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**NATO pledges to bolster Ukraine's air defense systems**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Aung San Suu Kyi handed two prison terms**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Wilder wants to fight Joshua in Africa**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**COAS lauds role of USG DPO**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: United Nations (UN) Under Secretary General Department of Peace-keeping Operations (USG DPO) Jean Pierre Lacroix called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa here at the General Headquarters. During the meeting, matters of mutual interests and overall regional security situation were discussed, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS appreciated the role of the office of under secretary in promoting the UN's core values and its response during crises.

**US values cooperation with Pakistan**

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US State Department spokesperson Ned Price while briefing the newsmen in Washington on Tuesday said that the United States values its longstanding cooperation with Pakistan, media reported. Ned Price said that US Deputy Secretary Wendy Sherman did have an opportunity to meet with the Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. He said that we meet with and speak with Pakistan's officials regularly on a range of issues. But as is standard practice, we don't delve into the details of those engagements always.

**Acquittal 'slap in nation's face'**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to the acquittal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shahbaz in the money laundering case, PTI Senior VP Fawad Chaudhry said that the allegedly laundered "Rs24 billion have been passed over for the father-son duo". "On one hand, [they] are seeking funds for flood victims. On the other hand, one family has looted billions of rupees," Fawad said, adding that the laundered money belonged to the people of Pakistan.

**CICA moot in Kazakhstan**

# Azerbaijan vows to help flood victims

**PM Shehbaz and Azerbaijani President review the close and cordial bilateral ties**

**PM joins CICA leaders at dinner**

SPECIAL REPORT

ASTANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with President Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of the Sixth Summit of Conference for Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) at Astana, Kazakhstan. Both leaders reviewed the close and cordial bilateral ties, with a view to further enhance cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, education, information technology, security, agriculture, connectivity and energy. The Prime Minister also briefed President Aliyev on his government's efforts to rehabilitate the millions of flood-affected people in Pakistan and restore their livelihoods damaged by the unprecedented climate change induced natural disaster. The Prime Minister underscored that damage to standing crops and inability to cultivate in the coming sowing season had exacerbated the threat of food shortage in the country. Import of urea was essential to avert this danger and revive the agricultural produce in the country. President Aliyev assured him of Azerbaijan's full support in this context. Regional and global issues of common interest were also discussed at the meeting. Prime Minister Sharif appreciated Azerbaijan's steadfast position on Jammu and Kashmir and its valuable role as member of

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

## 'Australia, Indonesia fully committed to counter terrorism'

**The Australian High Commission and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia mark 20th Anniversary of Bali terrorist bombings**

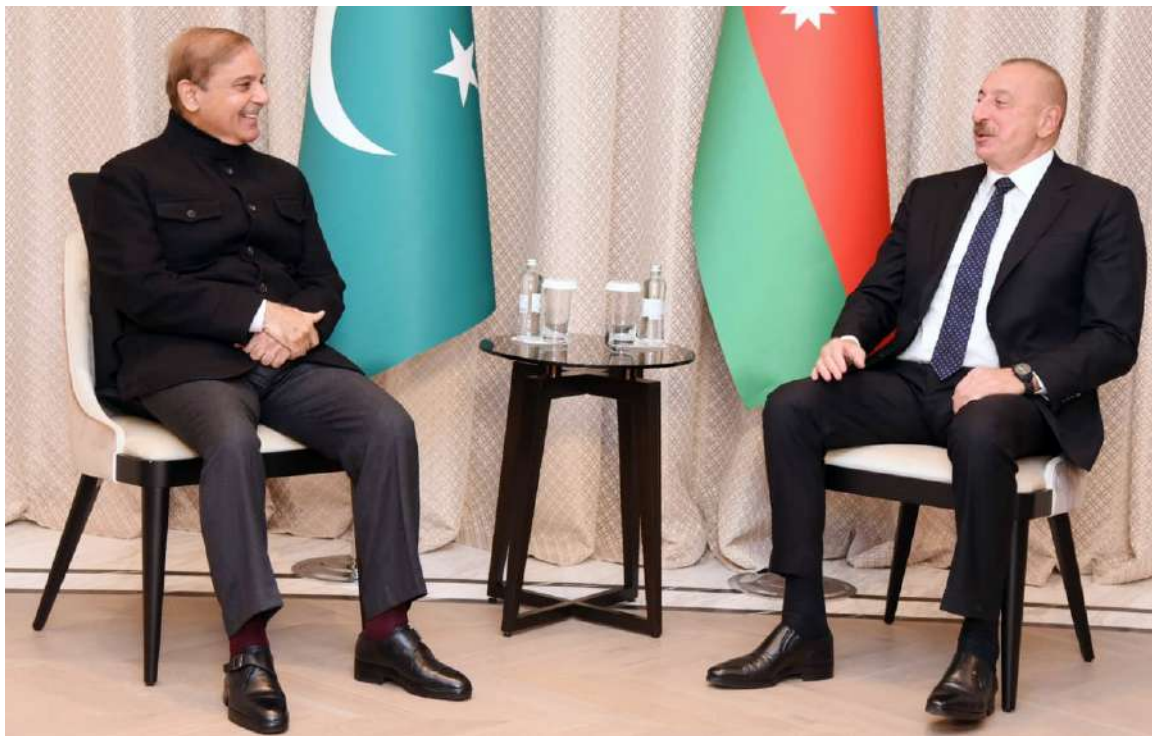


STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia marked the 20th Anniversary of the Bali terrorist bombings on 12 October with a commemorative ceremony in Islamabad. The memorial paid tribute to the courage and resilience of those af-

fectured by the attacks of 12 October 2002, which killed 202 innocent people, including 88 Australians and 38 Indonesians, and wounded hundreds more. Speaking at the commemorative ceremony, Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins highlighted the subsequent close cooperation between Australia and Indonesia and emphasised

Continued on Page 06



ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev. – DNA

**Imran biggest security threat**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said the country's progress and prosperity was linked with the accountability of Imran Khan as he was the "biggest security threat" for Pakistan. "The country has not faced the biggest security threat in its history like the 'Foreign Funded Fitna and fraud of Imran Khan', who has played a serious game with the national security and interests," she said while reacting to the remarks of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman. "The country will surely prosper if Imran Khan were made subservient to the law," she added. Being the head of government, she said, Imran Khan was solely responsible for all the wrongs committed during the four-year tenure of PTI, but the real power was exercised by his wife Bushra Bibi and her friend Farah Gogi. Referring to Imran Khan's remarks about his limited powers as the country's chief executive, Marriyum said had he had absolute power, then the gravity of his loot and plunder would have been inconceivable. With "limited power", Imran Khan had damaged the country's interests and played sinister games to achieve his political motives, she said, adding the state would have been in danger if he had held "absolute power". She said Imran Khan should have told the masses if he did not enjoy complete power.

## PM Shehbaz, Hamza acquitted in money laundering case

**Special Judge (Central-1) Ijaz Hassan Awan announced the verdict**

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: A special court on Wednesday acquitted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son, former chief minister Punjab Hamza Shehbaz, in a case, registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Special Judge (Central-1) Ijaz Hassan Awan announced the verdict while allowing acquittal applications of the prime minister and Hamza Shehbaz. The court had reserved the verdict after hearing detailed arguments of Advocate Amjad Pervaiz, who represented PM Shehbaz Sharif and ex-CM Hamza Shehbaz, and the FIA prosecution, earlier in the day and it was announced later in the afternoon. The prime minister and Hamza Shehbaz did not appear before the court on Wednesday and a legal team submitted separate applications for their exemption from personal appearance for one-day.

Continued on Page 06

**PM says verdict vindicates their stance**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that they stood vindicated before the court, the law and the people despite facing worst kind of political oppression and misuse of state machinery during the previous government that had held the institutions as hostage. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister referring to a verdict of a special court in Lahore that had acquitted him and his son Hamza Sharif from a money laundering case said that Allah Almighty had blessed them once

Continued on Page 06

## "Two families imposed to plunder country's wealth"

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SHARQAUPUR: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has said that the rulers appoint NAB and FIA heads to save them instead of eliminating corruption, while four witnesses of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shahbaz have already died. Addressing a rally in Sharqaupur on Wednesday, he said that the incumbent rulers would never let the institutions strengthen. "I have never favoured anyone during the three and a half years of my government," he said and added "neither I want judges nor army chief of my choice but want to bring people to office on merit who will strengthen the institutions." He hoped that the people of Sharqaupur will again vote for the PTI candidate in the upcoming by-election, adding that this

election is part of Pakistan's "Haqiqi Azadi" because culprits have been imposed in the country who plundered country's wealth. Earlier, Imran Khan, while addressing a ceremony in the federal capital, said that what would be worse for the country than Sharif's getting another NRO. The PTI Chairman said that if he had stacked money abroad, he would not have the courage to say "absolutely not". Criticizing government policies, Imran Khan said that a slowdown in the economy will result in more unemployment and it

Continued on Page 06

## Inside...

President for enhanced bilateral trade with Hungary – Page 02

Mauritius offers its expertise to promote tourism in Pakistan – Page 03

Chief collector customs assures to address issues – Page 04

Putin's escalations: dangerous times – Page 05

Muslims' commonalities form religious civilization – Page 06

NATO Chief aims to bolster Ukraine's air defense system – Page 07

Armed Forces day of Egypt celebrated – Page 08

# Putin blames Europe for energy crisis

CENTRELINE REPORT

WARSAW: Russia's president said Europe was to blame for its energy crisis with policies that starved the oil and gas industry of investment and said price caps would make it worse, as EU states tried to forge a deal on ways to contain soaring energy costs. Worries about the security of energy supplies were heightened on Wednesday when a leak in Poland on the Druzhba pipeline from Russia reduced the flow of oil to Germany. Poland said the leak was probably caused by an accident but it came as European Union nations are seeking to wean themselves off a reliance on Russian energy in response to the invasion of Ukraine in February. The Nord Stream gas link to Germany is now out of action after a leak last month that both Russia and the West have blamed on sabotage, without identifying who was behind it. President Vladimir Putin said leaks in the two Nord Stream pipelines running under the Baltic Sea were an "act of international terrorism" to deprive people of cheap energy. Putin said gas could still be supplied by one intact part of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline but it was up to the EU whether or not it wanted the gas. Germany froze the Nord Stream 2 project days before Russia sent troops into Ukraine and a German government spokesperson on Wednesday ruled out taking gas via that route.

## Biden vows 'consequences' for Saudi Arabia

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden, the United States president, has warned Saudi Arabia that there will be "consequences" after a global cartel of oil-producing countries led by the kingdom and Russia announced that they would cut oil production despite Washington's objections. His remarks on Tuesday came a day after influential Democratic Senator Bob Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee, said the US must immediately freeze all cooperation with Saudi Arabia, including arms sales. "There's going to be some consequences for what they've done with Russia," Biden said in an interview with CNN. "I'm not going to get into what I'd consider and what I have in mind. But there will be, there will be consequences." Last week, the OPEC+ group said it would slash oil production targets by two million barrels a day, defying

Continued on Page 06

Moscow was not to blame for Europe's sky-high energy prices and pointed at the EU's green energy drive, saying it led to underinvestment in the global oil and gas industry. The Group of Seven (G7) countries have been discussing a cap on Russian oil prices, a move Putin said would deepen problems. The impact of efforts to use less Russian energy, plus steep cuts in supplies from Russia, have been felt across the 27-nation EU, with gas prices almost

90% higher than a year ago and fears of rationing and power cuts over the coming winter. EU energy ministers were meeting in Prague on Wednesday to try to agree new measures to tackle the crisis. Most EU countries say they want a gas price cap, but disagree on its design. Some countries, including Germany, Europe's biggest gas market, remain opposed, arguing it risks choking off supplies. Germany and the Netherlands put forward their own proposals before Wednesday's meeting in the Czech capital - suggesting 10 "no-regret" EU measures, including a new benchmark price for liquefied natural gas, tougher targets to save gas, and negotiating lower prices with other suppliers, such as Norway. In neighbouring Poland, pipeline operator PERN said a leak was detected on Tuesday evening in a section of the Druzhba oil pipe around 70 kilometres (43 miles) from the central Polish city of Plock. The Druzhba pipeline, whose name means "friendship" in Russian, is one of the world's largest, supplying Russian oil to much of central Europe. "Here we can talk about accidental damage," Poland's top official in charge of energy infrastructure Mateusz Berger told Reuters by telephone. Germany's PCK Refinery in the eastern town of Schwedt, which supplies 90% of Berlin's fuel, said it was still receiving oil deliveries from the Druzhba pipeline but at reduced capacity.

