayed strong underlying growth annually, with a strong combination of business and leisure passengers, which gives us confidence about the long-term potential. While commenting on the suspension of operations between Manchester and Islamabad she said, as international travel rebounds, we're continually reviewing our network, taking into account aircraft availability and the services which support the greatest customer demand. We've taken the decision not to operate Manchester - Islamabad services this winter but will evaluate opportunities to resume this route in future seasons, and in the meantime, the service continues twice-weekly until the end of October from our home in the North 'We look forward to meeting continued demand for leisure and business travel with direct scheduled services to Pakistan, with

our Heathrow-Islamabad and Heathrow-Lahore services now on sale for the Winter 2022 season'. While talking about the business prospects in Pakistan she said Pakistan has been one of the quickest markets to recover following Covid. VFR traffic was resilient throughout Covid, and as travel restrictions were unlocked earlier this year, we saw a surge of pent-up demand from all segments. 'We are currently flying with strong load factors on Pakistan routes. In September we flew with a 98% load factor Ex-Pakistan collectively across all routes and the outlook for the rest of the year is promising'. She added, a significant number of passengers connect onto our extensive US network from Pakistan via London Heathrow. Islamabad/Lahore to New-York is our largest connecting traffic flow currently. Virgin Atlantic carried over 120k passengers between UK and Pakistan in 2021 and were the number one carrier for the year and in 2022 again, we are leading the market for point-to-point travel to the UK. Recently held Skytrax Awards, Virgin Atlantic also took home the award for best business class lounge as well as world's best premium economy offering.

RDA inflows cross \$5 billion mark in 25 months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) rose to US \$5.15 billion by the end of September 2022 as compared to US \$4.981 billion till end of August, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan on Thursday. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during the month of September were recorded at \$168 million as compared to \$187 million in August and \$188 million in July, 2022. Roshan Digital Account (RDA) was launched by State Bank of Pakistan in collaboration with commercial banks operating in the country. These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment and investment activities in Pakistan. As per data, expatriate Pakistanis from 175 countries had deposited the funds to 472,023 accounts opened through RDA. The number of accounts has also been increased from 456,732 in August to 472,023 in September 2022, which means some 15,291 new accounts were opened in the month under review. The scheme that started in September 2020 received lukewarm response from the overseas Pakistanis who deposited only \$7 million in the opening month, however with the passage of time the interest kept on increasing as the inflow reached to \$40 million in October 2020 and \$110 million in the subsequent month. The data showed that in Naya Pakistan Certificates, the Overseas Pakistanis invested \$1.7 billion under conventional while \$1.57 billion under Islamic banking.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Delegation from Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry led by M. Khurshid Barlas founder chairman, along with Amin ur Rehman EC, Fahad Barlas and others meet with Kyrgyz Republic, Ulanbek Totuiev. - DNA

Devcom donates plants

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) distributed 200 plants among the students of the Islamabad Model School Chak Shahzad on Thursday in connection with its ongoing campaign "grow

a plant, own a tree". The National Centre of Cleaner Production (NCCP) supported the event. Students and teachers of the school also planted some saplings of fruit trees on the campus. Speaking to the students, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said the young members of the IDCLC belonging to different schools and colleges of twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have contributed significantly in the "grow a plant, own a tree" and the "green neighborhood" campaigns. More than

thirty thousand grownup saplings have been planted in different parks, green belts, schools and colleges in the last seven years. Green Neighborhood is an idea to engage individuals to plant fruit trees around and in front of their houses and take care of them until their growth is survived. It is essential that residents keep their vicinity clean and green. This would turn the entire city clean and green if every citizen contributed to it. Small efforts of all individuals can bring the change we are looking for. Ahmed

Three more wards for dengue

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has decided to allocate three more wards

for the dengue patients as the number of cases was continuously increasing. "Some 120 beds were arranged to handle the burden of dengue patients on PIMS," Director, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr Khalid Masood said. He said that several measures have been taken to contain the disease. He confirmed that a total of 73 dengue patients had been admitted to PIMS and 13 of them were still receiving treatment. He said around 10 patients were discharged on improving their condition.—APP

Oct 24 as deadline for scholarships

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced October 24, 2022 as deadline to apply for merit-based undergraduate scholarship program for students of Gilgit-Baltistan to study in top Pakistani Universities/Institutions. Official sources from HEC told on Thursday that applications were invited from outstanding students of Gilgit-Baltistan who intended to pursue undergraduate studies (four/five years BS programs) from HEC-recognised public sector universities/degree awarding institutions (DAIs). They said that the scholarships were being offered for the academic year 2022-23 in all areas of study/disciplines under the "Undergraduate Scholarship Programme for the Students of Gilgit-Baltistan in top Pakistani Universities/Institutions (Batch-II)". As per HEC directions, the applicants must have a domicile/local

certificate of Gilgit-Baltistan. He/she must have completed Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and/or Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) and/or equivalent. However, priority will be given to those students who have passed/completed their SSC/HSSC or equivalent from Gilgit-Baltistan, they added. Applicants who are already availing of any other scholarship are not eligible to apply. The maximum age limit is 22 years as of the closing date of application submission. The candidates will have to meet HEC and university criteria for admission to BS programs. The scholarships will cover tuition fees, hostel fees, and other charges maximum of Rs. 240,000 per year, while a stipend of Rs. 15,000 per month will also be given. Similarly, books and traveling allowances of Rs. 30,000 per annum will also be given. The candidates will be shortlisted

based on their scores in Aptitude Test (to be conducted by Education Testing Council, HEC) and academic credentials, in which a candidate must secure at least 50% marks. Test Results will be valid for one year after the announcement of the Test Result date. The award of scholarships will be purely merit-based and irrespective of gender, caste, race, and religion. The students already enrolled in any BS program in public sector universities/institutions prior to the advertisement (maximum one academic year/ session) may also apply. The applicants can apply to any public sector university/institution of Pakistan. However, any expenditure over and above the cost given in the project PC-1 will be borne by the student himself/herself. HEC reserves the right to postpone or cancel the scholarship process at any stage without assigning any reason.—APP

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Briefs

MoHR
engages
Child
Protection
Committees

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) engaged Child Protection Committees (CPC) in Islamabad to expedite its campaign to raise awareness about child rights and prevention of child abuse in various rural and urban communities of ICT. The spokesperson of Ministry of Human Rights talking to APP on Thursday said that the MoHR through its awareness programme was engaging Child Protection Committees that had already been existed in Islamabad to inform communities about the rights of children. These awareness raising sessions helped apprise participants knowledge about the rights ensured to the children in the constitution of Pakistan along with the recently passed legislation like Zainab Alert Act, and the amendment in Employment of Children Act -1991 proscribing child domestic labor, she added.—APP

CNCC
donated Rs.
200 million
to PM Flood
Relief Fund

ISLAMABAD: China National Nuclear Corporation (CNCC) has donated an amount equivalent to Rs. 200 million to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund, providing assistance and rehabilitation to the affectees of the monsoon rains and subsequent floods around the country. A delegation of CNCC headed by its President Overseas Zhang Guoliang held a meeting with Pakistani Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative (PD&SI) Professor Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad.

Expressing sympathies over the loss of lives, properties, and infrastructure due to the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, Mr. Zhang informed Ahsan Iqbal about CNCC's donation of around Rs. 200 million to the PM Flood Relief Fund. He also offered his company's support to further help the flood victims.

Ahsan Iqbal lauded the role of the Chinese Government, companies, and Chinese civilian relief initiatives for flood damages in Pakistan. It is apt to mention that China's continuous response efforts for Pakistan have exceeded 644.1 million RMB (equivalent to US\$ 90.2 million). The Chinese Government extended support of RMB 400 million, the Chinese Army RMB 100 million, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries donated RMB 125 million, and the Red Cross Society of China provided RMB 2.1 million.—APP

The Umbrella
Song" bags a
release date

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani singer-songwriter, music producer and composer Bilal Saeed is all set to enthrall his fans with latest track "The Umbrella Song", releasing on 11th October.

The "Adhi Adhi Raat" crooner, turned to his social media handle, treated fans with the official poster of "One Two Records" and penned "The Umbrella Song is my passion project along with that of many others". Overwhelmed with excitement, the vocal power house revealed what's new in his latest album's second song "My approach towards my next release is different from that in the past and I'm excited to share this tune with my fans". The rockstar also extended gratitude towards the ace director as well as the entire team of much-anticipated song "Adnan Qazi my friend and director of the music video was eager to portray my vision on screen and worked relentlessly to make it into reality". "I do hope that this song gets you dancing and yet think about what is really important, so watch out guys as One Two Records gives you another release on the 11th of October," Saeed concluded the note by officially announcing the release date of "The Umbrella Song".—APP

Linking Thar coal mines with
railways to usher in progress

PM says It would save billions of rupees spent annually on the import of costly coal to meet the requirements of the energy sector

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that a memorandum of understanding between the ministry of railways and Sindh government to link Thar coal mine reserves with the railways system would ensure its efficient transportation and help generate inexpensive power. Addressing an MoU signing ceremony between Ministry of Railways, Government of Pakistan and Government of Sindh with regards to connectivity of Thar coal to the existing network of Pakistan Railways, the prime minister said through an expansion of efficient railway network supply from the coal mines would be ensured to the coal-fired power plants and other related plants like cement manufacturing units. It would save billions of rupees spent annually on the import of costly coal to meet the requirements of the energy sector, he said,

expressing the hope that the project would play an important role in the supply of inexpensive power. The prime minister further observed that on the occasion whatever was 'more significant is the display of the power of unity, of national cohesion and national brotherhood, signifying our national identification'. He said the federal and Sindh governments came together to ink the MoU and expressed the hope that it would be implemented by March 2023, enabling the transportation of coal to all parts of the country. The prime minister termed the project as harbinger of economic revolution across the country, said such development ventures were pursued during the tenures of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and former president Asif Ali Zardari. If it was pursued by the past government, Pakistan would not have faced such

