



# Islamabad POST

Friday, October 14, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

**Powerful response to be given if nuclear weapons used**

Detailed News On Page-07

**No politics behind OPEC decision: KSA**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Russia not shying for contact with US**

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## Briefs

### Macron tells Putin to negotiate

PARIS: Emmanuel Macron has urged Vladimir Putin to "come back to the table" and promised to deliver air defence systems to Ukraine, in the midst of a massive new Russian bombing campaign. In a television interview, the French president criticised his Russian counterpart for having made the "choice" to involve Europe more in the war with the recent missile strikes and the general mobilisation order to reinforce the army. "Today, first of all, Vladimir Putin must stop this war, respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine and come back to the discussion table," he told.—Agencies

**FIA arrests Senator Azam Swati**

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday arrested Senator Azam Swati over his alleged controversial tweets. The sources said that he was taken into custody by the FIA from his house in the federal capital after a case was filed by the agency's Cyber Crime Wing (CCW) late last night. Azam Swati has been accused of "statements against institutions and inciting people", the source said. Swati was presented in court of senior civil judge Shabbir Bhatti soon after his arrest.

**Malala condemns van attack**

NAZIR SIYAL  
KARACHI: Malala Yousafzai, the world's youngest Nobel laureate, Thursday registered her protest against the dastardly terror attack on a van full of schoolchildren in her hometown, where she was shot for going to school almost a decade ago. "I add my voice to thousands of people protesting for peace in Swat. Monday's attack on a school bus full of children is a frightening reminder that our people must not be forced back into lives of fear and terrorism."

## Willing to engage with India: PM

At the CICA Summit, the prime minister's speech focused on peace among nations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday strongly favoured peaceful dialogue in resolving conflicts with other countries, including the neighbouring India, in a bid to achieve the goals of prosperity of the nations and the region. Addressing at the 6th summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Kazakhstan's capital Astana, he said Pakistan desired peaceful relations with all its neighbours including India. "We are willing to engage with India for the sake of prosperity and development as both sides of the border can not afford to deal with massive challenges of poverty and unemployment amid meager resources," he said. The prime minister's speech focused on peace among nations to hit the goal of prosperity as he addressed the leaders of the multinational forum, gathered to discuss cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. PM Shehbaz stressed that the people deserved the resources to be diverted to their education and health. "I want to leave behind a legacy of peace and progress for the prosperity of the coming generations of our region," he said. "Pakistan's first priority at the moment

### PM meets world leaders at summit

DNA

ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday held meetings with several heads of State and government on the sidelines of the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), held in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. PM Sharif in a meeting with President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev discussed issues of bilateral interest including trade, investment, and people-to-people contacts. PM meets world leaders at CICA summit About his meeting with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the prime minister in a tweet said, "We built on our discussions during SCO [Shanghai Cooperation Organization] last month. Grateful to the President for his offer of support to help Pakistan meet the need for urea in view of challenges during coming sowing season". PM Sharif met President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko and highlighted his desire to promote peace, cooperation, and security in Asia.

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## Whoever gives NRO to thieves is a 'traitor'

### Condemns arrests and custodial torture of party members



**SHAMIM SHAHID**  
MARDAN: PTI Chairman Imran Khan said Thursday that whoever gives an NRO to "thieves" - the incumbent rulers - is a "traitor" as he lashed out at institutions for allegedly torturing his party's leaders. "All thieves are being released; Shehbaz Sharif and his son have been acquitted. Whoever they are, they should be ashamed. You are a traitor who is betraying

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## Imran Khan granted bail

ISLAMABAD: A court in Islamabad Thursday granted bail to former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the female judge threat case. Additional District and Sessions Judge Kamran Basharat Mufti conducted hearing

Continued on Page 06



ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing at the 6th summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). DNA

## Another audio leak surfaces of PM

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A freshly leaked audio recording linked to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) emerged on Thursday, allegedly of Premier Shehbaz Sharif discussing the appointment of his special assistants. In the most recent soundbite, an unidentified person is presumably telling the premier that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ayaz Sadiq had said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was asking for a share in the selected special assistants to the prime minister (SAPM). A second voice, purportedly that of PM Shehbaz, replies that PPP co-chair Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had talked to him about the matter. The first person responds by saying, "we have to appoint Zafar Mahmood and Jahanzaib saheb."

## COAS visits flood-affected areas

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited flood affected areas in interior Sindh. According to ISPR, the COAS met troops busy in flood relief efforts providing medical and administrative care to affected people in Noshero Feroz. The COAS also interacted with the locals and assured them that Pakistan Army will continue to serve people to mitigate their suffering till they are rehabilitated. Later, the COAS was flown for aerial reconnaissance of flood hit areas of Sindh.—APP

## Power 'fully restored' after 12-hour outage

The Ministry had attributed the breakdown to an "accidental fault"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Power was "fully restored" across the country after a major 12-hour power breakdown took place on Thursday - amounting to 8,000 megawatts, according to the energy minister - depriving large swathes of the country, including provincial capitals Karachi and Lahore, of electricity, according to the Ministry of Energy. The ministry said the disturbance in two 500kv lines in the south of Karachi was resolved. "Electricity supply is being increased from alternative power plants, which will return to normal by Friday morning," the ministry tweeted. However, media reported that power was still not restored to large parts of Karachi, including Malir, Gulshan-i-Maymar, Super Highway and more. Earlier, the Ministry of Energy had attributed the breakdown to an "accidental fault" in the transmission system. "Several power plants in the south are tripping in phases due to an accidental fault in the country's southern transmission system. As a result, there have been disruptions in the supply

of electricity to the country's south," the ministry said in a tweet following reports of power outages. Earlier in a press conference, Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir was hopeful that electricity would be fully restored "to normalcy" by tonight and announced that power had begun returning to parts of southern Punjab. In a press conference, Dastgir shared the preliminary findings of the circumstances that led to the breakdown. "This morning at 9:16am, our two 500kv lines in the south - Karachi - there was a fault in both of them. I am not calling it an accident yet, because an inquiry has yet to be conducted. [...] there was a fault in them and they fell, as a result, the country's southern region saw an electricity blackout." Our first priority was to isolate Karachi from it, and we were successful in doing so and we isolated Karachi from it by 9:45. By isolate, I mean that the 1,000MW that we provide to Karachi daily, was cut. But KE's system is independently operated and is supplying electricity to [parts of] the city."

Continued on Page 06

## India SC judges split on hijab ban

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court has failed to deliver a verdict on whether Muslim students can wear the hijab in schools and colleges, with two judges expressing opposing views. One judge upheld a Karnataka high court order from March that said the hijab was not "essential" to Islam. The other said the high court order was erroneous and wearing the hijab was a matter of choice. The verdict was expected to cap a

10-month-long polarising debate in India. But Thursday's development means the debate over the hijab will continue to consume the Indian public and the judiciary - as the judges could not agree on a decision, they have now requested the chief justice of India to recommend it to a larger bench. The decision of Justice Hemant Gupta - who headed the two-judge bench - to uphold the high court order was widely expected. During the hearing, some of his comments

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Farewell Golf event to say goodbye to Dedy Faisal - Page 06

West to give powerful response if nuclear weapons are used - Page 07

Pak needs sustained support to overcome flood crisis - Page 08

# Russia warns of World War III as NATO meets

## UK defence secretary Ben Wallace said NATO's nuclear preparedness exercise, planned for next week, "is all about readiness"

CENTRELINE REPORT

MOSCOW/BRUSSELS: The United States has reaffirmed its commitment to defend "every inch" of NATO territory as closed-door discussions by the alliance's Nuclear Planning Group got under way in Brussels. As members on Thursday pressed ahead with plans to hold a nuclear exercise, Russia bristled and issued warnings should Ukraine ever join NATO. "Kyiv is well aware that such a step would mean a guaranteed escalation to a World War III," deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, Alexander Venediktov, told the state TASS news agency. "The suicidal nature of such a step is understood by NATO members themselves." During Thursday's talks, US defence secretary Lloyd Austin said, "We are committed to defending every inch of NATO's territory - if and when it comes to that." He also announced the latest weapons and air defence systems Washington will provide Ukraine to help aid its war effort. Fabrice Pothier, head of the political

## UNGA strongly condemns Russian annexation attempts

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: The United Nations General Assembly has voted overwhelmingly to condemn Russia's attempts to annex four regions of Ukraine. The resolution was supported by 143 countries, while 35 states - including China and India - abstained. As well as

Russia, four countries rejected the vote, namely Belarus, North Korea, Syria and Nicaragua. Although symbolic, it was the highest number of votes against Russia since the invasion. Last week, in a grand ceremony in the Kremlin, President Vladimir Putin signed documents to make the eastern Ukrainian regions of

Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson part of Russia. The agreements were signed with the Moscow-installed leaders of the four regions, and came after self-proclaimed referendums in the areas that were denounced as a "sham" by the West. The resolution calls on the international community not

to recognise any of Russia's annexation claims and demands its "immediate reversal". It welcomes and "expresses its strong support" for efforts to de-escalate the conflict through negotiation. The countries which voted with Russia all have a longstanding stance of criticising Western governments.

consultancy firm Rasmussen Global, told Al Jazeera that NATO members were attempting to balance their support for Ukraine without worsening an already fragile situation. "[What they] are trying to get right is responding and pushing back [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's escalation, be it political or military, at the same time not setting off a chain of events that could lead to even worse escalation," he said. "It's about being smart about the kind of response that can help corner Putin into his own failure and defeat without triggering the worst response." Thursday's schedule at NATO headquarters includes discussions on how to give a clear signal to industry to ramp up arms production both for internal needs and Ukraine's defence. The meeting is being held as global fears of nuclear warfare simmer after Putin's thinly veiled threats about a nuclear attack and as Russian bombs increasingly pound Ukraine. On Wednesday, an unnamed senior NATO official told Reuters that a nuclear strike would "almost certainly be drawing a physical response from many allies and potentially from NATO itself".

# SCCI wants steps to resolve business community issues

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Ishaq said the successive governments had never pay serious attention toward issues of the terrorism-hit business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Muhammad Ishaq while responding to various queries of editors, columnists, writers and senior journalists during a lunch hosted in their honour here at the chamber's house on Thursday said business, industrial and commercial activities are halting owing to least attention of government and authorities concerned. The deteriorating law and order situation gave birth to new issues to the business community in the province, the SCCI noted. He questioned: "How would businesses and industries flourish when issues of businessmen were not resolved on priority grounds?" He sought serious steps to make the dream of the promotion of industrialization come true in real sense in K-P.

The SCCI's senior vice president Shahid Hussain,

vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, Chief Minister KP Focal Person on Ease of Doing Business and Investment, Ghazanfar Bilour, former senior vice president Inayat Khan, along with members of the SCCI's executive committee, Haji Ghulam Hussain, Munawar Khurshid, Lala Badshah, Kashif Amin, Hafaf Ali Khan, Javed Ahmad Khan, Qurtul Ain and others were present during the luncheon. Muhammad Ishaq in reply of a question said that the region has suffered from terrorism and extremism for the last four decades and its negatives impacts had directly come to K-P. Expressing grave concern over worsening security situations, the SCCI chief said more than 300 industrial units had so far closed down while new wave of terrorism has again pushed investors and business community toward a difficult situation. K-P trade and businesses are mostly attached with Afghanistan and Central Asian Republic, but bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Afghanistan has dropped exponentially under the prevailing scenario, Mr Ishaq said. He stressed the need to re-

move obstacles in the way of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and with regional countries that would help to boost the local economy and create job opportunities and business expansion. The SCCI chief called for giving serious attention toward issues of the war-affected business community of the K-P. He furthermore asked the government to adopt business-friendly policies with consultations of relevant stakeholders in order to stabilize and boost up the national economy. Ghazanfar Bilour responded on the occasion to a question of a senior journalist who said the direction of federal governments departments, particularly SNGPL and FBR should be corrected. He severely criticized the federal government for elevating miseries of the business community of K-P. CM focal person on EODB and investment said the proposal of KP business community didn't take it seriously because of which the issues of traders are increasing with each passing day. He asked for equal level playing field and provision of special incentives,

along with serious steps to resolve business community problems. Shahid Hussain while replying to different queries said Pak-Afghan bilateral trade volume had decreased apparently, which currently stood at 400million dollars against 2.5billion dollars some years back. He added the regime change in Afghanistan had brought negative impacts on the business community of both neighbouring countries. However, he said the business community of the both countries had played an important role in bringing improvement in bilateral trade relations between the two countries. He expressed the hope that the economic situation would be improved if the issues connecting with banks could be resolved at earliest. Earlier, the SCCI president Muhammad Ishaq thanked the senior journalists, columnists and writers for coming to the chamber's house and urged them to highlight issues of business community before relevant government departments.



ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan ambassador to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov meets with Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan and discussed the ways to further strengthen the cooperation of Ombudsman offices between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.—DNA

## CM assures focus on uplift of tribal districts

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has expressed firm resolve to undertake every measure and fight for the rights of the province, especially the people of Erstwhile FATA, adding that the sorry state of affairs of the incumbent Federal government is highly reprehensible, especially when the tribal belt was recently merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ending decades of exploitation of the tribal people. However, the indifferent and step motherly treatment by the incumbent federal cabinet, for the sake of immoral politics, has raised serious doubts and is tantamount to usurping the share of the province. While addressing a joining ceremony at the Chief Ministers House in Peshawar, in which Village Council Chairmen from North Waziristan announced joining Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Chief Minister Mahmood Khan stated that Rs 12 Billion transfers on the current side and 8.5 Billion transfers on the development side are still pending on part of the Federal government for the year 2021-22. Additionally, the stoppage of funds amounting to over Rs 5 Billion for the Sehat Insaf Card in ex FATA has raised serious questions over the credibility and competency of the federal government in running the federation. The Chief Minister stated that zero payments have been received in lieu of Net Hydrel Profits (NHP) since April 2022, when the im-

ported Federal government came into power, whereas more than 68 Billion were received during the previous two years under the NHP. He made it clear that the Federal Government will not be allowed to fill their pockets and spend the due share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province elsewhere, adding that playing politics at the expense of the rights of an entire province is a mockery and cannot be tolerated. Mahmood Khan expressed resolve to use all political, constitutional and legal means to fight for the due share of the province, adding that every effort is being made to cater to the current and development expenditures of the provincial government. The Chief Minister stated that in addition to unprecedented inflation,

the federal government has started politicizing national issues, ended all accountability mechanisms, invited nationally recognized dacoits and vigilantes back into the country thereby opening new avenues for corruption. If left unchecked, the imported government will sink the country deeper into a political and economic quagmire. It is absolutely imperative to rid the country of these corrupt and incompetent rulers in order to ensure a prosperous and developed future for Pakistan. The chief minister concluded that the upcoming true independence march, to be led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan, is the only hope and every individual will have to play their due role to make it a turning point in the history of Pakistani nation.

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## Climate change threatening biodiversity

PESHAWAR: Director General WWF-Pakistan Hamad Naqi Khan has said that Pakistan is home to magnificent wildlife, some of which is threatened and endangered, including the snow leopard and common leopard, the Indus River dolphin, White-backed vulture and Long-billed vulture, and Arabian Sea humpback whale, among others.

According to a WWF Living Planet Report (LPR) 2022, the world faces dual emergencies of human-induced climate change and biodiversity loss, threatening the well-being of future and current generations. The report also urged governments, businesses and the public to take transformative action to reverse the destruction of biodiversity. Wildlife including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish are faced with a devastating 69 percent drop on average since 1970 and WWF is extremely concerned about this trend given that tropical regions that have most biodiversity in the world are facing plummeting wildlife population. DG WWF-Pakistan said we should undertake collaborative efforts to protect wildlife habitat, address the issue of illegal wildlife trade and restore our fragile ecosystems.—APP

## Public Notice

I, Ghulam Hassan Abbas Id card No (37405-0312342-7) have lost my original MBA transcript and degree (Alkhair University AJK, Registration no. AUMZ(BA)656-2002) along with photocopies of CNIC, Passport in Islamabad. If found please contact +923455215305

## Keel laying, steel cutting ceremony of PN vessels



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A combined Keel Laying and Steel Cutting ceremony of first and second Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV-II) being constructed for Pakistan Navy was held at M/s DAMEN Shipyard Galati, Romania. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Owing to the satisfactory performance of 1st Batch of OPVs (PNS YARMOOK & PNS TABUK) in Pakistan Navy; contract for 2nd Batch of OPVs was conducted

with M/s DAMEN Shipyard Romania. These vessels are multi-purpose and highly adaptive platforms; equipped with state-of-the-art electronic warfare, anti-ship, anti-air weapons/sensors along with modern self-protection and terminal defence systems. While addressing the ceremony, Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized the importance of OPVs in the maritime domain. He emphasized that these platforms will act as force multipliers in enhancing PN capability of safeguarding maritime frontiers and would offer flexibility in conduct of Pakistan Navy's

initiative of independent Regional Maritime Security Patrols in the Indian Ocean Region. The Chief Guest underscored that Pakistan Navy has been successfully playing its role in providing secure sea environment not only to ourselves but also to the world community. The Admiral appreciated the professionalism of M/s DAMEN Shipyards and cooperation in delivering cutting edge technologies to Pakistan Navy in the form of Offshore Patrol Vessel. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from Pakistan Navy, M/s DAMEN Shipyards.

would be a big challenge for Education Testing and Evaluation Agency (ETEA) and Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar. He assured that all important and necessary steps would be taken for this test on priority basis. The secretary HED expressed these views while presiding over a joint meeting of ETEA and KMU regarding the MDCAT 2022 organized in

KMU, in which Vice Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr Zia ul Haq, Special Secretary Health Abid Ullah Kaka Khel, Pro-Vice Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr Lal Muhammad Khattak, Executive Director ETEA Khalid Ilyas, Director ETEA Dr Asim Ali Shah, KMU Coordinator Admission Prof. Dr Jawad Ahmed and Director Admission Muhammad Arshad Khan were also present.—APP

## Transparent conduct of MDCAT 2022 big challenge

PESHAWAR: The Secretary Higher Education Department Muhammad Daud Khan on Thursday said the transparent conduct of MDCAT 2022

## CM, French diplomat discuss coop in agri-research

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and French Ambassador Nicolas Galey discussed mutual cooperation in agriculture research and possibility of France's support for water supply and RO plants technology for Karachi. French Consul General in Karachi Alexis Chahtantinsky was also present in the meeting, a statement issued here on Thursday said. The CM Sindh said that provincial government was working hard to meet the water requirement of the megalopolis of Karachi by installing RO and desalination plants to convert sea water for drinking purposes and it desired to benefit from French expertise in water supply systems and RO and desalination plants. The French ambassador said that he would support



the Sindh government by bringing experts from France to guide and support the provincial government for developing a workable and decent water supply system, including the installation of desalina-

tion plants. The CM and the visiting diplomat also discussed cooperation for the introduction of new agricultural technology. The French ambassador said that their agriculture

university was doing a wonderful job in agricultural research and the same was being applied in the field. The chief minister said that close cooperation between the Tando Jam Ag-

## APNS thanks Information Minister

DNA

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) appreciates Ms. Mariam Aurangzeb, Federal Information Minister for her efforts in addressing the issues faced by the newspapers industry. Mr. Sarmad Ali, President and Ms. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society have noted with pleasure that on the request of the APNS, the Federal Govt has withdrawn the ban on purchase of newspapers and magazines by the Federal Govt departments. The ban was imposed as an austerity measure by the Federal Govt in July, 2022. The withdrawal of the ban could only be possible with the keen and personal interest taken by the Federal Information Minister. The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) thanks Ms. Mariam Aurangzeb for her media friendly approach and efforts put in to solve the problems of newspapers industry. The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) is confident that the Ministry would also play its positive role in helping the newspapers industry to brave the current financial crunch especially it will finalise the long pending issue of increase in the govt advertising rates and quantum of govt advertising.

## PU organizes conference on Dr Ambedkar

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab University Centre for South Asian Studies in collaboration with Ambedkar Society for South Asia organized an international conference on 'Unfinished Legacy of Dr Ambedkar & Plight of Oppressed in South Asia' at Al Raazi Hall on Thursday. On this occasion former Foreign Secretary Mr Shamsad Ahmad Khan, foreign affairs expert from Pakistan Syed Muhammad Mehdi, Director CSAS Prof Dr Umbreen Javid, Director Ambedkar Society for South Asia Syed Shaheen Hassan while Dr Seema Ma-thur, Dr Sujatha Surepally, Dr Pradeep Aglave, Bezwada Wil-

son from India, faculty members, students and members from civil society were present. In his address, Mr Shamsad highlighted multiple significant issues including ethnic and caste discrimination, human rights, democracy and fascist trends in south Asia. He traced the contribution of different theologies, cultures and states behind the development of United Nations Human Rights Charter. He highlighted the discrimination based on caste, culture and ethnicity in South Asia and appreciated the role of Ambedkar society for South Asia to eliminate this discrimination from society. Foreign affairs expert Muhammad Mehdi said that democracy is the key to solving all problems. Pa-

kistan is fortunate that at this time there is a truly representative government of the people, which has a clear idea for the establishment of peace in the region. Dr. Ambedkar and the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, were good friends and equally wanted to free the sub-continent from neo-demographic prejudices and hatred. If both of them were alive today, they would have been very sad to see their ideals of peaceful relations between neighboring countries in India and Pakistan being trampled by violent fundamentalists. Like Quaid-e-Azam, Dr. Ambedker had peaceful and realistic views.

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**Head Office**  
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.  
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92-51) 2825132, 2274227.  
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**Karachi**  
Room No. 14, 8/5, 3rd Floor, Kalkashan Mall, Main Tariq Road, 17/2-BLOCK-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi. Tel: (+92-21) 3453862, 34310479. Fax: (+92-21) 34531747. E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com

**Lahore**  
P-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92-42) 3579881, 35791085. Fax: (+92-42) 3571420. E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

**Peshawar**  
Office No. C-8, 3rd Floor, Zohrab Plaza, Left Aasad, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92-91) 2502778. Fax: (+92-91) 2503068. E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

**Kabul**  
House # 4, Street # 4, Chahat Anar Road, Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul - Afghanistan. Tel: +93 79821 173, 93 79355 608, 93 77848 268. E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com

## 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
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### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
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### Hospitals

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



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Met Office.....	9250360-6
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TMA.....	5770886
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### Islamabad Metropolitan

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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# Govt urged to structure gender responsive policies



### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The speakers addressing a big gathering of rural women representing over 120 districts of Pakistan present at Lok Virsa to attend 3-Day Annual Rural Women Conference here is Islamabad urged the government to structure gender responsive policies to meet the challenges posed by climate change. It's consecutive 15th Annual Rural Women Conference which has been organized by PODA - Pakistan with a focus on "Rural Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction and Good Governance". It is pertinent to mention here that since 2008, PODA-Pakistan has been playing central role to organize the conference in connection with the International Rural Women Day that is celebrated every year on 15th October following a United Nation's Resolution (A/62/2007) passed in December 2007. PODA is a social organization working for the social, economic and political rights of rural women since 2004. Starting today (Thursday), the conference will be concluded on Saturday on award ceremony. During the second

half of the day Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning and Development informed the audience that in the month of November, Pakistan is planning to hold an international donor conference to get resources to expedite the reconstruction work in flood-hit areas of the country as it is beyond our resources. He also said that Pakistan bore the brunt of careless life style of the Western countries due to which Pakistan has been among the countries who would be impacted severely by climate change. He also applauded the role of the civil society for playing their role in rehabilitation process. He assured the audience that gender perspective would be included in the rehabilitation plan. Primary partners of the 3-day conference are: European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Election Commission of Pakistan, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Lok Virsa, National Endowment for Democracy. Addressing the rural women representing four provinces and regions of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada said that

although we belonged to a society where women were respected, however due to growing intolerance and various other factors he would be presenting domestic violence's bill in the National Assembly as it was scheduled today (Thursday)'s assembly agenda. Reiterating European Union Delegation to Pakistan's commitment to support women's rights and empowerment, Sven Ruesch, Director Programmes, European Union Delegation to Pakistan, "eighty-five percent (85%) of all new EU programmes will have a strong focus on contributing to improve gender-equality." "Overall women's participation in decision-making process at home and community level is low. If we want this to change, your voices need to be heard loud and clear to claim your rights but also get a fair share of the wealth." Mentioning a report he said that violence against women is high at places where poverty is high. Welcoming the rural women and lauding the effort of PODA-Pakistan to organize the conference in the times of floods and political turmoil, Mrs. Nilofer Bakhtiar, Chairperson National Commission on the Status



ISLAMABAD: Sven Ruesch, Director Programmes, European Union Delegation to Pakistan and Ms. Sameena Nazir President PODA-Pakistan at 3-day Annual Rural Women Conference at Lok Virsa, Islamabad. —DNA

of Women highlighted the miseries of the women of flood-hit areas, especially of Sindh where flood waters would months to recede. She stressed on the need to empower and support rural women to build their resilience to reverse the impacts of natural calamities in an effective manner. Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA and Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) and Dr. Zarina Salam, Chairperson, PODA highlighted the need to recognize the role of rural women while acknowledging their diverse and impactful roles and contributions in the society. Dr. Zarina said that the policymakers should devise practical solutions to focus on the education needs of the children of the flood-hit areas. Welcoming the participants, Reema Aftab, Director General, Inclusive Registration NADRA said CNIC is primary and basic requirement for women to play their role in the society to access social benefits and their rights. Various speakers and participants of the conference highlighted the need to take special care of children's health and educational

needs, as these issues tend to be ignored when such emergencies occur in a country. It should be relevant to mention here that Nobel Laureate Mohtarma Malala Yousafzai is in Pakistan to focus world attention on the flood-hit areas and is currently visiting Sindh urging the world to focus on the education needs of the children of the areas devastated by the current unprecedented flood. Malala Yousafzai was the one who attended PODA-Pakistan's 2nd annual rural women conference back in 2009 when she was almost 11-years old. Sindh Government estimates that in Sindh around 12,000 schools and 3.5 million children's education had been impacted by these floods. Reciting her verses "Pakistan Khapay..." (Long Live Pakistan) on the plight of women of flood-affected areas, eminent poet Kishwar Naheed put her hand on the pulse of the audience. Her verses depicted portrayal of pregnant women and mothers trapped in floods struggling for the lives of their children both born and unborn, with the depiction of those people who helped flood victims like volunteers, young

girls, rescue workers and soldiers who raised slogans "Pakistan Khapay..." Rural women leaders representing four provinces and regions of AJK and GB addressed the audience and reiterated their commitment to work for the rights of rural women through the platform provided by PODA-Pakistan. They included Bushra Tabbasum, Director SEEP, Muzaffarabad from Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Ms. Jamaite Baloch, Educationist from Lasbella, Baluchistan, Ms. Shirin Akhtar from Gilgit-Baltistan, Gulshan Bibi, South Waziristan, Kyber Pakhtunkhwa, Veeru Kohlan, Hyderabad, Sindh is working relentlessly to free bonded harris for the last more than two decades, and last but not the least Rani Shamim Akhtar, Nankana Sahib, Punjab who warmed the audience with her songs in Punjabi. Women representing all walks of life attended the conference including policy-makers, parliamentarians, school teachers, human rights activists, representatives of government dignitaries, NGO representatives, writers and poets, development experts.