Continued on Page 06



# President Alvi for enhanced trade with Hungary

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday underlined the need to substantially increase the volume of bilateral trade with Hungary from its existing level of \$50 million to \$150 million to help realize the full potential of bilateral trade, business and investment. The president said this while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Hungary, Asif Hussain Memon, who called on him in Aiwan-e-Sadr. He highlighted the need to create linkages between the private sectors of Hungary and Pakistan for forging possible joint ventures in the fields of agriculture, vertical farming, robotics, information technology, water management, flood water management, crop insurance and development of high-yield-

ing seeds. President Alvi expressed the hope that the economic experts of the two countries need to collectively find practical ways to implement planned initiatives in the next session of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC). The president advised the envoy designate to engage the Hungarian Oil and Gas Company (MOL), which had a sizable investment in Pakistan, and encourage it to extend its operations to renewable energy as well. Underlining the areas of furthering bilateral cooperation between the two countries, the president said that there was great potential for cooperation with Hungary in water resources management, agriculture, food, education, information technology sector and higher educa-

tion sector. He also emphasized the need for the full utilization of scholarships offered by the government of Hungary to Pakistani students and asked the ambassador-designate to coordinate with the Higher Education Commission to finalize the MoU for the scholarship program on a top priority basis. He appreciated that the government of Hungary was likely to increase the award of the current 200 scholarships to 400 in the near future, which, he said, should be fully utilized. He said that a mechanism should be established to attract Pakistani human resources educated and trained in Hungary back to Pakistan and to ensure the utilization of their acquired knowledge and training in critical fields for bringing improvement

to Pakistan's economy. The president also appreciated the support of the government of Hungary for GSP+ status to Pakistan and stated that there was a need to ensure Hungary's continuous support for the renewal of GSP+ status to Pakistan. He advised the envoy to highlight the true image of Pakistan and the sacrifices rendered by the Pakistani nation to counter terrorism and extremism in the country, at the same time he should also highlight the discrimination, intimidation and violence being perpetrated against the minorities in India. He said there was a need to talk about Hindutva philosophy as well as the increasing trend of Islamophobia in India, which was putting the lives and properties of Muslims under threat. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Captain (ret) Muhammad Usman Yunus chairs an important meeting regarding prevention of traffic accidents and safety U-turns to control the flow of traffic. - DNA

## Measures taken to promote regional trade

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar said on Wednesday that the incumbent government was striving hard to promote and develop regional trade, particularly with Central Asian states by introducing modern trade and business technologies, besides facilitating the business communities across the region. Addressing a three-day conference on "Peer Learning Initiatives, National Single Window Implementation and Management" organized by Pakistan Single Window in collaboration with Ready4Trade Central Asia (R4TCA) project, the minister said that the trading process could be eased by using the latest techniques. The minister also expressed government's commitment to deepen political, diplomatic, and trade relations with all neighboring countries. It is pertinent to mention here that the event had brought together customs and trade experts from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to share their knowledge, experiences, and regional best practices for the development and implementation of the national single window. The minister said that in order to enhance and further promote the trade ties with regional countries. - APP

## OGRA, NAB hold seminar on corruption free Pakistan theme



**DNA**  
Chairman OGRA welcomed the participants and informed that the definition of corruption requires to be revisited

ISLAMABAD: A seminar on "Our Faith Corruption Free Pakistan" was conducted by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) in collaboration with National Ac-

countability Bureau (NAB) which was attended by senior management of NAB and OGRA jointly. The event was conducted to create awareness against the evils of corruption and how public sector organizations can play their part in the eradication of this evil. Mr. Masroor Khan, Chairman OGRA welcomed the participants and informed that the definition of corruption requires to be revisited in its true sense as merely using delaying tactic in official task is also comes under the umbrella of corruption. He further added that corruption is one of the root causes of poverty, conflict and state fragility. It undermines the states' ability to

effectively deliver services and maintain the rule of law, affects the business climate and stands in the way of sustainable economic and social development. Mr. Tariq Hamid Butt, Director General NAB has informed that the reserves of Pakistan are depleting rapidly and we have to control the unaccounted losses to economy and join hands to play our role in eradicating this menace. He emphasized to bring transparency in the processes which will create better service delivery ultimately making the system work efficiently. The audiences have put many questions to the NAB guests regarding investigation processes and harassment which were responded appropriately. - DNA

## Japanese envoy assures further investment in power sector

ISLAMABAD: Japanese ambassador to Pakistan Mr Mitsuhiro Wada on Wednesday said that Japan has been investing in Pakistan's power sector and assured to further enhance investment in power sector of the country. The ambassador expressed these views in a meeting with Minister of Energy Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan here Wednesday, said a press release. The ambassador appreciated the government initiatives for promotion of solar energy and mentioned that Japanese companies were interested in solar energy sector. Showing satisfaction at the current level of excellent bilateral ties, the minister appreciated the longstanding engagement of Japan with Pakistan for improving its economic and social infrastructure. The ambassador expressed gratitude for Khurram Dastgir's presence at the funeral of late former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe. Mr. Wada reiterated Japan's support for Pakistan in the devastating floods. The minister said he was much impressed by the kind gesture of people of Japan, as they have been sending letters and money to Pakistan's embassy.

## Save The Children committed for relief

**DNA**  
ISLAMABAD: As the post-flood rehabilitation of damaged schools infrastructure across Sindh will take a long time to complete, the provincial government and Save the Children has planned to set up 600 Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) in four districts of Dadu, Sanghar, Shikarpur and Khairpur with an aim to resume students' educational activities stalled following the devastating floods. In order to ensure the smooth and effective relief and rehabilitation process, Save the Children has committed

ted USD 50 million for the floods response 2022. In this regard, Save The Children has signed a Letter of Understanding with Sindh Government's Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and Legal Rights Forum (LRF) to establish 600 Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) besides scaling up the response and support for flood affected children on immediate basis. To witness the development and ensure continuous support, Country Director Save the Children, M. Khurram Gondal, Global Humanitarian Director Save the Children, Gabriella Waaijman and Director

Advocacy, Policy and Government Liaison, Usman Aslam visited temporary learning centers and children friendly spaces being managed in Dadu and also provided Food/ Non-Food Items, dignity kits and other necessary relief items to the flood affected communities in district Dadu. "We are ensuring resumption of students' education despite the damage caused to the schools due to the recent flood," Khurram Gondal said on the occasion. Gabriella Waaijman expressed deep sorrow and offered her condolences over the losses and expressed solidarity with Pakistani government.

## MWL delegation meets Elahi

LAHORE: A delegation of Rabita-e-Alam-e-Islami (Saudi Arabia) led by its Secretary General Sheikh Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al-Fessa met Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at his office on Wednesday. Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Maliki, Abdul Rahman Khalil Al-Khadidi, Abdul Wahab Muhammad Abdul Aziz Al-Shahri, Khalid Mufarah Al-Watayabi, Muhammad Saeed Al-Ghamdi, Saeed

Al-Harhi and others were included in the delegation. Talking on the occasion, the chief minister said the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are exemplary as every Pakistani considers Saudi Arabia as his second home. Saudi Arabia has stood by Pakistan in every hour of trial, he noted and added that during the recent floods, assistance was provided by the Saudi government to the flood victims. The chief minister said that the Quran Board

and Sira't Academy have been established by the government along with inclusion of a clause related to the Finality of Prophethood (PBUH) in the marriage certificate. The CM said that Ulema of all schools of thought have been given representation in the Ulema Board. With the consultation of Ulema and religious scholars, the publication and sale of books and materials, based on religious hatred have been banned in the province and

all controversial literature has been confiscated, he added. The government has also made legislation in this regard, he added. Nazra Quran and its translation has been made mandatory for the students in schools whereas frames of Quranic verses have been displayed in all government offices of Punjab. In the building of the Punjab assembly, the verses about the Finality of Prophethood (Peace Be Upon Him) are shining beautifully. - APP

## India replicating Israeli model in IIOJK

### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) AJK chapter and Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) jointly organized a report launch and press-briefing on the imminent situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in the wake of India's settler colonial program. Colonial Diary, a repository of settler colonial diktats in IIOJK was launched on Wednesday to apprise the international community of Indian machinations political, legal, and economic subju-

gation of Kashmiris which amounts to war crimes under International Law. The report has been compiled by the team of Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK). It includes the around 220 legislation, administrative changes, orders, notifications, and press releases by the Indian State in the last three years (August 2019 - August 2022) after the abrogation of Article 370. Colonial Diary is the repository of settler colonial diktats by the Indian administration in IIOJK. The documents included in the repository are the various legislation, administrative changes, orders, notifications, and press releases by

the Indian State after the abrogation of Article 370. The repository includes various laws, articles, and bills on different issues and with diverse themes including Land acquisition for military purposes, the Roshini Act, Termination of government employees under 311 (2) (c), Waqf properties, Pandit Migration, Jammu Kashmir Reorganization Act (2019), Domicile Certificate, Delimitation Commission, etc. On August 05, 2019, the Parliament of India unilaterally passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 containing provisions to reconstitute the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories (UTs) called Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, and became effective on 31 October 2019. The Reorganization act consists of 103 clauses, extends 106 central laws to the UTs, repeals 153 state laws, and abolishes the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council. According to Al-Jazeera's October 28, 2020 report, "Kashmiris fear the new laws are aimed at a land grab to dilute the Muslim-majority character of the region, whose partial autonomy was scrapped in August 2019, bringing it under New Delhi's direct control."

Kashmiri Lawmakers believe that it is a pathway paved for replicating the Israeli model of occupation and colonization of the West Bank in Kashmir towards dis-empowerment and dispossession of the locals, particularly Kashmiri Muslims, to exercise hegemonic control through new settlers. The Narendra Modi-led BJP government is adamant to engineer the demography of Kashmir Valley which has around 97 percent Muslim population.



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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER	
Oct 01 / China	National Day
Oct 01 / Cyprus	National Day
Oct 01 / Republic of Korea	Armed Forces Day
Oct 01 / Nigeria	Armed Forces Day
Sept 09 / DPR Korea	National Day
Oct 02 / Guinea	National Day
Oct 03 / Germany	Unification Day
Oct 03 / Republic of Korea	National Foundation Day
Oct 05 / Indonesia	Armed Forces Day
Oct 06 / Egypt	Armed Forces Day
Oct 09 / Uganda	Independence Day
Oct 12 / Spain	National Day
Oct 23 / Hungary	National Day
Oct 24 / UN	United Nations Day
Oct 25 / Romania	Armed Forces Day
Oct 26 / Austria	National Day
Oct 27 / Turkmenistan	Independence Day
Oct 28 / Czech Republic	National Day
Oct 29 / Turkey	Republic Day

Hotels & Restaurants	
Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812

Airlines	
Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
Emergency	
Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20

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



Hospitals	
CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666

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

Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank	
Islamabad.....	0321-5744480

# Mauritius offers its expertise to promote tourism in Pakistan

The High Commissioner noting cultural and historic similarities between the two countries said the cooperation could be extended in this area of common interest

ISLAMABAD, Mauritius High Commissioner to Pakistan Rashidally Soobadar on Wednesday offered his country's expertise to exploit Pakistan's untapped potential of tourism sector, saying he believed it can significantly contribute to the national economy. "Mauritius has a very organized tourism sector which contributes nine per cent to its economy and I offer my country's technical assistance to promote services and system to make Pakistan an international tourists' hub" he said in an interview with APP.

Quoting Pakistan's "mesmerizing scenic northern areas and weather conditions" Soobadar said Pakistan was an ideal country and, "I suggest the authorities concerned to adopt Mauritius model to make it an ideal tourists' destination." He said his country, a small island with 1.2 million populations, annually attracts over 1.5 million tourists which, "reflects how we have exploited tourism sector to contribute in our national economy."

The Mauritius High Commissioner also offered to train Pakistani youth

in hotel management as tourism sector's success "lies in the quality services being offered at these facilities establish around tourist destinations." "We have a very soft visa policy for Pakistanis and his country is ready to further facilitate to the willing students from here, who can benefit from the education opportunities available there."

The Mauritius has 100 percent literacy rate and its national are enjoying free education, however, intending Pakistani students can be accommodated on a nominal fee

structure, he added. He said that tourism sector had emerged as an engine of growth in Mauritius, and it is one of fastest growing socio-economic sectors that was fueling economic growth and creating jobs and business opportunities. Recommending Pakistan to make tourism a national subject, Rashidally said, besides good road infrastructure and standard hotels quality transport was also vital to facilitate and attract tourists.

He also highlighted opportunities for the Pakistani manpower in Mau-

ritius health sector and said, "the country has \$13000 per capita income which is quite attractive for the Asian workforce." To a question about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, he said his country was interested to reap trade benefits from One Belt One Road initiative but some modalities were required to be determined for Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

After completion of the CPEC project the trade ties would be boosted with the entire region especially the African

continent and Pakistan's access to those markets can help its economy, he remarked. The High Commissioner noting the cultural and historic similarities between the two countries said the cooperation could be extended in this area of common interest. Mauritius, Rashidally said, stood by the people of Pakistan in the times of calamities and his country's government and people's recent air shipment of relief goods for the flood affected here was testimony to this. —Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for power, Khurram Dastgir Khan calls on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf. —DNA

## Atta Tarar accuses IK of maligning institutions

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister Atta Ullah Tarar on Wednesday said former Prime Minister Imran Khan had himself recorded audios even of his party members and now was maligning national institutions when his real face was exposed. Addressing a press conference here, he said audios leaks had established his dirty political game that how he had been using a diplomatic cipher to make so-called political motives and what he had declared horse trading a curse in

which he himself was involved. He said the politics of Imran Khan had damaged diplomatic relations with different countries and "this person was still putting the country's interests at stake for his political gains". He would be answerable for his wrongdoings such as foreign funding case, money laundering, etc, Tarar added. The SAPM said Principal Secretary to the former prime minister Azam Khan used to "present him with transcripts of audios every

morning", adding before the start of office, they used to record, for their "nefarious purposes" but now he was criticizing institutions on audios leak, reflecting his double standards. He said the recent situation in Swat and the poor law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was the "failure of the provincial government" to maintain peace, which was restored by Pakistan's armed forces but PTI leadership was disparaging the institutions and termed it as unfair.—APP

## CTP launch crackdown against PSVs

RAWALPINDI:City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi have launched an effective crackdown against public service vehicles (PSVs) indulging in overloading of passengers beyond capacity. In-charge Traffic Adiala Circle Faisal Khokhar along with his team issued challan tickets to 39 vehicles, licenses of 2 drivers were suspended for negligence and carelessness, while 4 were impounded in the police station for lack of documents.

