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Vladimir Putin says no plan yet for further mobilization

Detailed News On Page-08

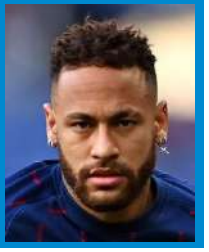
The PML-N rubbishes PTI claims of 'deal'

Detailed News On Page-01



Neymar faces five year jail term request

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Briefs

Resolving Kashmir issue vital

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar says resolution of all outstanding issues between Pakistan and India, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir, is vital for the development and progress of South Asia. Responding to a question during his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Friday, he said the Jammu and Kashmir issue is a major impediment in the way of normalization and friendly relations between Pakistan and India as well as for the development of the people of this region. The Spokesperson said Pakistan has consistently been advocating the need for addressing the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. He said Pakistan genuinely believes that the resolution of this longstanding issue is in the best interest of both the countries and the people of Kashmir.

LHC suspends Rana's arrest warrant

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court's (LHC) Rawalpindi bench on Friday suspended Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's arrest warrant in an inquiry related to the purchase of plots in a housing society at a "throw-away price". Last week, the court of Special Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Akbar had issued an arrest warrant for Sanaullah. According to Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister for Anti-Corruption retired Brigadier Musaddiq Abbasi, Sanaullah had taken two plots as a "bribe" from an "illegal housing society" — the Bismillah Housing Scheme — in Chakwal district. Taking up a petition filed by Sanaullah's lawyer against the warrant today, Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan stopped the Punjab ACE from arresting the minister and raiding his house.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.
— Editor

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Pak wants to deepen ties with UK: PM

Lord Ahmad announces an additional £10 million in relief assistance for Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif stressing the historic nature of Pakistan-UK relationship, Friday reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further deepen co-operation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, security, defence, culture and people-to-people linkages. He was talking to British Minister of State for South Asia & Commonwealth (FCDO) Lord Tariq Ahmad, who called on him here. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of trade and investment cooperation between two countries, noting that bilateral trade had reached £3.1 billion. He made special reference to the positive role played by the 1.6 million Pakistani diaspora in forging closer bonds between the peoples of both countries, a press release issued by the PM Media Wing here said. Lord Ahmad expressed condolences on behalf of His Majesty's Government on the loss of human lives due to the recent floods in Pakistan. The Prime Minister thanked him for the United Kingdom's support towards flood relief efforts in Pakistan. He highlighted that Pakistan, despite contributing less than 1 percent of global carbon emissions, remains one of the most affected countries from climate change. Lord Ahmad

China always stood by Pak: PM Shehbaz

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says China has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times and extended support both at the internal and external fronts. He was talking to a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas headed by its President Zhang Guoliang. The Prime Minister said China has helped Pakistan a lot to cope with the disaster caused by recent floods and to rehabilitate the flood victims. He said Pakistan-China friendship is unparalleled. On the occasion, the Chinese delegation presented a cheque of significant amount for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people.

informed the Prime Minister that British public and Pakistani diaspora were greatly

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PML-N rubbishes PTI claims of 'deal'

Defence Minister says elections will be held on time; slams Aitzaz Ahsan for anti-army remarks



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has hit back at PPP leader Aitzaz Ahsan over his controversial remarks against PML-N leaders in which he claimed that the recent acquittal of the Sharif family members, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was a result of a deal with the establishment. He said this while addressing a news conference along with other federal ministers including Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb and Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad on Friday. Asif said PML-N leaders Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz and the prime minister were acquitted by the courts on merit,

not due to any "deal". PPP leader Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan earlier this week claimed that the establishment "rescued" the Sharif family in corruption cases. He added that graft cases against PM Shehbaz, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz were "open-and-shut". Responding to his allegations, Asif said the PML-N leaders have always respected the Constitution and courts and the recent court verdicts have proven their innocence. "We have proved from our words and actions that we don't want to violate the Constitution and the verdicts have been announced by the courts on merit," he added.

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ISLAMABAD: A delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas presents a cheque for PM flood relief fund. — DNA

PM, COAS discuss security situation

Both meet in private before formal meeting

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held an important meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Islamabad on Friday, after which a high-level meeting was also held regarding national security. According to the information received from Prime Minister House, a high-level meeting was held regarding national security under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz, in which senior military officials including army chief General Bajwa also participated. In the meeting, important issues related to the security of the country were deliberated upon, while the situation in Swat and the concerns of the local people were also discussed in detail. Before the meeting, the army chief held a separate meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz, in which the security situation of the country was discussed.

At least 3 killed, 5 injured in Mastung blast

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: At least three people were killed and five injured when their vehicle was hit by a landmine blast in Balochistan's Mastung district on Friday, according to an official. Assistant Commissioner Dasht Fareeda Tareen told Dawn.com, that the blast targeted people who were

Continued on Page 06

Imran demands end to 'reign of robbers' in Sindh

Khan urges Karachi's youth to come forward and partake in politics

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: In a veiled dig at Sindh's ruling party PPP, PTI Chairman Imran Khan said Friday that the reign of "dacoits" in the province should come to an end. Khan's remarks came during his visit to Karachi as he rallies his party workers for the anti-government "Azadi March", for which the date is yet to be announced. In a recent gathering, the PTI chairman told his workers to be ready as he could give the call for the march "at any time". In his address, the PTI chairman said that in the next general elections, his party would form governments in Sindh and the Centre. "Sindh's resources are stolen, and they are siphoned out of the country," the PTI chairman said. Khan urged Karachi's youth to come forward and partake in politics as political movements in the early days would begin from the metropolis. "Had there not been violence in Karachi, it would have progressed more than Dubai," Khan said as he vowed that now, things would change for the port city as "no power" could stop his party from getting its mayor elected in the upcoming local body elections. "After the local body elections, we will also emerge

Continued on Page 06

PTI demands PEMRA action against Rana

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has approached Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to lodge a complaint against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah over his objectionable remarks against Imran Khan. PTI central leader Iftikhar Durrani wrote a letter to PEMRA in which he stated that Rana Sanaullah delivered objectionable remarks against Imran Khan during a TV show aired by a private news channel on October 13. Iftikhar Durrani said in his letter that Sanaullah used abusive and condemnable language from the beginning of the TV show. He said that PEMRA regulations do not tolerate the use of shameful words in the national media. He added that the TV show host has

Continued on Page 06

Multiple rotting corpses found on Hospital's roof

BUREAU REPORT

MULTAN: Multiple unidentified and decomposing bodies were found on the roof of Nishtar Hospital's mortuary in Multan on Friday after which the government decided to probe the incident. The Punjab government formed a six-member committee to investigate the incident after the bodies were discovered and videos and pictures were shared on the internet. Moreover, Nishtar Medical University's vice-chancellor has also formed a

three-member committee for an inquiry into the incident. A letter dated October 13, 2022, was also sent to the medical superintendent of the hospital, asking for a detailed inquiry report within three days. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Perviz Elahi has taken notice of the abandoned bodies and sought a report from the Punjab specialised healthcare and medical education secretary. The Punjab CM said an inhumane act has been committed by throwing these bodies on the roof and that strict disciplinary action should be taken against the responsible staff.

GSP+ helps increase EU-Pak trade to €12.2 bn

Pakistan and the EU discussed civil and political rights, the rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups and freedom of religion or belief, including concerns about anti-Muslim hatred