## Need stressed to check products' smuggling

ISLAMABAD: The business community Thursday demanded of the government that smuggling and illicit trade in counterfeit products needs to be curbed without further delay to protect the local industry and consumers. Addressing a seminar on "Shadow Economy" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum here, Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman, Meher Kashif Younis said every country in the world was grappling with the issue of parallel economy and Pakistan was not alone in this scenario. He said there was no right way of accurately measuring the undocumented part of an economy. Hence, the size of Pakistan's shadow economy was estimated to be in range of 30-50 percent of the nation's total reported GDP by various studies using different methodologies. He

said the shadow or informal economy refers to economic activities taking place outside the tax and regulatory system and may or may not have any backward or forward linkages with the organised sector. He said the problem with Pakistan was that the size of the unreported economy has grown so high that it is now bearing down on formal sectors, penalising taxpayers, undermining tax collection, intensifying market distortions and creating an uneven field for organised businesses. He said the existence of unregulated economic activities across almost every segment of business underlines poor governance, weak tax administration, corruption and lack of political will to take action against shadow economy mafia. Meher said the size of unregulated economy was not the only problem

Pakistan must deal with. He said black economy, smuggled and counterfeit products were now snatching a bigger market slice from the organised sector, besides fostering further growth in illicit trade at the expense of consumers and industry. He said this was in addition to the government forfeiting large revenues through uncollected taxes that could have been used to build economic and social infrastructure to boost productivity, generate employment opportunities and create surplus for exports. He said it was, indeed, hard to document every unregulated sector, however, many informal micro and small businesses linked to organised sectors will always exist and continue to indirectly contribute to economic growth, therefore, they need not to be regulated vigorously but unchecked smuggling. —APP

## PRC to hold international donor's conference

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC) has planned to organize a national and international donor's conference in Islamabad on November 8 to collect funding for reconstruction of flood destroyed infrastructure in the country and rehabilitation of dislocated families. Giving details about the conference, Deputy Director Media and Communication PRC Sher Zaman on Thursday said that Pakistan was facing a worse devastation of the history due to recent unprecedented floods in different parts of the country posing a big challenge to rehabilitate the dislocated families and reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure. He said that huge funding was required by the national and international donors for rehabilitation of affected families and sustainable reconstruction of infrastructure.

## Faysal Quraishi, Sehar Khan pair up for new project

ISLAMABAD: Bollywood sensation Faysal Quraishi and the budding actress Sehar Khan, a fresh on-screen pair to set goals for audience with their upcoming drama serial, is leaving fans more than simply ecstatic. Recently, Qureshi took to his Instagram account and enchanted fans with his first look from the forthcoming serial while the leading lady, Sehar Khan also turned to her social media handle and teased fans with the poster as well as the first official teaser and wrote "Finally the wait is over", followed by a heart emoticon. The much-awaited teaser hyped the duo's fans stars Faysal Quraishi as Kamal Hassan, who belongs to a well-to-do family alongside Sehar Khan, portraying the role of a middle-class girl running blindly after her dreams. According to the 7th Sky Entertainment's official Instagram page, the star-studded cast also includes Adeel Chaudry, Mahmood Aslam, Saba Shah, Juwaria Abbasi, Sohail Sameer, Sabiha Hashmi, Faiza Gillani, Raheed Alam, Aadi Khan, and Farah Nadir. Produced by Abdullah Kadwani and Asad Qureshi, the dynamic duo behind many blockbuster dramas such as 'Dile-Momin', 'Aye Musht-E-Khaak', and 'Khuda Aur Mohabbat' (season 3), the highly-anticipated serial revolves around differences and expectations in unusual relationships. Penned by the man with a golden pen Imran Nazir and directed under the vital direction of Aeshun Talish, the show will be aired under the banner of 7th Sky Entertainment. In order to keep the audience excited, the producers have not revealed the name and release date of the serial yet. —APP

## Press club team visits ICCI

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of National Press Club Islamabad led by its President Anwar Raza visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to congratulate the new Office Bearers.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan's economy is currently facing great challenges, but frequent adventurism by various stakeholders in the Capital to register their protest, which badly affects the business activities, causes great losses the business community and creates serious hardships for the citizens. He said that once again talks of a long march to Islamabad has created great concerns in the business community. He demanded the government to allocate a separate venue for any protest outside Islamabad so that the business community can be saved from further damages and the economy may not suffer more. He proposed that ICCI and the National Press Club should jointly prepare policy papers and recommendations for the improvement of the economy that should be shared with the government to formulate business-friendly policies.

He further said that ICCI has taken discounts for its members from various hospitals, laboratories and other institutions including schools and colleges and efforts will be made to provide the same facilities to the members of the National Press Club. He emphasized that the journalist community should cooperate in highlighting the important problems of the business community to draw the attention of the government to address them.

## Usman directs to make Srinagar highway signal-free

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority Chairman Captain (Retd) Mohammed Usman Younis chaired a meeting held at CDA headquarters to review various proposals for making Srinagar Highway signal-free on a permanent basis. Member Engineering, Member planning and other officers of the traffic design wing were also present in the meeting. The chairman directed the authority concerned to get traffic data and causality numbers and design futuristic elevated U-turns keeping in view the growing population of the federal capital. He further said that these designs should be eco-friendly and economical catering the needs of the city. Moreover, Chairman CDA said that providing better facilities to the citizens of Islamabad was his utmost priority. Furthermore, the traffic design department was directed to submit plans for these U-turns within next five days and a follow-up meeting will be held. —APP

## No proposal to dissolve 'CAA Pension Fund Trust'

ISLAMABAD: There is no proposal under consideration to dissolve 'CAA Employees Pension Fund Trust', Minister for Aviation Khwaja Saad Rafique told the lower House of the Parliament on Thursday. Responding to a query of MNA Aliya Kamran during Question Hour, he said CAA Service Regulations-2014 is the guiding document to protect the financial rights of the pensioners of Authority. The authority has established 'CAA Employees Pension Fund Trust' with the participation of indigenous employees being trustees of fund. To ensure sustainability and growth of pension fund, he said funds were being invested with the highest return generating instruments, payment of pension retirement benefits is made in timely manner and there were appropriate controls in place to ensure accuracy. —APP

## Incentivisation guarantee to end plastic pollution

Minister stated that the country generated a total of 26% of plastic waste and there were baseline studies that claimed out of which 4% was recycled

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman said the plastic bags pollution was a complex issue that needed public's stakeholder ownership to meet the task of shunning its overwhelming use in our day to day life business. "There needs to be some incentive for the consumers at the end to change their habits of using plastics as there is going to be no shift in the public attitude despite all efforts of strict enforcement and prohibitions." The Minister stated that the country generated a total of 26% of plastic waste and there were baseline studies that claimed out of which 4% was recycled.

She quoted the World Bank study claiming that by 2050 there would be more plastics in oceans than marine life and Pakistan's oceans and rivers would be the most exposed to plastic waste. Senator Sherry Rehman also mentioned that a project was underway for cleaning up of Indus River's banks and the Ministry was also developing partnership with coca-cola to clean up Malir River. She reminded that all plastics were not polluting and also all of it was not recyclable whereas the entire narrative and science had to be simplified for the public that they were ingesting plastics in the form of the fish con-

suming plastics from rivers and oceans. "We have done it by our anthropogenic activities. Our nutritious cycle is polluted where every food item on way or the other has plastic contamination." Shedding light on the solutions to the plastic problem, she said the executive action was governance and the country had to focus with a nuance level approach to think the remedy keeping in view the poor and weak households unable to adopt alternatives. South Asian economies, she said thrived on plastics and why was it so because the alternatives were expensive.

However, it was not easy to make that transition for an upper income household even, she added. "What a poor household will do who are not even getting community pumps to have water in flood areas like Balochistan?" the Minister queried. In Sindh and Balochistan there was water everywhere but not a drop to drink because it was not drinkable, she added. "The environment and climate change has not been part of public dialogue in South Asia including Pakistan. The populists all over the world also deny climate science which is problematic."

She urged the climate technocrats to think how the poor thinks to end plastic pollution and provide them an affordable solution and a circular economy that would benefit them. "It requires a vast culture of education and values to change as moving away from plastic bags is easier to shift from disposable water bottles." "The tourists littering in mountainous areas should be penalized heavily and it is absolutely unacceptable. Littering in the rivers can be and should be penalized and our provinces should join hands in this regard." —APP

## Briefs

## Police arrest female drug peddler

RAWALPINDI: Pirwadhai Police on Thursday arrested a female drug peddler, identified as Fozia Safdar, and recovered one kg of charras from her possession. According to a police spokesman, Lady Sub-Inspector of Pirwadhai police conducted a raid and arrested the female drug peddler. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation was underway, he added.—APP

## PBM provides care to over 9,330 patients

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Thalassaemia Centre, Islamabad has provided specialized care to over 9,330 Thalassaemia patients in 2020 to help them leading a normal and healthy life, said an official of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM). Talking to APP, while quoting a report, the official said approximately 100,000 patients are suffering from Thalassaemia in Pakistan and every year 5,000 babies are born with this deadly disease, he said adding that these patients need regular blood transfusion and iron chelation after consultation with a qualified hematologist along with regular diagnostic investigations on monthly basis which is unaffordable by the poor families in Pakistan.

He said Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has also provided free financial assistance to Thalassaemia patients. The ray of hope was being provided especially to the children with neglected backgrounds, orphans and less privileged, who can't afford the cost for the treatment of this serious disease. He said Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder passed down through families in which the body makes an abnormal form of hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. The disorder results in excessive destruction of red blood cells, which leads to anemia, a disorder in which patients' body doesn't have enough normal, healthy red blood cells (rbc).—APP

## Four bids to smuggle wheat, flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Thursday foiled four bids to smuggle wheat and flour besides seizing 2860 bags.

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad police confiscated four vehicles loaded with wheat and flour.

He informed that police arrested four drivers namely Anwar, Naseeb, Ashiq and Shahid for violating the ban on illegal transportation of wheat and flour.

He said that the authorities concerned had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling.—APP

## Police arrest five for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari conducted raids in different areas and netted five accused for possessing illegal weapons.

According to a police spokesman, Gungmandi, Dhamial, Chontra, Patriata and Westridge police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and rounded up Javed, Arif, Arslan, Naqash and Muhammad Abbas and recovered five 30 bore pistols and ammunition. Separate cases have been arrested against all the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi, Waseem Riaz Khan said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against lawbreakers and operations against aerial firing.—APP

## Digital solutions help rural Pakistan recover from floods

This lays a foundation for the essential supporting system for digital rural revitalization projects: rural cooperatives

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Digital solutions help rural Pakistan recover from floods. As the flash floods recede in Pakistan, the country welcomes the first smart IoT farm in Rawalpindi.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), Satellite navigation autopilot, robotic fertilizer applicator, agricultural UAV, climate and soil monitoring stations, solar-powered water pump... The deluge-ravaged land is recovering by virtue of digital solutions.

"This is just a beginning", Liu Yang Sloan, Secretary General of the Preparatory Committee, Organization

on Developing Countries Revitalization (ODER), a sponsor of the program, told CEN, adding, "Agriculture, which has an important bearing on people's livelihood, shall be our priority in helping Pakistan recover from the aftermath of the floods".

"By employing digital means in rural revitalization, we can not only empower rural revitalization, but also help local communities coordinate international assistance and investment in post-disaster reconstruction", Mr. Liu Yang Sloan explained.

The first step is macroeconomic and geospatial modeling. The population, total area, arable land area, GDP,

and the industry mix in the affected areas shall be simulated. In addition, based on GIS technology, geospatial modeling shall be carried out for the residential, agricultural and industrial areas in the affected region.

With economic and geospatial data, a blockchain database model will be constructed that describes the economic activities of a region from five dimensions: crop, livestock, aquatic, mine, and non-agricultural industries.