On the occasion, Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad said that riding on the roofs of public service vehicles (PSVs) would not be allowed and strict action should be taken especially against those who pick up students and there will be no leniency against such drivers as it can cause any major accident, he remarked. He also directed to the in-charge education wing to conduct an awareness campaign about the harm caused by overloading passengers in (PSVs). He further said that in the future, if the students were found traveling on roof top of vehicles, they will be stopped by the police. Their parents would also be held responsible and they would be accountable, he added.—APP

## Ericsson Pakistan launches Graduate Program

ISLAMABAD:Ericsson has announced the launch of its graduate program in Pakistan to offer young talents world-class learning and career development opportunities. The Ericsson Pakistan Graduate Program is focused on nurturing Pakistan's technology leaders of tomorrow, said a press release issued on Wednesday.

With experts from Ericsson training and supporting young Pakistani talent, the Ericsson Pakistan Graduate Program provides on-the-job, project-based, classroom training, and online learning in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and advanced technologies within the advanced connectivity era and as a contribution to the Digital Pakistan Policy.

The graduates are gaining valuable work experience, skills and knowledge that enable graduates to gain professional project-based knowledge, in a fast-changing ICT sector. Aamir Ahsan Khan, President and Country Manager of Ericsson Pakistan says: "Ericsson has been in Pakistan for 60 years and giving back to society is one of our strong pillars.

The Ericsson Pakistan Graduate Program enhances the skills and knowledge of the young and bright graduates while empowering them as technology experts. The youth are the catalysts to the realization of the Digital Pakistan Policy and will lead Pakistan's digital future in different areas like FinTech, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, and more. The graduates have great potential, and we are looking forward to their success."

The young, curious, and innovative graduates are working alongside world-class industry expertise at Ericsson and are supporting the development of projects that are changing the world of communication in Pakistan and the region.

Graduates interested in the program can visit <https://www.ericsson.com/en/careers/student-young-professionals> to know more about future opportunities that Ericsson offers young professionals, the press release added.—APP

## 106 more test positive for dengue in Rawalpindi

AWALPINDI: As many as 106 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 3,347. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC) Dr Sajjad Mehmood on Wednesday said that among the new cases, 37 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, 25 from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, 24 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, ten from Potohar rural, seven from Chaklala Cantonment, four from Gujjar Khan, two

from Taxila Cantonment and one of each from Kahutta and Taxila rural. Dr Sajjad stated that 223 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 118 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 75 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 30 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH). He informed that out of the total admitted patients, 154 were confirmed cases, with 117 belonging to Rawalpindi, adding two patients were in a critical position at BBH and one at HFH.—APP

## GSTAR's 2nd iteration to discuss security challenges

An introductory video highlighting the message of President CASS Air Marshal (R) Farhat Abbas Khan was presented to give an overview of CASS and its endeavours so far

ISLAMABAD:The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) is going to hold the second iteration of its two-day flagship event of Global Strategic Threat and Response (GSTAR-2022) conference to discuss security challenges amid volatile global and regional scenario directly impacting Pakistan. The CASS organised a curtain raiser media briefing of GSTAR Conference 2022 to held on October 19-20 here with a diverse group of experts and speakers hailing from the academia, think tanks, defence forces, intellectuals, diplomatic corps, and OEMs from Pakistan and abroad. An introductory video highlighting the message of President CASS Air Marshal (R) Farhat Abbas Khan was presented to give an overview of CASS and its endeavours

so far. Adviser to Chief of the Air Staff on CASS Affairs and Director Technologies, CASS Air Marshal (R) M. Ashfaq Arain briefed the media on GSTAR as he was also the media coordinator for the mega event. He informed the journalists that the theme for this year's GSTAR was Evolving Global Order: Opportunities and Challenges. The theme was decided keeping in view the momentous development taking place at regional and global levels including deepening US-India strategic partnership, Indo-US joint strategies on South Asia and Indo-Pacific, AUKUS and QUAD aimed at containing China will, continued instability in Afghanistan, uncertain situation in the Middle East. He said these developments were affecting global,

regional and Pakistan's national security environment, intensifying US-China rivalry, growing Sino-India tensions, negatively impacting nuclear non-proliferation regime, leading to polarisation in the region that would create challenges with geo-economic and geopolitical consequences for Pakistan. Air Marshal (R) Arain said the core concept for GSTAR 2022 undertook emerging technologies and their diverse military implications in the international and regional landscape, making security environment far more complex, volatile and delicate that was posing challenges to strategic stability in the region. The CASS Director Technologies noted that the aim of GSTAR was to foster policy engagement forum involving national and international

experts with a view to develop geopolitical, geostrategic and geo-economic synergies for a peaceful environment, highlight Pakistan's perspective on global and regional issues, enhance outreach for sharing ideas and drawing lessons for formulating strategies, seek expert inputs on core areas of research related to aerospace and national security and highlight Pakistan's perspective on key issues relating to CASS' research domains. He underlined that the role of the forum was to provide a unique and major global forum to regularly review most significant global strategic trends and challenges by bringing together national leadership and leading international experts and academicians. Moreover, it also gave an opportunity to Pakistan's

national and strategic leadership to internationally share their strategic vision, voice security concerns related to these global and regional trends for Pakistan and contribute towards building a safer world, with support of the international community, he added. He also urged the print and electronic media to become partners with CASS in its GSTAR Conference and run short campaigns on their channels and write curtain raisers to spread the word over a dynamic moot to be held in the Federal Capital. Responding to media queries, he said the issue of environmental degradation was a serious matter that was impacting the economy of countries and regions most affected whereas it would be discussed in the sessions related to economics.

He told the mediamen that the themes were planned a year back with extensive discussions with various partners. Replying another query, he said the previous GSTAR bore positive outcomes whereas reports and key takeaways were shared with other think tanks and policy making institutions like the National Security Division, tri-services and other related agencies. However, many developments came out of it including the PAF 2047 report which was the outcome of the recommendations and suggestions presented by the experts at the GSTAR 2020. He informed that a proper team of CASS would assist media for shooting exclusive testimonial, messages, overview of dignitaries sots and reports at the conference.—APP

## EV charging stations to be installed at Motorways

ISLAMABAD:The Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations would be installed at five Motorways locations, keeping in view the numbers of vehicles commuting on a particular road. "NHA has included EV charging stations in the contracts of filling station. Concessionaires/contractors are installing the same in line with the numbers of EV vehicles commuting on a particular road," an official told APP. He said presently, EV charging stations were being installed at locations including Rashakai service area, Islamabad -Peshawar motorway (M-1), Tandliyanwala service area, Lahore - Islamabad motorway (M-3), Dandewal service area, Pindi Bhattian -Faisalabad, Khanewal motorway (M-4), Khanewal service area, Pindi Bhattian - Faisalabad, Khanewal rnotorway (M-4) and Hazara service area, Hassanabdal-Havelian Expressway (E-35). "Moreover, M/s MORE (Pvt.) Ltd. being the BoT concessionaire of M-2, has installed EV charging facility at Bhera Service Area on M-2," he said.He was of the view that other fuel stations across the motorway network would also install the EV charging facilities, with increase in number of EV vehicles.—APP

## 33.70% surplus witnessed in Pak-BD trade

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan's goods and services trade with Bangladesh witnessed surplus of over 33.70 percent during two months of current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.The trade surplus during the period under review was recorded at \$129.279 million against \$96.688 million during same period of last year, showing 33.70 percent growth.The overall exports to Bangladesh were recorded at \$144.117 million during July-August (2022-23) against exports of \$106.415 million during July-August (2021-22), showing growth of 35.42 percent, SBP data revealed. Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, exports to Bangladesh during August 2022 also increased by 31.10 percent, from US \$ 55.382 million to US \$72.610 million. Similarly, on month-on-month basis, exports of Bangladesh were also increased by 1.54 percent during August 2022 in comparison with exports of US \$71.507 million in July 2022, SBP data said. Overall Pakistan's exports to all countries also witnessed an increase of 11.34 percent in two months, from US \$4574.040 million to US \$5092.977 million, the SBP data said. —APP

## NPO to organize webinar on risk planning & mitigation

ISLAMABAD:The National Productivity Organization (NPO) will conduct a webinar on "Risk Planning and Mitigation" on October 19 (Wednesday). "Risk Planning and Mitigation is the process of identifying, assessing and mitigating risks to scope, schedule, cost, and quality," according to an NPO document shared. Although the principle of risk mitigation is to prepare a business for all potential risks, a proper risk mitigation plan will weigh the impact of each risk and prioritize planning around that impact. The workshop will also provide information related to risk management including risk planning and mitigation, identification of risks, risk analysis, response planning/strategies, implementing risk, response planning, risk monitoring, and best practices and lessons learned from risk planning and mitigation. The webinar has been designed for CEOs, business managers, project managers, procurement managers, operations/production managers, quality, health, safety & environmental supervisors and students.—APP



## Briefs

## Voters asked to verify registration status

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked voters to check their registration status, on final electoral rolls published recently by the commission, by sending SMS to its service 8300, so that any errors in the voters' lists can be rectified.

An official of ECP told APP that the commission has recently published final electoral rolls after conducting door to door verification campaign started late last year. After verification, the updated voter lists were published by the commission on Oct 7, 2022.

However, the enlisting of new votes, correction, alteration or deletion (of the votes) in the final electoral rolls would continue till announcement of new general elections. He said the commission has also updated its short messaging service (SMS) 8300 to assist public for necessary corrections, alteration and deletion of votes on electoral lists.

According to ECP, the eligible voter should type his CNIC (Computerised National Identity Card Number) on his mobile without hyphen (-) and send it to 8300. On sending message, an automated response will be received indicating the name of electoral area, block code and serial number. He said that the updated voter lists have been displayed at the offices of district election commissioners and registration officers for general public.

He said the ECP has established 2080 form receiving centers. Voters can download Form-21 (registration or transfer of vote), Form-22 (objections or omission of vote) or Form-23 (correction in details) and submit with the respective offices of Form Registration Officers and Assistant Registration Officers. One window Service has been started in the offices of respective district election commissioners for vote enlisting in electoral rolls.—APP

## Dar granted exemption from appearance

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Wednesday granted exemption from appearance to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in a NAB reference pertaining assets beyond known sources of income.

AC-II Judge Muhammad Azam Khan heard the case due to the leave of AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir. Dar's Lawyer Qazi Misbah, NAB Prosecutor Afzal Qureshi and Hafiz Asadullah Awan appeared before the court. Misbah Advocate informed the court that the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was on a visit to Washington for holding a meeting with the IMF delegation. He prayed the court to grant his client one-day exemption from hearing. The lawyer told the court that surety bonds had been submitted by the guarantors and it had also been verified. The court granted exemption from hearing to Ishaq Dar and adjourned the case till November 9. It may be mentioned here that the court had previously canceled the arrest warrants of Ishaq Dar after he appeared before the court. It also sought comments from National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on plea against confiscation of Ishaq Dar's property in the reference.—APP

## IRSA releases 144,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 144,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 84,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.85 feet and was 139.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 44,900 cusecs while outflow was 75,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1182.10 feet, which was 132.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,600 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively.—APP

## Chief collector customs assures to address issues

Zafar Bakhtawari and Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, former Presidents ICCI said that customs should cooperate with private sector in promoting exports in order to steer Pakistan out of current economic crisis



## I DNA

ISLAMABAD: Business community is playing a key role in promoting trade and economic activities and all possible measures would be taken to address their customs related issues. This was said by Muhammad Imran Khan Mohmand, Chief Collector (Customs North), Islamabad while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

Muhammad Imran Khan Mohmand said that an im-

proved Export Facilitation Scheme would be rolled out soon to facilitate the exporters. He said that the business community should take advantage of the Trade Information Portal of Pakistan to improve their knowledge about import and export matters. He said that the We-BOC system is also facilitating the traders in customs clearance and they should take advantage of it. He said that the business community should cooperate with the customs department in identifying those who misuse the green channel to make it more ef-

fective for clearance of containers. He assured that the customs department would consider the issues highlighted by the business community to address them. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the best option to resolve the current economic crisis is to boost exports and foreign reserves. He stressed that short, medium and long term measures should be taken to improve exports. He further said that the customs should arrange

seminars in chambers of commerce across the country to educate the business community about improving exports. He said that a subject on exports should be included in the syllabus of schools and colleges to educate the students about the importance of exports for the country. He said that further automation of Customs operations is important to facilitate the business community in import and export matters. He said that HS Codes should be revised to ensure accurate assessment of the imported goods and customs

duties should be rationalized on the imported items used in the production activities. Mian Akram Farid former President ICCI said that industry in FATA/PATA is tax exempted, but its products are reaching the settled areas due to which industry of settled areas including Islamabad is suffering and urged that customs should look into this situation. Zafar Bakhtawari and Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, former Presidents ICCI said that customs should cooperate with the private sector in promoting exports in or-

der to steer Pakistan out of current economic crisis. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI thanked the Chief Collector Customs North, Islamabad and his team for visiting ICCI and said that ICCI would like to work closely with Customs House, Islamabad to facilitate the business community in customs matters. The members of the business community highlighted various customs related issues and requested that the Chief Collector Customs North Islamabad should play a role to address them.