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The European Union and Pakistan, emphasizing on the importance of bilateral trade relations, have noted that the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) had resulted in an increase in bilateral trade to EUR 12.2 billion in 2021. This was noted during the 12th European Union (EU) - Pakistan Joint Commission held in Islamabad on October 5 to exchange views on all areas of cooperation between the EU and Pakistan, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday said. The Joint Commission was co-chaired by Gunnar Wiegand, Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific in the European External Action Service, and Muhammad Humair Karim, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs. Representatives of the relevant ministries of the Government of Pakistan as well as of the European Commission, the Euro-

pean External Action Service, the Ambassador of the EU to Pakistan, Pakistan's Ambassador to the EU and observers from EU member states also participated in the meeting. Both sides presented the results of the Sub-Group meeting on Trade and discussed ways to address issues hampering trade and investment. The EU stressed effective implementation of the 27 international conventions related to GSP+; and Pakistan reiterated its firm commitment in this regard. They also discussed enhancing cooperation in agriculture, food security, and quality standards. The EU expressed solidarity with the people affected by unprecedented climate-induced floods ravaging the country and informed about its contribution to addressing the most urgent needs of the affected population. Pakistan expressed appreciation for the EU's and its member states' support in mobilizing funds of EUR 123 million as well as in-kind assistance for relief efforts. Pakistan also emphasized the need

for additional assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. The two sides agreed to further cooperate to address climate change related challenges. The Joint Commission was briefed about the outcomes of the Sub-Group meeting on Democracy, Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights. Pakistan and the EU discussed civil and political rights, the rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups and freedom of religion or belief, including concerns about anti-Muslim hatred. They discussed the role of civil society organisations, freedom of expression and opinion, media freedom and the fight against disinformation. Pakistan informed about steps to strengthen access to justice and reforms related to the application of the death penalty. The EU welcomed Pakistan's legislation on the protection of women's and children's rights, the protection of transgender persons, as well as the protection of journalists. Both parties discussed legis-

lative proposals, namely the anti-torture bill and the bill on enforced disappearances. They also discussed the electoral reforms process, including recommendations made by the 2018 Electoral Observation Mission. Both sides reiterated their commitment to multilateralism and the United Nations Charter. The Joint Commission was briefed about the results of the Sub-Group on Development Cooperation. The EU and Pakistan took stock of the progress made in ongoing actions and exchanged information about the new programming cycle of the EU. The EU and Pakistan also exchanged views on future programmes and longer-term development needs, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The EU informed Pakistan about Global Gateway, a EUR 300 billion co-investment strategy rooted in partnership, sustainability and the rule of law. The EU and Pakistan emphasized their commitment to a closer cooperation on

a comprehensive approach to migration. This includes joint efforts to work towards new opportunities for legal migration as well as full and effective implementation of the EU-Pakistan Readmission Agreement. They agreed to launch a comprehensive migration and mobility dialogue before the end of the year. They also discussed cooperation in the fields of education, culture, science and technology, as well as connectivity and digitalisation. Besides bilateral cooperation, both sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues including Afghanistan and Jammu & Kashmir. They also expressed deep concern over the situation in Ukraine. They stressed the need to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, in full respect of the principles of international law and the UN Charter. The EU welcomed the progress made by Pakistan in the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Action Plans. It was agreed that the next session of the EU-Pakistan Joint Commission would be held in Brussels in 2023.

GCU VC stresses enhancing egg, chicken production

FAISALABAD: Pakistan could not only overcome the issue of stunted growth among children but also pave the way for export of eggs and chicken by enhancing its production through the latest scientific and technological interventions. This was stressed by Professor Dr Shahid Kamal, vice chancellor, Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF), here on Friday.

Addressing the 'World Egg Day' function, jointly organised by the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Pakistan Poultry Association and the GCUF here, he stressed the need to bridge the widening gap between the industry and academia. He said that he had floated an innovative idea of establishing science parks in universities and research institutes so that trade and industry could benefit from the latest inventions. FCCI SVP Dr Sajjad Arshad said that 44 per cent of children in Pakistan face stunted growth due to shortage of protein in the food chain. He said "we must promote the poultry industry as it is a source of cheap protein in Pakistan". He said "we have to import soybean which is used in poultry feed". He said that Ayub Agriculture Research Institute had developed a new variety of soybean which was suitable for cultivation in Pakistan. He said that its extensive cultivation could make Pakistan self-sufficient in soybean.—APP

People asked not to worry about Sehat Cards

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid has said that now people should not worry about the expiry of the Sehat Sahulat Cards and treatment facility through the cards. She was jointly presiding over a meeting with Chairperson Ehsaas Programme Dr. Sania Nishtar at the Chief Minister's House here on Friday, to review the measures to provide more health facilities to the people of Punjab under the Sehat Sahulat Programme. The minister said that free treatment facilities would now be provided under the Tahafuz program. She said that citizens would be able to get free treatment facilities for cancer, kidney, brain aneurysm, kidney and liver transplant from the empaneled government hospitals of the province under the Ehsaas Tahafuz programme.—APP

ECP registers disables, transgenders at doorstep

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: For the first time Election Commission of Pakistan in collaboration with NADRA has made it mandatory with visits of mobile registration vans (MRVs) to ensure registration of transgender persons and people-with-disabilities at their doorstep to make political processes inclusive. This was stated by Nighat Siddique, Director General Gender Affairs, ECP here at Lok Virsa during the 2nd day of 15th Annual Rural Women Conference organized by PODA – Pakistan in Islamabad..

However, there are other facilities like preferential voting procedure and postal ballot facility which can be used actively by old people, transgender persons and people-with-disabilities (PWDs). The rural women representing 120 districts of the country urged all political parties to allocate 50 per cent ticket to women candidates in elections from national, provincial to local level. PODA-Pakistan has been organizing annual rural women conference since 2008 in connection with the International Rural Women Day that is observed on 15th of October every year. The conference provides where rural women and their leadership bring their issues and solutions on the front vocally for change to reduce gender gap in every sphere of life. This is the consecutive 15th conference in which rural women from 120 districts of the country have gathered urging policymakers to optimize women's role and contributions in the overall progress of the country.

Ms. Nighat Siddique ap-



plauded the role of the civil society and the government institutions which played crucial role in reducing the gender gap in voter registration from 10 per cent to 8.6 per cent. "To reduce the existing gap of seven hundred thousand between women and men voters, Election Commission of Pakistan in collaboration with National Database Registration Authority has decided to extend CNIC (Computerized National Identity Card) and voter registration facilities to 13 more districts in Balochistan. With this we are also focusing on enhancing registration in newly merged districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said Nighat Siddique, DG, ECP

addressing a vibrant audience of rural women over 600 hundred representing 120 districts of the country. The session was focused on "Developing Rural Women's Linkages with Disability Working Group of the Election Commission". For this session ECP partnered with PODA-Pakistan. ECP has setup a stall to demonstrate entire voting process at the conference venue. This is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan is one of the most unequal countries in the world for women, ranked at 153 out of 156 countries (WEF 2021). Earlier, representing four provinces and regions of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, wide

range rural women leaders shared their testimonies to highlight problems and suggest indigenous practical solutions. Rural women who shared their local issues with the ECP representative included, Sugra Bano from Sahiwal, Bismillah Irum, Khanewal, Veru Kolan, Hyderabad, Naheeda Abbasi, Chakwal, Raheema Sultana, Rawalpindi, Shazia Jamil Lasbela, Saima Batool, Vehari, Mehak Butt, Multan, Qaisra Isamil, Nosheen, NMDs, KPK, and Shahida Irshad from Quetta. Later, during the second half of the day's proceedings, Dr. Robina stressed the need to set minimum age for marriage 18 years to save girls from

a wide range of emotional, physical and psychological illnesses. She narrated a dismal picture of the girls who get married at early age in all regions of Pakistan. "At the moment there are 35000 girls with fistula that is an implication of early age marriages among girls. The girls affected by this condition during child birth are forced to live with animals because they are not able to control their urine. This happens among due to early marriages." Dr. Robina advocated strongly saving girls from the social of curse of child marriage especially in flood-affected areas. "Sharing miseries of flood victims of people of Swat, Rukhsana Jahengir

said "my Swat is in pain due to the sufferings and loss caused by current floods in the area. People are in dire need of help of all kinds." Amna Jamali briefed about the situation of the flood-affected areas of Balochistan. Observing International Rural Women Day tomorrow, the 15th Annual Rural Women Conference will be concluded on a pledge to work for an inclusive society. Speakers and panelists lauded the efforts of PODA-Pakistan to connect rural women of four provinces and regions of AJK and GB. MuzhatShirin, Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women also shared information about the flood victims.

RCCI urges Government to de-seal Centaurus Mall

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq has demanded the government to immediately de-seal Centaurus Mall, the major business center of Islamabad. In a statement Saqib Rafiq said that the employment of millions of families is connected to this center. Apart from political affiliation, the Mall should be opened in public interest, he added. He said that business activities have already slow down due to the economic crisis. The government should facilitate the masses and the business community. He further added that the Centaurus administration is fully cooperating with the district administration. He said that the Mall should be de-sealed so that the restoration work, repairs and renovations take time, due to the temporary closure of Centaurus Mall, daily wage earners have lost their jobs. He said that we demand that Mega Shopping Mall should be de-sealed so that business activities can be resumed quickly.