This lays a foundation for the essential supporting system for digital rural revitalization projects: rural cooperatives.

"After decades of attempts, Pakistan has not been able

to form a set of effective mechanisms for rural cooperatives. We found through investigation that the core reason is that local people lack confidence in obtaining ideal returns from their investment in land and human resources, and there is no real-life success story in Pakistan for them to refer to", said Mr. Liu Yang Sloan.

But in fact, local people's cooperative can be transformed into a commercial entity that is of investment value to domestic and foreign investors, so that capital from different channels can go into the disaster-stricken areas more efficiently.

According to Mr. Liu Yang Sloan, a very relevant ex-

ample for Pakistan is Liupanshui, Guizhou, a once impoverished city in southwestern China. By capitalizing on the local arable land, woodland, natural scenery, and other ecological resources, villagers as stockholders of the industrial enterprises have contributed their strength to and shared the dividends of development. In this way, over 600,000 locals were lifted out of poverty.

"For Pakistan to make better use of the aid funds and investments, locals should also be mobilized to become part of the post-construction endeavors. In addition, we will work with local mobile operators and banks to empower rural

industries and cooperatives based on digital payment systems that are already in operation. In each area, we will allocate a certain number of young people to help locals access the digital currency system.

For villagers who do not have smart phones, we will help them out. In particular, we have designed the interface for developing countries to connect to the world's mainstream central bank digital currency (CBDC).

In Pakistan's post-disaster reconstruction, crops like rice, poultry like chicken and sheep husbandry, and motorcycles are the likely scenarios for the application of CBDC", he added.



ISLAMABAD: New Ambassador of Switzerland George Steiner called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. DNA

## Thar Coal Power Plant creating jobs

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan successfully launched its third power plant with capacity of 330MW on indigenous Thar coal, the newly inaugurated coal power plant is lighting up villages, creating jobs and cutting the cost of fuel imports, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. To decrease reliance on expensive imported fuels for electricity production, the TEL power plant, under CPEC Block II completed by Hubco company in the district of Tharparkar, has been made operational and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto.

## Chinese experts' delegation reaches Pakistan

## DNA

ISLAMABAD, Oct 13 (): An 11-member delegation of Chinese experts arrived in Pakistan to share their technical knowledge and experience with the country regarding flood management analysis based on meteorological, hydrological, hydraulic, geospatial, and damages and losses datasets.

The delegation, comprising mid to senior-level experts, during its stay has been holding meetings with line departments, field experts and will conduct field surveys of flood-affected areas, according to Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

On the first day of the visit, the delegation was briefed by the Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Institute (PD&SI),

Ahsan Iqbal and officials from the National Flood Response Coordination Centre (NFRCC), NDMA, SUPARCO, and Meteorological Department at NFRCC on flood damages and the whole response to the calamity from the government and humanitarian organizations.

Mr. Iqbal welcomed the delegation from the "very dear and iron brother country China" and said that through post-disaster assessment, Pakistan will develop strategies for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the people.

"We must reconstruct and rehabilitate our infrastructure to be more resilient and more adaptable to future climate change," said Ehsan Iqbal, adding that Pakistan will get advices and guidances from the Chinese experts in building a very strong strategy to meet challenges

of climate disasters in future. "I hope cooperation between NDMA and emergency services organizations in China will be very close (to us) in the future so that we can share our experiences and learn from each other," he added.

Xu Xianbiao, from the Department of Flood Control and Drought Relief, Ministry of Emergency Management of China, said that in the wake of unforeseen catastrophic floods in Pakistan, the Chinese Government and people attached great sympathies and concern to the suffering people.

Mr. Xu Xianbiao said that the Chinese Government has dispatched a delegation to work fast and accurately with experts from Pakistan to tackle the challenges.

"By working together with Pakistani brothers and sisters,

we will make sure that our advices will be based on the national factors, conditions of the affected places and the local development situation, so that the advices could be applied in short terms," Xu Xianbiao said, adding, "We will be working together with Pakistani brothers, understanding their traditions and their habits in this mutual learning occasion". Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen Akhtar Nawaz Satti thanked the Chinese experts for their visit at this critical time of climate-induced catastrophe. "During this 10-days visit, we will be able to benefit from China's experiences and share our experiences, particularly for the situation we are dealing with," he said, adding that the visit will further strengthen cooperation between the two countries in disaster management.

## NA refers notice related to vacant seats in PIMS to standing committee

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly referred a calling attention notice to relevant standing committee which was regarding non-appointment of Professor Doctors and Associate Professor Doctors in the Pakistan Institute of Medical Science (PIMS) Islamabad against the posts lying vacant from the last many years.

Five lawmakers including MNAs Aliya Kamran (MMAP), Muhammad Anwar (MMA), Jam Abdul Karim Bijar (PPPP), Tahira Aurangzeb (PML-N), Shahnaz Saleem Malik (PML-N) sponsored this joint calling attention notice. Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro initially responded to this calling attention notice but the movers did not get satisfied with the answer. Responding to the queries of one of the movers MNA Aliya Kamran, Parliamentary Secretary said that these seats would be filled through Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) after reversal of the Medical Teaching Institute Act, 2021. She also agreed with the proposal of the mover to refer the notice to the relevant committee following which Dep-

uty Speaker Zahid Durrani referred it to committee for further deliberations. Likewise, another calling attention notice regarding charging of TV fee in electricity bills of the Mosques in the country was also referred to the relevant Standing Committee of Energy. Parliamentary Secretary for Energy (Power Division) Rana Iradat Sharif Khan said that those Mosques giving TV fee should approach WAPDA office in their relevant area and submit application to change the consumer category. At the time of applying for new electricity connection, it is essential to mention consumer category which is mostly left blank and such consumers are considered as domestic consumers. The administration of mosques should submit application to the change the category following which no TV fee would be charged from them. However, the Deputy Speaker Zahid Durrani referred the notice to the relevant committee which was sponsored by Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali (MMAP), Ahmad Hussain Deharr (PTI), Mir Khan Muhammad Jamali (PTI), Saira Bano (GDA) and Ms. Javairia Zafar Aheer (PTI).—APP

## FDE to increase number of schools in ICT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) had taken numerous steps

while many were in pipeline to increase the number of schools/colleges in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) keeping in view the major increase in population of federal capital. According to the official sources, the construction of 07 institutions is almost completed. The new schools will accommodate approximately 7480 students. However, 519 rooms are to be constructed in existing institutions in next 2 years

under the project titled "Provision of Basic Educational facilities in Educational institutions of ICT under FDE which will accommodate approximately 20760 students, the sources told APP. They said that PCI for future projects have been submitted to Federal Education Ministry for approval to increase the intake of students. The future projects were including Islamabad Model School for Girls (IMSG), (VIX) Model

Town, Chak Shehzad (FA) Islamabad. Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMSB), (IX) B-17 (Multi Garden) Islamabad and it will have the capacity of 960 students.

While, Islamabad Model School for Girls (IX) F-17 (Tele Garden) Islamabad will be established with capacity of 960 students. However, Up-Gradation of IMSB, Mohra Noor (FA) Islamabad will have the capacity of 400 students.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmed Rabel, Chairman, PAEI Khurshid Barlas and others presenting the shield to the Palestinian ambassador after the meeting. DNA

## 207 dengue patients inwards to allied hospitals

RAWALPINDI: As many as 207 patients were admitted to three hospitals in the city, out of which 103 belonged to the Rawalpindi district. District Coordinator of Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Thursday informed that 111 patients were admitted to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 69 to the Holy Family Hospital and 27 to the District Headquarters Hospital. He said out of the total admitted patients, 138 tested positive for dengue fever, while one patient was in critical condition at BBH. Dr Sajjad added that around 92 more dengue cases were reported in the district dur-

ing the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 3,438. Among the new cases, the health officer informed that 46 were reported from Potohar town urban area, 16 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, 12 from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, ten from Chaklala Cantonment, three from Potohar rural, two from Taxila Cantonment and Gujjar Khan, while one of each case arrived from Taxila city, Kahutta and Taxila rural. Giving details of the disciplinary actions, the health officer said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 2,771 FIRs, sealed 623 premises.—APP

## PR's Civil Engineering demands billions of rupees

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Civil Engineering of Pakistan Railways in a summary moved to the Ministry of Railways has demanded billion of rupees for the restoration of infrastructure damaged by massive torrential rains and floods.

The Civil Engineering Department required about Rs 53 billion to restore the signals system, as many as Rs 60 billion to fix the partial damage suffered by 33 Railway Stations in Lahore, Karachi, Multan, Sukkur, Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Quetta divisions and over Rs 6 billion to make the communication tower and other equipment functional again, sources in the Pakistan Railways told APP.

They said the signals system had also suffered massive destruction in Lahore, Karachi, Multan and Sukkur divisions due to unexpected rains and flood in most parts of the country.

The sources said for the repairing of the drainage system at 41 railway yards and their restoration, an estimate of Rs 2.23 billion was made, adding that 3,187 kilometres track of Main Line-I, II and III was completely destroyed.

Likewise, they said 1,446 railway bridges and culverts were damaged out of which two railway bridges were completely destroyed in Quetta division while one of the two bridges in Sukkur and Karachi divisions were also washed away.

The Railways official informed that a total of 1,181 railway bridges were damaged and a sum of Rs 433 billion was estimated for their restoration and the construction of 259 new ones.

Regarding the tracks, they said that due to the floods, 109.4 kilometres of tracks in Chaman, Mirpurkhas, Khokhrapar, Hyderabad, Quetta and Sialkot sections were completely destroyed. A stretch of 68.123 kilometres of tracks was partially damaged in this section, they added.—APP

## 261.36mln trees planted since April 2022

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed on Thursday that a total of 261.36 million (mln) trees have been planted in the country by the provincial/territorial forest department from April 2022 to July 2022 to enhance forest cover.

Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman during a Question Hour session told the Lower House of the Parliament that 71.69mln trees in Punjab, 93.37mln in Sindh, 87.414 mln in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 3.17mln in Balochistan, 2.73mln in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and 2.98mln in Gilgit-Baltistan were planted during the period.

Sharing progress of the present government over the main components of Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTP), she said for biodiversity conservation improvement two Ramsar Sites has been initiated in Balochistan, besides hiring 20 seasonal community Neghabans.

Similarly, 7 private breeding programs and 30 game watchers were hired for wildlife protection task-force at the province.

In Punjab, she said project staff was hired for Balloki Nature Reserve and purchase and disbursement of motorbikes to field staff to strengthen the in-situ conservation activities.—APP

## NA passes resolution to restore IIAP as SBBIA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution demanded of the government to restore Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) as Shaheed Benazir Bhutto International Airport (SBBIA). The resolution was moved by Special Assistant on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Nawabzada Ifkhar Ahmed Khan Babar stated that the previous government had changed the name of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto International Airport to Islamabad International Airport.—APP

## Partnerships for a brighter future

DESPITE the now prevalent Western narratives surrounding such controversial topics as the South China Sea and the Ukraine conflict, there should be little doubt that China is a major provider of international development assistance. While Western opponents of economic globalization are wrong, and biased, in their assessments that the increasingly globalized industry and supply chains have singularly favored China, it is impossible to overestimate how much China has benefited from globalization. That is why the Communist Party of China and government leaders tirelessly reiterate their continuous commitment to reform and economic openness, as they know that closing the country's doors to the outside world again would not be in the nation's best interests. Committed to the ideal of "building a community with a shared future for mankind" and shouldering its responsibilities as a major country, China is intent on assuming a more proactive role on the international stage, rather than returning to self-isolation. The country seeks to strengthen the integrity of the postwar system by making it fairer and inclusive. And having become rich and strong with the help of international resources, from capital to technology and management know-how, China feels the obligation to help other countries, especially developing nations, prosper by offering the same. There are numerous China-sponsored international development aid and exchange programs which the country has launched under the South-South cooperation framework and testify to the sincerity of commitment to being a major contributor to global development. While some in the West try to distort them with baseless allegations of debt traps and the pursuit of political influence, an outstanding characteristic of Chinese aid programs is that they are entirely development-oriented and are offered with no political strings attached. The most defining aspect of contemporary Chinese development aid programs has been the impetus they have provided for better global governance. While most governments are concerned about, and all development blueprints boil down to, specific cooperation projects, the Chinese leadership maintains a big picture perspective. Under the ambitious, ultimate goal of "building a community with a shared future for mankind", Beijing has put forward the Global Development Initiative, and is trying hard to align its Belt and Road Initiative as an accelerator for the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Contrary to Western criticisms, China-proposed international development initiatives promote harmony and solidarity while facilitating prosperity, making China a builder of world peace and defender of the international order.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 65

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## North Korea's missile tests