PM Shehbaz seeks
climate justice

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan should not be forced to go out with a "begging bowl" to rich polluting nations after the floods devastated the country, stressing that he would be seeking "climate justice" from the international community. In the second part of his interview by the British daily "The Guardian" published Thursday, Sharif warned that Pakistan is facing an unprecedented crisis of health, food security and internal displacement after the "apocalyptic" monsoons put a third of Pakistan's regions under water. With Pakistan responsible for 0.8% of global carbon emissions, Sharif said it was the "responsibility of the developed countries, who caused these emissions, to stand by us". "I've never seen this kind of devastation, inundation and suffering of our people in my lifetime," he said. "Millions have been displaced, they have become climate refugees within their own country." While the international community has given billions in funds and donations and commitments for further support, Sharif was clear it was "not enough".

difficulties at the internal and external fronts, he said and regretted that economic shocks were severe. If the previous government had promoted unity among the provinces and the federal government, there would be a change, he added. The prime minister ex-

pressed that however, it was never too late to mend and mentioned that the signing of the MoU was a testament to a living nation and stressed that they needed to move above their personal likes and dislikes and serve the country. He said that Thar reserves were a treasure for the country and according to an estimate, these were capable of producing millions of MW power for the next 300 years. It would ease out the burden on the foreign reserves as the country was importing costly coal and spending billions of rupees each year, he added. Minister for Railways Saad Rafique, on the occasion, said that it was a historic day as the MoU would pave way for Thar coal link connectivity. He said that it was encouraging that the federal government and the provincial government agreed to participate and generate funds for the project despite the current dif-

iculties. The minister said Thar coal reserves were among the world's ranking and would meet the country's requirements. He said that 105 kms green link connecting the coal mines with Port Qasim, Jamshoro power plant and others power plants would save billions of dollars. He further assured that they would strive to complete the project in the earliest, adding that its initial cost was estimated at Rs 55 billion, but they would work over cost-cutting. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that Thar coal project was started during 90s by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's government and then revived by the PPP provincial government. He said Thar coal reserves were a future and precious energy source of Pakistan. He assured that the provincial government fully owned this project and it would produce low-priced power than anything else.

Eight drug
peddlers,
bootleggers
held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers and bootleggers on Thursday arrested eight accused besides recovering over 4 kg of narcotics and 40 liters of liquor from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Waris Khan police held Riaz for having 1330 grams charras while Dhamial police rounded up Aslam on recovery of 1370 grams charras. In other raids, Pirwadhai, Sadiqabad, Westridge, Rataamral, Taxila, and Jatl police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and arrested Shoaib, Zaka, Tamoor, Qasim, Asif and Sohail and recovered 1590 grams charras and 40 liters liquor. The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects while further investigations are underway. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers, he added.—APP

Police raid
shisha centre,
arrests 6

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi police on Thursday conducted a raid at a shisha centre in the jurisdiction of Rawat police station and arrested six shisha smokers besides recovering shisha flavors, hookahs, and other items from their possession. The police spokesman informed that on a tip-off, the police carried out an operation and arrested six accused identified as Umar, Hassan, Sajeel, Gulam Hussain, Ali Hassan, and Naveed. The police team recovered 'Hookah' and other smoking items from their possession. The police have registered a case against the arrested accused and started an investigation. The spokesman informed that an anti-smoking drive was launched in the city to ensure the implementation of the anti-smoking law.—APP

ANF recovers
over 13 kg
narcotics;
arrests two

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) conducted two raids in different areas and recovered over 13 kilograms of narcotics and arrested two drug smugglers. According to an ANF spokesman, ANF and Sindh Rangers in a joint operation conducted a raid on Thursday on Super Highway Karachi and recovered over seven kilograms of narcotics including 1600 grams of heroin, four kg charras, and 1800 grams of Ice drug from the possession of a drug smuggler. In another raid, ANF Peshawar conducted a raid near 'Qila Balla Hisar' and recovered 4800 grams of charras from the possession of an accused who was trying to smuggle narcotics from Bara area to Peshawar. He said that separate cases have been registered against the accused.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait, H.E Nassar Abdulrahman J Almutairi, called on MOS at the Ministry. Bilateral relations and matters of mutual interests were discussed. MOS thanked Ambassador for Kuwait's support during recent floods in Pakistan.—DNA

46,500 Pakistanis got jobs
in CPEC energy projects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has provided jobs to at least 46,500 Pakistanis so far in the energy projects, Gwadar Pro stated on Thursday quoting a Report released by China Three Gorges International. The Report said that the jobs had been created in the completed and under-construction projects of CPEC. "Considering the various economic fissures prevailing in Pakistan (i.e., inequitable underdevelopment, low energy access, low human capital, and accompanying low productivity), CPEC power plants have performed commendably in raising overall direct local employment (46,500) throughout Pakistan," the Report titled "Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook" said. The Report added that the overall socio-economic demographic of around 46 thousand families have been raised, while this skilled work force enjoys on-site training by both local and international professionals that professional work environment far surpasses the sort they would receive while

employed with other local projects. It mentioned that all CPEC power plants had been installed under GOP Policy 2002, 2015, and AEDB Policy 2006 and 2019 as Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and are purely Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). All equity and private debt have been arranged by respective project companies. These plants' total investment (Equity plus private debt) have been arranged in US dollars and directly transferred by Chinese banks (China EXIM Bank, China Development Bank, etc.) to Pakistan. The coal-based CPEC projects are based on super-critical coal technology. The prevailing engineering graduate skill-set was insufficient to meet the requirements for technical personnel. As a result, Chinese management began focusing on the employment of graduates from specific universities in Pakistan. The first batches were completely hired from NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) Islamabad.

IRSA releases
142,500
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 142,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 98,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1544.20 feet and was 146.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 52,800 cusecs while outflow as 80,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1186.50 feet, which was 136.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 11,200 cusecs and 26,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 70,300, 60,900, 45,600 and 33,600 cusecs respectively.—APP

Saudi Arabia
sends 4,000 tons
of flood relief

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has sent 4,000 tons of food relief to Pakistan, with the aid provided by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center helping almost 800,000 people worst affected by the disaster. The floods, caused by abnormal monsoon rains and glacial melt, have submerged vast swathes of the South Asian country since mid-June and killed almost 1,600 people, most of them women and children. Hundreds of thousands of displaced people are living in the open, exposed to malaria, diarrhea, dengue fever, and severe skin and eye infections, with stagnant floodwaters, which officials say will take months to recede, increasing disease transmission. "A total of 4,385 tons of different kinds of relief goods through land route and air bridges have been distributed so far, which benefited more than 785,636 people all across Pakistan," Dr. Khalid Muhammad Al-Othmani, KSR relief Pakistan director was quoted as said by Arab News on Thursday. He said the agency had also distributed 15,000 packages containing more than 1,425 tons of essential food items in the southwestern province of Balochistan, one of the worst hit by floods. Ten Saudi flights loaded with various relief goods delivered the aid, with packages handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority. Relief goods have also been sent via a land bridge established by KSR relief.—APP

Industrialists demand new Industrial Zone in Capital to boost exports

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) led by its President Zikria A. Zia visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and stressed that ICCI should step up its efforts with the relevant government authorities for a new industrial zone in the Capital to boost industrialization and exports. The delegation also congratulated the new Office Bearers of ICCI and hoped that they would play an effective role in resolving the key issues of local industry. Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Islamabad was experiencing rapid urbanization and population growth, but unemployed

young talent was being wasted due to lack of jobs. He said that industrialization was the best option to absorb youth in jobs. He said that many investors were keen to set up industries in the Islamabad region but due to absence of a new industrial zone, they were unable to make new investments. He emphasized that the government should cooperate with ICCI in early materialization of this important project that would yield multiple benefits for the economy. He assured the delegation that ICCI would make all possible efforts to address their highlighted issues. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI and Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader said that the economy of



Pakistan was facing multiple challenges and the government should focus on promoting investment and industrialization that would help revive the economy and overcome economic problems of the country. The delegation members said that the CDA Board in a meeting had agreed to charge Rs.100,000/- per kanal for lease extension

of industrial plots instead of 1% of current market price of the industrial plot, but the decision has not been implemented as yet. They said that ICCI should take up this issue

with CDA for early implementation of its decision. They said that the country was likely to face gas shortage in winter as the government could not get any bidder for a long-term

contract for LNG import and said that ICCI should work with the government to save the local industry from gas loadshedding. They called upon the government to revise power tariffs for industry in order to reduce the high production cost and make our exports more competitive in the international markets. Prominent industrialists including Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Farid, Tariq Sadiq, Mian Shaikat Masud, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Nasir Qureshi, Shaban Khalid, Rafat Farid, Ifikhar Anwar Sethi, Waqas Masud, Shaikat Hayat, Hamayun Kabir, Omair Khattack, Bilal Munir, Muhammad Ali Mirza, Mahmood Ahmed Warrach, Muhammad Wahya, Malik Jalil Ahmed Awan, Dr. Muhammad Usman and others were in the delegation.

Cop27: climate justice must take centre stage

BELIZE'S representative to the UN vividly described the havoc wreaked on his country by global heating. "Loss and damage is already occurring," said Carlos Fuller. "Severe erosion is altering communities; drought and floods [are] affecting farmers and causing infrastructure damage; [there is] coral bleaching; salt water intrusion is affecting the water supply." From the catastrophic recent floods in Pakistan to the ongoing drought emergency in Kenya, similarly disastrous impacts are blighting developing nations across the globe. Many lack the economic resources to cope with new climate threats, which are overwhelmingly the consequence of historic carbon emissions by the world's richest countries. As the UN secretary-general, António Guterres, stated this week, ahead of November's Cop27 summit in Egypt, properly addressing this dimension of the climate crisis – the damage already being done – is a "moral imperative that can no longer be ignored". In Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries pledged to deliver \$100bn a year to vulnerable states hit by severe climate-linked impacts. That promise, originally to be met by 2020, has still not been kept and there is little clarity on when it might be. The manner in which available climate finance has been distributed has also been deeply flawed. Far too much assistance has come in the form of loans rather than grants, and been directed at middle-income countries rather than the poorest nations. As governments focus on spiralling energy costs, soaring inflation and the geopolitical fallout of the war in Ukraine, the climate emergency is in danger of being relegated to the back burner of policymaking. With only a month to go to Cop27, there has been a global failure to follow through on commitments made last year in Glasgow – where countries pledged to provide more ambitious strategies to limit warming to the 1.5C goal. This month, climate justice demonstrations have taken place across Africa, and resentment is building in countries suffering ever more severe impacts as a result of past inaction. Mr Guterres is right to identify Cop27 as a "litmus test" of how seriously developed nations are willing to take the growing toll on vulnerable nations.