## NAB amendments aims to prevent abuse of law

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Accountability & Interior Irfan Qadir on Wednesday said NAB has been misused before and clarificatory amendments have been made to prevent this abuse of law and to create clarity in it. Explaining the recent amendments of NAB, the Special Assistant elaborated that there are specialized forums like Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) which

look after the matters of business community and they are better equipped than NAB in dealing with such cases. After these amendments, NAB's interference in the work of these institutions has been limited, he added. Talking to a private news channel, SAPM said cases of "misuse of authority" or "failure to execute the authority" were often made against government officers involved in imprudent decision making, these amendments will help to remedy such cases. SAPM strongly rejects the

idea of vanishing NAB and said, NAB was much needed and it has a big scope, but it must exercise within its scope. It can be very lucrative for the country. Touch on to Supreme Court advice to Imran Khan to return to the parliament he said, evaluation of democracy has faced hard time in Pakistan; it was welcoming sign that two biggest political rivals of the country have united for the greater good of country. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should also return to the parliament and

carried out the role of constructive opposition, which will definitely increase national coherence, he added. Irfan Qadir said one of the major reasons for NAB's failure is that cases were made on innocent people, resulting more than 90 percent of NAB cases were acquitted. One of my motives is to fix it, he determined. The reputation of Pakistan's judiciary has been damaged due to political cases; otherwise the judges of Pakistan are among the best judges in the world, he added.—APP

## Flood affected areas require 2.99m seed bags for crops

ISLAMABAD: Flood affected areas across the country need 2.99 million seed bags to fulfill the requirements of upcoming Rabi season, Commissioner Food Security Ministry of National Food Security and Research informed a meeting held here at the National Flood Response and Coordination Center (NFRCC) on Wednesday.

The meeting, chaired by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, was informed that around four million acres of cultivatable area had been affected by flood across the country. Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz, provincial secretaries of agriculture and other concerned officials also participated in the meeting. The Rabi crop, especially the cultivation of wheat and the measures regarding the supply of subsidy-based seeds were reviewed in the meeting.

The forum was also apprised of the progress made so far on the NFRCC web portal and dashboard. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal directed that the requirement of the respective areas and the types of seeds should be determined in advance.

Furthermore, he said relief activities in the flood affected areas should be expedited due to the arrival of winter besides immediately finalizing mechanism for procurement of subsidy based seeds and distribution at district level. He said the provincial governments should confirm about the availing of subsidy-based seeds as soon as possible. There should be no delay in delivering seeds to farmers for the Rabi crop, he said adding that the delay would increase the issue of food security in the country.—APP

## Essays on Dr Qadeer's life should include in curriculum

ISLAMABAD: Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, Malik Ibrar Hussain has demanded of the government to include the essays in the curriculum of educational institutions on the life and achievements of late Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and his outstanding works as nuclear scientist.

The initiative would create an awareness among the new generation about their real heroes, said Malik Abrar Hussain while talking to APP. Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan's services in making Pakistan an invincible nuclear power, are unforgettable, he added. The patriotism, courage and bravery of the Late Qadeer Khan will be remembered forever, Malik Ibrar added. Malik Abrar Hussain used to say that nations that remember their national heroes, would achieve high status in the world.

"The credit for making Pakistan the seventh nuclear power in the world

and the first Islamic power undoubtedly belongs to a great personality like Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who worked tirelessly to make Pakistan a nuclear power despite the world's restrictions. And finally, on May 28, 1998, Pakistan conducted nuclear tests which put Pakistan on the frontline in the world nations" he mentioned. He said that there is an urgent need to educate the new generation about national heroes so that we can know their real achievements. In this regard, he said, it is necessary to include regular articles on Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Mohsin e Pakistan in the curriculum and to provide awareness to the children about their eternal struggle.

He also reiterated his commitment that on the occasion of Mohsin Pakistan's death anniversary, we all pledge that no omission will be made in making and maintaining Pakistan an impregnable Islamic power.—APP

## APHC leader's funeral prayers in absentia offered

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayers in absentia were offered for the Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Altaf Ahmad Shah here on Wednesday.

The incarcerated leader, Altaf Ahmad Shah breathed his last on Monday night at New Delhi's AIIMS Hospital, where he was shifted after being diagnosed with last stage of renal cancer. Shah, the son-in-law of late Syed Ali Gilani, had been languishing in infamous Tihar Jail since 2017.

In Islamabad, a large number of people including APHC (AJK Chapter) leadership, civil society and journalists participated in the funeral prayers, led by senior Kashmiri leader, Ghulam Muhammad Safi.

On the occasion, rich tributes were paid to the deceased leader who sacrificed his life for the cause of freedom of Kashmir.

In addition, the world community was also urged to help stop the ongoing genocide of Kashmiris and take notice of prisoners' plight who are not even allowed to get treatment for their ailments.—APP

## Crackdown started against professional beggars

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police have stepped up their crackdown against professional beggars and managed to net 128 beggars from different areas during the last five days.

According to a district police spokesman, on the orders of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Rawalpindi, the beggar squad took action against professional beggars and arrested 128 beggars from different areas. He said that the special beggar squad was working hard and regularly conducting raids in different areas to end this menace.

He informed that the ongoing operation against professional beggars had been accelerated to net professional beggars, adding, police were trying to purge the society from the menace of beggars and regularly conducting operations in different city areas.

"The professional beggars stand on various highways and squares of Rawalpindi city and not only affect the flow of traffic but also increase the risk of accidents. Therefore, the public is requested not to serve alms to them, as discouraging such factors will not only improve the society but also the flow of traffic," he said.—APP

## ANF recovers over 56 kg narcotics

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a raid on Wednesday managed to recover over 56 kg of narcotics and arrested a drug smuggler. According to an ANF spokesman, ANF Rawalpindi conducted a raid near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza and recovered 56 kg narcotics including over 31 kg charras and over 25 kg opium from secret cavities of a truck and rounded up an accused.—APP

## Man held for threatening to anti-dengue workers

RAWALPINDI: Police here on Wednesday arrested a man for showing resistance and hurling threats to the anti-dengue team working in the jurisdiction of Saddar Baroni police station, informed a police spokesman. During the course of action, Saddar Baroni Police arrested the accused identified as Khair Muhammad for putting resistance to the anti-dengue team. The spokesman said that Police had registered a case against the accused. Superintendent of Police, Saddar Ahmed Zaneer Cheema informed that the government departments were working for the elimination of dengue in Rawalpindi.—APP



ISLAMABAD: PAEI delegation led by Chairman Khurshid Barlas giving invitation of Pakistan Property Expo to Turkish ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçac.—DNA



## Putin's escalations: dangerous times

The missiles that have rained down on Ukrainian cities far from the frontline since Monday morning, striking playgrounds and other civilian targets, are retaliation for the blast at the Kerch bridge between Russia and Crimea. But it is Vladimir Putin's rage at the broader success of the Ukrainian counteroffensive that has shifted the war from a grinding military stalemate into a more dangerous phase. The Russian president has realised that he is losing on the ground; that major democracies will not easily be bullied out of supporting Kyiv; and consequently that he can no longer count on Ukraine's eventual capitulation. His response – annexation and mobilisation – has only increased the pressure on him, creating higher expectations among hawkish domestic elites of how far he will go, and alienating broader political support. The first deaths of mobilised soldiers were reported this week.

Will Mr Putin now go further? This war's reverberations are already felt far beyond Ukraine's borders. The IMF warned on Tuesday that there is a growing risk of global recession next year due in part to the fallout. As Josep Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief, observed in a striking speech, this is a world "where everything is being weaponised". More frighteningly, Mr Putin has also returned to the nuclear blackmail that he first attempted in spring; now his desperation makes the threat more serious. Joe Biden last week warned that the world was the closest it had come to nuclear catastrophe since the Cuban missile crisis 60 years ago, and could face Armageddon if Russia uses a tactical nuclear weapon.

So far, there are no signs of Russia preparing such weapons for use. The assault on Kyiv, Lviv and Zaporizhzhia is a reminder that he has other brutal means of attempting to impose his will; nuclear weapons are a last resort. There is no guarantee that a launch order would be carried out. The US warning of "catastrophic" consequences surely weighs on the minds of Russian hardliners, and China and India have doubtless made their disapproval clear. Nonetheless, it now appears a more serious possibility than it seemed even this spring.

Is there an alternative to further escalation? Russia would like to freeze this conflict: the Kremlin suggests that it is open to peace talks with Ukraine through mediators – but leading voices simultaneously proclaim maximalist objectives including regime change. Ukrainians and other observers conclude that any ceasefire would be used by Moscow as an opportunity to regroup and rearm, strengthening its forces for the next phase of the war.

Solidarity with Kyiv in the face of this threat is essential. But care, as well as conviction, is needed. The G7 was right to state clearly on Tuesday that it stands firmly with Ukraine and will provide it with financial, humanitarian, military, diplomatic and legal support "for as long as it takes". Leaders must maintain the closest watch on Russia's plans. That includes alertness to the many ways in which Moscow may attempt to exact revenge against those backing Kyiv. But it is, of course, Ukraine's people who are at greatest risk. Nuclear or conventional, the threat to them has never been greater in this conflict.

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## Time for US to knock tariffs on the head

Although the Office of the United States Trade Representative claimed that US domestic industries benefit from the tariff actions in the Section 301 investigation of China last month, the call from industries to end those tariffs, which the previous Donald Trump administration imposed to win the initiative in trade talks with China, has always been there.

In the industries most affected by tariffs and Chinese "retaliations", US manufacturing jobs have fallen more than 2 percent, and spurred by the record-high inflation in the country, many senior US officials, including US President Joe Biden, secretary of commerce, treasury secretary and the USTR, have touched upon the possibility of reviewing the tariffs on various occasions.

By any measure, the tariffs have done serious damage to the US economy. The tariffs have pushed up consumer prices in the US, negatively influenced normal economic and trade cooperation between the world's top two economies and disrupted global supply chains, with US wholesalers, retailers and consumers bearing the brunt of the pain.

The "zero-sum" tariffs, which Trump introduced and Biden has persisted with, have never delivered what was promised. The economic and trade cooperation between the two sides has always been of a win-win nature. That is something that is decided by the law of the market and the complementarity between the two economies, and it cannot be reversed by politics.

The trade volume between China and the US from January to August stood at \$514.959 billion, up by 9.5 percent year-on-year. Specifically, China's exports to the US amounted to \$397.15 billion, up 12.2 percent; China's imports from the US reached \$117.81 billion, up 1.3 percent.

And in the first half of this year, the actual US investment in China increased by 26.1 percent year-on-year, despite the US administration's attempts to disengage with China.

Although China has always attached great significance to the US market and investment, the tariff war and decoupling efforts of the US side have unavoidably prompted it to divert to other markets, such as the Southeast Asia and other emerging economies taking part in the Belt and Road Initiative, to manage and prevent risks.

Embarrassingly, while swallowing the teeth broken by the blow it has inflicted on itself, the US was forced to put an ugly show at the World Trade Organization to defend its absurd tariffs by moralizing the trade war it started with China.

The harm the US has done to itself with the irrational tariffs has become ever more evident over the past more than four years. The question now is for how long will the US continue to bear the pain of weaponized trade which is in no parties' interests.

# Crisis within crisis-overhauling of education & research ecosystem of Pakistan

Syed Habib Bokhari



There is increasing international recognition that science and technology intensive solutions can certainly enhance the status of low-income countries. The need for our self-reliance has never been felt as strong as today while we are facing serious challenges i.e. devastating floods in 75 years history of Pakistan and prior to that COVID-19, where the climate change and least preparedness has taught us yet again.

Higher education in Pakistan, like many other countries, is facing number of challenges, and these challenges are haunting Education in general, and Science & Technology in particular. Despite the growing number of PhDs, we are so fragile during the current COVID-19 and onslaught of Floods which yet again exposed our inherent weaknesses i.e., lack of preparedness and relevant education. The edifice of any Education system, may it be scientific or social, stands on 3 basic pillars: Appropriate manpower (trained relevant experts, competent personnel), Adequate Infrastructure (space, physical environment, equipped laboratories/training tools, library etc.) and Incentives (well defined goals, reward, and punishment). It appears that we are the nation who has lacked the most when it comes to justice with third component reasonably due to vulnerable institutional leadership, adhocism, and Lobbies. This is the very reason that economists have related the factors i.e., shortage of such human capital, physical capital and technology or its inefficient use, to stunted economic growth of any country. There is increasing international recognition that science and technology intensive solutions can certainly enhance the status of low-income countries. The need for our self-reliance has never been felt as strong as today while we are facing serious challenges i.e. devastating floods in 75 years history of Pakistan and prior to that COVID-19, where the climate change and least preparedness has taught us yet again another lesson. This has led to further exacerbating the already stressed food security condition and associated conundrum of malnutrition, in the country where more than 33% children under 5 are underweight, >37% show stunted growth suggesting poor nutritional status in country (<https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/malnutrition-data>). Stunting, (vicious cycle) begins in utero, can be dubbed as another form of massive brain drain as such children do not grow to full physical and mental potential. In addition, we are the second highest growing population after Nigeria with extremely poor sanitation practices (>25 million people practice open defecation-prior to recent Floods), an estimated 53,000 Pakistani children under five die annually from diarrhoea & ~ 22.8 million children are out of School (5-16 years age-UNICEF). Moreover, the country's infrastructure is very poor at times of any disasters such as COVID-19, floods, fires, droughts, and other emergencies. The effects of climate change and rapid urbanisation threatening our food security with huge economic impact & its fallout on already severely stressed population (>40% <USD 1) has yet to be seen. These are some of the harsh realities of nation of >220 million struggling to improve the quality

of life and reduce ever increasing economic inequities or gaps between the extremely polarized society. So, what can be done is a fundamental question haunting educationist, researchers, leadership of institutes/universities and politicians (political will). In this backdrop, getting rid of fear of indecisiveness, better preparedness & future planning will be key to deal with current as well as any unforeseen climate driven disaster(s). Many nations have systematically devised well thought programs by identifying areas which are heavily reflected by their existing specific technological strengths or other resources they possess and converted them into game changer opportunities for their masses. Our Higher Education growth indicators reflects that the number of Ph.Ds. in recent years in the country rose to >15,000, with the addition of hundreds if not thousands new Ph.D.'s, many are jobless, per year. However, hardly, anyone is engaged in developing educational goals in particular in the field of sciences & social sciences for the least privileged group i.e., Govt. Schools & Colleges. Less than 0.0001% of GDP is spent to cater the educational needs of Science Labs training and negligible amount spent in the field of technical education. The major reason for lack in capacity building in solving real-life challenges and hence employability through Education & Research is our failure to attract vibrant youth towards Science & Technology and building effective partnerships.