THE details vary, but the pattern is immediately recognisable: a volley of missiles, followed by chilling new rhetoric. This time, North Korean state media said the recent flurry of tests simulated strikes on South Korea and US targets with tactical nuclear weapons. It is likely to conduct a seventh nuclear test soon. Pyongyang is not about to reduce Seoul or San Francisco to a sea of ashes: the leadership is not suicidal. But its capabilities are steadily growing; and so are the risks of missteps, perhaps especially in light of its pandemic isolation. Last month, the country hardened its position with a new law enshrining its right to "automatically" use preemptive nuclear strikes to protect itself, and stressing that its nuclear status is "irreversible". The prospects for addressing the issue have rarely looked dimmer. Kim Jong-un is usually expert at grabbing attention. But Joe Biden's lies elsewhere. True, the trip to Seoul last month by the US vice-president, Kamala Harris, was his administration's third major visit this year. Recent trilateral exercises by the US, Japan and South Korea sparked the latest missile launches; the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, which took part in those drills, recently returned to waters near the peninsula. But the US is focused on war in Ukraine and the related energy and cost of living crisis, along with strategic rivalry with China and its myriad domestic problems. Pyongyang is way down the agenda. The possibility of North Korea trusting the US – always extremely low – seems nonexistent after the highs and lows of its dealings with Donald Trump, who also left the South with diminished faith in the US security guarantee. Beijing and Moscow will not support sanctions again: Mr Trump's embrace of Mr Kim saw Xi Jinping, who had previously disdained his youthful counterpart, forced to hug him closer. China now appears willing to funnel in aid with few conditions. Russia is hardly going to condemn North Korea at the UN when Pyongyang is one of its few active backers over Ukraine. In South Korea, the failure of former president Moon Jae-in's attempts at a thaw has been followed by his conservative successor Yoon Suk-yeol's "audacious initiative" of economic aid in return for abandoning the nuclear programme: widely seen as a non-starter even before Pyongyang's rebuff. The feasibility of denuclearisation, always extremely improbable, seems to have vanished, barring unforeseen and unlikely developments such as regime collapse. The regime has taken the lessons of Iraq and Libya to heart, and US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal has only reinforced its beliefs. Even arms controls talks look very distant. The North's belligerence and capabilities are one reason why Japan's prime minister says he is reshaping its security strategy. South Korea's battered confidence in the US umbrella might not withstand another Trump or Trump-like administration. Public support for an independent nuclear deterrent now stands at more than 70%. While there is so far very limited political interest, the issue is increasingly under discussion; Russian use of tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine would be a gamechanger, especially if the US response was judged inadequate.

# Universities and national politics

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

History of students' political activism is not new; there is a track of student activism in several countries around the globe from United States to EU, China, Africa and the Subcontinent. Philip G. Altbach suggests, "Student activism is generally oppositional in nature, but it was not always on the left. In the colonised nations, students were a more constant force and had a greater impact. Students are frequently not struggling for their own direct benefit but rather for idealistic causes. This may mean that they are less deeply committed to the struggle than if they were fighting for an issue that would directly affect their lives. The often idealistic nature of student movements may be both a stimulus...

UNIVERSITIES in 21st century have undoubtedly become transnational actors interplaying among strategic, social, cultural, and academic stakeholders including both state and non-state domestic and international actors. Universities have started influencing almost every segment and aspect of society while engaging relevant clusters to promote carefully designed programs. Grantsmanship, mobility programs, scholarships and collaborations have enhanced exposure and learning of academic community at one hand and increased influence of countries that extend financial support for these programs. It brings the whole new dimension to the role of universities in influencing social, economic, technological and political structure of our society in current millennium and beyond. Funding programs and universities have connected local universities, business interests, civil society actors, and government agents in recipient countries with counterparts in the Western societies facilitating the transfer of ideas, information, people, and money across borders. These transnational relations are the basis of the soft power of funding universities in beneficiary nations. Affluent countries have strategically utilized this vehicle to shape national discourses especially in developing countries to strengthen their agendas. Therefore we can't ignore recent happenings in an institution of higher learning. Uproar on Imran Khan's address in GC University Lahore, an institution with stellar academic reputation, both from opponents and proponents has opened a new aspect for us to consider that how these institutions of higher learning can contribute in shaping our societal challenges. According to James J. Duderstadt from University of Michigan, "The unique characteristic of higher education is the strong bond between the university and society. Historically, universities have been shaped by, drawn their agenda from, and been responsible to the communities that founded them. Each generation has established a social contract between the university and the society it serves. Today, an array of powerful social, economic, and technological forces is driving change in the needs of society and the institutions created to respond to those needs. In an increasingly knowledge-driven society, more and more people seek education as the hope for a better future, the key to good jobs and careers and to meaningful and fulfilling lives. The knowledge created within universities also addresses many of the most urgent needs of society, including health care,

national security, economic competitiveness, environmental protection and social & governance issues." Therefore, today it will be little unrealistic to disassociate universities from the depth of societal concerns. History of students' political activism is not new; there is a track of student activism in several countries around the globe from United States to EU, China, Africa and the Subcontinent. Philip G. Altbach suggests, "Student activism is generally oppositional in nature, but it was not always on the left. In the colonised nations, students were a more constant force and had a greater impact. Students are frequently not struggling for their own direct benefit but rather for idealistic causes. This may mean that they are less deeply committed to the struggle than if they were fighting for an issue that would directly affect their lives. The often idealistic nature of student movements may be both a stimulus and a limiting factor for sustained student activism. Student movements seldom function in a purely campus environment. They are often concerned with wider political or social issues and consciously try to influence developments beyond the university. Even when the movement is camp-focused, the impact frequently extends beyond the university." There are several successful politicians in the Country in all mainstream parties who started their political careers from student politics. Unfortunately we deliberately curbed political activities in the universities of Pakistan and deprived this capable and compassionate segment of society from contributing to the political culture of the society. This deprivation led to the vacuum depriving a generation, which is in the learning phase, to understand and adopt political norms where negotiations, exchanges, collaborations, competitiveness and considerations shape positions and preferences. Political activities for the political upbringing of educated youth have been prohibited for decades now. Some cosmetic measures have been taken to establish youth assemblies but that didn't serve the purpose. Discussions, exposure, heated debates, counter arguments and freedom available in university environment can inculcate political maturity in the youth to take that learning to their constituencies where they can serve to the politics in a much constructive manner. In the words of Adela Coman and Catalina Bonciu from Romania, "Political dynamics can be sordid and destructive. But politics can also be the vehicle for achieving noble purpose. Institutional effectiveness depends on leaders' politi-

cal skills. Constructive politicians recognize and understand political realities. They know how to fashion an agenda, map the political terrain, create a network of support and negotiate with both allies and adversaries. In the process, they encounter a practical and ethical dilemma: when to adopt an open, collaborative strategy or when to choose a tougher, more adversarial approach. They have to consider the potential for collaboration, the importance of long-term relationships and most important, their own values and ethical principles. The parties in political processes have different preferences. As they interact through negotiations, compromises and coalition formation, their original objectives change. Since the groups with which they interact are also modifying their positions." This can be conveniently learned in universities because universities are coalitions of diverse individuals and interest groups, there are continuing differences among coalition members in values, beliefs, information, interests and perceptions of reality. Therefore, instead of criticising visit of any political leader to a university we should open the doors of institutions of higher learning to the political leaders of all parties to openly interact with the educated young generation and the future of our Country for their political grooming. We should end the ban on students' unions which are available in several countries across Europe and Asia with slight differences. We need to provide opportunities to the university students to interact and raise questions on issues and policies which have lasting impact on their lives because it is them who have to take this country forward in this millennium and beyond. We should also learn from India's example of allowing university teachers to take part in the mainstream politics. According to Kritika Sharma, "The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to allow MPs and MLAs who are college or university teachers to continue teaching. They will continue to draw their salaries from their respective higher educational institutions, in addition to their wages as MPs or MLAs. When the MPs or MLAs attend legislative sessions, they will be marked present at their educational institutions as well." This kind of policy will allow participation of relevant experts and intellectuals to directly contribute to the development and uplift of the nation. - Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CU) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk Twitter: @drabdussattar

## What would a UK embassy move to Jerusalem mean for Palestine?

Jalal Abukhater

Pro-Israel groups in the UK are already lobbying for the embassy move and the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews is endorsing it. Apparently, land in West Jerusalem has also been earmarked for the embassy move. Israeli govt and its supporters have, of course, been ecstatic, as they were when Trump pledged to move the US embassy to Jerusalem in December 2017. That pledge, according to a recently published book by New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman, was lobbied for by American businessman Sheldon Adelson, who had donated some \$20m to Trump's election campaign

IT is remarkable to see how Israeli leaders cosy up to bad, unpopular, or even fascist foreign leaders, hoping to strengthen Israel's perceived standing on the global stage. In the past, we saw Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pursue close relations with the likes of the United States' Donald Trump, Hungary's Viktor Orban, and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro. Today, we see Prime Minister Yair Lapid's fascination with his "good friend" Liz Truss, the new prime minister of the United Kingdom. On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in September, Lapid thanked "his good" friend Truss for "positively considering moving the British Embassy to Jerusalem". During her Conservative leadership campaign, Truss had promised in a letter to the Conservative Friends of Israel parliamentary group to review a move to Jerusalem and now seems to indicate that she would make good on that promise. Last week, the British prime minister declared that she is "a huge Zionist" and a "huge supporter of Israel" in a speech at an event held during the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham. Pro-Israel groups in the UK are already lobbying for the embassy move and the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews is endorsing it. Apparently, land in West Jerusalem has also been earmarked for the embassy move. The Israeli government and its supporters have, of course, been ecstatic, as they were when Trump pledged to move the US embassy to Jerusalem in December 2017. That pledge, according to a recently published book by New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman, was lobbied for by American businessman Sheldon Adelson, who had donated some \$20m to Trump's election campaign. Interestingly, when Trump made the announcement, in 2017, the UK under Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May joined many other states in condemning his decision. Today, the consequences for Palestinians if the UK moves its embassy to Jerusalem are clear. This would be yet another act by a Western country that breaches international law and UN resolutions, which have repeatedly emphasised that East Jerusalem is an occupied Palestinian territory and that Israel continues to deny Palestinians their rights to their land and to self-determination. As with Trump's decision, a move by the UK in this direction would have a strong, destabilising effect on Palestinian politics. It would eat away even further at

the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority (PA) – a governing body set up specifically to oversee a "two-state solution" of the "Israeli-Palestinian conflict" as envisioned under the Oslo Accords. Recognition from countries like the US – and now likely the UK – for Israel's illegal declaration of occupied Jerusalem as its capital is making a Palestinian state – as negotiated in the accords – impossible. That would make the PA an even easier target for its political opponents and popular anger. What a UK embassy move to Jerusalem would not do is quell Palestinian resistance. The Palestinian struggle has survived decades of British and other Western support for Israel; it would survive one more illegal act violating Palestinian rights. Perhaps less obvious are the consequences this move would have for the UK. The country stands to gain nothing from breaking with its long-term position on Jerusalem and relocating, except to satisfy fringes of the Israel lobby in the UK, as well as the Israeli government. It may even lose a free trade deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council, as some Arab diplomats have warned. The move would also cement the country's position on the wrong side of history and continue its legacy of supporting colonialism in Palestine that started with the Balfour Declaration – for which we, Palestinians, are yet to get an apology. Worse still, it would normalise toxic, illiberal politics that allows small interest groups to press for political decisions that are not in the interest of the majority of British citizens. During her campaign for the Conservative leadership election, Truss was seeking favour not just from Israel lobby groups. According to recent reports, she received more than \$250,000 in donations from people linked to the finance world. Once she became prime minister, one of her first decisions was to introduce deregulation policies and tax cuts to benefit the wealthiest in the UK. These policies have been extremely unpopular. As a result, Truss's approval rating has dropped to -47, worse than her predecessor Boris Johnson had at the height of the political scandals he faced. She has been seen as a "walking disaster", her policies bringing the Conservative government "near total condemnation by expert global opinion" at a scope not seen since the British invasion of Egypt over the Suez Canal in 1956, according to one commentator. It is no surprise that the Israeli government seeks

out someone like Truss – a conservative, unpopular foreign politician – to help normalise apartheid and the decades-long occupation and illegal annexation of Palestinian territories. It is doing so in the US as well. Ahead of the November midterm elections, Israeli lobby group AIPAC has endorsed dozens of Republican congressional candidates who have questioned US President Joe Biden's win in the 2020 election, upholding Trump's claim that his victory was "stolen". It has also poured millions of dollars to undermine the campaigns of progressive members of the Democratic Party. For doing so, the lobby group has been heavily criticised by members of the US Jewish community and even accused of undermining US democracy. Recent polls show that Truss is en route to bringing the Conservative Party's worst electoral defeat in decades, as the Labour Party has gained significant support. But for us, Palestinians, a Labour government in London may not bring good news. Just as Biden's administration did not reverse Trump's embassy move and recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, there is fear that a UK government led by Starmer's Labour Party would not reverse such a damaging decision by its predecessor either. Starmer succeeded as Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a pro-Palestinian politician, who became the victim of a media witch hunt questioning his fitness for office. Starmer himself believes anti-Zionism to be anti-Semitism, and supports the IHRA definition, which conflates criticism of the Israeli state with anti-Semitism. As the British people reel from Truss's unpopular policies, a possible move of the UK embassy to Jerusalem should be another alarm bell. As the saying goes, a person is judged by the company they keep. If the British prime minister is being praised by an apartheid government, that is not good news for the UK. Israel purposefully seeks close relations with foreign leaders who defy the rule of law and undermine democracy at home and abroad. It does so because apartheid is not an easy sell on the international stage and neither are violations of international law and systematic abuses of the human rights of an occupied people. A principled political leader who upholds democratic values and serves the will of their people would not associate themselves with Israel. They would naturally stand for Palestine – for justice and freedom.

- Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Briefs

Willing to engage...

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is to revive rapid and equitable economy". He, however, said, the "onus remains on India to take a necessary steps to engage towards the result-oriented solutions". The prime minister highlighted India's unabated atrocities in Jammu and Kashmir for last seven decades, where he said, that the Kashmiris faced continued denial of their right to self-determination. He urged other countries to take notice of India's "bullet over ballot" policy as it blatantly quashed the United Nations Security Council's resolution on holding a plebiscite in Kashmir.

"India has become a threat to its minorities, neighbours and the entire region," he said. Sharif said Pakistan was "absolutely ready and willing for a discussion with Indian counterparts to promote trade and investment provided they showed the sincerity of purpose".

On Afghanistan, he said the four decades of conflict not only took a heavy toll on the country but also upon its neighbouring Pakistan. Pakistan, he said, suffered immense damage to its peace and security with serious consequences borne in shape of 80,000 casualties and billions of dollars financial losses. The prime minister expressed satisfaction that after immense sacrifices, Pakistan had now become able to control extremism and terrorism on its soil besides managing to host four million Afghan refugees.

"Prosperous and stable Afghanistan is not only in the interest of Pakistan, but also for the international community," he said. Shehbaz Sharif called for pooling resources among the regional countries to address the common challenges in the interest of peace and progress. "If we team our resources, Asia can stand with pride and achievement," he said.

"Through constructive dialogue, we can build mutual trust". He mentioned Pakistan's location offering a natural bridge among various economies of the region. In this regard, he highlighted the multi-billion dollar project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which had transformed the economic and connectivity landscape of the region. He also invited the CICA member states to consider benefiting from the trade, investment and business opportunities offered by Pakistan. On recent floods in Pakistan, the prime minister pointed out that the country was bearing the brunt of climate change despite its less than one percent carbon emissions. He thanked the countries that stepped forward in extending assistance to Pakistan to carry out the relief and rehabilitation activities in the flood-affected areas.

He also termed as encouraging the upscale \$816 million flash appeal by the United Nations launched to meet the daunting challenge of heavy losses incurred by flash floods. The prime minister expressed confidence that Pakistan was "determined and committed" to emerge stronger after the flood disaster. "Pakistan, with the support of its people and the friendly countries, will come out of this problem," he said.

Power 'fully...'

FROM PAGE 01

He said as a result of the two power lines in which the fault developed, parts of Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Quetta, and partially in Multan and Faisalabad experienced power breakdowns.

India SC...

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had made headlines - he had told a lawyer arguing for the right to wear the hijab that "you can't take it to illogical ends" and asked him whether the "right to dress will include right to undress also?" But Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, the second judge, said in his order that the high court took a wrong path by focusing on whether the hijab was an essential religious practice and that wearing it was "ultimately a matter of choice - nothing more and nothing less".

## Farewell Golf event to say goodbye to Deddy Faisal

In conclusion Mr Deddy expressed his heartiest gratitude and appreciation to the Government and particularly the people of Pakistan for their warm hospitality and genuine friendship that he forged throughout his 3 years tenure of posting here



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of Malaysia organised a Farewell Golf match in honour of its departing Acting High Commissioner, Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh at the Islamabad Club Golf Course. The golf match was joined by more than 55 golfers including the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador Suh Sangpyo of the Republic of Korea as well as other diplomats. Top professional Pakistani golfers including Mr Muhammad Munir, Mr Talib Hussein, Mr Ali Ashgar, Mr Muhammad Nazeer, Mr Zubir Satti, Mr Tariq Mahmood and

Mr Zarsheed Ahmad also graced their presence at the 18-hole match. Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh will be leaving Pakistan on 28 October 2022 after serving Islamabad for 3 years 2 months and 10 days. He arrived in Pakistan as Deputy Head of Mission on 19 August 2019.

In his remarks, Mr Deddy said that his posting in Pakistan is one that he will remember as it is filled with beautiful memories and he had made many connections with the friendly Pakistani people. Pakistan is his third diplomatic postings abroad after serving in Sudan and Canada. He will take up a new diplomatic post as the Consul General of Malaysia in Davao City, Philippines. Mr Deddy also promotes golfing in Malay-



sia as the country has more than 200 golf courses where one can enjoy round of golf surrounded by the cool hills and tea plantations or alternatively head down to the fringes of the South China Sea.

Golf resorts with beautiful beaches, spas, water sports, and shopping are available in each Malaysian golf destination. And it all occurs in a warm tropical climate tempered by year-round sea and mountain breezes. Top golf course designers like Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have all brought out the best features of the local environment whilst incorporating their own unique styles and features in the golf courses located throughout Malaysia, the nearby islands of Penang and Langkawi and further afield in Sabah and

Sarawak on the island of Borneo, he added. In conclusion Mr Deddy expressed his heartiest gratitude and appreciation to the Government and particularly the people of Pakistan for their warm hospitality and genuine friendship that he forged throughout his 3 years tenure of posting here. He also thanked the support of the Pakistan's Government for Malaysia's candidature in the recently concluded elections where Malaysia was successfully re-elected to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). He prayed that the close brotherly relationship between Malaysia and Pakistan will continue to be strengthened in years to come.

## France orders more strikers back to work as fuel shortages bite

PARIS: The French government on Thursday ordered more striking workers back to a fuel depot in northern France after talks to end a three-week strike stalled, saying petrol shortages were taking too big a toll on the economy. Motorists scrambled again to find service stations that still had stocks, though President Emmanuel Macron said in a televised address Wednesday that relief was in sight for next week. "The government is counting on talks resuming in the coming hours between management and labour representatives," the office of Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said. But in the meantime, essential workers were told to return to work Thursday at the huge TotalEnergies fuel

depot near Dunkirk, northern France, where around a dozen police were stationed outside, an AFP journalist saw. Borne's office cited a "real economic threat" for much of northern France, in particular for agriculture, fishing and industry. The CGT and FO unions leading the refineries strike have said they will fight the requisition orders in court, calling them an illegal manoeuvre against the right to labour action. "Police came to their homes and made them sign a paper ordering that they come work this afternoon from 2:00 pm until 6:00 am tomorrow," the FO official at the Dunkirk site, Clement Mortier, told AFP. The government had already requisitioned depot workers to return to the

Esox-ExonMobil refinery at Gravenchon-Port-Jerome in northern France on Wednesday. Unions are seeking pay hikes in response to steep inflation, pointing to the massive profits of energy companies as gas and oil prices have soared during Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Their strike has left 30 percent of service stations nationwide with little or no fuel, though nearly half of stations are impacted in northern France and the greater Paris region, the energy transition ministry said. On Thursday, TotalEnergies told AFP it would propose a six-percent raise for next year, below the CGT's demand for an immediate 10-percent hike, retroactive to Janu-

ary 1. "We're not going to negotiate through the media," responded Eric Selini, the CGT coordinator at the company. His union also called Thursday to extend the strike throughout the energy sector, potentially disrupting operations in the country's all-important nuclear sector. Government officials were pressing the companies to negotiate, fearing an escalation of tensions ahead of a nationwide march Sunday against inflation, organised by Macron's left-wing opponents. Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told RTL radio that given TotalEnergies' huge profits this year, it had "the capacity... and therefore an obligation" to raise workers' pay. - APP

## Pakistan squeeze past Bangladesh in tri-series

CHRISTCHURCH: Pakistan tuned up for the tri-series final against hosts New Zealand with a nerve-wracking seven-wicket win over Bangladesh on Thursday after Mohammad Nawaz secured victory with just a ball to spare. Litton Das, who brushed off an early leg strain to put in a gutsy performance, and captain Shakib Al Hasan both chalked up half centuries for Bangladesh to set Pakistan 174 to win in Christchurch. In reply, Pakistan had to work for the win as allrounder Nawaz put in a match-changing innings of 45 off 20 balls. With his side needing eight runs from the final over, Nawaz delivered by grabbing three doubles, then sealed the victory with a four squeezed between point and short third-man. Pakistan face hosts New Zealand in Friday's final while Bangladesh finish on four straight defeats in the tri-series, a warm-up event ahead of the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia. Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan was the man of the match, but he immediately paid tribute to Nawaz. "I'd like to credit Mohammad Nawaz as he made it easy in the end," said Rizwan, top-scorer with 69 runs off 56 balls. "Nawaz's innings changed the momentum. Obviously, the win gives us confidence, but New Zealand is playing at home." Bangladesh opener Das had earlier produced a gutsy display despite needing treatment for an early thigh strain. While his opening partner Najmul Hossain Shanto and Soumya Sarkar were both caught early on, Das dug in with a superb 69 off 42 balls, firing six fours and two sixes around Hagley Oval. After Das was finally caught by Mohammad Wasim, Shakib Al Hasan kept the scoreboard ticking over with 68 runs off 42 balls. In reply, Pakistan openers Rizwan and Babar Azam put on a partnership of 101. After reaching 55 runs off 40 balls, Azam was finally caught in the 12th over. Then Haider Ali immediately went for a duck, clean bowled by Hasan Mahmud. - DNA

## SL beat Pak to qualify for Asia Cup final

DHAKA: Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by one run in a last-ball thriller in the second semi-final at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium (SICS) to qualify for the final of the ACC Women's Asia Cup. The final will be played between India and Sri Lanka on Saturday, 15 October. Requiring nine runs of the last over, and with three runs required to win off the final ball, Nida Dar was run-out while attempting to take a double, as Pakistan managed to score 121 for six in their 20 overs. Chasing 123 runs to win, the opening pair of Muneeba Ali and Sidra Amin provided a solid 31-run start to the innings. The left-handed Muneeba scored 18 off 10 balls, hitting three fours, before getting herself run-out on the first ball of the fourth over. After the departure of Muneeba, captain Bismah Maroof joined Sidra and the pair added a 16-run partnership for the second wicket. Sidra (nine off 20, 1x4) got back to the hut while playing a reverse flick off Inoka Ranaweera on the last ball of the seventh over with 47 runs on the board. In the batting powerplay, Pakistan scored 46 for one, and struck six fours. Pakistan were in a spot of bother when they lost Omaira Sohail (10, 14b) in the 11th over and scoreboard reading Pakistan 65 for three. At the crucial juncture of the match, Bismah and Nida got together and the most experienced pair took Pakistan to 107, with Bismah getting dismissed for 42 off 41, studded with four fours. The pair stitched 42 runs for the fourth wicket. - DNA



LUXEMBOURG: Ambassador Asad Majeed presents his credentials to Henri, The Grand Duke of Luxembourg. HRH conveyed his deep concern & condolences over recent catastrophic floods. - DNA

## Work underway to lay astro-turfs in 5 major cities

"The Provincial governments are mainly responsible for promotion of sports in their respective provinces. National Sports Federations are autonomous bodies and responsible to carry-out their sports activities at national and international level

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to revive hockey and encourage youth towards the national game, the work was underway on laying of astro-turfs in five major cities across the country. "The government has recently laid down synthetic hockey turfs at Islamabad and Quetta. Whereas, work regarding laying of turfs in Wah Cantt, Peshawar, Abbottabad, Faisalabad and Muzaffarabad are under process, an official told APP. He said the government was also introducing new

governance system and national sports policy for the overhauling of sports structure including hockey in the country. "Government of Pakistan was committed for the promotion of sports including hockey in the country. In pursuance of this goal the federal government through Pakistan Sports Board provides administrative, technical and financial support to these games," he said. He said to the extent of hockey, the government

has taken several steps for the improvement of performance and International ranking of national team and overhaul of domestic hockey structure. "The Government has provided Rs. 9 million to Hockey Federation as Annual Grant during the last five years. The Government has also released an amount of Rs. 3.5 million and under the PM directive 7.3 million to PHF as a Special Grant," he said. He said an amount of Rs.

5.5 million was released to Pakistan Hockey federation for training cum competitions. "Pakistan Sports Board also established National Hockey Training Camps and incurred around Rs. 7 million. Service of Foreign Coach for the period 21-11-2021 to 30-04-2022 (05 months & 10 days) amounting to US\$42,667 is also being provided," he said. However, he said that the subject of sports was devolved after the 18th consti-

tutional amendment and the role of Federal Government has become limited. "The Provincial governments are mainly responsible for promotion of sports in their respective provinces. National Sports Federations are autonomous bodies and responsible to carry-out their sports activities at national and international level. He said the federal government extends its technical and financial support through National Sports

Federations. "To the extent of providing sports infrastructure, the Federal government has completed two projects including laying of synthetic Hockey Turf and construction of Boxing Gymnasium at Quetta, Balochistan. "Similarly, a project to rehabilitate and upgrade existing facilities of PSB, Coaching Center at Quetta having estimated a cost of Rs 379.311 million has been included in the current year PSDP," he said.