Teachers can become real change agents

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed on Friday emphasized the significance of teachers' contribution for a holistic development of Pakistani society and urged the teaching community to become proactive in bringing the much-needed behavioral change for country's real progress. Addressing the closing ceremony of the National Faculty Development Programme (NFDP) for participants of Interim Placement of Fresh PhDs Programme (IPFP) held at HEC Islamabad, he highlighted how the Western world transformed in the preceding centuries due to the effective role played by their teachers and the educational institutions. As many as 21 PhD Fellows from all over Pakistan attended the Cohort-II of NFDP 2022. The programme has been designed in 10 core modules related to teaching, academic research and professional practices. Successful fellows are placed in public sector higher education institutions for a period of one year. The Chairman said, "It is unfortunate that we, as Muslims, have forgotten the message of our Prophet (SAW) about the importance of knowledge and learning.—APP



LAHORE: Muslim World League Secretary General Dr Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al Issa addressing the Juma congregation at Badshahi Masjid. —DNA

MWL leader stresses unity in Ummah

DNA

LAHORE: Muslim World League Secretary General Dr Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim Al Issa stressed the need for unity among the Muslim Ummah here on Friday, saying that Islam teaches peace, kindness and brotherhood. Addressing the Juma congregation at Badshahi Masjid, he said that only unity among Muslims could take the Ummah forward as Islam is the benefactor to humanity irrespective of caste, color, geography and ethnicity. He said that all problems and challenges being faced by the mankind could be resolved by following the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. Dr Muhammad Bin Abdul Karim said that it was an honour for him to speak at historic Badshahi Masjid and he thanked the federal as well as provincial government and ulema for it.

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malki, in his address, said that the people of Pakistan had great love and affection for the holy land of Saudi Arabia as every Muslim was determined to protect the respect of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad PBUH.

SC issues order on Article 63-A

ISLAMABAD, Oct 14 (APP): The Supreme Court on Friday issued a written order regarding the interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution with regard to the counting of the vote of a dissident member against the party policy in the House of Parliament. A 95-page majority judgment issued by the top court said a dissident member's vote cast against his party guidelines would not be counted, however, the period of disqualification of a dissident member should be determined by the Parliament. It further said the Constitution had mentioned the parliamentary party for the instructions, not the party head. "The members of Parliament have complete freedom of expression but this could not be demonstrated at the time of exercising the vote in the light of Article 63-A."

The majority judgment rejected the objections raised on the admissibility of the presidential reference, saying the court had already given answers to the objections in another case. The decision said that if the prime minister or chief minister lost confidence in the parliamentary party then he had to face a vote of no-confidence.

COMSTECH celebrates World Food Day, 'Leave No One Behind'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in partnership with UP-SIGN, SAWIE, ICCFS, IFS & Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) celebrated world food day. The slogan for world food day this year was "Leave No One Behind".

To mark this year's World Food Day, keynote talks and panel discussions were arranged with experts from all over the world with several years of experience in

Agri-food research systems. The webinar discussed the key challenge faced by our food system from climate change and other threats.

The experts said that our food system is suffering from malnutrition and food security. The debate uncovered how sustainable use of natural resources could help to enhance productivity, soil health, water, and the role of biodiversity. The question of how can we address the food production crisis, protecting our soil

microbes, plants, animals & natural capital, and produce healthy food to support a healthy life and a healthy planet was discussed.

The panelists also discussed the way forward to address the impact of COVID and recent floods in Pakistan on food security. They talked about how the research, and knowledge exchange of good practices could be translated to develop climate change adaptation strategies, mitigation,

and what specific measures can be taken to support the climate crisis victims. The panelists pondered upon creating the resilient growth that does not leave anyone behind. The experts noted that Pakistan is one of the top ten countries which are most vulnerable to the climate change crisis. They agreed that the climate change disaster has affected its food system with extreme heat, droughts, unpredicted rain patterns.—APP

Australia provides \$5m flood relief

The High Commissioner explained the educational cooperation and said that more than 14000 Pakistani students were studying in Australia

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, has said that the Australian government provided \$5 million in humanitarian assistance to help the people of Pakistan adversely affected by the devastation caused by recent flooding. In an exclusive interview with APP, Neil Hawkins said that Australia would continue to assist Pakistan in overcoming the enormous challenge of recent floods, adding that the water, now covering over one-third of the country, is expected to take months to subside. He said that the flood impacted crops, food security and livelihoods. The High Commissioner also lauded Pakistani authorities engaged in rescue and relief operations

in flood-affected parts of the country. To a question, he said the climate change issue is affecting Pakistan and Australia, to which both countries have to cooperate. He underscored that both sides must know how to protect people and other resources. He informed Australia that the issue had been a big challenge, so all relevant ministries collectively made a comprehensive policy for the future. Answering a query on trade cooperation, Neil Hawkins called the Pakistani market and business people have great potential and are vibrant. He said the private sector of Pakistan is enthusiastic and Australia welcomes Pakistani traders and business people to play their role in enhancing bilateral trade.

The High Commissioner explained the educational cooperation and said that more than 14000 Pakistani students were studying in Australia. "My message to those seeking study visas is to prepare the documents well, double check, and avoid mistakes to get the visa. Australia approves 90 percent study visas for Pakistanis," he added. Neil Hawkins encouraged



the Pakistani students already studying in Australia to complete their graduation as four years stay for work is granted. "Five years for those who complete masters and six years for those who complete Ph.D. After post study work, students can also apply for citizenship as well," said the High Commissioner. Commenting about agricultural cooperation, the High Commissioner said that the Australian agriculture scientists also assisted farmers in Sindh regarding soil quality and under soil water availability. He noted that for the future growing population, Pakistan needs more fertile and Agriland.

He informed that Australian Agri scientists had made a device that detects water levels under the soil.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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

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Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
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Monal.....	0334-5421812

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Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Floods: Govt urged to help revive women businesses

Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zubair Ahmed Malik and others were also present at the occasion



DNA
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Friday urged the federal and provincial governments to come forward to provide support to businesswomen of flood hit rural areas for reviving their businesses. It said that a large number of businesses women have been destroyed in flood-hit areas due to which women entrepreneurs are facing great hardships. While addressing the 15th Annual Rural Women Leadership Conference 2022 organized by ICCI in collaboration with National Commission on the Status of Women and Potohar Organization for De-

velopment Advocacy (PODA) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said ICCI is ready to connect the women entrepreneurs of rural areas with online platforms like Amazon. He said so that they could get easy access to international markets to improve exports and earn more foreign exchange for the country. He assured that ICCI can organize exhibitions of the products of rural businesswomen to showcase their potential for trade export. The women from four provinces of Pakistan, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir attended the event. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women

said that economic empowerment and financial inclusion of women was the best option to reduce poverty and promote prosperity in the country. She shared the initiatives of her organization to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. She thanked ICCI for hosting the women conference and hoped that such conferences would help change the role of rural women from vulnerability to change makers by building linkages and partnerships with others. Sameena Nazir, Founding President, PODA said that women entrepreneurs in rural areas were exporting their products to many countries, but the destruction of their businesses due to recent floods had

created financial problems for them. She stressed that all stakeholders including the government should support them in reviving their businesses. She further emphasized that the government to take measures to empower the women of rural areas of Pakistan that would equip them with the confidence to stand up and claim their equal place in society. Many women entrepreneurs from rural areas of Pakistan shared their success stories and highlighted the issues being faced by them in running business activities in rural areas. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zubair Ahmed Malik and others were also present at the occasion.

Speakers call for addressing food wastage at all levels

The event was well attended by representatives of the international community, UN organizations, media, civil society, students and relevant government departments

ISLAMABAD: Celebrating the World Food Day on Friday, the speakers here at an event called for addressing food wastage at all levels including household, storage, and production. "On this World Food Day, we as a nation must address food wastage, not only at household level but also how we produce, process and store food in Pakistan. As we go forward with the efforts of reconstruction and rehabilitation, we must make advocacy to stop food waste at all levels as part of those efforts," Resident Coordinator of United Nations in Pakistan Julian Harnies said while addressing the event organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Women, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), and Ministry of National Food Security & Research also collaborated in the event. Harnies said that after the

floods, food insecurity and malnutrition are rising as existing vulnerabilities are intensified and called the international community to step up support to Pakistan's floods response, so that 14.6 million people in need of food (including 4 million in IPC 4) and agriculture assistance (particularly seeds and fertilizer), including children, and pregnant and lactating women, can access the diets they need to survive. The participants noted that while the challenges of restoration of flood impacts, food security and climate change remained formidable, there is also more awareness, more commitment and more collaboration behind efforts for the restoration and rehabilitation of flood affected people, and the transformation of agri systems so that better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life could be ensured for everyone and no one is left behind. Secretary, Ministry of National Food and Security Zafar Hassan highlighted the point that the damage to