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Climate accountability

THAT the UN has revised its humanitarian appeal for Pakistan almost five-fold – from \$160 million to \$816 million – is rather telling of the extent of devastation caused by this year's monsoon season and recent floods. These revisions have come about in the light of "a second wave of death and destruction" that is now slowly being witnessed in the aftermath of the floods. The UN fears that even this might not be enough to cope with the wicked problems that are emerging in flood-affected regions. This "second wave" will mostly be in the form of a healthcare crisis as affected regions will witness an increase in child morbidity, malnutrition, hunger and disease. With healthcare centres and standing crops also destroyed by the floods, it is more necessary than ever to provide aid and relief to vulnerable communities. It is not just a matter of funds and resources but also continued and concerted efforts on the part of local bodies as well as international organisations. This disaster is indeed a direct consequence of climate change that have caused unprecedented rain and melting of glaciers. Therefore, there is a direct connection between the climate disasters occurring in Pakistan and harmful activities that are rampantly occurring in First World countries over the course of decades. Accountability must include the idea of reparations. Those who have been highest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions must pay a price, which should be used for mitigating climate disasters occurring in the developing world. Indeed, the international community is moving towards climate accountability at the global level but changes are taking place at a snail's pace. There isn't much time, as asserted by many reports, before we cross the irreversible phase. Countries must collectively combat the crisis now and hold major emitters accountable.

Betting on the wrong horse: The battle to define moderate Islam

James M. Dorsey

A Yemeni-born UAE-backed cleric, Mr. Al-Jifri, a disciple of Mr. Goma, is part of a group of Islamic scholars who help project the Emirates as a beacon of an autocratic form of moderate Islam that embraces social reforms and religious diversity, rejects political pluralism, and demands absolute obedience of the ruler. The group includes the former Egyptian mufti, Abdullah Bin Bayyah...

PROponents of a moderate Islam that embraces tolerance, diversity, and pluralism may be betting on the wrong horse by supporting Muslim scholars on autocrats' payroll. Polling in the Middle East seems to confirm that state-sponsored clerics lack credibility. Recent research suggesting that non-violent protest has increasingly become less effective magnifies problems posed by the clerics' legitimacy deficit. The combination of lagging credibility and reduced effectiveness enhances the risk of politically inspired violence. Add to that that young Muslims gravitate towards militancy in a world of perceived persecution of the faithful. Tam Hussein, an award-winning investigative journalist and novelist, who has spent time with jihadists in various settings, noted in a recent blog and an interview that a segment of Muslim youth, who see Western militaries operating across the Muslim world, often embrace the jihadist argument that Muslims would not be victims if they had a genuinely Muslim state with an armed force and religious laws that would garner God's favour. Achieving a state, the jihadists say, has to be 'through blood (because) the rose isn't got except by putting one's hand on the thorns.' Mr. Hussein cautioned that "this sentiment of young Muslims...cannot be combated with platitudes, ill thought out deracialisation programmes, and naff websites set up to combat social media."

Mr. Hussein's insight goes to the crux of a rivalry for religious soft power in the Muslim world that, at its core, involves a struggle to define concepts of moderate Islam. In essence, Mr. Hussein argues that a credible response to religiously inspired militancy will have to come from independent Islamic scholars rather than clerics who do Muslim autocrats' bidding. The journalist's assertion is undergirded by some three-quarters of Arab youth polled annually by Dubai-based public relations firm ASDA'A BCW who have consistently asserted in recent years that religious institutions need to be reformed. Commenting on the agency's 2020 survey, Gulf scholar Eman Alhussein said that Arab youth had taken note of religious figures endorsing government-introduced reforms they had rejected in the past. "This not only feeds into Arab youth's scepticism towards religious institutions but also further highlights the inconsistency of the religious discourse and its inability to provide timely explanations or justifications to the changing reality of today," Ms. Alhussein wrote. Mr. Hussein warned that "what many...well-intentioned leaders and Imams don't realise, and I have seen this with my own eyes, is that radical preachers...have a constituency. They hit a nerve and are watched" as opposed to "those they deem to be 'scholars for dollars'... There is a dissonance between the young and the imams. ... When the no doubt erudite Azhari sheikhs such as Ali Gomaa seemingly support Sisi's killing of innocents followed up by Habib Ali Jifri's support for his teacher, one cannot help but understand their predicament and anger," Mr. Hussein said, referring to scholars of Al Azhar, a citadel of Islamic learning in Cairo. Mr. Hussein was pointing to Ali Gomaa, who, as the grand mufti of Egypt, defended the killing of some 800 non-violent protesters on a Cairo square in the wake of the 2013 military coup led by general-turned president Abdul Fatah al-Sisi. The coup toppled Mohamed Morsi, a Muslim Brother and Egypt's only democratically elected president. A Yemeni-born UAE-backed cleric, Mr. Al-Jifri, a disciple of Mr. Goma, is part of a group of Islamic scholars who help project the Emirates as a beacon of an autocratic form of moderate Islam that embraces social reforms and religious diversity, rejects political pluralism, and demands absolute obedience of the ruler. The group includes the former Egyptian mufti, Abdullah Bin Bayyah, a respected Mauritanian theologian, and his disciple, Hamza Yusuf, one of America's foremost Muslim figures. Mr. Hussein could have included Mohammed al-Issa, the secretary general of the Muslim World League, the primary vehicle employed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to garner religious soft power and propagate his autocratic version of Islam. Autocratic reformers such as UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed and Mr. Bin Salman offer an upgraded 21st-century version of a social contract that kept undemocratic Arab regimes in office for much of the post-World War Two era. The contract entailed the population's surrender of political rights in exchange for a cradle-to-grave welfare state in

the oil-rich Gulf or adequate delivery of public services and goods in less wealthy Arab states. That bargain broke down with the 2011 and 2019/2020 popular Arab revolts that did not spare Gulf countries like Bahrain and Oman. The breakdown was sparked not only by governments' failure to deliver but also by governments, at times, opening political space to Islamists so that they could counter left-wing forces. Scholar Hesham Allam summarised the policy as "more identity, less class." In effect, Middle Eastern government were hopping onto a bandwagon that globally was empowering religious and nationalist forces. Using Egypt as a case study in his just published book, *Classless Politics: Islamist Movements, the Left, and Authoritarian Legacies in Egypt*, Mr. Sallam argued that "in the long run, this policy led to the fragmentation of opponents of economic reform, the increased salience of cultural conflicts within the left, and the restructuring of political life around questions of national and religious identity." To revive the core of the social contract, Messrs. Bin Zayed and Bin Salman have thrown into the mix degrees of social liberalization and greater women's rights needed to diversify their economies and increase jobs as well as professional, entertainment, and leisure opportunities. At the same time, they have cracked down on dissent at home and sought to impede, if not at times brutally, reverse political change elsewhere in the region. Even so, researcher Nora Derbal describes in her recently published book, *Charity in Saudi Arabia: Civil Society under Authoritarianism*, discrepancies between interpretations of Islamic guidance as provided by government officials and state-sponsored clerics and charity and civil society groups that have their own understanding. In one instance, Ms. Derbal noted that the government sought to restrict charity recipients to holders of Saudi national id card. She quoted a representative of one group as saying that "Islamically speaking, any person, Muslim or not Muslim, deserves aid if in need." Nevertheless, the notion of an autocratic moderate Islam appears to work for the UAE and holds out promise for Saudi Arabia but is on shaky ground elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa. Recent polling by ASDA'A BCW showed that of the 3,400 young Arabs in 17 Arab countries aged 18 to 24 surveyed, fifty-seven per cent identified the UAE as the country where they would like to live. Thirty-seven per cent wanted their home country to emulate the UAE. The survey's results starkly contrast Mr. Hussein's perceptions of discontented, radicalized Muslims and jihadists he encountered in Syria and elsewhere. The diverging pictures may be two sides of the same coin rather than mutually exclusive. The survey and other polls and Mr. Hussein likely tap into different segments of Muslim youth. Nobel Literature Prize laureate Orhan Pamuk described the men and women that Mr. Hussein discussed as having a "sense of being second or third-class citizens, of feeling invisible, unrepresented, unimportant, like one counts for nothing—which can drive people toward extremism." Some of those responding to polls may be empathetic but probably wouldn't pull up their stakes because they are at a point where they have too much to lose.