Whoever gives NRO to thieves is a 'traitor'

FROM PAGE 01

their country," Khan said while addressing a public rally in Mardan. In his jalsa address, Khan called out the people who were having cases registered against him and said that he would "not back down".

The PTI chairman also chided the institutions, blaming them for torturing his chief of staff Shahbaz Gill and party leader Azam Swati.

"If you think that you will be respected by torturing people, then you are mistaken," Khan said while berating the institutions. He asked them to be "embarrassed" by their actions.

Gill was recently released on bail in a seditious case after he was behind bars for nearly a month, while Swati was arrested earlier in the day and sent on physical remand for his alleged "controversial tweets".

In an apparent reference to the institutions, the PTI chairman said that God hasn't given the luxury to remain "neutral" when it comes to deciding between the right and wrong paths.

"Ask your children about Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari. These two families have looted the country for the last 30 years," the PTI chairman said.

Khan alleged PPP and PML-N's top brass is in politics to launder money out of the country and that movies have been filmed on their corrupt practices.

Slamming PML-N supremo Nawaz, Khan asked that since he has been seeking bail every now and then as several cases are being lodged against him, should he also leave the country.

"Had Imran Khan been a corrupt person like Nawaz Sharif, he would have left the country the first chance he got," Khan said, adding that the PML-N leaders have four "huge palaces in London".

Khan alleged that Nawaz and company are in politics to misuse their powers and that after coming into power, the PML-N supremo set up 17 factories.

"On the contrary, look at my record. I haven't misused my power even once during my tenure of 3.5 years," he said.

While showing the audio clips of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders including Maryam Nawaz, Shehbaz Sharif and Hussain Nawaz, Imran Khan said that these are a cabal of thieves and it was the main reason why they had fled the country. "I am not a corrupt person, that is why I took stand against them and did not run away," he said. He further added that without establishing the State of Medina, the country could not progress and gain enlightenment.

"We have to follow the path laid by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), so that we can wipe out the corruption in our country," he informed.

The PTI chairman went on to say one of the biggest reason for the poverty in the country is that the rulers have plundered country's wealth and asked the people to vote for Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari if they [people] think they [Nawaz and Zardari] are honest.

Imran Khan granted bail

FROM PAGE 01

on the bail petition of Imran Khan. PTI's lawyer Babar Awan contended that more than two dozen accused had already been granted bail. "It is requested that Imran Khan's bail should be approved," he pleaded.

The prosecutor opposed grant of bail to Imran Khan, and he stated that there was a seditious clause in the case against Imran Khan in which the bail was not possible.

"Imran Khan has not yet joined investigation," he added. "On what basis was the seditious clause included in the case against Imran Khan?" the judge inquired. "Imran Khan is accused of inciting people," the prosecutor replied. "Alright! But why was the seditious clause included?" he inquired again.

## Briefs

## Spanish PM announces further €3 bln to reduce bills

DNA

OVIEDO: The Spanish prime minister on Thursday announced an additional €3 billion (\$2.9 billion) in government aid to reduce household energy bills. Speaking in the Spanish parliament, Pedro Sanchez said the benefits will reach around 40% of households. Although Spain is less dependent on Russian energy than other EU countries and has implemented a price cap on gas, the average consumer electricity prices have shot up around 60% over the last year, according to Eurostat. Russia has drastically cut gas supplies to Europe in response to tough sanctions for its "special military operation" in Ukraine, resulting in skyrocketing prices. The government's new measures aim to reduce consumers' exposure to volatile prices and provide extra support for vulnerable households. For instance, 1.3 million households who qualify for social assistance will receive between 65% and 80% discounts on their electricity bills. More households will also qualify for discounts of up to 40%.

## KSA denies 'political motives' behind oil production cut

DNA

RIYADH: Facing a backlash from the US, Saudi Arabia on Wednesday denied accusations that political motives were behind the decision by oil producer group OPEC+ to cut production by 2 million barrels a day. "Saudi Arabia does not politicize oil. We don't see oil as a weapon. We see oil as our commodity. Our objective is to bring stability to the oil market," Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir told news channel CNN. He added that the decision was purely economic "to maintain stability in the oil markets." "Saudi Arabia is taking the side of trying to ensure the stability of the oil markets," al-Jubeir said, adding it is not siding with Russia on this issue. On Tuesday, US President Joe Biden warned Saudi Arabia that it will face consequences from the oil production cut, adding that Washington will "rethink" its relationship with Riyadh. "There's going to be some consequences for what they've done with Russia," Biden said in an interview with CNN. His remarks came after an Oct. 5 decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Russia, also known as OPEC+, to cut production by 2 million barrels a day starting in November.

## Russia summons Danish, German, Swedish envoys

MOSCOW: The Russian Foreign Ministry on Thursday summoned the ambassadors of Denmark, Germany, and Sweden to convey a protest of an investigation of last month's leaks from the Nord Stream gas pipelines. On its website, the ministry said the absence of an official response to the request of Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin about including Russian specialists in the investigation "provokes perplexity." "In case of refusal of admission of Russian experts to the ongoing investigative actions, Moscow will proceed from the fact that these countries have something to hide, or they cover up the perpetrators of these terrorist acts," it said. "Russia, of course, will not recognize any 'pseudo-results' of such an investigation if Russian specialists do not participate in it," it added. On Sept. 26, there were leaks on the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipelines caused - as preliminary results of a Sweden-Denmark investigation showed - by a series of explosions believed to have been caused by intentional sabotage. - DNA



ASTANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev followed by delegation-level talks on the sidelines of 6th CICA Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. - DNA

## West to give powerful response if nuclear weapons are used

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on October 6 that Washington and other Western capitals may be interested in escalating the situation around the use of nuclear weapons in order to subsequently blame Moscow

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: The West will give a powerful response to Russia's allegedly possible use of nuclear weapons against Ukraine, but that response won't be nuclear, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said on Thursday. "It has to be clear that any nuclear attack against Ukraine will create an answer. Not a nuclear answer, but such a powerful answer from the military side that the Russian army would be annihilated," he said in a speech at the European Diplomatic Academy in Bruges. Borrell brought up the statement by Russian President Vladimir Putin that Russia wasn't bluffing when saying it would use all means at its disposal to defend its territory.

## Russia not shying for contact with US

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Moscow is not rejecting any contacts with Washington, but nobody has offered any sensible initiatives so far, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Thursday. "All these talks that someone is willing to meet us or someone is reluctant to meet us - they [the US] seem to be convincing themselves. We are not imploring anyone. We have never turned down a sin-

gle serious, sane proposal on holding contacts. No one is offering any sane initiatives," Lavrov told Pavel Zarusin's "Moscow. Kremlin. Putin" program on Rossiya-24 television. Asked whether US President Joe Biden's reluctance to hold talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin could complicate things globally, Lavrov said: "Not at all, because the situation, primarily in the United States itself, has gotten to the point where, in my opinion, it just can't get any worse."

The EU foreign policy chief said Western countries also aren't bluffing when they warn about the consequences in the event that nuclear arms are used in Ukraine. He said the world needs the conflict to stop. Borrell said the EU "should continue supporting Ukraine and we have to continue looking for diplomatic solutions when possible. At the time being there are not." Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on October 6 that Washington and other Western capitals may be interested in escalating the situation around the use of nuclear weapons in order to subsequently blame Moscow. According to the diplomat, that's part of Washington's destructive policy to ensure global dominance, without regard to the danger of provoking a direct armed clash of the largest nuclear powers, which is fraught with catastrophic consequences.

## 7M people await hospital treatment in England

LONDON: The backlog of people waiting for routine hospital treatment in England has reached 7 million, a new record high, the National Health Service England said Thursday. The figures as of the end of August show a rise of 3% from 6.8 million recorded at the end of this July. The new record came as the country is struggling to deal with a backlog at hospitals caused by long lockdowns that delayed many hospital treatments in 2020 and 2021. Health Secretary Theresia Coffey recently said the NHS backlog will be cut by clearing thousands of people "who don't need clinically to be in hospital" from hospital beds. She said her priorities for improving the NHS will be based on her "ABCD" plan, unpacking the acronym as "ambulances, backlog, care, doctors and dentists," but gave no further details of the plan. The ambulance waiting times in the country is also sliding from an 18-minute waiting time as heart attack and stroke patients now wait an average of an hour for an ambulance, according to reports. The average emergency treatment waiting time has also fluctuated across England. The number of those waiting more than 12 hours in A&E departments in England this September hit 32,776 people. - APP

## UK to send advanced missiles to Ukraine

LONDON: Britain will supply Ukraine with Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (Amraam) rockets that will allow them to shoot down Russian cruise missiles, the British defense secretary said on Thursday. The Amraam missiles are to be used with a US-ground-launch system. Russia recently launched a series of intense missile strikes across Ukraine after the Kersch bridge, which links Russia to Crimea, was blown up. In a statement, Ben Wallace said: "Russia's latest indiscriminate strikes on civilian areas in Ukraine warrant further support to those seeking to defend their nation. So today I have authorised the supply of Amraam anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine." Hundreds more air defense missiles and aerial drones will also be sent as part of the package. "These weapons will help Ukraine defend its skies from attacks and strengthen their overall missile defence," Wallace said. - APP

## Turkiye neutralizes 4 PKK terrorists in northern Iraq

ANKARA: Turkish security forces "neutralized" four PKK terrorists in northern Iraq, the National Defense Ministry said on Thursday. The terrorists were targeted in the Operation Claw-Lock zone, the ministry said in a statement. Turkish forces use the term "neutralize" to indicate the terrorist in question either surrendered or was killed or captured. The ministry added that the action represents "revenge" for a Turkish soldier killed by the terrorist PKK. Türkiye launched Operation Claw-Lock in April to target the PKK terror organization's hideouts in northern Iraq's Metina, Zap, and Avasin-Basyan regions near the Turkish border. It was preceded by Operations Claw-Tiger and Claw-Eagle launched in 2020 to root out terrorists hiding out in northern Iraq and plotting cross-border attacks in Türkiye. On Oct. 12, Turkish soldier Ibrahim Han was injured by a handmade explosive planted by PKK terrorists in the Operation Claw-Lock zone in northern Iraq. He later died in hospital. The National Defense Ministry conveyed condolences to the soldier's family, the Turkish Armed Forces, and the Turkish people. In its more than 35-year terror campaign against Türkiye, the PKK - listed as a terrorist organization by Türkiye, the US, and EU - has been responsible for the deaths of more than 40,000 people, including women, children, and infants. - APP



ASTANA: PM Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on the sidelines of the 6th CICA Summit. - DNA

## EU Commission recommends Bosnia be granted EU candidacy status

FOREIGN DESK

BELGRADE: The European Commission has recommended that candidate status be granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU's enlargement chief said Wednesday. Addressing the European Parliament, Oliver Varhelyi, the European commissioner for neighborhood and enlargement, unveiled the bloc's 2022 Enlargement Package. Varhelyi said the Balkan country has taken a number of steps to be granted candidate status. "Commission also underlines that the European Council called on the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to urgently finalize the pending constitutional and electoral reforms," Varhelyi noted. "The candidate status is an offer from Europe to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are doing this for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina but it also comes with high expectations," he added. Following the October general elections, "we expect the legislators and governments at state entity and cantonal levels to be swiftly set up in order to focus on EU reforms," said Varhelyi, adding that European Council will make the final decision "possibly in December." "The Commission stands ready to step up in support and to be a reliable partner along this road," Sefik Dzaferovic, the current chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, described the decision as a "positive" move. "It's particularly important that the Report recognizes that, in relation to Ukraine and other issues, Bosnia Herzegovina has aligned itself with the EU's foreign policy, which was an important factor in obtaining this recommendation," said Dzaferovic. Milorad Dodik, the Serb member of the presidency, said that he sees the recommendation as an "end of international interventionism" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "I believe that this is the end of international interventionism in Bosnia and Herzegovina and I believe that the candidate status is also linked with the abolition of the function of the High Representative," said Dodik. Bosnia's High Representative Christian Schmidt said that the commission's recommendation reaffirms the commitment of the EU to integration perspectives of the Western Balkans, and in particular Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## 'Shelf-life of a lettuce': Truss's nightmare

LONDON: British Prime Minister Liz Truss has had the shortest of political honeymoons since taking over from Boris Johnson. Taking over the 10 days of mourning for Queen Elizabeth II, Truss had only a week in control of events before her political programme imploded. "That is the shelf-life of a lettuce," The Economist magazine commented this week. - July 7 - Johnson announces his resignation after months of scandal, starting a leadership race in the ruling Conservative party. After five rounds of voting by Tory MPs, Truss scrapes into the final run-off against frontrunner Rishi Sunak. The pair take their case to grassroots members, where Truss's hardline, right-wing platform proves more popular. - September 5 - Truss wins the Tory members' vote by 81,326, against 60,399 for Sunak. As the new leader of the largest party in parliament, that makes her prime minister - with support from less than 0.2 percent of the UK electorate and only a minority of her own MPs. The next day, she is confirmed as prime minister by the queen. Despite her weak mandate, Truss purges all Sunak supporters from her new cabinet, and installs the like-minded Kwasi Kwarteng as chancellor of the exchequer. - September 8 - Truss unveils a costly scheme to cap household energy bills, in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But the dramatic announcement is eclipsed by the queen's death, which suspends all government business for 10 days. Truss joins King Charles III on a UK-wide tour, denying she is seeking to make political capital out of the mourning period.