Pakistan's agricultural sector would also be felt across the globe. Pakistan is one of the world's top producers and exporters of cotton and rice, which have been destroyed by the flood. He further said that agriculture has special importance for Pakistan's economy, which at present is contributing about 19 percent to national GDP, and generating employment opportunities for more than 35 percent of the labor force. Currently, we are facing serious challenge for food and nutritional security that needs enough resources and funds to compensate for the loss of crops and livestock to our farmers. However, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research is making dire efforts to meet this challenge and address this issue in a befitting manner, he added. In order to provide relief to the farmers and uplift the agriculture sector, our government is devising farmer friendly policies, focusing on strengthening seed system, enhancing farm mechanization, promoting value addition, minimizing

post-harvest losses and creating digital marketing platforms. On behalf of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (NFS&R) he appreciated FAO's support and technical assistance in developing and implementing agricultural policies. A special mime performance by Nighat Chaudhary, Pakistan's renowned Kathak dancer, and her team was also part of the event. Their performance showcased the importance of food in our lives and impact of floods on food security. The event ended on a note of thanks by Dr. Ghulam Mohammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and inauguration of a three day photo exhibition on the importance of food, food security and climate resilient agriculture. The exhibition will remain open for the public till October 16. The event was well attended by representatives of the international community, UN organizations, media, civil society, students and relevant government departments.—APP

NEPRA approves 19 paisa per unit increase in power tariff for August

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday approved 19 paisa per unit increase in power tariff under monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for August for Wapda power distribution companies (DISCOs). In petition, Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has sought 22 paisa per unit increase in power tariff for August. The authority had conducted public hearing on September 29, said a notification issued here. The FCA for July was charged as Rs4.34 per unit which was for one month. The NEPRA would charge Rs4.15 per unit less FCA for August as compared to July and would be applicable on billing month of October. The increase would also be applicable to all consumers except lifeline and electric vehicle charging stations. However, it would not be applicable to consumers of K-Electric. The NEPRA also approved Rs4.89 per unit reduction in power tariff for consumers of K-Electric for August under FCA mechanism, said another notification. K-Electric had requested Rs 4.21 per unit decrease in the tariff for the said period. Earlier, the authority had charged Rs4.12 per unit reduction in the FCA for July. The FCA for August was 77 paisa less than month of July. However, it would not be applicable to the consumers using up to 300 units, lifeline, agri consumers and electric vehicle charging stations.—APP

PC Minister congratulates Pak team for winning tri-series

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Ehsan-ur-Rehman Mazari has congratulated the Pakistan team for winning the tri-series at Christchurch on Friday. Pakistan downed New Zealand to a five-wicket victory on Friday, to win the

tri-series Twenty20 final with three balls to spare. It was a good omen for the green-shirts as their next assignment would be the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Australia beginning October 16. The Minister congratulated the Pakistan team and the whole nation on winning the tri-series. "This will be a confidence booster for the T20 World Cup," he said in a tweet of the IPC Ministry. He added that he was hopeful for the same level of performance ahead in the World Cup.—APP

Six bids to smuggle wheat, flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police while foiling six bids to smuggle wheat and flour seized 1150 bags here on Friday. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad and Taxila police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up six drivers namely Naseeb, Ali Khan, Shahid, Luqman, Arslan, and Ahsan, who were trying to illegally ship out wheat and flour out of Rawalpindi division. He said the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. The administration succeeded to intercept six vehicles besides seizing 1150 wheat and flour bags. The authorities had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said adding, the DC had also instructed the authorities to monitor the movement of wheat, around the clock, and take strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators.—APP

Police arrest nine 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 nine accused for possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, Gungmandi, Pirwadhai, Airport, Morgah, and Jatti police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and rounded up Sohail, Mushtaq, Ali Raza, Zaman, Shahrukh, Muhammad Shan and others and recovered eight 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. 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 and illegal weapon holders would continue.—APP

Police arrested nine gamblers; recover Rs 51,500 stake money

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police have arrested nine gamblers and recovered Rs 51,500 stake money, nine mobile phones and valuables from their possession here on Friday, a police spokesman said. He informed that Sadiqabad police conducted a raid and arrested nine gamblers namely Shehzad, Tamoor, Waqar, Naseer, Irshad, Khurshheed, Nazakat, Gohar and Banaras. A case has been registered against them while further investigation is under process. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Babar Javed Joya said that gambling is the root cause of other evils and those involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession.—APP

13 drug peddlers held; over seven kg charas recovered

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers on Friday arrested 13 accused besides recovering over seven kg charas from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Waris Khan police held Kamran with 1830 grams charas and Bilal for having 1440 grams charas. Bani police rounded up Zulfiqar for carrying 1160 grams charas and Tanveer Akhtar with 1100 grams charas.—APP

Dengue - a persisting challenge

"Dengue strikes the federal capital seasonally and several measures are taken to contain it," said Director, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr Khalid Masood

ISLAMABAD: Emerging every year like a nightmare affecting thousands of countrymen, Dengue fever remains an enormous challenge for the authorities with health experts terming irresponsible behaviors and rapid urbanization as main reasons for its outspread. Persisting in our country since last two decades, Dengue commonly known as "breakbone fever" every monsoon hits the populace across country as by the time no specific medicines has been discovered as deterrence for this disease. Experts opine that rapid urbanization and stagnant water within and outside the houses provide as breeding points for the Dengue mosquito exposing the immune compromised citizens to this disease. Irresponsible attitude of citizens, non-availability of specific treatment and already over-burdened medical facilities aggravate the situation resulting in death of scores of people every year. "Rapid urbanization, unhygienic living conditions, co-morbidity, lack of strict vigilance and less awareness about preventive

measures can be stated as main causes for mass spread of this disease," informed Dr Mubashir Dahi, medical expert and Secretary General Pakistan Medical Association (PMA). He said other major reasons of disease propagation in Pakistan, are poor sanitation, inflation in population, inadequate medical and pharmaceutical care facilities, high illiteracy rate and less knowledge regarding vaccination. "Dengue has significant effects on our economy and social status along with its drastic consequences on public health," Dr Dahi said pleading that its damage could be reduced to large extent through preventive measures. He suggested diverse studies to investigate different features of mosquito and dengue viruses that might be helpful in finding new efficacious techniques for improving treatment mechanism. Year 2019 has been the worst year in the country's history when more than 44,000 cases were reported by early November. However, many healthcare professionals believe that these numbers could be much higher as majority of cases in rural areas and slums are seldom reported.

"Major areas of concern are control of vectors, management of disease and new community awareness programs," said Dr Wasim Khawaja, former Director, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). "Therefore, we need proper education and training of health professionals to equip them for meeting the challenge," he said pleading a vibrant role of electronic media in awareness raising. He said Dengue transmission can be limited through preventive strategies like spraying, fumigation, repellents and water coverings. "For this purpose, we need a combined effort by different organizations, health teams and the communities as a whole." Since, this disease repeats every year there is dire need for tightening belt each time to take preventive measures for averting its consequences. "Dengue strikes the federal capital seasonally and several measures are taken to contain it," said Director, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr Khalid Masood.—APP

Briefs

Onions to be cultivated on 162,000 hectares

ISLAMABAD: Onion crop would be cultivated on 162,000 hectares in order to produce about 2.422 million tons of onion during Rabi season 2022-23, besides cultivating potatoes over 226,000 hectares to produce 6.029 million tons of potatoes for fulfilling the domestic requirements as well as to export. In Punjab, the potatoes would be cultivated on 221,000 hectares as output targets for the province have been fixed at 5.966 million tons during current season as against the sowing of corresponding period of last year, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Friday he said that the Sindh Province was assigned a task to grow potatoes over 700 hectares to produce 65,000 tons, adding that the crop production targets were assigned in a meeting of Federal Committee on Agriculture.

The potatoes and onions are included in minor crops of the country and vital sources to tackle the domestic vegetables requirements, he said adding that potatoes crop would be grown over 2,500 hectares in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to produce over 30,300 tons and in Balochistan the potatoes cultivation targets were fixed at 26,200 tons to tackle with the domestic needs. Meanwhile, he said that the onion crops in Punjab would be cultivated over 50,000 hectares and in Sindh on 60,000 hectares, adding that the crop output for both the provinces were set at 8.688 million tons and 2.300 million tons respectively during current Rabi season.