Even so, recent surveys by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy showed that 59 per cent of those polled in the UAE, 58 percent in Saudi Arabia, and 74 per cent in Egypt, disagreed with the notion that "we should listen to those among us who are trying to interpret Islam in a more moderate, tolerant, and modern way." Given that in the milieu that Mr. Hussein depicts, the UAE is "seen by many as actively subverting the aspirations of millions of Arabs and Muslims for their own political ends, one can see why these (angry) young men will continue to fight," the journalist said. "When scholars don't act as their flock's lightning rod, or do not convey their sentiments to power, or are not sufficiently independent enough, the matter becomes hopeless and young men being young men, look for other avenues," Mr. Hussein added. Pakistan is one place where Mr. Hussein's scenario and Mr. Pamuk's analysis play out. In July, a United Nations Security Council report said that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as the Pakistani Taliban, boasted the largest number of foreign militants operating from Afghan soil. The report suggested that many of TTP's 3,000 to 4,000 fighters were freed from Afghan jails shortly after last year's fall of Kabul. Recent academic research suggesting that non-violent dissent is seeing its lowest success rate in more than a century even though the number of protests has not diminished magnifies the resulting threat of militancy. One study concluded that the number of protest movements worldwide had tripled between 2006 and 2020, including the dramatic 2011 popular Arab uprisings. Yet, compared to the early 2000s when two out of three protest movements demanding systemic change succeeded, today it is one in six, meaning that protests are more likely to fail than at any time since the 1930s, according to Harvard political scientist Erica Chenoweth. Ms. Chenoweth suggested that the sharp decline was steepest in the past two years. By comparison, armed rebellion has seen its effectiveness decline more slowly than non-violent protest, making the two strategies nearly tied in their odds of succeeding. "For the first time since the 1940s, a decade dominated by state-backed partisan rebellions against Nazi occupations, non-violent resistance does not have a statistically significant advantage over armed insurrection," Ms. Chenoweth said. Ms. Chenoweth and others attribute the evening out of success rates of violent and non-violent agitation to deep-seated polarization, militant nationalism, media echo chambers, increased restrictions on freedom of assembly and expression that cut off avenues to release pent-up anger and frustration, and an enhanced authoritarian toolkit. The toolkit includes divide and rule strategies, digital repression, propaganda and misinformation, and the declaration of emergency powers under pretexts such as the recent public health crisis. Said Ms. Chenoweth: "As authoritarian movements gain ground, democratic movements worldwide are struggling to expand their constituencies among those who have grown frustrated with the systems of inequality and injustice that continue to plague...countries worldwide."

NEPRA amendment in net-metering regulation

Afia Malik



In Pakistan, the term net-metering is misused. Perhaps, NEPRA itself is not clear about it. Currently, a power purchase price is applicable on exported units. But after the amendment, the rate for exported units would be even lower. The impact of this reduction of Rs 10.32 in money terms would be (roughly) less than Rs 0.2mln

ON September 27, 2022, NEPRA conducted an open hearing concerning the NEPRA draft amendment in Distribution Generation and Net-metering Regulation, 2015. According to NEPRA, after this amendment, the currently applicable national average power purchase price of Rs. 19.32/kWh will be replaced with the national average energy purchase price of Rs 9/kWh. The difference between the two is power purchase price includes capacity purchase price. NEPRA earlier also clarified through a press release that these changes are only for 20,700 consumers across Pakistan who have been allowed Net Metering as per the NEPRA regulations. During the hearing, a valid explanation with numbers was expected from NEPRA behind this move. In contrast, Chairman NEPRA came up with an emotional description that these 20,700 net-metering consumers should give up Rs 10.32 /kWh for the extra exported units to DISCOs; for the sake of 36 million consumers who have not opted for this facility, as they don't have the resources to do so. Before delving further into the likely impact of this amendment, it is essential to mention that, by law, NEPRA is an autonomous organization. Still, in practice, its independence is compromised in its decision-making on various aspects of its jurisdiction, including consumer-end tariffs. Therefore, the repeated claim by NEPRA that NEPRA initiated this move for those 36 million consumers is difficult to believe. This claim contradicts what NEPRA has reported in its State of Industry Report 2022, published September 30, 2022, that DISCOs' behavior towards net-metering connections is not favorable. Concerning the impact of this amendment, the capacity under net-metering or self-generation for 20,700 consumers is not more than 476MW. For 476 MW installed capacity with a plant factor of 16% to 19%, the maximum photo voltaic (PV) generation could be 90MW. Roughly 25 per cent or only 23 MW extra units are exported to the grid. In the current generation of around 30,000 MW, what difference to the basket price would be made by 0.08% of the self-generation plants for those 36 million consumers without PV systems? However, this 0.08% generation may impact DISCO revenues as the net-metered consumers were neither stealing

electricity nor delaying bill payments before moving towards self-generation. In other words, this amendment in NEPRA regulation will protect incompetent DISCOs rather than forcing them to improve their inefficiencies. Because of the undue favor to DISCOs, the continuous anomalies in the bills DISCOs generated for net-metered consumers remain unchecked. After this amendment, irregularities in DISCO billing will increase. Before moving further, one thing which needs clarification is the difference between the net-metering and net-billing applicable globally. In net-metering, units imported from a grid or exported to the grid are of the same worth, that is, at the retail rate. A net-metering consumer can exchange the units exported to the grid for an equal amount of kWh whenever needed. The consumer can bank these units and roll them over from month to month. In net-billing, the average purchase price or wholesale price for power (excluding distribution overheads and other extra charges) is paid to the consumer. In net-billing, solar-generated electricity is treated like any other large-scale producer or generation plant supplying electricity to the grid. The only difference is, instead of credit on the utility bill, a consumer gets a monetary value based on the wholesale rate or average power purchase rate. In Pakistan, the term net-metering is misused. Perhaps, NEPRA itself is not clear about it. Currently, a power purchase price is applicable on exported units. But after the amendment, the rate for exported units would be even lower. The impact of this reduction of Rs 10.32 in money terms would be (roughly) less than Rs 0.2 million. In comparison, there are few other areas in which interventions will substantially impact DISCO revenues and consumer-end tariffs. For instance, as reported in the NEPRA State of Industry Report 2022, DISCOs (including K-electric) receivables from Federal, Provincial, and private consumers stand at Rs 1.7 trillion. These Federal, Provincial, and private consumers are part of these 36 million consumers. The same NEPRA Report details around 20% average distribution losses across DISCOs, including K-electric. A significant portion of these losses is due to theft or meter-tampering. The impact of these losses on consumer-end tariff

is more than Rs 2/kWh. Additionally, those who are stealing electricity or not paying their bills are part of these 36 million. Improvement in receivables and line losses will significantly impact DISCO revenues and consumer-end tariffs. Likewise, what about the impact of those getting free electricity on the tariff of 36 million? According to NEPRA Report 2022, the cost of providing free electricity to retired or serving employees of the electricity companies, excluding WAPDA, has reached 6.8 billion. The elimination of this subsidy would substantially impact DISCO revenues, and eventually, it will trickle down to end-consumers. Is NEPRA working on any strategy to minimize the impact of these losses on tariffs? During the NEPRA hearing, Chairman NEPRA also mentioned the Competitive Trade Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) – a market model NEPRA is about to implement. The very gist of any market model in the world is to provide a level playing field to all players in the market. In other words, for a wholesale market, a non-discriminatory governance structure is essential. Currently, solar IPPs are getting a much higher rate per unit. For instance, Crest Energy is getting Rs 35.22/ kWh, Best Green Rs 34.91/kWh, Apollo Power Rs 33.5/kWh, and Quaid-e-Azam solar part is getting Rs 24.3/kWh. Why the extraordinary special treatment for them? The argument provided is that they are under long-term contracts. What was an independent regulator doing when these contracts were made at such a high tariff for projects with a plant factor of only 19%? NEPRA determined the tariff for these and issued licenses to them. Large business groups own all these IPPs, but small businesses or middle-class households do net-metering. It is easier for the government and a regulator to target and penalize middle-income honest consumers. Recently, a draft Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) 2022-31 has been submitted to NEPRA for approval. In the draft plan, 480MW of net-metering is considered every year till 2031. With this amendment to NEPRA regulation, the target will never be achieved. – The author is a Senior Research Economist at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad. She tweets @malikafia2021

Briefs

Fraudster,
liar; PM ...

FROM PAGE 01

other countries damaged by Imran Khan.

"It was the worst dishonesty, a game played with the nation's confidence that hurt its integrity. This is unprecedented in the country's history," he remarked, rubbishing Imran Khan's allegation of his role behind the audio leak. Had he been behind it, his own audio leak would not have surfaced, he added. Recalling the process of the vote of no-confidence against Imran Khan and the rejection of the motion by the then deputy speaker, the prime minister said the PTI chief and his party had wasted the nation's time. "That conspiracy stands exposed without any ambiguity. For last five years, I have been saying that he (Imran Khan) is the biggest liar doing all just to serve his own interests," he commented. PM Shehbaz told the media that the National Security Committee, in its two meetings, categorically made it clear that the cipher had nothing to do with the conspiracy. To a question, he confirmed that the PM House's copy of the cipher was missing.

As regards the flood situation, the prime minister said the coalition government had spent Rs100 billion for the relief of flood-stricken population, who were being provided essential items, including tents, blankets and food. He said during the catastrophic flood situation too, Imran Khan played his negative role by maligning the government just to keep the donors from supporting the flood-hit people of Pakistan.

"This is a disservice to Pakistan. This cold-hearted person did not think of the suffering humanity. He has no soft corner for the humanity," the prime minister said and appreciated the efforts of his ministers and institutions, including the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) and PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authorities) for relief and rehabilitation of the flood-hit people.

Appreciating the United Nations Secretary-General for contesting the flood-hit Pakistan's case before the world, the prime minister said China had provided relief aid worth \$90 million and the United States \$61 million, besides the support pouring in from the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Japan and others. He said the previous government also violated the agreement with the International Monetary Fund, though the government revived it successfully despite the confusion created by Imran Khan and his cronies.

IHC says it
will entertain
PTI MNAs'
plea if they
return to NA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday observed that it would not entertain the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNAs' petition until they satisfied it that they would return to the National Assembly.