- September 23 - Kwarteng announces a "mini-budget" which details the price of the energy scheme - £60 billion (\$67 billion) over the next six months. But there are no measures to raise funds. Instead, he announces massive new borrowing to pay for sweeping tax cuts - including for top-earners - along with scrapping a cap on bankers' bonuses. The announcement immediately draws political fire for being unfair. But the markets reserve the most stinging verdict in response to the new borrowing - driving the pound down towards parity against the dollar. Two



days later, a Sunday, Kwarteng vows "more to come" on tax cuts. The next day, when markets reopen, the pound plumbs new depths. The budget is dubbed "Kwasi-Kwasi" by media, which begin reporting tensions between Kwarteng and Truss, and deep disquiet among Tory MPs including cabinet ministers. - September 28 - With bond market turmoil placing British pension funds in jeopardy, the Bank of England announces a two-week programme to buy long-term UK bonds, capped initially at £65 billion, "to restore orderly market conditions". - September 29 - Pollsters YouGov report a 33-point lead for the opposition Labour party over the Tories - its biggest margin since the heyday of former Labour prime minister Tony Blair in the late 1990s. Other polls also point to electoral disaster for the Conservatives. But hours before his keynote speech at the party's annual conference at the start of October, Kwarteng vows to "stay the course". - October 3 - Kwarteng and Truss are forced into a humiliating U-turn as civil war engulfs the conference, scrapping the planned cut in the top rate of income tax following hurried late-night talks. In her own conference speech on October 5, Truss vows to pursue her "growth, growth, growth" agenda but fails to assure party rebels and nervous markets. UK government bond yields keep rising, inflicting more pain for UK households as mortgage rates surge.

**Briefs**

**Italy parliament in rocky step towards new govt**

ROME: Italy's parliament met for the first time Thursday since the far-right won elections last month, a rocky first step in the process of forming a government, with tensions running high. Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy party, which has neo-fascist roots, secured a historic 26 percent of the vote in September 25 polls. But she can only form a government with her fractious allies, Matteo Salvini, head of the far-right League, and former premier Silvio Berlusconi, founder of right-wing Forza Italia. The three leaders have been tussling over the formation of a cabinet able to manage the myriad of challenges facing the eurozone's third-largest economy, notably soaring inflation and an energy crisis linked to the war in Ukraine. Tempers frayed as members of the Senate and lower house voted for new speakers, who will play a key role in consultations on the creation of the next government. "We are ready, don't worry," Meloni told journalists ahead of the secret ballots, widely seen as a test of the right-wing parties' ability to cooperate. But the Stampa daily said the right was in "chaos", with Salvini and Berlusconi, whose parties secured nine and eight percent of the vote respectively, demanding their picks of key cabinet posts. A visibly frustrated Berlusconi was seen slamming his desk in anger at his seat in the Senate. The 86-year-old billionaire media mogul, re-elected nine years after being expelled from the Senate for tax fraud, was eventually persuaded to cast his ballot. The rest of his party, bar one, abstained. - APP

**Ukraine restores power supplies**

KYIV: Ukraine said Thursday it had reset its power grid after mass Russian strikes on energy facilities as Turkey held back on an expected offer to mediate talks between Moscow and Kyiv. And in a sign that Ukraine's counter-offensive was advancing in the south, the Moscow-installed head of the Kherson region under Russia's control asked Moscow for help to evacuate civilians from the area. Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan defended Ankara's booming trading ties with Moscow during an in-person meeting with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a summit of regional leaders in Kazakhstan. But Erdogan did not deliver an offer to mediate negotiations between Moscow and Kyiv - expected by the Kremlin - and comments between the leaders made no mention of Ukraine and focussed instead on economic ties. Putin during the meeting proposed to create a "gas hub" in Turkey as Russia's supplies to Europe have been disrupted by Ukraine-related sanctions. - APP

**Pak needs sustained support to overcome flood crisis**

The NDMA Chairman said that we are strategizing to drain out the stagnant flood water from affected areas as it is the major cause of diseases spread

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: Ensuring the Government's commitment and full support towards rehabilitation of flood affected communities, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said "Government is moving all available resources to get out of this natural crisis caused by the devastating floods and for this purpose we desperately need sustained and regular support of all kinds from the international community". These thoughts were expressed during a meeting with a delegation of international humanitarian organization Save the Children (SCI) here on Thursday. The delegation comprised Country Director SCI M. Khurram Gondal and Global Humanitarian Director, SCI Gabriella Waajman and Usman Aslam, Director Policy, Advocacy & Communications. The delegation also held separate meetings with Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz Satti in Islamabad. Purpose of these meetings was to further strengthen collaboration in the government's efforts towards protecting flood affected population especially children from water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, eye infection, skin problems and their rehabilitation along with resolving nutritional issues of children, lactating mothers and expecting women including taking measures to prevent climate induced disasters such as the recent mega-floods. During their meeting with the NDMA Chairman, the SCI



delegation briefed him about the sustained support as well as projects their organization has launched for the rehabilitation of affected population especially children. The NDMA Chairman said that we are strategizing to drain out the stagnant flood water from affected areas as it is the major cause of diseases spread. He also said that other projects like nutritional issues of pregnant and lactating mothers, building resilient communities, recovery of agriculture and farming and ensuring long-term psycho social support of children are at different stages of execution. Country Director SCI M. Khurram Gondal assured his support and said that SCI has

established temporary learning centres (TLCs), Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and rural health centres in various flood-hit districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan. He also informed that SCI is collaborating with the Sindh government to establish over 600 TLCs in most affected districts of Dadu, Sanghar, Shikarpur and Khairpur to promote education and provide most critical psycho-social support to the affected children, so that children could be children again. Meanwhile, the SCI delegation called on Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman. On the occasion, Global Humanitarian Director SCI assured Save the Children's

support & collaboration in addressing the climate related issues faced by Pakistan to prevent disasters such as the recent flood which has caused havoc. SCI has already initiated response in flood affected Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. It is expanding operations to address the immediate survival needs in the worst-hit districts to minimize the adverse effects of flooding on health, food & security, and nutrition of children, women, and their families. Global Humanitarian Director said that Save the Children has so far reached out to over 69,000+ people, including 36,000 children through the life-saving activities under the flood response 2022.

**'Hopefully long march call after Sunday'**

DNA  
RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chairman Sheikh Rasheed said that hopefully Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan will give the call for long march after Sunday. In a tweet on Thursday, he said that the rulers had dug its political grave by quashing the cases against them. "Revenge takes birth when justice dies. The acquittal of the Sharif family in the confirmed cases will provide a fuel to the call of Imran Khan," he added. Sheikh Rasheed said that the biggest daocit is the biggest ruler. "The law is only for the poor. Justice is ashamed before the money laundering of the Sharif family," he maintained.

**Military bus blast in Syria kills 18 soldiers**

DNA  
DAMASCUS: A bomb exploded on a military bus near Damascus, killing at least 18 soldiers and wounding 27 others, Syrian state media has reported. "A military bus in Damascus countryside was targeted this morning by a terrorist detonation with an explosive device that was planted in advance," state news agency SANA cited a military source as saying. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said the blast occurred on Thursday in the al-Saboura area in the countryside of Damascus, on a highway leading to the Lebanese capital, Beirut. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, and no comment from Syrian authorities. It was one of a series of attacks in recent months against Syrian troops not on an active front line. In June, a bus attack claimed by the ISIL (ISIS) armed group killed 13 soldiers in the northern province of Raqqa. In May, a rocket attack on a military bus killed 10 soldiers and wounded nine more in northwest Syria. Syrian authorities previously have blamed such attacks on ISIL, which has been active in southern and central Syria, despite losing territorial control in the country since 2019.



ASTANA: Yerzhan Kistafin, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan along with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Kazakhstan Yerulan Zhamaubayev sees off Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

**SC seeks report regarding flood relief in Sindh**

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought details from the Sindh government about relief activities for the flood victims in the province. The three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, which heard the case, also sought replies from the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) into the matter. During the hearing, the CJP remarked that the flood was not an issue of administrative powers but that of the fundamental rights of people. The Sindh High Court had issued orders in the public interest, he added. The chief justice said the court would not interfere into the relief work, but the Sindh government would have to satisfy it the flood affectees were getting relief. The Advocate General Sindh told the court that civic committees had been formed to monitor the relief activities. He prayed the court to grant one week time to submit the details. Faisal Siddiqui, the lawyer of flood victims, adopted the stance that the people were dying in the flood-hit areas, but still a week time was being sought even in the age of technology. - DNA

**Iran top judge orders harsh sentences for 'main riot elements'**

"I have instructed our judges to avoid showing unnecessary sympathy to main elements of these riots and issue tough sentences for them while separating the less guilty people"  
TEHRAN: Iran's judiciary chief has ordered judges to issue harsh sentences for the "main elements of riots" as protests continue over the death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman who died in custody nearly a month ago, "I have instructed our judges to avoid showing unnecessary sympathy to main elements of these riots and issue tough sentences for them while separating the less guilty people," the Iranian semi-official Students News Agency quoted Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei as saying on Thursday. Mohseni-Ejei had previously ordered courts across the country to fast-track the cases of those arrested. The protests started in mid-September after Amini, 22, died while in the custody of Iran's so-called "morality police" for an alleged breach of the country's strict dress code for women. A report last week by the medical examiner's office did not specifically mention the cause of Amini's death but said she had a brain tumour operated on when she was eight, and no blows were dealt to her head or other organs. Amini's family have refuted the authorities' account that she was not beaten, and has also questioned the validity of the coroner's report. Her death triggered the biggest protests in Iran since 2019 when a surprise move to ration fuel and raise prices sparked unrest. Last week, Majid Mirahmadi, deputy for security and police affairs at the interior ministry, had warned that "anyone who is arrested at the scene of the riots will not be freed under any circumstances until the time of their trial, which will be held quickly and will issue assertive and deterring sentences". - DNA

**Pakistan's forex reserves decline for third week in row**

STAFF REPORT  
KARACHI: Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) continued to fall for the third week in a row, declining by 3.83%. On October 7, the foreign currency reserves held by the SBP were recorded at \$7,596.9 million, down \$303 million compared with \$7,899.8 on September 30, data released by SBP showed on Thursday. Overall liquid foreign currency reserves held by the country, including net reserves held by banks other than the SBP, stood at \$13,246.8 million. Net reserves held by banks amounted to \$5,649.9 million. The central bank cited external debt repayment, including interest payments on Eurobonds and repayment of a commercial loan, as a major reason behind the decline. With the current foreign exchange reserves position, Pa-

**EU sees highest number of irregular crossings**

WARSAW: The number of irregular crossings into the European Union rose 70 percent in the first nine months of 2022 to its highest level since 2016, the EU's border agency said Thursday. The Frontex agency said a total of 228,240 entries were detected, including 106,396 through the Balkans, a 170-percent increase from the same period in 2021. "The high number of illegal border crossings can be attributed to repeated crossing attempts by migrants already present in the Western Balkans," Frontex said in a statement. The second highest number was for the Central Mediterranean route, where 65,572 entries were detected - a 42-percent rise from the first nine months of last year. - APP

**Governor in Russian-annexed region calls for evacuation**

KYIV: The Russian-appointed governor of Ukraine's southern Kherson region has called on residents to evacuate as Ukrainian forces continue to advance in the region. Vladimir Saldo also made a public appeal for Moscow to help transport fleeing civilians to Russia. "We suggested to all people of the Kherson region to, if they wish, leave to other regions to protect themselves from missile hits," he said on Telegram. "In addressing the leadership of the country (Russia), I ask you to help organize this work." Kherson was among the first regions to be captured by Russian forces after Moscow began its invasion of Ukraine on February 24. It is also one of four regions that Russia annexed this month in

a move deemed illegal by Kyiv and the West. The appeal appears to be an indication that a Ukrainian counteroffensive is continuing to advance in the region. Here is more news concerning Russia's war on Ukraine from Thursday, October 13: Iranian-made "kamikaze" drones hit regions around the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, early on Thursday morning, the regional governor, Oleksiy Kuleba, said. The deputy head of the presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said on Telegram that "critical infrastructure facilities" in the area had been hit. Later reports said the attacks took place the small town of Makariv, about 55 km (34 miles) west of the capital. No casualties were reported. Kyiv had

largely been spared attacks in recent months until Russian forces launched massive missile strikes on Monday against civilian sites across the country. Since then, air raid sirens have sounded every day in the region. Russian forces also "massively shelled" the southern city of Mykolaiv overnight, according to its mayor. "A five-story residential building was hit, the two upper floors were completely destroyed, the rest - under rubble. Rescuers are working on the site," Oleksandr Sienkovich said in a statement on social media. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties. The port city has suffered heavy bombardment throughout Russia's invasion. - Agencies

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**Islamabad POST**  
11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165