In this backdrop, VC's conference was organized at Kohsar university Murree-September 29th-October 01, 2022, to integrate such agenda in their Educational Goals and deploy all necessary inherent strengths jointly to address challenges. There can be various areas which require immediate attention including STEM-AH education and unless and until we are convinced that Science & Technology is the way forward, and we are not ready to send our children to opt such disciplines, we are not going to make much difference in producing meaningful knowledge-basis of creation & co-creation. In Pakistan, existing limited hands-on training facilities at School, College and even at undergraduate levels have failed to prepare the willing brighter workforce to take up Science & Technology as the career of choice. I strongly believe that this is one of the major reasons that we are lagging way behind when it comes down to grow as a knowledge-based economy, as it's a continuum pipeline which is required to be maintained to keep up the quality supply line for innovations to happen at universities level by the students enrolled in various graduate programs. Therefore, a complete revamping of not only curriculum, pedagogical approaches as well as exposing youth with the exciting brand of science & technologies will certainly improve the supply

chain for producing vibrant and skillful youth to solve our real-life challenges. One of the bottlenecks is the import of different scientific kits, media and reagents and the low-cost indigenous teaching kits/manuals will provide more robust and continuous relevant science learning experience. For instance, such comprehensive educational package in Science & Technology whether it is biotechnology, physics, chemistry, mathematics for college and undergraduate students which will be the key transforming principle we need to stress on to improve our Higher Education Quality.

Effective teaching always engages students in practical demonstration of what they are studying. There are some important concepts in each fundamental discipline of science which make the basis of further research in these fields. Students do not have a firm grip on these basic ideas as they have just gone through the theory and do not have any hands-on experience. I propose that this can be achieved by taking following bold initiatives and interventions

1.Higher Education should precisely invite funding applications to develop products/kits/manuals with the mission of not only teaching science with practical approach, but with exciting case studies for young budding students

2.Good weightage in evaluation process should be given to such developers as this will open opportunities for innovations in the country.

3.Custom made tools will enable its users to understand the fundamental concepts of science adequately translating the theoretical knowledge into the hands-on training which can be run in any moderately equipped laboratory.

4. Organizing training camps/ workshops/summer schools with the help of consortium of best teachers of the disciplines from across universities

5.Additional dissemination methods will be the organization of seminars and lectures in high schools, especially to promote Science through virtual laboratories/distant learning/mobile laboratories. The real role of university in nation building is to provide a platform for knowledge synthesis, innovation & technology, alongwith enriching students with diverse sets of skills. Vice Chancellors conference of Public Universities of Punjab concluded on October 01, 2022 with the formation of various working groups including STEM-AH. The main objective of the conference was identification of universities inherent strengths to develop pipelines and implement plans to work on all current important challenges as well as be ready for any unforeseen future challenges with better preparedness by team up under one Education Umbrella to reap the full socioeconomic benefits of youth

**The writer is the VC of Kohsar University Murree**

# Book Review: Where clouds meet

Asma Ishaq

Book: Where Clouds Meet.  
Author: Tahir Mehmood.  
Genre: Novel (Fiction)  
Publisher:Ferozsons (Pvt.) LTD.  
Publication Year: October 2021.  
ISBN: 978-969-0-02781-8.  
Reviewed By: Asma Ishaq

The literary worth of any book can be gauged via critical analysis that how much it has been able to incite the reader's mind to do critical thinking upon the running themes in there. Any book proves to be void without the proper theme entrenched within the plot. The heavier the themes are, the heavier the story is for the readers!

'Where Clouds Meet' written by Tahir Mehmood is one such book that weighs heavier on the literary scale when it comes giving the cognition exercise to its readers. Providing a range of philosophical interpretations on life, Tahir has come up with an ideal literary work of Fiction. Based on Love in particular, it has been authored enriched with themes like Warfare, Nature, Survival of the Fittest, Soli-dieri, Romanticism, Idealism, Realism, Friendship and Individualism. Such a novel happens to be truly an appealing and thus becomes successful in conveying the message.

Having set in the background of Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the post invasion conditions throughout 1980s and a beautiful love story of a young soldier Ali, it is a 'novel of happenings' narrated beautifully. The title, 'Where Clouds Meet' is to present the concept of 'Eternal Love' which is beyond this world. Out of the set-boundaries of world. The author here, has conveyed it well that love unmet is, 'Divine.' The novel opens up with a breath-tak-

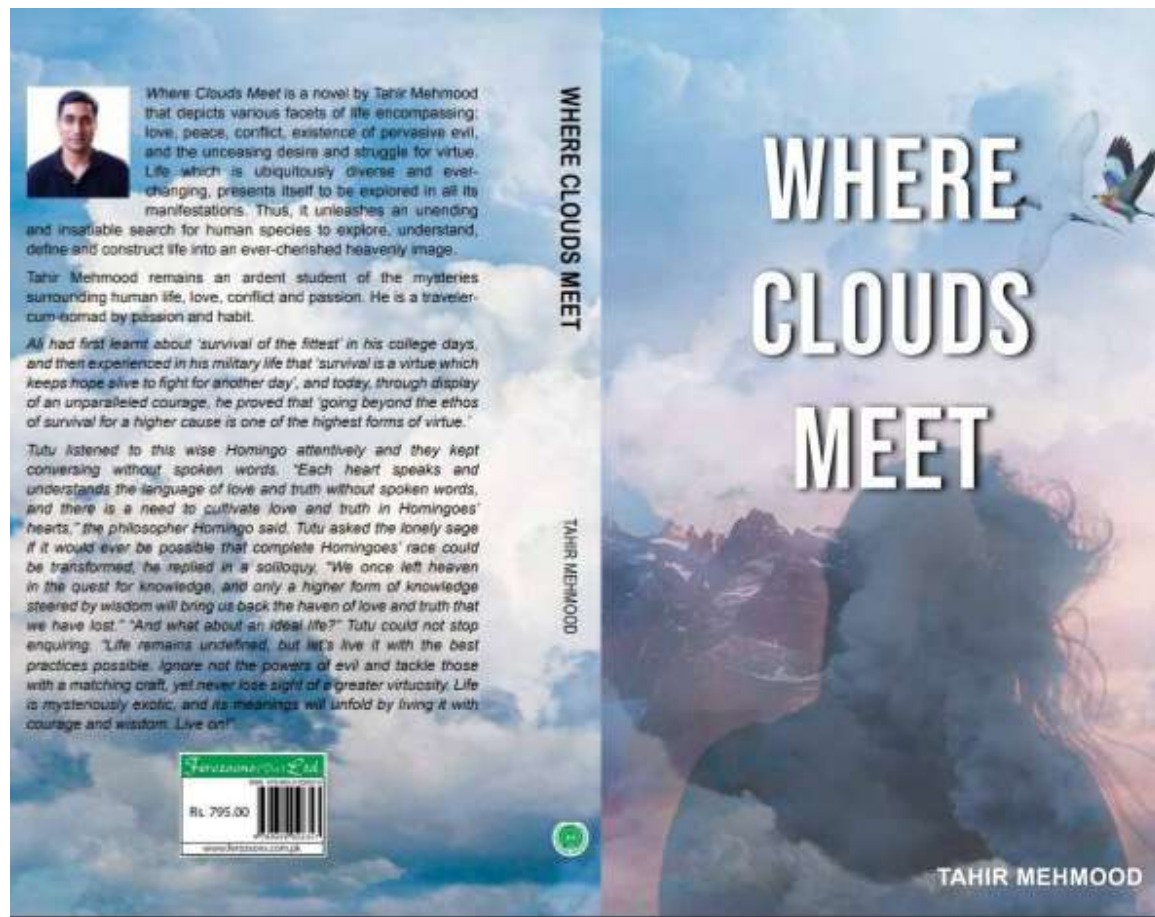
ingnatural sceneryof a lake in Naran Valley. A young soldier Ali who is found enjoying the green lush valley amidst the high raised mountains. Ali is the first protagonist of novel. He remains in the main plot till his martyrdom. He has got the mind and body 'intoxicated' by the ecstasy of love for Motherland. He has got a kind of trance of patriotism that nurtures the true soldier's soul in him.

One finds awonderful description of Individualisminthe character of Ali. A Literary Movement from the 18th and 19th Century that propagates an ideal of 'human'who realizes the 'worth' as wellis able to 'utilize' the given potentials to the best. Ali has all the morals and ideals of Individualism. Ali appears an 'impeccable' in making the calculations for all the military tasks assigned to him. He proved to be highly vigilant from taking care of his soldiers' meal to building the most intimidating observation posts and then for his last post at the Point 4777 before the martyrdom.

To the surprise of many, the second protagonist is not a human but the high-mountains- bird that the author has named it, 'Tutu Titu'. His part of plot runs with the two major themes Survival of the Fittest and Individualism. He descends from the mountains to know about the world of 'Homings'. Tutu calls humans the 'Homings', and he thinks them the strange specie.' He goes on the'journey of learning', 'research' and seeking 'wisdom' via many errands and encounters. Throughout his journey, he is in a spell-bound state to study the humans. He becomes an ardent observant in this regard. The two words, 'Use' and 'Work' help Tutu to grow and be acquainted with the norm that humans are way more skillful in leading the life. Tutu represents the 'Free Soul' or 'Free Will Human.'

The author has dedicated a great part of discussion on warfare and soldiery. There are many pages with the purpose of sharing the military details. Many readers will find it much interesting to read about the details of Transit Camp, Patrolling, Reconnaissance, Observation Post, Command Post and Command Bunker. One gets to know so much about the Military Service in real as well in the action i.e. Planning, Reporting and then Immediate Response Action for the enemy. There are warfare theories also in the real action i.e. Deterrence and the Pre-Emptive strikes.

The theme of Loveseems to be glorified in the character of Professor NKK. He has a soul of 'nomad' in the rough definition but a true 'sufi soul' in the mystically elevated manner. He is filled with the love, wisdom and intellect. Despite the fact that life has been horribly cruel to him, he manages to give love to the fellow humans. The time and circumstances



have transformed him into the personification of love. Now, he has become a philosopher to interpret the life and to seeking its meaning and purpose. NKK's mantra for love is,

"Love is a Divine manifestation which has put a halo around the universe."This book is a 'stand-out' than many other contemporary books. It has got to offer so much for its reader. For any young officer, it is a complete guide for learning soldiery. For any history student, it brings the concrete details. For any common individual, it shares a useful read to fit in the society for one's survival.For students of

peace and conflict, it reveals that the war is sacred too and actually comes in the field to prevail the good over evil. It is definitely right to say here, Tahir has written one Classic Literature kind of literary masterpiece. He has strengthened the 'Gripping Narration' in this novel. He amps up the reader's mind while creating an irresistible picture in the narration. He knows the art of storytelling. And he has proven it aptly, "We humans are the story telling creatures in life, so make it an interesting read."

**-Asma Ishaq is a lecturer.**



## Briefs

Azerbaijan  
vows to help  
flood victims

FROM PAGE 01  
the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. He reaffirmed Pakistan's principled support to Azerbaijan on former Nagorno-Karabagh and appreciated President Ilham Aliyev's endeavors for bringing long-term and sustainable peace in the South Caucasus.

Both leaders renewed their commitment to intensify and deepen bilateral engagement in diverse areas of mutually beneficial co-operation, and reviewed progress of various ongoing initiatives for promoting connectivity, trade and investment.

Prime Minister underlined the need for fostering close cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy, which is a high priority area for his government. Prime Minister has nominated Minister of State for Petroleum as the focal point for bilateral energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan who visited Baku last month. Both leaders agreed to fast track discussions on energy collaboration between the two countries through robust engagement. Prime Minister Sherbaz Sharif proposed leadership level consultations in Islamabad aimed at advancing Regional Connectivity which was received positively. This was the second interaction between the two leaders in the wake of their last meeting on the sidelines of SCO in September 2022 at Samarkand, Uzbekistan and afforded a productive opportunity for catalyzing multifaceted economic engagement between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in keeping with the great tradition of amity and cooperation.

PM joins  
CICA...