The onions to be grown on 12,000 hectares of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 40,000 hectares of Balochistan provinces in order to get about 2.30 million tons and 7.05 million tons of the output respectively during the season, he added. It is worth mentioning here that Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) fixed wheat output targets at 28.4 million tons by cultivating the crop over 9.3 million hectares during crop season 2022-23 in order to fulfill local requirements.—APP

AIOU rises in academic development, student facilitation

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has expanded its access to the whole world as a result of the recent digitalization of its system. In the last semester, a good number of students from America, Africa, Germany, Japan, Canada, United Kingdom, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates enrolled themselves in different programs of AIOU. Moreover, in the last few years the University has laid special focus on signing MoUs regarding faculty and students exchange programs, and joint degree initiatives with national and international institutions including universities and research organizations from the United Kingdom, Turkey, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and others in the last four years. Another important initiative taken by Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum was the agreement with Turkey and United Kingdom regarding the professional development of AIOU's faculty and staff and now university is sending small cohorts of faculty and staff for training.

International students studying at this national university is not only a source of pride for the university but also for the country. Among the 16 other major initiatives of Dr. Zia Al Qayyum are the e-registration of tutors, provision of information to students under one roof and establishment of a facilitation center to solve their problems, expansion of university infrastructure, providing internet packages to students at discounted rates for AIOU students, the launch of email and SMS service for immediate notifications for students, call centers for students' problems and provide prompt response and establishment of "Online Complaint Management Center", tracking system for information of books.—APP

Speakers praise Chinese President Jinping' visionary leadership

It is certainly encouraging for the growth of China-Pakistan relations that people in Pakistan are so positive about their close friend



DNA

ISLAMABAD: A roundtable discussion titled "An Appraisal of 10 years of Chinese National Congress and Regional Outlook" was organised under the banner of Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR), an Islamabad-based think tank. The panellists included Professor Zamir Ahmed Awan, Founding Chair GSRRA, Lecturer NUST; Dr George H Cooke, Diplomatic Historian, Sri-Lanka; Mr Shakeel Ahmad, Political Economist; Mr Carlos Martinez, Independent Researcher & Co-editor of Friends of Socialist China, UK; Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Head of China Study Centre, COMSATS University. Ms. Sabah Aslam, Executive Director of IICR delivered opening remarks and welcomed the guests and panellists.

While addressing the panel, Professor Zamir Ahmed Awan, Founding Chair GSRRA, Lecturer NUST, said "The future is China, China is the rising superpower, and the Communist Party of China (CPC) has played the main role in achieving such a feat. He further said that Chinese President Xi Jinping is a visionary leader with a global perspective. The policies implemented under

his leadership in China are being followed by multiple countries across the world. He asserted that the US openly considers the emerging power China as a threat and is exercising a policy to contain China, counter China, and engage China at strategic diplomatic, and economic levels. China has the capacity to reshape the global order, as its leadership has emerged as the strongest in the world. China has successfully curbed the menace of corruption which led to the eradication of poverty.

In his virtual presentation over Zoom link, Dr George H Cooke, Diplomatic Historian, Sri-Lanka, said that the most precious aspect of Chinese economic and social development in the last 40 years of reform and opening up has been the ability of the country to grasp the logic of history and adapt to the tendency of the times. He underscored that the Chinese leadership has sought to strategize foreign policy efficiency by basing it on domestic demand and policy. Mr Shakeel Ahmad, Political Economist, in his talk on the occasion said that the most important contribution of CPC is the production of visionary people who possess leadership characteristics of wisdom, competence, and selflessness. He further highlighted how the Chinese Leadership could

foresee things beyond the wall, possess the competence to draft and frame policies, and steered the state out of poverty. He underlined that selflessness, and high moral and ethical values of the leadership helped China to emerge as a rising power.

Mr Carlos Martinez, Independent Researcher & Co-editor of Friends of Socialist China, UK, with the 20th CPC National Congress being held in three days, it is an opportune moment to take a look at China's system of people's democracy, a subject that is often misunderstood and misrepresented. Particularly in the western world in the context of a new cold war where China is constantly deionized and labelled as being undemocratic.

He went on to say that, the western world has positioned itself as the sole arbiter of democracy. However, the big priorities for the Chinese Government are tackling poverty, building common prosperity, ensuring that everybody has a home, has access to healthcare, has access to education, clean water, and modern energy, ensuring people are protected from the pandemic, dealing with pollution, developing renewable energy, cracking down on corruption, and generally improving people's quality of life, this is people's democracy. Dr Tahir

Mumtaz Awan, Head of China Study Centre, COMSATS University, in his address said, The 20th CPC National Congress has been termed as 'Xi Jin ping's Coronation'. Hopefully, CPC and Xi Jinping will emerge even more resilient post the 20th CPC Congress, which paves the way to China's rise as a global power. China is working further to become not only more powerful but aiming for regional prosperity and common growth, he added.

He stressed that China has a policy of non-interference and not suppressing other nations. China was the first country to receive and send diplomatic delegations to and from Afghanistan post US withdrawal in 2021.

In the concluding remarks Ms Sabah Aslam stressed that Pakistan dearly needs a strong and selfless leadership like that of China. We need to learn lessons from the Chinese to help develop our country Pakistan. We need to evaluate the Chinese growth and strength and allow the national government to consolidate and strengthen so as to be impactful and strong enough to implement the policies for the betterment of the nation.

The conference came to end with a question and answer session followed by Hi-Tea.

Pakistanis overwhelmingly laud China's support: Survey

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Almost all Pakistanis have a very positive view of Iron Brother China and its consistent support to Pakistan and they consider China as their trusted friend, a survey revealed, according to Gwadar Pro on Friday. As part of the Sino-phone Borderlands public opinion survey in Pakistan

in June 2022, over 1,200 Pakistani respondents were asked two open-ended questions about their perception of China. Respondents are drawn from all regions of Pakistan and included a representative sample of age groups and genders. The same questions have also been asked in many other countries but Pakistanis gave the most positive answers. The first survey

question asks what first comes to people's minds when thinking of China. The most common answers, as the word cloud reveals, were "friend," "best friend," "good friend," and "trusted friend." Chinese people are perceived as friendly and hard working.

The country itself is seen as being strong, and developed, with many respondents labelling it a super-

power. Also, China is seen as helpful and supportive of Pakistan.

The connection between the two countries is described as a "brotherhood" and many people celebrate it by saying "long live Pakistan-China friendship."

The second question asks whether people's general view of China get better or worse during the previous three years and why.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Students and Teachers of Fazaia Education System School, E-9, Islamabad visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.—DNA.

Weekly inflation eases by 0.57%

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on October 13 for the combined consumption group witnessed a decrease of 0.57 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 204.55 points against 205.73 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here on Friday. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 28.44 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 0.79 percent decrease and went down to 210.05 points from last week's 211.73 points. Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 witnessed a decline of 0.78 percent, 0.66 percent, 0.60 percent and 0.47 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 17 (33.34%) items decreased, 18 (35.29%) items increased and 16 (31.37%) items remained stable. The items which recorded decrease in their average prices on week-on-week basis included tomatoes (13.51%), eggs (2.12%), pulse masoor (2.07%), onions (1.57%), pulse gram (1.39%) and bananas (1.36%), non-food item, LPG (2.76%). The commodities which recorded increase in their average prices included match box (5.65%), powdered milk (3.82%), firewood (2.09%), bread plain (2.05%), potatoes (1.78%), cooked beef (1.47%) and tea packet (1.24%) On year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices included electricity for Quarter 1 (45.61%), chillies powder (42.08%), sugar (12.79%) and gur (3.59%). The commodities that witnessed increase in prices on year-on-year basis included tomatoes (194.26%), onions (167.89%), diesel (92.08%), petrol (76.07%), pulse gram (69.25%), pulse masoor (62.19%), cooking oil 5 litre (60.14%), washing soap (58.03%), mustard oil (56.53%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (56.30%), pulse mash (55.61%), pulse moong (53.72%) and vegetable ghee 1 kg (53.59%).—APP

IRSA releases 126,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 126,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 83,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.28 feet and was 138.28 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 40,700 cusecs while outflow as 60,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1180.15 feet, which was 130.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 14,200 cusecs and 38,000 cusecs respectively. Whereas, the release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 56,400, 54,100, 52,100 and 29,900 cusecs respectively.

Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 12,900 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 5,200 cusecs was released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

28 projects completed with cost of US\$ 18.8b

ISLAMABAD: As many as 28 projects have been completed with a cost of US\$ 18.8 billion under the Framework of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including 12 projects in the Energy sector, 10 projects of Infrastructure development and 6 projects in the Socio-Economic Development sector.