Chief Justice Athar Minalah, while hearing the plea of 10 PTI members of the National Assembly (MNAs) against acceptance of their resignations, observed that the members should have been in the parliament until the acceptance of their resignations to serve their constituencies. They should also demonstrate the good intention by attending the NA session and in the meantime the case could be adjourned, he added. The chief justice observed that the court could not allow them (the PTI members) to accept only those which were according to their wishes. PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar said attending the NA session was a secondary issue. At this, the chief justice remarked that it meant that the PTI lawmakers were virtually boycotting the House. He asked the petitioners to hold a deliberation in that regard and submit an affidavit that they would join the parliament. —APP

Wapda, Army to fight for
Women's Basketball C'ship

Pakistan Army girls wearing red shirts were too strong against the visiting Karachi team who played well in the championship but failed to make an upset in the semifinal round as Army won the important match by the difference of 51 points

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Defending champion Pakistan Wapda entered into the final round to see strong Pakistan Army in the decisive encounter of the ongoing National Women's Basketball Championship final to be held on Friday (Today) here at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad organized by the Federal Basketball Association. National Assembly Standing Committee Inter-Provincial Coordination Chairman Nawab Sher Waseer along with Olympian Rana Mujahid, Pakistan Basketball Federation Secretary Khalid Bashir, Championship organising secretary Ouj-e-Zahoor and others also witnessed the championship matches. Wapda, who is still unbeatable throughout the championship, thrashed host Islamabad Blues in the first semifinal match by securing 63-21 points. Wapda players were far better against the blue shirts team at half time



by leading 29 points. Wapda ace player Sidra Hakim again led the winning side by scoring 14 points while Mehvish Nawaz 10, Kainat Zafar scored 08 points for Wapda victory while Saadat Jehangir, Tariq Nawaz and Naveed Ahmed

supervised the semifinal match. In the second semifinal match Pakistan Army outclassed Karachi by 66-15 points to reach the final of the championship. Pakistan Army girls wearing red shirts were too strong

against the visiting Karachi team who played well in the championship but failed to make an upset in the semifinal round as Army won the important match by the difference of 51 points. Kashifa was the top player for Army who scored 15 points

with Ayesha Khan 12 points while Referees Umar Mehmood, Yasar Ghafoor and M Nadeem Ch along with scorer M M Alam supervised the second semifinal match. Eight teams Pakistan Wapda, Karachi, Rawalpindi,

Islamabad whites, Pakistan Army, Lahore, Islamabad Blues and Peshawar are taking part in the five days championship which will be concluded on Friday (Today) under the umbrella of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF).

Kyrgios into Japan
Open quarter-finals

TOKYO: Nick Kyrgios roared back from a "frustrating" first set on Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the Japan Open, defeating Polish player Kamil Majchrzak 3-6, 6-2, 6-2. Despite his slow start, the maverick Australian emerged victorious in typical crowd-pleasing style, showing off with aggressive aces and some exaggeratedly effortless points.

The 27-year-old, who was knocked out in the last eight at the US Open, said that despite Majchrzak breaking his serve, there was "never really doubt in my mind that I was going to win". "I've barely been broken all year," so when "the opponent doesn't really do much



to break me it's quite frustrating," he said after the 1h 21min match. "I was just not playing the right way - the court's very fast," Kyrgios added. But by being "a bit more aggressive" in the second and

third sets, the world number 20 said he "ended up just weathering the storm and then coming through". "I've got really good confidence in my game right now. So I don't really doubt myself, even when

I'm down a set... firing Grand Slams has given me that confidence." Kyrgios, whose lawyer appeared for him at a court hearing in Australia this week for a charge of common assault, will face either third-seeded US player Taylor Fritz or Japan's Hiroki Moriya in the quarter-finals. Fritz has had a "breakthrough year", fifth-seeded Kyrgios said, while the crowd in Tokyo is bound to get behind home favourite Moriya. "Either way, it's going to be a tough match." Earlier in the day, Frances Tiafoe came through a second set battle to secure a spot in the quarter-finals, saying he wasn't bothered by rising expectations.

Jokowi, FIFA
president discuss
Kanjuruhan tragedy

JAKARTA: President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) discussed the Kanjuruhan Stadium stampede with the president of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), Gianni Vincenzo Infantino, in a telephonic conversation early this week. "On Monday (October 3, 2022) evening, I made a call to speak directly with FIFA president Gianni Infantino—we discuss a lot about the tragedy at the Kanjuruhan Stadium," the head of the state informed after attending a ceremony held to mark the 77th anniversary of the Indonesian Defence Forces (TNI) at Merdeka Palace here on Wednesday morning. Indonesia's hosting rights for the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup were among the many things that were discussed during the call, he said. The international tournament is scheduled to take place from May 20 to June 11, 2023, in six stadiums in Sumatra, Java, and Bali islands.

(We) spoke a lot. Still, whatever the decision is, it is up to FIFA," the Indonesian President added. On Wednesday afternoon (October 5), Jokowi met with people who were injured in the stadium stampede at the Dr. Saiful Anwar Regional Hospital, Malang city, East Java province. Earlier, he had asked the Chief of the National Police, General Listyo Sigit Prabowo, to thoroughly investigate the incident, which occurred after a soccer match between Arema FC and Persebaya on October 1. The incident was triggered by Arema FC's 2-3 loss to the guest team, which disappointed Arema FC's supporters (Arema FC). About 3 thousand fans tried to enter the pitch to confront Arema FC players and officials over the defeat, which marked the first win for Persebaya at Kanjuruhan Stadium, the home of Arema FC, after 23 years. Some supporters reportedly threw flares and vandalized several facilities. —Agencies

Iran state
TV airs
alleged
'confessions'

TEHRAN: Two French spies arrested in Iran some four months ago have admitted to their attempts to provoke anti-government protests and riots with the ultimate goal of putting pressure on the country's Islamic establishment. The two French nationals, Cécile Kohler, 37, and Jacques Paris, 69, traveled to Iran on April 28 as tourists but turned out to be spies for the Western agencies. In a video aired on Iran's

Arabic-language television news network al-Alam TV on Thursday, Kohler admitted to being an agent of the French General Directorate for External Security (DGSE), which is equivalent to the British MI6 and the American CIA. In the recording, Kohler said she and her partner were in Iran with the main purpose of laying the groundwork for mass unrest in an attempt to trigger "a revolution" in the Islamic Republic and overthrow the Iranian government. She explained that they brought in large sums of cash in order to fund riots and strikes, and purchase weaponry in an attempt to stir up chaos. —Agencies



JAKARTA: Pakistan ambassador to Indonesia, Muhammad Hassan visited Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI), a prestigious think tank and met Dino Patti Djalal, the Founder of FPCI, former Vice Foreign Minister.

EU adopts new sanctions against Russia

The decision mostly affects the shipping industry of Greece, the Greek Cypriot administration and Malta

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union officially adopted its eighth sanctions package against Russia in response to the partial mobilization and annexation of Ukrainian regions, the European Commission announced on Thursday. "This package introduces new EU import bans worth 7 billion (\$6.96 billion) to curb Russia's revenues," the EU executive body explained in a press statement. The measures prohibit the import of Russian finished and semi-finished steel products, machinery and appliances, plastics, vehicles, textiles, footwear, leather, ceramics, certain chemical products, and

non-gold jewelry. The package also introduces export restrictions which will "further deprive the Kremlin's military and industrial complex of key components and technologies and Russia's economy of European services and expertise," the statement added. Under the new rules, the export of specific electronic components found in Russian weapons, technical items used in the aviation sector, as well as certain chemicals is not allowed. The measures also prohibit transporting oil to non-EU countries above a price cap agreed by the Group of Seven (G7), the world's most advanced economies. The decision mostly af-

Russia slams UN
chief's statement

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova on Thursday slammed a statement by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres about referendums in Ukraine's four regions. In a written comment, published on the ministry's website, Zakharova said that according to the UN Charter, the position of the secretary-general assumes the functions of the chief administrative officer of the UN, who cannot have "an independent position," especially on territorial issues. Zakharova called Guterres' approach to the Ukrainian crisis "biased and unprincipled" and stressed that this situation has to be changed as it casts a shadow both on the body and its chief. She also stressed that the UN resolutions against Russia were adopted without consensus, and not all UN countries supported them. Meanwhile, the documents on the 2014 Minsk agreement were adopted unanimously, although Ukrainian presidents refused to implement them with no reaction from the UN, she noted. "We have not received any condemnatory reaction from the UN Secretariat, from which we conclude that the Secretariat deliberately selectively applies the decisions of the member states," Zakharova added. The Ukrainian authorities "forget" the provisions of the 1970 Declaration about friendly relations and cooperation between states, which stipulates that the UN principle of territorial integrity is valid only for those states, governments of which represent all people, living on its territory, without distinction of race, religion, or skin color, she said. —Agencies

fects the shipping industry of Greece, the Greek Cypriot administration and Malta. The new package expands the blacklist targeting those responsible for the mobilization, including high-ranking military officials and entities in the defense sector, and people involved in the organization of referendums in the Ukrainian regions and their annexation. Since the beginning of Russia's war on Ukraine in February, EU sanctions have targeted, among others, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, banned Russian gold, oil, and coal imports, and the export of luxury goods and high-tech technology, as well as excluded Russian and Belarusian banks from the SWIFT international payment system.

President
urges
lawmakers ...

FROM PAGE 01
the disastrous floods had damaged crops spread over acres and underscored the need for crop insurance. "Agriculture is our economic backbone. We must look towards countries that are progressing in this sector.

"The Netherlands is 19 times smaller than Pakistan but it progressed so much on the agricultural front, and my country should have progressed more in this field. If we adopt a scientific approach, Pakistan can beat the world," he stated. Dr Alvi also said that the recent floods had, once again, raised the demand for building dams. Talking about foreign affairs in his speech today, the president lauded the government for improving ties with the United States, saying that the country had been a "good friend" to Pakistan.

"We have seen ups and downs but the US is a big market for our goods. We want to improve ties on mutual understanding. The government is striving for it and I commend this." Dr Alvi also underscored the importance of Pakistan's ties with China. "I believe the Pakistan-China friendship is a real one and CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) is an example of it."

The president went on that Pakistan's stance on Ukraine was clear and the country expected ties with Europe to strengthen. Talking about Afghanistan, he said: "We have a clear position that we want peace there. Taliban have promised that their soil will not be used against terrorism and we expect everyone to keep their word."

Dr Alvi went on that Pakistan wanted a "broad-based government" in the neighbouring country. About India, he said that Pakistan desired better ties with India but only after a resolution of the Kashmir dispute. "We believe Hindutva mindset and Islamophobia are being exported and I want India to not do this because it has an impact."

President Alvi, while talking about the economy, stressed the maintenance of balance. "Pakistan should stand on its feet. We need hard work. We don't have oil reserves, but we have land and gold. We need to stand up. We reached a growth of up to 5.9pc and it shows we have capacity."

The president also highlighted on political stability and urged the government to work harder to contain inflation. He said the dollar-rupee parity was worrisome but hoped that it would soon be tackled.