FROM PAGE 01  
he will elaborate upon the significance of CICA as a unique forum for promoting interaction, understanding, and collaboration amongst countries across Asia to address common challenges. He will also highlight Pakistan's perspective on regional and global issues. After his arrival, the prime minister met President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, and discussed bilateral relations and ways to further enhance mutual cooperation. CICA is an intergovernmental process comprising 27 countries from all across Asia. Established in 1992, it focuses on promoting peace, security and socio-economic development in the Asian continent. Pakistan is one of its founding members.

'Australia,  
Indonesia...

FROM PAGE 01  
the commitment of both countries to countering terrorism and violent extremism. "The shared grief of the Australian and Indonesian peoples gave rise to a shared resolve: Australia and Indonesia have worked together to strengthen regional responses to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism," Mr Hawkins said.

Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio remarked that successful prevention of violent acts of extremism calls for an inclusive approach involving youth, professional media, religious leaders and relevant stakeholders both at national and global level.

"Two-decade remembrance of tragedy in Bali is a valuable opportunity to renew and reiterate our collective commitment to strengthen the voice of moderation, tolerance and respect for cultural diversity", added Mr. Tugio. The ceremony was attended by representatives from across the diplomatic community, including other nations who lost citizens in the bombings. In addition to the ceremony in Islamabad, the occasion was marked with commemorative events in Australia and Indonesia, including local communities in Bali. Note for journalists and editors: For more information, please contact at media.islm@dfat.gov.au or islamabad.kbri@kemlu.go.id Picture caption: The Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins, Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio and representatives from across the diplomatic community observed a minute's silence to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Bali terrorist bombings.

Muslims' commonalities  
form religious civilization

Dr Raisi raised the question of whether the Sharm el-Sheikh, Oslo, or Camp David agreement did anything, and basically, whether the Zionists believe in and adhere to the agreements, and clarified, "The Zionist regime does not understand covenants

## NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: The comprehensiveness of Islam can meet all the needs of today's mankind/ The message of the Islamic Unity Conference to enemies is that we want the life of contemporary man to take place in the name of religion The President stated, "The comprehensiveness of Islam can meet all the needs of today's mankind, and modern man can create a happy life for himself by relying on God, self-confidence and religious learning". At the opening ceremony of the 36th International Islamic Unity Conference, Ayatollah Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi congratulated the birth of the Prophet of Islam and Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) and said, "The comprehensiveness of Islam can meet all the needs of today's mankind and contemporary man can create a happy life for himself by relying on God, self-confidence and religious learning". The President added, "The comprehensiveness of Islam meets all the needs of contemporary man and gives him the strength to



stand against cultures that are not compatible with religious life". Thanking the attendees of this conference, Dr Raisi said, "This meeting will lead to a common understanding among all influential figures in the Islamic world regarding the huge capital called religion and religious values; a great capital in the name of religious people and Muslims and be-

lievers in religion, as well as Islamic lands, which today with all the material and spiritual wealth are at the disposal of Muslims". Dr Raisi considered educated young people with a tendency towards spirituality, the spirit of resistance and standing against the enemy, being ready to take risks in the path of a religious life and the educated human resources of the

Islamic world as other great assets of the Islamic world and pointed out, "The thinkers of the Islamic world are a great asset who are ready to stand together from various fields, universities and scientific and research centres against atheistic thinking, secular trend, takfiri and extremist thinking". Pointing out that men and women in Islamic countries are ready

to unite with each other in the name of religion and frustrate the enemies, the President stressed the need to think to understand the tricks of the enemy in the field of downplaying the abilities of Muslims and exaggerating their own incapacity and said, "The flag that Imam Khomeini (RA) raised was the flag of unity between all Muslims all over the world, with all dialects, in all regions and with all viewpoints". Ayatollah Raisi further referred to the civilising and synergistic capacity of Islamic countries and said, "Today, Muslims have many commonalities that can create a great religious and civilising power in the world and stand tall and raise their flag". The President called the special task and the main message of the 36th Islamic Unity Conference for Muslims to create a common understanding among all elites and intellectuals of the Islamic world in the direction of unity and said, "The message of this summit to enemies is that we want the life of contemporary man to be in the name of the religion".

England notch series  
victory against Australia

## SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Dawid Malan and Sam Curran starred as England edged world champions Australia by eight runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in their three-match Twenty20 series. Malan smashed 82 from 49 deliveries to lead the recovery after England were reduced to 54-4 in Canberra. He was ably supported by Moeen Ali (44) as they put on 92 for the fifth wicket to help England reach 178-7 from their 20 overs. Curran was then the pick of the bowlers, taking 3-25, including the wicket of Tim David for 40 in a critical 18th over that tipped the game in the tourists' favour. The Surrey all-rounder also held onto a smart catch to remove Mitchell Marsh, who was looking well set on 45 from 29 balls, as England's superior fielding proved the difference, with Australia only able to reach 170-6. What made the win more impressive was the fact this was close to a full-strength Australia side, with Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa and Josh Hazlewood

restored to the bowling attack and dangerous all-rounder Glenn Maxwell back in the middle order. It was far from the complete performance, though. Ben Stokes once again struggled with the bat while Chris Jordan and Adil Rashid were expensive with the ball. But the ability of some players to step up when others struggle is an invaluable commodity to have with the World Cup approaching. The final game of the three-match series takes place on

Friday, again in Canberra. England then play Pakistan in a warm-up match on Monday, before opening their World Cup campaign against Afghanistan in Perth on 22 October (12:00 BST). After being pushed down the order to seven in Sunday's first T20, Malan played like he had a point to prove, on a cloudy, chilly night in Canberra. There is a perception Malan makes a slow start in T20 cricket but he paced his innings perfectly, relying on

timing over power hitting. He signalled his intentions by smashing Cummins away for four and six in his first five deliveries to launch the recovery after England made a poor start. Captain Jos Buttler had already survived a lbw shout on review as Cummins found some early swing, but had no such reprieve two overs later when he was out for 17 top-edging a pull that was well taken by a diving Adam Zampa.

PCB to make rehab  
center for all athletes

## DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), under the leadership of its chairman and former Test cricketer Ramiz Raja, is planning to build a rehab center for not only cricketers but all other athletes. Taking to Twitter on Wednesday, Raja shared that a world-class rehab center will be made in the country followed by Shaheen Shah Afridi and Fakhar Zaman's rehab being completed in London. "To our fans, we will set up a world-class rehab center here inshallah that will look after all athletes & not cricketers only," he wrote.

PCB was highly criticized after their decision to send their premium fast bowler Shaheen to London for knee rehabilitation. Questions were raised on the available facilities in the National High-Performance Center (NHPC) in Lahore. Shaheen and Fakhar did their recovery process at Crystal Palace Football Club (CPFC) under the supervision of their head of sports medicine, Dr. Zafar. Consultant in sports and exercise medicines, Dr. Zafar and his team helped Shaheen and Fakhar in their recovery. The two cricketers will travel to Australia on October 15 where they will join the national team.

## Wilder wants to fight Joshua in Africa

## WEB DESK

LONDON: Deontay Wilder believes a bout with Anthony Joshua is still "the number one fight in the world" as he prepares to make his return to action on Saturday. Wilder, 36, last fought a year ago and faces Robert Helenius in New York on his comeback. The heavyweight's goal is to become world champion again, but Wilder also has big plans for a bout against Britain's Joshua. "I would love to do that fight in Africa," he told BBC Sport. "It's still the number one fight in the world for everyone. Everywhere I go, people always talk about me versus Joshua." There have been several classic heavyweight encounters in Africa, including Muhammad Ali's fight with George Foreman in Kinshasa in 1974. "We both have roots from there," Wilder explained. "I think it would be an amazing place

to have it, to go back home. To go back to the motherland. A continent full of our people. I can just see that being an amazing fight, win, lose or draw. "I think we'll get the respect and love from all the people over there." Joshua too 'cautious' - Wilder Wilder seriously considered retirement after suffering successive stoppage defeats to Tyson Fury, but now says he plans to fight for another three years. Joshua and Wilder were previously in talks about an undisputed fight in 2019 and 2020 when both men were still world champions. Wilder held the WBC title while Joshua was the WBA (Super), WBO and IBF champion. Joshua recently failed to reach terms with WBC champion Fury, but Wilder is confident a deal could be struck. He said: "We're serious and we just need them to be serious as well. We tried to make the fight and it

didn't happen. It's a new day and time. All things are possible." Joshua, the two-time world champion, will also soon be on the comeback trail after suffering successive defeats to unified champion Oleksandr Usyk. Wilder believes the fights with Usyk, particularly the rematch in August, showed Joshua has a "stamina" problem. "I just felt he was very cautious," Wilder said of the Watford-born fighter. "For me it looks like he has a real serious stamina problem. I feel like he didn't want to exchange a lot because of that. "It allowed him to fall back a little bit and not allow him to throw certain punches and combinations. I think if he fixed that you would see a better Joshua, not just in that fight but fights to come. "I know if he's able to get everything together, stamina and all that, I think you'll see a different Anthony Joshua."

Putin blames  
Europe for  
energy crisis

## FROM PAGE 01

The energy crisis has had knock-on effects across the whole of Europe as businesses have passed on extra costs, squeezing household budgets. Governments are also trying to figure out how to fund emergency measures taken to protect customers and smooth out the distortions caused by the surge in prices. EU member Portugal plans to inject 3 billion euros (\$2.9 billion) into its electricity and natural gas systems to curb prices paid by companies next year, the government said on Wednesday.

Biden vows  
'consequences'

## FROM PAGE 01

pressure from the U.S. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, said the decision aimed to stabilise the oil market – not drive up prices – amid interest rate hikes by central banks and the prospects of a global recession. But critics argued the production curbs raise oil prices globally, which generates more revenue for Russia to continue to fund its war in Ukraine, despite Western sanctions on its economy. The move was also seen as a diplomatic slap in the face for the Biden administration as it prepares for November's critical midterm elections next month.

PM Shehbaz,  
Hamza...

## FROM PAGE 01

The court was requested to exempt the prime minister and his son as the premier could not appear due to his official engagements where as Hamza Shehbaz had back pain. During the proceedings, Advocate Amjad Perwaiz stated that the written arguments had also been submitted in the court. He submitted that no prosecution witness had given the name of Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz, adding that the investigation officer attempted to distort the statements of the witnesses. He submitted that the case was made on the basis of mala fide intention, adding that no amount was transferred in the accounts of Shehbaz Sharif or Hamza Shehbaz. He further submitted that as per law, the prosecution had to prove its case, whereas the prosecution could not present any evidence on the charge of bribery. The defence counsel submitted that he had never seen such a case in his career where the prosecution was contesting the case without evidence.

PM says  
verdict...

## FROM PAGE 01

more in the form of acquittal from the money laundering case that had been based upon falsehood, baseless accusation and political victimization. The more they thanked Allah Almighty the less it would be, he added. A special court in Lahore had acquitted the prime minister and his son, Hamza Shehbaz, in a money laundering case.

"Two families  
imposed..

## FROM PAGE 01

will become more difficult for the salaried class to make their ends meet. Earlier, speaking to reporters outside the IHC, Imran Khan said that the PTI was the only party that practised "legal political fundraising" and termed the funding raised by other political parties "bogus". He also accused Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja of not bringing to light the funding details of other parties. "He is like their family member and a biased man," Imran alleged. On the other, talking to journalists, the former PM said that admitted that he did not enjoy absolute power as PM because the actual centre of power in the country lay elsewhere. Imran Khan said that in the 60s, the world used to give the example of Pakistan because our country was competing with Singapore. He added that the rule of law makes a difference. The size of the country's Northern Areas in the Rule of Law Index is double that of Switzerland, adding that the most prosperous country in the world.

## Kazakh, Qatari leaders vow to strengthen trade ties

## NEWS DESK

ASTANA: Qatar is an important partner of Kazakhstan in the Middle East, said President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during an Oct. 12 meeting with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who arrived in Astana for a state visit on Oct. 11, reported the Akorda press. The President thanked the Emir of Qatar for accepting the invitation to visit Kazakhstan, highlighting the important role of Qatar in the international arena. Reaffirming mutual desire to strengthen trade and economic ties, the leaders addressed the development of bilateral relations, focusing on trade, economic, investment, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation. According to Tokayev, Kazakhstan is ready to provide all possible assistance to Qatari companies and invited them to participate in the implementation of joint investment projects, particularly in agriculture, energy, petrochemistry, mining, and finance. In 2023, Kazakh-

stan and Qatar will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. "We have built close interstate collaboration and constructive political dialogue during this time, based on the bonds of traditional friendship and strong partnership. ... We are keen to keep strengthening bilateral ties," the President said. The Emir of Qatar, in turn, thanked the President for the invitation to visit Kazakhstan and the hospitality. He reiterated his commitment to the development of comprehensive ties with Kazakhstan, emphasizing the need to intensify the work of the bilateral intergovernmental commission. During the meeting, the sides reached agreements to bolster cooperation in investments, education, trade, healthcare, agriculture, sports, and culture. Following the meeting, the President awarded the Emir of Qatar with the highest state award, the Order of Altyn Kyran (golden eagle), for his wisdom in leading the country and his significant contribution to maintaining security



and stability in the world. As part of the state visit, the Emir of Qatar will participate in the Conference on Interaction

and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit, which is held on Oct. 12-13 in Astana.



## Briefs

Suu Kyi  
given 2 more  
prison terms

## WEB DEWS

YANGON: Incarcerated Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi was served two more three-year jail terms over corruption on Wednesday. This is her 14th conviction and the prison term totals 26 years since the military overthrew her government in February last year while she still faces five more charges.