In a written reply to the National Assembly, the minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry said that six projects in Punjab, seven in Sindh, two in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, six in Balochistan one in Gilgit Baltistan, one in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and five in Islamabad were completed under the CPEC project.

Currently, nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been agreed upon under CPEC, namely Allama Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad, Punjab, Rashakai SEZ, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhabaji SEZ, Sindh, Bostan SEZ, Mirpur SEZ, AJK, ICT Model City Islamabad, Industrial Park on Pakistan Still Mill Land Karachi, Mohmand Marbal City, ex-FATA and Mapandass SEZ Gilgit. Out of these nine SEZs, the Federal Board of Investment in consultation with the Chinese side have prioritized the Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rashakai SEZ, Bostan SEZ, Dhabaji Special Economic Zone for fast-track development, he added.—APP

Showing videos publicly an unethical behaviour

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Mian Javed Latif Friday strongly condemned Imran Khan for publicly screening videos and termed it an unethical behaviour.

He said that the question whether these videos were fake or original was not asked, adding, that those involved in such activities had committed an unethical behaviour. We will not follow the politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders who had registered false cases against the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz leaders and workers in the past, he added.—APP

ANF recovers over 67 kg narcotics; arrests 3 accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a raid near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza and recovered over 67 kg of narcotics and arrested three drug smugglers.

According to an ANF spokesman, ANF Rawalpindi conducted a raid near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza and recovered over 67 kilograms narcotics including over 28 kg opium, over two kg heroin, over 36 kg charras and 400 grams of Ice drug. A case has been registered against the accused.—APP

Achieving wheat target in post-flood era

KARACHI: With most of wheat cultivation area in Sindh drowned in the flood water, the federal and provincial governments have tightened belts to ensure timely wheat cultivation and facilitate affected farmers. Besides draining the flood water, the authorities are also planning subsidies for the farmers in provision of certified wheat seed besides ensuring agricultural inputs comparatively on cheaper rates in the calamity hit areas. By the time, all available resources have been mobilized to dewater lands for wheat sowing as even after dewatering, the land may take some time to get ready for cultivation.

Apparently meeting the wheat crop target seems a gigantic task at a time when on one hand two districts of South Punjab and over half of the agriculture land in Sindh was under the flood water. However, the authorities are optimistic to achieve the target on ground that this time land surface would have more moisture due to flood water. "This year we have a target of producing 28 million tonne wheat to indigenously meet our needs and save much needed foreign

exchange," remarked Food Security Commissioner, Imtiaz Ali Gopang. "We are optimistic to meet this target as this year land moisture would provide better atmosphere for sowing wheat, pulses and oil seeds."

He said the federal government is also devising a mechanism to facilitate farmers in flood affected areas with subsidies worth around Rs five billion for provision of certified and better yielding wheat seed. "The government has enhanced the wheat support price as well as endeavoring to minimize the impact of costly agricultural inputs," Imtiaz Ali added. "Once the areas are dewatered, we can assume wheat sowing well in time and on more area."

Wheat is the most significant food crops among rice, sugarcane and maize and provides for national food security. It is sown on much wider tract of land in Punjab and Sindh provinces as compared and other food crops. Officials at Sindh Agriculture Department – Pakistan's second largest wheat growing province – despite devastating flood are optimistic to achieve the target of producing 4.2 million tonnes wheat this year.

Director General Agriculture Extension Sindh Hidayatullah Chhajro said that Sindh has fixed the wheat production target of 4.2 million tonnes from an area of 1.2 million hectares for the season. "We are hopeful that land would be ready for wheat sowing by November 15," Chhajro said mentioning to all out efforts for clearing land from water so the sowing starts well in time. "Expedient dewatering of submerged areas to prepare land for wheat cultivation in flood-hit areas and proposed assistance package to farmers would hopefully yield the desired results," he commented. Farmers and growers have applauded the proposal of incentives for wheat growers in flood-hit areas that may also enhance the wheat cultivation area.

The under consideration package would help the flood marooned farmers encouraging them to bring more area under wheat cultivation," remarked Abdul Wahab Qureshi, a farmer in Tando Allahyar district of Sindh province. "We need immediate dewatering of the flood affected land to prepare it for wheat sowing. We hope bet-

ter yield this time as if flood on one hand affects people, on the other hand it adds to land fertility," Wahab said. Pakistan's agriculture contributes around 24 percent to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This sector is considered as backbone of national economy as it employs almost half of the labor force directly or indirectly with country's over 60 percent population living in rural areas.

Statistics show that during last season, the wheat production stood at around 26 million tones just close to our annual demand. The target for the next year is around 28 million tones as required after calculation on basis of per capita consumption. According to official statistics as placed before National Assembly Standing Committee National Food Security and Research, the farmers in flood-hit areas will require more than 205,000 tonnes of wheat seed. Similarly, they might also need subsidies in fertilizers and other inputs. Other than the fertile and routine land, there is possibility that wheat is also cultivated on silt soil after 15 to 20 days of dewatering.—APP



UK's financial crisis

AND so we reach the scene tediously familiar to even the most casual observers of this Conservative drama: the action after yet another huge debacle, wherein leading proponents search for a scapegoat. In the weeks that have passed since the mini-budget meltdown, the frenzied hunt has been especially remarkable. Liz Truss has blamed her chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng; he has blamed the Queen's death; her business secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg, on Wednesday blamed the Bank of England's governor, Andrew Bailey, and the Bank has paid this back (with interest, one might say, were that word not such a gruesome reminder), with its senior staff repeatedly laying the blame at ministers' feet. So far, so predictable – as is the usual buffet of U-turns and confusions. At Wednesday's prime minister's questions, Ms Truss backtracked on her backtracking over the ban on no-fault evictions and left observers scratching their heads as she swore there would be “absolutely” no cuts to public spending. Since the full budget is meant to demonstrate just how the government will close its budget deficit, by laying out spending cuts, one may guess that even more of the mini-budget is now heading for the bin. That would be a highly unusual move, and would leave Mr Kwarteng little option but to resign – yet so precarious and chaotic has this government been in its six long weeks that this may be the safest and wisest course of action.

While the prime minister and her chancellor make inevitable targets in this blame game, and deserve the opprobrium that comes their way, not enough consideration is given to the quiet man in this drama: Mr Bailey. Threadneedle Street is also deeply implicated in this crisis and has a case to answer. The Bank doesn't want to put out a crisis, but sees its role purely as providing liquidity in very distressed markets. One of Mr Bailey's predecessors, Mervyn King, pursued a similar line in the credit crunch of 2007, warning that those investors who'd gone wild in the good times must now pay the losses and that any help would constitute a “moral hazard”. The argument is perfectly sound – until a crisis strikes. Lord King eventually had to change both his argument and his policies. Today, the Bank is taking a similar gamble. It would be wiser to relent – as its former governor had to – and show more support. Against a noisy backdrop, the Bank has also been a bad communicator. This week alone, Mr Bailey has said his intervention will end on Friday – hours before it was reported that Bank staff have been saying the opposite. The Bank then said it was definitely going back to business as usual. As direction-giving goes, this is up there with the grand old Duke of York. When the history of this mess is written, there will be plenty of blame to go round – most of it for the government. At the moment, a fair serving should be held in reserve for Mr Bailey and the Bank.

Putin is fighting alone

ON September 30, Russian President Vladimir Putin unleashed a cri de coeur, a simultaneously blistering and blathering speech. Quoting fascist philosopher Ivan Ilyin, Putin cast himself as the hero leading a global fight against the West in general, and American hegemony in particular. But rather than mark the start of a new epochal conflict, the speech instead laid bare the extent to which the Russian president has lost touch with reality. The declaration was intended to mark a high point in the “success” of his “special operation” against Ukraine, namely the attempted annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia and Kherson regions – though Russian forces are not in full control of any of them. What Putin planned in February as a blitzkrieg has instead come to be mocked as blyt'krieg, substituting blitz, the German word for lightning, with a Russian curse word whose translation is not publishable here. While the horrors of the conflict are no laughing matter, that Putin is blind to the tragicomic reality of the fighting was made clear when Ukrainian forces retook the city of Lyman in Donetsk Oblast within 24 hours of his diatribe. Lyman has been of strategic importance due to its position as a railway juncture, but now it has also taken on a symbolic significance – all thanks to the fact that Putin could no longer keep his anger to himself.