"Every chamber I speak to demand continuation in policies. Even if the governments change, policies should continue," Alvi added.

The president highlighted that the entire world was upset with fake news. Referring to the recent audio leaks, he said that private conversations should not be made available out in the public and they should stay "where they belong".

Talking about the freedom of media, the president underlined that it was an important part of the freedom of democracy. "I want to bring this to the government's attention because it is extremely important." At one point during his address, the president also called for the continuation of the work on electronic voting machines (EVM). "I believe we should work on this and not delay it."

PML-N and
ECP behind
audio leaks...

FROM PAGE 01
is no need to take remittances from them. Imran asked the ECP to tell what happened with the funding cases of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The PTI supreme [Imran] reiterated that if fair and free elections will not be held, then the country would not bear the consequences. The former prime minister also added that the process of the appointments of the CEC and its members, as well as the NAB Chairman should have to be changed.

Briefs

Economy to return to growth in 1 year

DNA

MOSCOW: The Russian economy will return to growth in about a year, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said on Thursday. Speaking at the Second Caspian Economic Forum in Moscow, Mishustin said in 2024-2025 the growth will be steady, provoked by the internal consumer and investment demand.

The government expects that the Western sanctions will have long-term character and continue to calculate possible risks and mitigate their consequences, improve existing anti-sanctions tools, and develop additional response mechanisms, he noted. "Russian economy proves its capability to adapt despite sanctions of unprecedented scale," Mishustin said. The Caspian states experience difficulties due to turbulence in the global economy and geostrategic tension, while the West is increasing pressure on countries that are defending their national interests, he added.

"The language of ultimatums is unacceptable to us. No state has the right to impose its will on others, especially to resort to means of pressure that affect the interests of ordinary citizens and private business," he stressed.

Nord Stream site inspection points to sabotage

STOCKHOLM: An inspection of two of the leaks at the Nord Stream gas pipelines linking Russia to Europe has reinforced suspicions that they were acts of sabotage, Swedish authorities said Thursday.

"We can conclude that there have been detonations at Nord Stream 1 and 2 in the Swedish exclusive economic zone that has led to extensive damage to the gas pipelines," public prosecutor Mats Ljungqvist said in a statement. Ljungqvist added that the "crime scene investigation had strengthened the suspicions of aggravated sabotage."

"Pieces of evidence have been gathered at the crime scene and these will now be examined," the prosecutor said. The prosecutor did not disclose details, citing the confidentiality of the investigation and stating that "the issue is very sensitive." All of the four leaks, which were discovered on Monday last week, are in the Baltic Sea off the Danish island of Bornholm. Two of the leaks were located in the Swedish exclusive economic zone, and the two others in the Danish one. On Monday, Sweden's Prosecution authority said it was blocking off the area around the leaks in the Swedish zone in order to carry out an inspection of the scene. - APP

US targets 'senior' IS jihadist: Centcom

BEIRUT: American forces targeted a "senior" member of the jihadist Islamic State group Thursday in a pre-dawn raid on northeastern Syria, the US military's Central Command said. The operation is the latest US effort to clamp down on IS jihadists who have been territorially defeated but still orchestrate attacks in Syria and neighbouring Iraq.

"Centcom forces conducted a raid in northeast Syria targeting a senior ISIS official," spokesman Colonel Joe Buccino said in an emailed statement to AFP, without elaborating. Syria's state broadcaster had said a US airborne operation involving multiple helicopters left one person dead and saw several others captured in a government-controlled area of Syria's northeast, which is mostly dominated by Kurdish forces. The targeted village, Mukk Saray, lies 17 kilometres (10 miles) south of the Kurdish-held city of Qamishli and is controlled by pro-regime militias, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Thursday's raid is the first such airborne operation in government-held territory since the start of Syria's war in 2011, added Britain-based war monitor. - APP

Election will be open, fair, and just, says Tokayev

The President will soon present a pre-election platform, which will reflect measures for the comprehensive transformation of country, all of which are aimed at improving well-being of the citizens

NEWS DESK

ASTANA: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev addresses the first forum of the people's coalition set up today to support his candidacy in the presidential election the country to hold on November 20, Kazinform correspondent reports. "We've entered a new political era. November 20 will see an early presidential election. It's a very important campaign, which will define the path of our future development," said Tokayev. The Head of State pointed out that different public organizations proposed to nominate his candidacy for the upcoming presidential election.

"I am sure that the upcoming election will demonstrate the maturity, strength, and unity of our nation, how determined we are in achieving the set goals. As the incumbent Head of State, I can definitely say that the election will be open, fair, and just," said the Kazakh President. "As I said previously, the Head of State should not give priority to any of the parties, be politically neutral. I've never abandoned this position. For me, it's a great honour and responsibility to run in the presidential election as a candi-



date from you all, he said.

He also highlighted the importance that the coalition included the country's leading political parties, public organizations, and movements, covering all social layers. The people's coalition supporting Kazakhstan's current President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the upcoming presidential

election holds its forum Astana.

"Kazakhstan will unswervingly uphold principles of equality, democracy in international relations, international law and the United Nations (UN) Charter. Kazakhstan will make every effort to strengthen the authority of the UN as a universal and non-alternative internation-

al organization," Tokayev said.

According to the President, Kazakhstan will cooperate with important organizations such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of Turkic States and other international organizations, and strengthen the capacity of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). "Such foreign policy is in line with the strategic interests of our state. I hope at this turning point in national history, the people of Kazakhstan will trust me at the upcoming elections," Tokayev said.

The President will soon present a pre-election platform, which will reflect measures for the comprehensive transformation of the country, all of which are aimed at improving the well-being of the citizens. "Elections are not an ordinary event, but a genuine act of patriotism and democracy, affirming citizens' involvement in the country's fate. Our strength is in unity, cohesion and solidarity. We are different, but we are a single nation looking to the future. Unity in diversity is our formula of strength," Tokayev stated.

Germany repatriates 12 IS-linked citizens

BERLIN: The German government has repatriated several women in Syria suspected of supporting the so-called "Islamic State" (IS) along with their children, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock announced on Wednesday, reported DW, quoting news agencies dpa, AFP and AP. The operation involved four women, seven children and a young man who had been taken to Syria when he was 11 years old. All had been living in the Roj camp in north-eastern Syria, which is largely under Kurdish control. "I am especially relieved because the children are not responsible for their parents' fateful choices," Baerbock said, adding that they "are ultimately also victims of IS." The five adults among the group were detained when they arrived back in Germany and will have to "answer for their alleged actions," she added. Few cases remaining A total of 26 women and 76 children with suspected links to IS have been repatriated from Syria to Germany in recent years. Some have been tried and jailed for crimes committed during the war. "I am relieved because this action has allowed us to close almost all the known cases," Baerbock said. However, the German Foreign Office said there have been some instances where women in Syria have chosen not to return to Germany. - Agencies

Thailand gunman kills 34 in day-care center

FOREIGN DESK

MANILA: Former police officer armed with a gun and a knife stormed a nursery in northeast Thailand on Thursday, shooting dead at least 34 people including children before killing himself and his family, police said. The attacker, armed with a shotgun, a pistol and a knife, opened fire on the child care center in Nong Bua Lam Phu province at about 12:30 p.m. (5:30 a.m.) before fleeing the scene in a

vehicle, the force said.

"The death toll from the shooting incident... is 34 people," Anucha Burapachairi, a spokesperson for the Thai prime minister's office, said.

A picture of Panya Khamrab, who is believed to have killed at least 30 people in a nursery in the northern Thai province of Nong Bua Lam Phu, Thailand, Oct. 6, 2022. (Central Investigation Bureau via AFP) Police Col. Jakkapat Vjitrathaya, from the province where the attack happened, identified the gunman as Pa-

nya Khamrab, a police lieutenant colonel he said was dismissed from the force last year for drug use.

Jakkapat said there were 23 children among the dead, aged 2 to 3 years old. The mass killing comes less than a month after a serving army officer shot dead two colleagues at a military training base in the capital Bangkok.

While Thailand has high rates of gun ownership, mass shootings are extremely rare. But in the past year, there have been at least two other

cases of shooting murders by serving soldiers, according to the Bangkok Post.

And in 2020, in one of the kingdom's deadliest incidents in recent years, a soldier gunned down 29 people in a 17-hour rampage and wounded scores more before he was shot dead by commandos.

That mass shooting was linked to a debt dispute between gunman Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma and a senior officer, and the military top brass were at pains to portray the killer as a rogue soldier.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a shield to Charles Joseph M Delogne, Ambassador of Belgium. - DNA

WEB DESK

LONDON: Islamophobic hate crimes in England and Wales have skyrocketed last year, according to statistics revealed on Thursday. Muslims became the most targeted religious group among others last year, according to the Home Office figures. The number of religious hate crimes recorded by police and targeting Muslims was 3,459 in the year ending March 2022, showing a 42% increase since last year. The number of hate crimes against Jewish people was 1,919 in a

Islamophobic hate crimes skyrocket in England

year, up 23% from the previous year, making them the second most targeted religious group. Hate crimes recorded by police in England and Wales have skyrocketed for the year ending March 2022 by 26%. According to government figures, there were 155,841 hate crimes

on record - the biggest increase since the year ending March 2017. The majority of hate crimes were racially motivated, accounting for over two-thirds of all such offenses (70%; 109,843 offenses). The racially motivated hate crimes increased by 19% between the year ending March 2021 and the year ending March 2022 as the crime number for the previous year was 92,063. Religious hate crimes increased by 37% (to 8,730 offenses), up from 6,383 in the previous year - the highest ever recorded number since the time series began in the year ending March 2012.

French novelist Ernaux wins Nobel Prize

WEB DESK

PARIS: French author Annie Ernaux won the 2022 Nobel Prize for Literature "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory", the award-giving body said on Thursday. Ernaux, whose work is mostly autobiographical, is 82. The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$914,704). In explaining its choice, the Academy said Ernaux "consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class". Her debut novel was "Les Armoires Vides" in 1974 but she gained international recognition following the publication of "Les Années" in 2008, translated into "The Years" in 2017. "It is her most ambitious project, which has given her an international reputation and a raft of followers and literary disciples," the Academy said of that book. "I consider this to be a great honour for me and at the same time a great responsibility, a responsibility given to me," Ernaux told Swedish public broadcaster SVT moments after the prize was announced.