According to Myanmar Now news website, the military council of junta-ruled Myanmar sentenced former State Counsellor Suu Kyi to two more three-year prison terms which will be served concurrently.

"The convictions are related to allegations against Suu Kyi made by businessman Maung Weik in March 2021, who in testimony recorded by the junta accused the State Counsellor of accepting more than US\$550,000 in bribes on the four occasions they met between 2018 and 2020," the report said. Last month, Suu Kyi and her Australian economic adviser were sentenced to three years in prison on charges of violation of the official secret act.

Earlier, a military court had sentenced Suu Kyi to three years in prison on charges of election fraud.

In June, the military regime moved her to prison and placed her in solitary confinement.

After her ouster in a military coup on Feb. 24, 2021, Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest until April this year, when she was shifted to an unknown location, believed to be Naypyitaw Prison in Myanmar's capital.

Kazakhstan  
to fulfill  
obligations  
under CSTO

## NEWS DESK

NUR SULTAN: Kazakhstan continues to fulfill its obligations under the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the country's defense minister said on Wednesday.

"No crisis within the inter-governmental military alliance," Ruslan Zhaksylykov said. "Let's rely on our state, on our legislation. We comply with all the established norms, everything is in order with us," he added, urging against speculation on the alliance.

The statement comes two weeks after top military officials and defense ministers gathered for a meeting of the Council of Defense Ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a regional Eurasian bloc of post-Soviet countries. On Sunday, CSTO member Kyrgyzstan announced the cancellation of the alliance's military exercises a day before they were scheduled to begin.

8 suspects  
detained  
over Crimea  
bridge blasts

## FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Eight out of 12 suspects wanted over the weekend attack on the Crimea bridge have been taken into custody, the Russian security service said on Wednesday.

Kyrylo Budanov, the Ukrainian military intelligence chief, is believed to be the mastermind behind the attack, the Federal Security Service (FSB) reported.

The explosives used in the attack were sent from the Ukrainian port city of Odesa through Bulgaria, Georgia, and Armenia, and hidden in rolls of camera, said the FSB. But Andriy Yusov, a spokesman for Ukraine's Interior Ministry, dismissed Russia's investigation of the blast as "nonsense." "The whole activity of the FSB and the Investigative Committee is nonsense."

These are fake structures that serve the (Vladimir) Putin regime, so we will definitely not comment on their next statements," he told Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilned. President Putin has accused Ukrainian intelligence of carrying out what he called a "terrorist attack" last Saturday on the Kerch Bridge, a key supply route Russia built.



GWADAR: A delegation of business people including Zahid Latif Khan, Shakil Munir ex President ICCI and others visited Gwadar. The DG Gwadar authority briefed the delegation about the port. – DNA

NATO Chief aims to bolster  
Ukraine's air defense system

## FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: More than 50 countries will gather on the sidelines of a NATO meeting in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss bolstering Ukraine's air defense, two days after Russian missiles rained down on cities across the country, including the capital Kyiv. Advanced air defense systems are designed to protect entire cities from air attacks. Russian air raids on Monday killed 19 people in Ukraine, wounded more than 100 and knocked out power supplies across the country. On Tuesday, Ukraine received the first of four IRIST SLM air defense systems Germany promised to supply, a German Defense Ministry source said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, speaking ahead of a two-day meeting of the alliance's defense ministers on Oct. 12-13 in

Brussels, urged allies to provide additional air defense systems. He called Russia's missile attacks a sign of weakness and a result of the fact that Russian President Vladimir Putin was running out of alternatives. "The reality is that they're not able to make progress on the battlefield. Russia is actually losing on the battlefield," Stoltenberg said. "Ukraine has the momentum and continues to make significant gains while Russia is increasingly resorting to horrific and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure." After an explosion on the Crimean Bridge, Putin on Monday warned Ukraine that there would be a harsh response if there were any further "terrorist" attacks, which he referred to as targeting Russia's "critical civilian infrastructure." Last week, Russia's ambassador to the United States



said more military aid to Ukraine poses an "immediate threat" to Moscow's interests, prolongs the bloodshed, and increases the risk of a military clash between Russia and the West. Moscow, which calls its actions in Ukraine a "special military operation" to eliminate dangerous nationalists and protect Russian speakers, has accused the West of escalating the conflict by supporting Kyiv. Before NATO defense ministers kick off their talks with a dinner on

Wednesday, they are set to meet with partners of the Ukraine Contact Group, a body established on the initiative of the United States to keep up arms supplies to Kyiv. Discussions of the more than 50 countries will focus on providing additional air defense systems to Ukraine, said the U.S. ambassador to NATO, Julianne Smith.

Ukraine's Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov will take part in both Brussels events. The gathering of

defense ministers is the first major NATO meeting since Moscow annexed several Ukrainian territories, announced a mobilization and issued veiled nuclear threats, moves that NATO has classified as a clear escalation of the war that started with the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Attacks on the Nord Stream pipelines running under the Baltic Sea have contributed to heightening the tensions, although it remains unclear who was behind the explosions. NATO warned Moscow on Tuesday that it would meet attacks on allies' critical infrastructure with a "united and determined response" and was also monitoring Russia's nuclear forces closely.

Stoltenberg said that while the alliance had not seen any changes in Russia's nuclear posture, it was vigilant and would proceed with its annual nuclear preparedness exercise next week. He was referring to the "Steadfast Noon"

exercise, in which NATO air forces practice the use of U.S. nuclear bombs based in Europe with training flights, without live weapons. Canceling the drills because of the war in Ukraine would send a "very wrong signal," Stoltenberg said. "It's an exercise to ensure that our nuclear deterrent remains safe, secure and effective," he remarked, adding NATO's military strength was the best way to prevent any escalation of tensions. Stoltenberg also pledged to boost the protection of critical infrastructure in response to the attack on the Nord Stream gas pipelines, saying NATO had already doubled its presence in the Baltic and the North Seas to over 30 ships supported by aircraft and undersea activities. "A deliberate attack against allies' critical infrastructure will be met with a united and determined response," he warned.

Palestinians strike  
over Israeli manhunt

JERUSALEM: Palestinians launched a rare strike in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem Wednesday over a day-long operation by Israeli security forces in a refugee camp after a soldier was shot dead.

Businesses were shuttered in the Old City and along the main commercial street of the city's eastern sector, which is usually bustling with shoppers and traffic. The strike follows the killing on Saturday of an Israeli soldier at a checkpoint near the Shuafat Palestinian refugee camp, which prompted a massive manhunt for the suspected attacker, who remains on the run.

Entrances to the refugee camp have been mostly shut, while the raids have affected schools and health-

care. In Jerusalem's Old City, Nawal Jodeh said her daughter lives in the camp with her family. "When I talked to her, she said the situation is bad there," the 50-year-old told AFP. "I heard the sound of shooting and teargas canisters," she added. Heavily armed security personnel have clashed with stone-throwing Palestinians in the camp. The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees said the violence and extra checkpoints had prompted it to close its schools and healthcare centre in the camp. "The situation is really tense there on the ground," spokesman Kazem Abu Khalaf told AFP, adding that tonnes of uncollected garbage are piling up. –Agencies

China's 'liberal'  
Yang seen as  
possible PM

HONG KONG: When Wang Yang was Chinese Communist Party boss of economic powerhouse Guangdong province, the man now considered a top contender to be China's next premier displayed a liberal streak that has been less visible since Xi Jinping took power. During his time in Guangdong, which borders Hong Kong, Wang made his mark by pushing an upgrade of rusting industries and touting socially inclusive policies.

In a stand-off over land grabs in the village of Wukan in late 2011, Wang dismissed corrupt officials and allowed protest leaders to contest grassroots elections the following spring, winning international plaudits. –Agencies

Two female candidates nominated  
in Kazakhstan's presidential polls

## NEWS DESK

ASTANA: Human rights activist Saltanat Tursynbekova was nominated to run for the presidency by Qazaq analary – dasturgh zhol (Kazakh mothers are a path to traditions) public association on Oct. 11, reported the association's press services. Saltanat Tursynbekova is a member of the Public Council of Astana and founder of the Kazakhstan without domestic violence social project. She is a human rights activist, who focuses on women's and children's rights. Tursynbekova's election campaign will focus on the economy, industry, international relations, healthcare, education, social



protection, entrepreneurship development, fight against corruption and violence, and reduction of offenses spheres. Another female candidate, Karakat Abden, was nominated by the National Alliance of Professional Social Workers on Oct. 7. Abden is a public figure, a member of the National Commission for Women Affairs, Family and Demographic Policy, a non-staff adviser to Astana's mayor on social is-



sues, and a member of the capital's public council. The Central Election Commission, following Abden's submission of documents on Oct. 8, issued a decree on Oct. 11, stating that Abden meets the requirements as a presidential candidate and can proceed with her campaign. In 2019, Daniya Yespayeva from the Ak Zhol party became the first woman in Kazakh history to run for president.

UK told to  
change  
climate  
behavior

LONDON: Britain's approach to changing public travel, heating and food habits is "inadequate" to meet its net zero and environment targets, a parliamentary committee warned on Wednesday.

The chair of the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee Kate Parminter said after a summer of record temperatures, fires and drought, "an immediate and sustained response" was needed.

"People power is critical to reach our environmental goals, but unless we are encouraged and enabled to change behaviours in how we travel, what we eat and buy and how we heat our homes, we won't meet those targets," she added.

"Polling shows the public is ready for leadership from the government. People want to know how to play their part in tackling climate change and environmental damage." The committee from the unelected upper chamber of parliament urged the government to use the lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic to help communicate the need for behaviour changes. They included areas such as "how we travel, what we eat, what we buy, and how we use energy at home", the committee said. Parminter urged new Prime Minister Liz Truss to urgently "set out her vision of a country where low carbon choices and behaviours can flourish". –APP

Mourners  
mark 20th  
anniversary  
of Bali  
bombings

DENPASAR: Hundreds of mourners and survivors commemorated on Wednesday the 20th anniversary of the bombings that killed more than 200 people on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Grieving families, attack survivors and representatives from several embassies will attend a memorial in Bali's popular tourist hub of Kuta, where Al-Qaeda-linked militants detonated bombs at a bar and nightclub on October 12, 2002. "It's okay that some people have forgotten what happened 20 years ago but there are still real victims, there are children who lost their parents in the bombing," said Thioliina Marpaung, one of the organizers of the memorial who was left with permanent eye injuries in the attack.

"I don't want them to be forgotten," the 47-year-old told AFP. The candlelight vigil will be held at a monument built metres from the site of the blasts by victims' family members to mark Southeast Asia's deadliest terrorist attack and remember the 202 victims. Most were foreign holidaymakers from more than 20 countries but Australia suffered the biggest loss, with 88 dead. –APP

Landslides in  
Venezuela  
kill 43

## FOREIGN DESK

MEXICO CITY: Venezuela's vice president said Tuesday that the death toll from landslides and heavy rains in the city of Las Tejerias in Aragua state has risen to 43 and is feared to exceed 100.

Delcy Rodriguez provided the latest figures during a live televised broadcast at the location in a video link with President Nicolas Maduro. "Finally, president, while we were connected with you, the number of the dead we have found has already reached 43. This means that the work does not stop and that we continue," Rodriguez said.

The briefing came hours after Maduro reported that 39 people were dead and 56 were missing. But according to him, the number of victims could be much higher. "We are reaching almost a hundred fatalities in this tragedy," he said. Rodriguez pledged that as soon as the live transmission was over, her team would continue to gather testimonies from the victims "house by house."

Regarding the actions taken by the government to assist those affected by the disaster, the authorities have said that water as well as 300 tons of food have been distributed to local residents. –Agencies

## Occupation of Kashmir 'manifestation' of colonialism

## DNA

NEW YORK: Describing India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," Pakistan on Tuesday called on the United Nations to actively promote a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Noting that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, Ambassador Munir Akram told the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee that there were still peoples who were denied the right to self-determination, "most prominently the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine". The right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, the Pakistani envoy said, was explicitly recognized in the UN

Security Council Resolution 47 and several subsequent resolutions, which prescribed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under the UN auspices. These resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan, he said, adding that under Article 25 of the UN Charter, both parties were obliged to implement the resolutions. After Pakistani envoy's speech, delegates of India and Pakistan engaged in a verbal duel over the Kashmir dispute. In his remarks, Ambassador Akram said for 70 plus years, through force and fraud, India had avoided the implementation of UN resolutions, and since 1989, it's "brutal" campaign of repression killed 100,000 Kashmiris. Since August 5, 2019, he said, India had taken "unilateral and illegal steps" to annex occupied Kashmir

in what its leaders had termed a "final solution". "Kashmir today is the most densely occupied place in the world, with 900,000 Indian occupation troops deployed in a region the size of Belgium, with one Indian soldier for every 8 Kashmiri man, woman, and child," Ambassador Akram said, pointing out that they had perpetrated a vicious campaign of extra-judicial killings in fake encounters; and "cordon and search" operations; abduction and enforced disappearances of 15,000 young Kashmiri boys; and collective punishments, destroying and burning entire villages and urban neighbourhoods. "India has incarcerated the entire Kashmiri leadership since 2019. Several of these leaders have died in the Indian custody, including Altaf Ahmad Shah, who passed away yesterday," he told the committee. "This brutal campaign of oppression", the Pakistani envoy said, "is tur-

bo-charged by "Hindutva" ideology which asserts Hindus' religious and ethnic supremacy and hate against Muslims and other minorities." Genocide Watch warned that it could very well lead to genocide, he noted.