A week later, an explosion struck the Kerch Bridge which Putin had ordered built to link the Russian mainland with the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula. The bridge was arguably the project which the Kremlin had used to propagandise its occupation regime more than any other and which pro-Kremlin media had previously painted as impervious to attack. Putin has long been critical of the so-called “rules-based order” and US hypocrisy on the use of force abroad. He first brought up these ideas in his 2007 speech at the Munich Security Conference. Back then, he was still willing to call the US and other Western states “partners” – language he has now explicitly cast aside. His descent into hyperbole continued with two essays, published in 2020 and 2021, reimagining World War II to blame the West for Hitler's attacks on Eastern Europe while absolving Russia of sin for the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and denouncing Ukrainian nationhood.

How unhinged Putin has become from reality has also been laid bare by one particular point of emphasis in his latest speech, namely: his claim that Russia is leading the charge to resist US hegemony and that the rest of the world is choosing to side with it. But some of the countries that he perhaps perceives as allies – those that have refused to “bow” to US pressure and made the “reasonable

choice to cooperate with Russia” – may not be so eager to align with the Kremlin. Take Iran, which itself is now facing a wave of anti-government protests. The current hardliners in charge in Tehran have not stopped engaging with the West. In fact, they are negotiating with the US and its Western allies a deal to lift the sanctions that former US President Donald Trump unilaterally – and thus hegemonically – re-imposed on the regime. Meanwhile China – another power that Putin has sought the support of – is also distancing itself from Russia's war effort. It has no interest in joining Putin's attempt to upend the global international financial order, dominated by the US dollar, which suits Beijing just fine. It seeks to ultimately displace the US as the dominant player whereas Putin hopes to collapse the present system entirely. And though Chinese President Xi Jinping too is a fierce critic of the US' geopolitical power, Beijing has not only been circumspect in its approach to the conflict in Ukraine but has refused to endorse Putin's position on annexing Ukrainian territory. While the Kremlin often likes to invoke the US-Chinese disagreement over Taiwan as akin to its invasion of Ukraine, there is little chance that Beijing will do the same, let alone recognise Russian sovereignty over the “annexed” territories. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has his own issues with the West that he blames for the 2016 coup attempt against him, has so far refused to join Western sanctions on Russia. But of late Turkish banks – some of which have been accused of skirting the sanctions on Iran – have begun to think better of skirting US sanctions on Russia.

A day before Putin's speech, it was reported that Turkish state banks were no longer willing to use Russia's MIR payment system, an alternative to the Belgium-based SWIFT interbank messaging system from which most of Russia's largest banks have been barred. Ankara has rejected Putin's annexations explicitly as well, labelling it a grave violation of international law. Meral Aksener, leader of Turkey's opposition IYI party – which is currently polling third – has also ramped up her rhetoric against the Kremlin, lambasting Putin as destabilising the wider region in the aftermath of his speech.

A similar situation is found in India, which has been willing to boost its imports of Russian oil and other commodities in recent months, but has increasingly shown signs that Moscow's demands it go further in its support are grating. Oil companies and the Indian government have reportedly been reluctant to adopt a rouble trade mechanism for oil imports. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also made

this most significant criticism of the war to date at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Uzbekistan on September 16, stating that “today's era is not an era of war”.

Putin even stands at risk of losing what had been one of Russia's closest security allies – Armenia – after the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) refused to support Yerevan following border clashes with Azerbaijan and attacks on its territory. Some senior Armenian officials have even hinted at leaving the bloc altogether.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has sought to distance himself from Putin as well, although Russian forces intervened in the country just this January to help put down a series of protests that were labelled a coup attempt. As some 200,000 Russians have fled Putin's draft for Kazakhstan over the last two weeks, Tokayev called the crisis in Russia a “hopeless situation”. Meanwhile, amid Russian efforts to draft guest workers from Central Asia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have warned their nationals against fighting in the conflict. Even Tajikistan, whose president was just awarded the Order of Merit for the Fatherland in the third degree by Putin himself, has shown reticence to risk violating Western sanctions on Russian payment systems. Nor are Putin's military atrocities and economic mismanagement winning him friends in Africa and the Middle East, where countries have heretofore largely abstained from inveighing on the conflict. But there are signs that the horrors of Russia's attacks on Ukraine are pushing this neutrality to its limits.

In the Middle East, two large energy exporters, Qatar and Kuwait, have condemned the use of force to settle disputes between countries and have called for respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In Africa, too, there has been criticism of Russian aggression. In late September Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Ado told the UN that “Every bullet, every bomb, every shell that hits a target in Ukraine, hits our pockets and our economies in Africa”.

Despite his hopes, Putin fights alone. That may make him even more dangerous. But that in turn will only isolate him further. His war in Ukraine is no civilisational or epochal struggle for the future, but one man's maniacal desires brought bare because he has systematically and often brutally eliminated the ability for any voice in Russia that speaks out against him to rise up. But his desire to intimidate the world into acquiescing to his barbarity and craven worldview is nothing more than a fantasy. And therein lies hope.

– *Courtesy: Al Jazeera*

Liz Truss' plan is a bomb on a short fuse

ALI ADAM

Trump's Jerusalem move was intended by his ideological Middle East team –Kushner, Greenblatt and Friedman– and not just as a move for political electoral purposes. It was meant to legitimise the facts created on the ground over the decades, undermine international resolutions on this issue, and legitimise the occupation of the Palestinian territories, on Israel's behalf, starting with the city of Jerusalem.

Later, the Trump Administration rhetoric and actions also sought...

BRITISH PM's action will not only legitimise Israel's occupation and brutal suppression of the Palestinian people but also mock international laws. New British Prime Minister Liz Truss has stated on more than one occasion that she is considering relocating the British Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The last of which was last month when she met Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid at the United Nations in New York. The issue of Jerusalem is the most contentious subject in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were occupied by Israel in the 1967 war, and their occupation is illegal according to international law and is not recognised by the international community. If Truss goes ahead with the embassy move, she would be following in the footsteps of former US president Donald Trump, who recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2018, and moved the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. She would also be breaking away with decades of the UK's foreign policy that has long maintained the illegality of Israel's occupation. When Trump moved the embassy in 2018, then UK PM Theresa May fervently criticised the act, and stated that, “we believe that it's unhelpful in terms of prospects for peace in the region”. She also affirmed that the status of Jerusalem is “clear and long-standing: it should be determined in negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and Jerusalem should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states. In line with relevant Security Council resolutions, we regard East Jerusalem as part of the occupied Palestinian Territories.” Like former PM May said, moving the embassy to Jerusalem would violate UN resolutions, and it would also defy decades of international consensus that maintained that all embassies must stay in Tel Aviv until a peace agreement is reached between the two sides, with Jerusalem being the shared capital for the two states. What Truss intends to do is extremely dangerous for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and for the world at large. Moving the embassy will mean a dangerous de facto recognition by the UK of the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem and the entire territories it occupied in the six-day war in 1967. It will mean dangerous legitimisation of the settlements in these areas, as well as the draconian practices against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, such as home demolitions and displacement of people. It will effectively recognise Israel's claim that undivided Jerusalem is its capital, and approve of Israel's possible annexation of East Jerusalem. And it will undermine the occupied Palestinian people's rights in the city. Given how the Zionist takeover of Palestine and the plight of the Palestinian people since 1948 were facilitated and sponsored by Britain, Truss should be finding ways to make this mistake right, and support the Palestinians in their quest for freedom as opposed to further undermining their rights. Trump's Jerusalem move was intended by his ideological Middle East team –Kushner, Greenblatt and Friedman– and not just as a move for political electoral purposes. It was meant to legitimise the facts created on the ground over the decades, undermine international resolutions on this issue, and legitimise the occupation of the Palestinian territories, on Israel's behalf, starting with the city of Jerusalem. Later, the Trump Administration rhetoric and actions also sought to legitimise the occupation of the West Bank as well. Following the diplomatic efforts of the PA, the Arab League and the EU, among others, only three states have followed in Trump's footsteps: Kosovo, Guatemala, and Honduras. The rest of the 82 countries with embassies in Israel kept their diplomatic missions in Tel Aviv. So, following Trump's decision, the status of Jerusalem largely remained the same, and the Trump position remained an outlier, and although the Biden Administration didn't reverse Trump's move, they tried to minimise its damages. However, if the UK moves to relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, this will stir the pot once again, and put respect for international law and the international community's positions, with regards

to the issue of occupying land by force, into question once again. Truss must understand that the Jerusalem move that she is contemplating represents nothing less than an active support for the occupation (and possible annexation) of the Palestinian territories as well as the brutal draconian practices of that occupation.