Nearly 200 dead in Niger floods

NIAMEY: Flooding caused by heavy rains in the West African state of Niger has claimed nearly 200 lives and affected more than a quarter of a million people, the Civil Protection Service said on Thursday, describing the toll as one of the highest on record. Rainy-season floods claimed 192 lives, affected more than 263,000 people and destroyed more than 30,000 homes, as well as classrooms, medical centres and grain stores, it said. The worst-affected regions are Maradi and Zinder in the centre of the country, Dosso in the southwest and Tahoua in the west. The rainy season in Niger, located in the heart of the arid Sahel, typically runs from June to September and routinely claims lives. In 2021, 70 people were killed and 200,000 people were affected. The death toll in 2020 was 73. Katiellou Gaptia Lawan, head of the national meteorological agency, said this year's heavy rains were consistent with models of impacts from climate change. Niger is the world's poorest country, according to the benchmark of the 2020 Human Development Index devised by the UNDP. - APP

Sindh : W&S's roads much better than NHA's

Since many years, most of roads of NHA are in dilapidated condition, due to which there are frequent accidents. Loader vehicles are facing difficulties in traveling. NHA is collecting huge amount through toll tax but no attention is given to roads. Strong public protest



MUMTAZ AHMAD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Sindh W&S's roads much better condition than NHA's roads. Since many years, most of the roads of NHA are in dilapidated condition, due to which there are frequent accidents. Loader vehicles are facing difficulties in traveling. NHA is collecting huge amount through toll tax but no attention is given to roads. Strong public protest, N-5 Roads From Baberloi to Khairpur bye-pass 8.00 Kms damaged, from Khairpur bye-pass Tando Masti 7.00 Kms damaged, from Tando Masti to Hingorja 12.00 Kms damaged, M-8 road Ratohero to Qubo Saeed Khan water overtopped in 3 Kms Portion &

Traffic suspend. N-255 road Larkano - Nasirabad via Rasheed Wagan damaged in various Portions of 5.00Kms. N-455 road from Larkano to Kamber water over topped in one portion from Kamber side. other NHA's roads from Larkano to Lakhi road damaged in various portions of 6.00Kms, from Kamoan Shaheed to Guddu upto Kashmir (Dera More Road) damaged in various portions of 7.00Kms, from Larkano to Khairpur Tando Masti (Khairpur Bridge) road 34 Km damaged.

According to the Opinion of NHA's engineers, roads are damaged due to overloaded vehicles traveling. NHA roads are not designed for high loader vehicles. Interestingly, the same loader vehicles also travel with the same load on the roads constructed by the Works & Services Department of Sindh. Then why are the roads of Works

& Services not dilapidated like the roads of NHA? The specifications and rates of the roads of Works & Services Department Sindh are very less compared to the roads of NHA. Despite this, the roads of W&S Sindh are in good condition. Roads of Provincial Highway Zone Sukkur visited Khairpur, Sukkur,



Nedro-Larkana Road constructed by W & S Sindh

Shikarpur and Larkana Highway Divisions. All the roads were in good condition and in terms of quality all roads are in better condition than Punjab and KPK roads. Nudero Larkana road was constructed by the National Highways Authority, the other 16 km side of the same road was constructed



Road of NHA in Sindh

by the Works and Services Department of Sindh. There is a lot of difference in rates and specifications between NHA and W&S road but it is beautiful to look at and the riding quality is better than NHA's road. People traveling on dilapidated roads of NHA live in hardship and suffering. Roads are not properly repaired by NHA. If the NHA does not pay attention to the roads immediately, the government will have to face a huge protest from the people. Chief Secretary Sindh DR. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Minister W&S Sindh Zia Abbas Shah, Secretary W&S Sindh Imran Atta Soomro and Chief Engineer Sukkur Zone Syed Turab Hussain Shah likewise continued to focus on the quality of work of roads. Very soon Sindh will leave behind all provinces in terms of quality of work of development projects.

DPR Speaker urges P20 to address climate change

ANTARA

JAKARTA: Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR), Puan Maharani, on Wednesday urged P20 parliaments to tackle climate change since its impact has increasingly been felt by people across the globe. Natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, have continued to occur with increasing frequency. The global temperature has increased by 1.1 degrees Celsius (compared to pre-industrial levels), she noted during the "Parliamentary Forum in the Context of the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit." P20 is a forum for parliamentary speakers and people's representatives from G20 countries, which aims to bring a parliamentary dimension to global governance and increase political support for international commitments. G20 is an international forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union that cooperate to handle major issues. Indonesia is holding the presidency of the grouping this year, with the G20 Summit scheduled to be held in November. All parties must have a sense of urgency as now is the time to act to reduce global emissions, expedite the transition to renewable energy, and implement financial aid and technology transfer for developing countries.

US to expand Native Americans memorial site

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US will expand the size of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in Colorado, which commemorates the Native American victims of an 1864 attack by US soldiers, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said Wednesday. Haaland, the first Indigenous Cabinet member in US history, and National Park Service Director Chuck Sams attended an event at the site, where the soldiers attacked a sleeping encampment of approximately 750 Native Americans, killing more than 230 Cheyenne and Arapaho, most of them women, children and the elderly. Among the participants were leaders from the Northern Arapaho Tribe, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper. "The events that took place here forever changed the course of the Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapaho, and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes," said Haaland in her remarks. "We will never forget the hundreds of lives that were brutally taken here - men, women and children murdered in an unprovoked attack." "Stories like the Sand Creek Massacre are not easy to tell, but it is my duty - our duty - to ensure that they are told. This story is part of America's story," she added.

Briefs

EU Parliament holds debate on devastating floods

ISLAMABAD: The European Parliament during its plenary sessions in Strasbourg held a debate, regarding the humanitarian situation following the climate induced devastating floods in Pakistan. The debate, held on Wednesday evening, was aimed at discussing the EU response to the situation in Pakistan and how to mitigate the extreme weather consequences of the climate induced crisis, a press release issued by Pakistan Embassy in Brussels on Thursday said. Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Dr Asad Majeed Khan attended the special debate. The debate was opened by Minister of European Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mikulas Bek, followed by European Commissioner of Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski. Several Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) belonging to different political groups participated in the debate. Expressing solidarity with the people of Pakistan, the MEPs underscored the need for scaling up assistance and support for Pakistan in view of the unprecedented scale of the disaster. - APP

United Nations peacekeeping chief to visit Pakistan, Asia

DNA
UNITED NATIONS: The head of UN Peacekeeping Department, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, leaves Wednesday on a 10-day tour of four Asian countries, including Pakistan, a UN spokesman said Tuesday. "The purpose of Mr Lacroix's visit is to thank the countries for their contributions and support to UN peacekeeping, as well as to update on progress enhancing the effectiveness of peacekeeping, including through the (UN) Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping+ initiative (A4P)," Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told the regular noon briefing at UN Headquarters in New York. The A4P initiative aims at focusing on key priorities that are designed to be catalytic and enhance UN missions' impact. Pakistan has been one of the largest troop contributor to the UN peacekeeping operations in hot spots around the world. Besides Pakistan, Under-Secretary-General Lacroix will visit India, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Japan. No dates were given. In New Delhi, Lacroix will participate in a two-day meeting organized by the Challenges Forum, which brings together leading policymakers, practitioners and academics on key issues linked to peace operations. During his visit, the UN peacekeeping chief will meet senior government officials.

SDGs can't be achieved without economic stability: Ahsan

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has reaffirmed government's resolve to enhance exports for sustainable development of the country. Addressing at a two-day international conference on "Islamophobia and its impact on relations between Islamic & Western civilizations" held at the International Islamic University in Islamabad on Thursday, he stressed Special Economic Zones under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will play a pivotal role to enhance exports. The conference is organized by Islamic Research Institute (IRI) in collaborations with Muslim World League, Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Faculty of Shariah and Law and Faculty of Usuluddin of IIUI. The minister also held that the real cause of extremism was prejudice because terming it a virus that destroys human rationale.

Indonesia-Pak bilateral ties becoming stronger

Ambassador Adam Tugio says Indonesian government dispatched humanitarian aid and a medical team along with USD1 million grant for flood victims



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio has said the 77th Anniversary of Independence is another milestone for Indonesia marked with significant political and economic achievements. Now, Indonesia is world's third largest democracy and a country where Islam and modernity coexist and deliver to bring economic progress. The ambassador made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of Independence day reception. Federal Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Mushahid Hussain Syed and others attended the event. He said, representing the voice of developing countries and to ensure their participation in development process are important parameters of Indonesia's inclusive approach to the Indonesia's Presidency in G-20; Ambassador Tugio said the theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger" under Indonesia's G20 Presidency this year - with three main pillars of Global Health Architecture, Sustainable Energy Transition and Digital Transformation - reflects the true spirit of inclusiveness in the wake of recovery challenges posed by Covid-19 so that "we leave no

one behind". "I take this opportunity to convey on behalf of the government and people of Indonesia, our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the victims of recent unprecedented flash floods in Pakistan. Based on our experiences, we believe that no nation alone can handle such a large scale natural disaster and it's a shared responsibility of all to support people in distress. Indonesia stands with Pakistani brothers and sisters in this difficult time", he added. He said as a mark of solidarity, Indonesian government dispatched humanitarian aid in-kind by two special aircrafts last month and a medical team along with USD1 million grant to support ongoing relief operation in Pakistan. "Let me use this opportunity also to pay my deep gratitude for kind message of condolences and words of compassion from brothers and sisters of Pakistan, and diplomatic community for the victims of deadly soccer stadium stampede in Malang, Indonesia. I sincerely thank you for being so thoughtful and for sharing our grief with prayers and warm support". As regards Indonesia-Pakistan relations, prosperity, stability and development have always been a priority of our founders and top leadership. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1947, Indonesia-Pa-



kistan bilateral relations have continued to become stronger and more comprehensive; Pakistan strategically holds great importance for Indonesia as a trusted friend and partner in South Asia. With the rapidly expanding national economy, and the growing importance of ASEAN as a trade hub, Indonesia offers wonderful investment opportunities and collaboration to our friends from business community in Pakistan. Happily, both sides are fully aware of existing potential and benefits of cooperation and moving ahead by initiating var-

ious mechanisms, bilateral consultation forums, policy dialogue, trade promotion and strengthening of people-to-people contacts to reap more fruits from productive engagement. While concluding his speech the Ambassador said, he would like to extend his sincere gratitude to the Government of Pakistan, business community, friends and partners for always extending their valuable support and assistance to the Embassy with active participation in our events for further promoting bilateral friendly ties, better understanding and connectivity.