"A wall-of-silence has been imposed over IIOJK with a physical lockdowns, a total information blackout, and censorship and surveillance to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people", he said, highlighting that journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders were routinely incarcerated, beaten, humiliated, harassed and even accused of "terrorism" for reporting on the human rights violations in the territory.

In a classic settler-colonial project, Ambassador Akram said India had initiated a process of demographic to convert Jammu and Kashmir from a Muslim majority state to a Hindu majority territory. Over 3.4 million fake dom-

icile certificates had been issued to Hindus from all across India, as the land and properties of Kashmiris were also being confiscated for military and official use.

All the unilateral measures undertaken by India since August 5, 2019 were blatant violations of international law, including the relevant UN Security Council resolutions – not only illegal but, ipso facto, null and void, he said. Pakistan, he said, desired peaceful relations with all its neighbours, including India, but to ensure durable peace in South Asia, the resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute was essential.

"The onus is on India to create conditions for a dialogue to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," Ambassador Akram said, adding to that end, India must: stop all human rights violations in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir; halt and reverse demographic change there; and restore

Kashmir's statehood and identity by reversing the illegal and unilateral measures imposed on and after August 5, 2019.

"The Security Council and the Secretary-General must actively promote a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people by fully utilizing the modalities provided for in Chapter VI of the UN Charter, including Articles 33, 34 and 99 of the Charter," he added. Reacting to Ambassador Akram's statement, an Indian delegate, Nitish Birdi, repeated the allegation about Pakistan's involvement in terrorism, and said that by raising the Kashmir issue, Pakistan had wasted the committee's time.

Pakistan's delegate Naeem Sabir hit back at India immediately, asserting that the continued Indian colonization of Kashmir was not a waste of time.



## Briefs

## Imran Khan gets protective bail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted protective bail to Chairman PTI Imran Khan till October 18, in prohibited funding case. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by former prime minister Imran Khan seeking protective bail in FIR registered by Federal Investigation Agency against him in prohibited funding scam. Additional Attorney General Munawar Dogal argued that the petition of protective bail could be heard only when the matter belongs to the other province. The chief justice remarked that the special court should have heard the bail case, adding that if there was an issue then this court was granting protective bail till that time. Earlier, Imran's lawyer Suleman Safdar Advocate contended that there was a risk of arrest of his client. He said that prohibited funding case should have been heard by special judge central. The advocate prayed the court to grant his client protective bail so that he could file bail petition to the concerned forum. On a query of the bench, the lawyer said that Imran Khan was currently at his home in Bangala and his house was surrounded by the police. Imran Khan could appear within 30 minutes if court gives directives, the lawyer said. The court ordered that PTI chief shouldn't be arrested until he appeared before the bench. Later, Imran Khan appeared before the court and he was granted protective bail against surety bonds worth Rs5,000. The court instructed the petitioner to approach the relevant case during the time.

## Pakistan resumes Turkish air operations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Turkey Pakistan Business Development Forum congratulates the government of Pakistan for resuming Turkish air operations from (Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore) Pakistan. Resumption of air travel will enter in a new era of tourism and trade relations between Pakistan and Turkey, Chairman Saeed Rajput. Pakistanis love to travel by Turkish airline has increased, thousands of tourists are traveling to Turkey every month, Vice Chairman Mir Hassan said. The launch of 4 flights from Islamabad and 2 from Lahore by national airline PIA will boost tourism and have the way for starting flights from other cities including Karachi, Secretary General Rana Muhammad Younus. The participation of Syed Abdul Rehman and Murat Tapan from Istanbul in the webinar meeting of Turkey Pakistan Business Development Forum, the participants of the meeting paid tribute to Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq and PIA management.

## Armed Forces day of Egypt celebrated

Egypt and Pakistan have always supported each other in all sincerity in many difficult time: Col Mahmoud Hassan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Col Mahmoud Hassan, Defence Attache of Egypt hosted Armed Forces Day reception at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Deputy Chief of Air Staff of the Pakistan Air Force was the chief guest. The reception was attended by Dr. Tarek Dahroug, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and a large number of guests hailing from various segments of the society. Col Mahmoud in his speech thanked the guests for honoring the Celebration Ceremony of the forty-ninth anniversary of the glorious October victories. He also conveyed the greetings of the Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Minister of Defense and Military Production, on this auspicious occasion. He said, the sacrifices and heroisms made by the heroes of the Egyptian armed forces to achieve this great victory will remain immortal in the conscience of every Egyptian and a witness to the solidity of the Egyptian people and an inspiring model in hard work to elevate the people of Egypt, preserve its soil and preserve its dignity. 'Today we see with certainty that Egypt that fought and regained its land is the same Egypt that always seeks to achieve peace and always seeks to extend a hand of cooperation to achieve construction and development'. Col Mahmoud added, days pass, years pass by, ideas change, forms of conflicts change, and here we find the threat of terrorism targeting our countries, and Egypt, with all its institutions, is making efforts and precious sacrifices to preserve the security of this beloved country Egypt. The memory of the glorious October victory celebration always brings to the minds of the Egyptian people the magnitude of the challenges that they were able to overcome to reach the present in which Egypt is writing a great success story that began years ago, where Egypt achieved with strength and determination ambitious plans for construction



and development despite the growing internal and external challenges. The Egyptian and Pakistani armed forces face the same challenges, and the military leadership of the two brotherly countries has set itself a goal of enriching cooperation relations to fruitful prospects that contribute to overcoming these challenges. 'The two countries have always supported each other in all sincerity in many difficult time, Thus I took this opportunity to offer my sincere condolences to the Pakistani armed forces and the people of Pakistan on the

victims of the recent massive floods, praying to Allah Almighty may bless the dead with mercy and inspire their relatives patience and solace'. While concluding his speech he prayed to Allah Almighty to have mercy on the martyrs and heroes of the Egyptian and Pakistani armed forces who sacrificed their precious blood to preserve their homelands ... and wished more prospects for cooperation between the two sides. HE also thanked the leaders of the Pakistani armed forces for their keenness to build trust between the two sides.

## SC to view NAB amends as per int'l standards: CJP

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of a petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the recent amendment in the NAB Ordinance till October 18. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, heading the three-member bench which heard the case, remarked that the top court would look into the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance amendments as per the international standards and local laws. He asked the petitioner's lawyer Khawaja Haris to point out the facts that how the amendments had impacted the basic rights of the public. The CJP observed that the decisions were used to be taken in the cabinet and working development parties. Whether all the members of cabinet or committees should be named as accused on the decisions, he questioned and said if that were the case then who would take the decisions. - DNA

## Nuclear tactical weapons, will they be used in Ukraine?

MONITORING DESK

MOSCOW: US President Joe Biden has said Vladimir Putin is unlikely to use a tactical nuclear weapon in the war with Ukraine, despite earlier threats by his Russian counterpart to "all the means at our disposal" to "defend our land", including recently annexed Ukrainian regions. Asked on Tuesday by CNN how realistic it would be for Putin to use a tactical nuclear weapon, Biden responded: "Well, I don't think he will." But as Russian troops retreat from the eastern battlefield, the possibility of nuclear weapons being used to stave off defeat, while still slim, cannot be dismissed. What are the characteristics of tactical nuclear weapons? And why they have drawn so much attention? While

there is no universal definition, tactical nuclear weapons are often characterised by their size, their range, or their use for limited military targets. They are typically many times larger than conventional bombs, causing radioactive fallout and other deadly effects beyond the explosion itself. There is no agreed-upon size that defines tactical weapons. They are often referred to as "non-strategic weapons", in contrast with strategic weapons, which the US military defines as designed to target "the enemy's war-making capacity and will to make war," including manufacturing, infrastructure, transportation and communication systems, and other targets. Tactical weapons, by contrast, are designed to accomplish more limited and immediate military goals that win a battle.

The term is often used to describe weapons with a lower "yield" - the amount of power released during an explosion. Interactive showing how many nuclear weapons Russia has. They can be mounted on missiles, air-dropped bombs, or even artillery shells that have a relatively short range, far less than the huge intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) designed to travel thousands of kilometres and hit targets across oceans. "Tactical nuclear warheads were created to give military commanders more flexibility on the battlefield. In the mid-1950s, as more powerful thermonuclear bombs were being built and tested, military planners thought smaller weapons with a shorter range would be more useful in 'tactical' situations," according to Al Jazeera's defence analyst Alex Gatopoulos.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong calls on Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works at his office. - DNA

## 'Riots enemy plot devised to curb progress'

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the recent scattered riots in several Iranian cities have been devised by enemies as a "clumsy," "foolish" and "passive" reaction to the Iranian nation's great moves and innovative progress. In a meeting with members of the Expediency Council on Wednesday, Ayatollah Khamenei cautioned the country's authorities not to let such "small incidents" distract them from their major duties. "The Iranian nation made great moves in a short period of time, which were 180 degrees opposite to the global arrogance's policies, and they were forced to react," he said, referring to the United States and other Western powers. "In this context, by planning and spending money, they brought people including some politicians in America, Europe and some other places to the field," the Leader added. What started as peaceful protests took a violent turn after unruly protesters fatally attacked policemen and indulged in vandalism against public property in several cities. - Agencies

## Palestinians strike against Israeli siege

DNA

JERUSALEM: Palestinians in the Shuafat refugee camp and surrounding neighbourhoods in occupied East Jerusalem have launched a general strike in protest against a days-long siege by Israeli forces that has affected severely access to basic services. Stores and schools in the area remained shut on Wednesday, while labourers refused to go to work. Students at Birzeit University, in the Ramallah area, also boycotted classes in solidarity. The city of Nablus, in the northern occupied West Bank, also observed a general strike, while confrontations broke out with Israeli forces at checkpoints near Ramallah and Bethlehem, with several injuries from live ammunition reported. Israeli forces also fired tear gas at Shuafat refugee camp residents marching against the siege. The camp, as well as the nearby neighbourhoods of Anata, Ras Khamis, Ras Shhadeh and Dahiyat al-Salam, is home to 130,000 Palestinians. Residents living there are fully encircled by Israel's Separation Wall and have only two exit and entry points in the form of permanently staffed Israeli border police checkpoints. These have been shut down since Saturday night after an Israeli soldier was killed in a shooting attack at the camp's main checkpoint. Eleven Palestinians have so far been detained as Israeli police and special forces conduct raids and arrest operations while searching for the suspect, who they have identified as 22-year-old Uday Tamimi and say they believe he is trying to escape to the occupied West Bank. Israeli forces raided the Shuafat refugee camp on Tuesday, during which confrontations broke out with Palestinian youths. At least one Palestinian was wounded by a bullet to the stomach, while dozens suffered injuries from tear gas inhalation and rubber-coated bullets, according to residents. Israeli forces also sprayed large amounts of skunk water - a foul-smelling liquid - on residents and homes in the tight alleyways of the camp.

## First fleet of 20 coaches from China due in October

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Railways Kiran Imran Dar on Wednesday informed the National Assembly that the first fleet of 20 state-of-the-art coaches from China would arrive Pakistan at the end of October 2022. During the question hour, she said Pak Railways procured 230 new passenger coaches from China to provide comfortable journeys to the passengers as per international standards. She said Pakistan Railways was rigorously perusing ML-1 project under CPEC to upgrade its track which was delayed during the last four years. The speed of the train, she said, will increase from 65- 105km/h to 120 - 160km/h. The journey time will be reduced by half after the implementation of this project.

## United Nations agencies vow to scale up relief efforts

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations agencies on Wednesday vowed to scale up rehabilitation process in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan to meet the growing challenges of health, food, nutrition, clean water and shelter while seeking further financial assistance from international community. During a joint press talk here, UN Humanitarian Coordinator Julien Harneis said the revised flash appeal launched to respond to the needs of people affected by unprecedented climate-induced floods had increased five-fold symbolising the growing magnitude of the devastation, moving from USD 160 million to USD 816 million. He was flanked by UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Deputy Representative Farrukh Toirov, Dr Farah Naureen of Mercy Corporation representing the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum, and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Senior Humanitarian Officer

Felix Omu. Harneis said the UN agencies were making all-out efforts to tackle the situation in the most-affected 84 districts, adding that they were facing alarming situation after multiple diseases were on the rise, especially malaria, diarrhoea and skin infections. "Pakistan may see 2.7 million malaria cases in 32 districts by January 2023, while 5.74 million are in phase 3 & 4 of malnutrition (phase 5 is famine)," he said. 8.2 million people were in dire need of health facilities in those areas and it required 114.5 million dollars. Harneis further said the UN and Pakistan jointly appealed in Geneva for more assistance for the flood victims and hoped they would get it soon from the international community and donors. "Pledges received so far are more than USD 180 (about 20% of the total appeal), however, only 90 million have been committed with the UN. The pace of the committed amount has slowed

in the past two weeks." FAO Deputy Representative Farrukh Toirov said the agricultural sector of Pakistan had been devastated, resulting in the loss of critical infrastructure, standing crops, grain storage and livestock rearing. According to the FAO-GIS team data, around 9.4 million acres of standing "Kharif" crops were washed away, causing food shortage in the country, he said, adding that there were more than 353,000 small farms in the affected areas and if they were not able to sow the seeds in time, it would directly impact the food basket for the whole country." He said to address the food insecurity, agriculture sector would be given priority in provision of cash assistance as the international price for fertilizers was quite high and although efforts were made to reduce the international prices of the fertilizers, they were still unaffordable for farmers who already had nothing. - APP

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