FM Bilawal embarks on Germany visit

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will undertake an official visit to Germany from October 6-7 at the invitation of his German counterpart, the Foreign Office said Thursday. Besides helping to consolidate and expand bilateral relations with Germany, the visit will provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen Pakistan's engagement with an important member of the European Union and share its perspective on climate-induced floods in the country, and regional and global issues. Bilawal will hold a meetings with Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and other dignitaries, besides interacting with the media. "The focus of the visit will be on further deepening Pakistan's economic engagement with Germany, a key export destination for Pakistan, and identifying new opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation," the FO said. Pakistan has long-standing, multidimensional ties with Germany, home to a sizable Pakistani community, an attractive destination for its students to pursue higher education, and a major investment partner. "The foreign minister's visit will provide further impetus to our relations with Germany," the FO said. - APP

Six charged over Indonesia stadium disaster

MALANG: Indonesia's police chief on Thursday said six people had been charged over a football stadium disaster that killed 131 at the weekend. "Based on the investigation and sufficient evidence, we have determined six suspects," national police chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo told a press conference. The six people charged with negligence causing death include three police officers and three people responsible for the match and its security, including the head of Arema FC's organising committee and one of the club's security officers, he said. Two of the police officers under investigation ordered colleagues to fire tear gas, he said. The third police officer under investigation knew about FIFA's safety regulations that prohibit the use of crowd control gas at pitchside but did not prevent tear gas being used by colleagues, he said. The suspects face a maximum sentence of five years in prison if found guilty. The Indonesian football association had earlier banned the Arema FC organising committee chief and a security officer from football for life. The announcement came as anger grew over the police response to a pitch invasion. Officers reacted by firing tear gas into packed stands as fans of Arema FC tried to approach players following their defeat to fierce rivals Persebaya Surabaya on Saturday evening. - APP

Greece migrant sinkings leave 18 dead, missing

ATHENS: At least 18 people died, nearly all of them women, and about 30 more were still missing after two migrant boats sank in gale force winds off Greece, the coastguard said Thursday, with survivors dramatically winched to safety. A vessel believed to be carrying around 40 people went down east of the island of Lesbos, coastguard spokesman Nikos Kokkalis told state TV ERT. The bodies of 16 women and a 15-year-old boy were recovered from the area, close to Turkey, he said. Divers recovered an adult male body during the afternoon, the coastguard added. A few hours earlier, the coastguard had been alerted to a sailing boat in distress off Kythira island's Diakofti port, south of the Peloponnese peninsula. - Agencies

UK firmly stands with Pakistan in its flood relief efforts: Angela Rayner

ISLAMABAD: British Deputy Opposition Leader of the Lower House and Deputy Leader of Labour Party Ms Angela Rayner on Thursday said that the United Kingdom firmly stood with the flood-hit Pakistan and supported its relief efforts for the affected people. "The world needs to find a sustainable way of ensuring that people are not as devastated by the lives lost here in Pakistan and the disruption that has happened to the people here," she said in an exclusive interview with APP. Ms Angela Rayner, who along with Member of House of Lords Wajid Khan visited the flood affected areas, said efforts should be made to prevent such a catastrophe going forward into the future. The climate change was rapidly affecting the world and Pakistan had become its first

victim, and it required extraordinary efforts and collaboration to tackle the issue, she added. The United Kingdom, she said, would raise the issue and ask for a sustainable solution to combat it in the upcoming COP27 meeting in Egypt next month. "I hope that the bilateral talks will mean that more support will come to Pakistan and other areas of the globe that have faced the devastation of climate change but in a more sustainable and structured way." She further stated that the world had to protect the people's future from the climate change effect as it was devastatingly affecting the humanity. Speaking about her visit to the flood-affected areas of Pakistan, Angela Rayner said it was devastating to see how the people have to endure the crisis.

Hundreds of thousands of people had been affected by the flash floods, besides losses of life and property, and standing crops, which was devastating, she added. Angela Rayner said the British Government had already donated 16.5 million pounds to the flood-affected people of Pakistan. Moreover, she added, the British Pakistani diaspora had immediately been incredible regarding the relief effort. "Many fundraisers and support have been offered, the Pakistani diaspora in the UK has been incredibly generous, and part of the reason why I'm here is that I wanted to, as a UK politician is that Pakistan hasn't been forgotten, even in my own constituency Ashton-under-Lyne underlying they've been from raising and doing so much to help the flood relief efforts." - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of USA, David Blome calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ayaz Sadiq. DNA

1st summit of European Political Community

BRUSSELS: The first summit of the European Political Community, a pan-European leaders' platform to discuss common challenges, kicked off on Thursday in Prague, the Czech capital. "Look at the importance (of this meeting), the whole continent is here except two countries, Belarus and Russia," Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo told reporters on the way to the summit. Heads of state and government from 44 countries - the 27 EU members and 17 other European countries, including Türkiye, the UK, Serbia - participate at the summit hosted by the Czech government that assumes the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union. De Croo said the leaders will address the "extremely important topic" of European security at their meeting, with the aim to improve the security environment, prepare for further escalation of the Ukrainian conflict, and handle the energy crisis and inflation. - DNA

Israel to reject proposed changes to gas deal

JERUSALEM: Israel said Thursday that it will reject Lebanon's amendments to a US-drafted proposal on resolving a long-running maritime border dispute over gas-rich waters off the countries' Mediterranean coasts. A draft agreement floated by US envoy Amos Hochstein aims to settle competing claims over offshore gas fields and was delivered to Lebanese and Israeli officials at the weekend, following years of indirect negotiations. Lebanon and Israel have no diplomatic relations and their land border is patrolled by the United Nations. The two sides are technically still at war. Israel had welcomed the terms set out by Hochstein and said they would be subjected to legal review, but gave no indication it sought substantive changes. Lebanon presented its response to Washington's proposal on Tuesday. A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Israel had received the Lebanese response to the mediator's proposal for an agreement. - APP

Russian missile razes Ukraine apartment block

Kyiv called the new law, which seeks to incorporate about 18% of Ukraine's territory into Russia, act of a "collective madhouse". Russia moved to annex the four regions after holding what it called referendums - votes that were denounced by Kyiv and Western govts as illegal and coercive

AGENCIES
BAKHMUT: A Russian missile demolished an apartment block in a Ukrainian region that Moscow says it has annexed, killing at least three people, as discontent mounted inside Russia about the handling of the war by the top brass. The missile attack on the city of Zaporizhzhia in the southern region of the same name left some people buried under the rubble, the regional governor said, and was a reminder of Moscow's ability to strike targets even at a time when its forces have been pushed back in the south and east. There was no immediate comment from Russia, whose invasion of Ukraine has begun to unravel after a Ukrainian counteroffensive in which thousands of square miles of territory have been retaken since the start of September, including dozens of settlements in recent days. In a blow for Moscow, thousands of Russian troops have retreated after the front line crumbled, first in the northeast, and,

since the beginning of this week, also in the south. Public criticism of Russia's top military brass, once taboo, is also mounting after two allies of President Vladimir Putin criticised what they said was the incompetent way the war was being prosecuted. On Thursday, a Russian-installed official in occupied Ukraine openly mused about the idea of Sergei Shoigu, the defence minister and an ally of Putin, shooting himself for his military failures. "Indeed, many say: if they were a defence minister who had allowed such a state of affairs, they could, as officers, have shot themselves," Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the Russian-installed administration in Ukraine's Kherson region, said in a video. "But you know the word 'officer' is an incomprehensible word for many." There was no immediate comment from the defence ministry. Discontent has begun to bubble up among even loyalist state TV hosts too. "Please explain to me what the general staff's genius idea is now? Vladimir Solovy-

ov, one of the most prominent Russian talk show hosts, said on his livestream channel. "Do you think time is on our side? They (the Ukrainians) have hugely increased their amount of weapons... But what have you done in that time?" Images of the aftermath of Thursday's missile strike showed a gaping, rubble-strewn hole where a terracotta-coloured five-storey apartment block used to stand next to a wine shop. Reuters reporters saw firefighters bringing a father and son down a ladder and talking to an older man still trapped under rubble. Eduard, a 49-year-old man who survived the attack, said he was woken up at around five in the morning by a strong explosion. "The room filled with smoke and dust. I jumped up to go see what had happened," he said. Twelve people were wounded, including a three-year-old child, and five were still under the rubble, said Oleksandr Starukh, the governor. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter that Russia had fired seven missiles at "people sleeping peacefully

at their homes". "More have struck during the day. Russians keep deliberately striking civilians to sow fear," he said. Moscow says it does not deliberately target civilians. The missile attack came a day after Putin signed a law to incorporate four partially occupied Ukrainian regions into Russia, including Zaporizhzhia, in Europe's biggest attempted annexation since World War Two. Kyiv called the new law, which seeks to incorporate about 18% of Ukraine's territory into Russia, the act of a "collective madhouse". Russia moved to annex the four regions after holding what it called referendums - votes that were denounced by Kyiv and Western governments as illegal and coercive. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in a late night address on Wednesday that his army had retaken more settlements in the southern Kherson region and footage released from Kherson showed a Russian infantry fighting vehicle with a white piece of fabric wrapped around its gun barrel surrendering.