The West's preferential treatment for Israel has always had chain reactions across the world and will continue to do. You can't overlook international law in certain countries, and require it to be implemented and respected in other countries. This won't work. It's noteworthy that the UK moving the embassy would further ignite tensions in the already-volatile occupied territories, which over the past couple of months seems to be on the brink of exploding into violence. And in the long run, it would just poison the region with more instability and further make the Israeli-Palestinian conflict more intractable. Many British Jews, British Jewish organisations rival political parties in the UK, such as the LibDem, the SNP and the Labour, and Christian leaders have all come out in opposition to Truss's intended move.

The Arab League and Arab countries, including countries that have signed the Abraham Accords with Israel, have expressed their objection to the idea. Arab countries have sent a collective letter to the UK's foreign office, which says such a move could jeopardise a trade deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The move might also impact its relations with some Commonwealth and Muslim countries worldwide, for many of whom the status of Jerusalem matters. In addition, the UK stands to gain nothing from moving the embassy, none whatsoever. These condemnations and rejection statements hopefully will deter Truss from going ahead with the embassy relocation. Especially now more than ever, the world doesn't have the stomach for international law and international resolutions to be dishonoured, and for countries to receive the message that it's acceptable to occupy land by force and enforce a draconian military regime over an innocent population.

– *Courtesy: TRT World*

Briefs

Pak wants to deepen ties with UK: PM

FROM PAGE 01 engaged in the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood affected people of Pakistan. Assuring the Prime Minister of UK's continued assistance for relief and rehabilitation work in Pakistan, Lord Ahmad announced an additional £10 million in relief assistance for Pakistan, bringing the total quantum of UK flood-related assistance to £26.5 million. The Prime Minister highlighted the continuing Indian human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He stressed that a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and UN Security Council resolutions, was critical to achieving long-term peace and stability in South Asia. The Prime Minister also reiterated Pakistan's principled support for the universal and consistent application of UN Charter principles – including non-use or threat of use of force, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, pacific settlement of disputes, and equal security for all states. He added that Pakistan continued to call for immediate cessation of hostilities and stressed the need for diplomacy and dialogue for an early, negotiated end to the Ukraine conflict. The Prime Minister also hosted a luncheon for the British Minister of State and the accompanying delegation.

PML-N rubbishes PTI...

FROM PAGE 01 The defence minister further said the PPP leader's allegations were a reflection of "his frustration and personal temptation". "Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz appeared before JTI's [joint investigation teams] hundreds of times... We have always demonstrated respect for the judiciary." Responding to a question, Asif ruled out that his party would take action against the PPP leader under Article 6 of the Constitution. "This person [Aitzaz Ahsan] does not have any value or political stature to take such action against him." However, the minister added that the government will "definitely" retaliate and take action against him under the law and the Constitution. The ruling PML-N's reaction came a day after its coalition partner the PPP distanced itself from Aitzaz's statement and reportedly decided to suspend his party's membership. In a statement, the PPP said Aitzaz's statement was his personal view and termed it against the party line.

At least 3 killed, 5 injured...

FROM PAGE 01 visiting the Kobo area to collect the body of a tubewell operator who was killed on Thursday night. "The operator was murdered last night and his body was abandoned at a deserted place nearby," she said, adding that the vehicle carrying the deceased's relatives hit a landmine, thus causing casualties. She said authorities were facing difficulties to reach the area due to landmines planted by "certain elements". Meanwhile, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo expressed grief over the incident and offered condolences to the aggrieved families.

PTI demands PEMRA...

FROM PAGE 01 neither stopped Sanaullah from delivering abusive remarks nor his comments were censured. The objectionable statement was issued on broadcast and social media without any changes. Durrani asked the PEMRA chairman to take notice of the objectionable content of the TV show and the private news channel besides ordering the private channel's administration to remove the content from broadcast and social media.

Pakistan win tri-series final to send T20 World Cup warning

"What lost us the game was those last couple of overs at both ends, but we can take a lot of positives into the World Cup"

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND: All-rounder Mohammad Nawaz helped Pakistan to a five-wicket victory over New Zealand on Friday to win the tri-series Twenty20 final in Christchurch with three balls to spare. It was a good sign for Pakistan going into the World Cup in Australia, with an opener against arch-rivals India on October 23. After the hosts finished on 163-7 at Hagley Oval, spinner Michael Bracewell checked Pakistan's early momentum in the tourists' reply, before Nawaz stepped up with his decisive 38 off 22 balls. Haider Ali also made a useful 31 off 15 balls. Having also steered Pakistan out of trouble in Thursday's dead-rubber win over Bangladesh, Nawaz produced another stellar innings before Ifthikhar Ahmed sealed victory with a six in the final over. "I just backed myself when I came on yesterday and today, all the preparation in the nets meant I had a clear mind," said man-of-the-match Nawaz. "I have been batting in the middle order in club cricket, which helps a lot, and I was very happy to fulfil the team's expectations in me."



The Black Caps – World Cup finalists last year – started well with captain Kane Williamson the top-scorer with a masterful display of stroke play to chalk up 59 off 38 balls. The hosts flew out of the traps with Finn Allen hitting three fours before he was caught by Naseem Shah for 12 off six

balls. Williamson came in to settle nerves with his first half-century in any format in 2022 after struggling for form following an elbow injury. "It was a great game, Pakistan are a strong side and all credit to the way they turned the game's momentum," said Williamson.

"There was a lot of good in it, but it was frustrating not to get over the line." In reply, formidable Pakistan openers Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan smashed Tim Southee, on his 100th T20 international appearance, for nine runs in the opening over, then hit Trent Boult for 10 in

the second. Bracewell then intervened and grabbed the wickets of Azam and Shan Masood, and Ish Sodhi trapped dangerous Rizwan lbw for 34 runs off 29 balls. But just as he did against Bangladesh, Nawaz came to the crease to wrestle back control of the match. Ifthikhar's towering six with

three balls left clinched victory in style. "It's disappointing that we can't take the winners' cup home," said Bracewell, who finished man of the series. "What lost us the game was those last couple of overs at both ends, but we can take a lot of positives into the World Cup." – APP

Swiatek downs Zheng to reach San Diego quarters

SAN DIEGO: World number one Iga Swiatek tamed China's Zheng Qinwen 6-4 4-6 6-1 to ease into the quarterfinals of the San Diego Open and close in on an eighth title this season. Swiatek, who nearly clinched an eighth trophy last week losing in the final of the Ostrava Open in the Czech Republic, brought her form back with her to the United States where she claimed the U.S. Open crown last month. It will be Swiatek's 12th quarterfinal of the year where she will take on the winner between American Coco Gauff and Canadian Bianca Andreescu, who meet later on Thursday. "Qinwen, she has a different



game style because she's playing topspin on her forehand and the ball is flying pretty high," said Swiatek, whose seven titles include two grand slams the French and U.S. Opens. "So today I had to adjust to that. "But

overall, the first matches of any tournament is about adjusting to the conditions we have here." Coming off a first round bye, Swiatek had the only break to take the opening set but then appeared to run out of ener-

gy and focus in the second allowing the 28th ranked Zheng back into the match. With seven break chances in the second Swiatek had plenty of opportunities to bring the contest to a quick conclusion but it was big-hitting Zheng getting the timely break at 5-4 to take the second and level the match. That provided Swiatek with a wake up call with Zheng holding serve to open the third before the world number one ripped through the next six games to end the contest in a rout. October 14 - Sixth-seeded Coco Gauff needed 2 1/2 hours to defeat Canada's Bianca Andreescu on Thursday and advance to the quarterfinals of the San Diego Open. –APP

Benzema will win if Ballon d'Or is not cancelled

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski hasn't forgotten the 2020 Ballon d'Or ceremony that wasn't, joking that Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema will win this year's award unless it is cancelled again. The Poland forward was the frontrunner to win the prestigious individual prize for the world's best player in 2020 but the ceremony was cancelled for the first time since its inception in 1956 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Lewandowski was instead given a "Striker of the Year" award at the 2021 ceremony, where Paris Saint-Germain forward Lionel Messi won his seventh Ballon d'Or. "(Benzema) is probably one of the favourites to win the Ballon d'Or," Lewandowski told Movistar on Thursday. "If they don't cancel it then he's probably going to win this Ballon d'Or." Benzema is expected to win the prize, given out by France Football magazine, at the ceremony on Monday in Paris, after helping his team win the Champions League and La Liga last season. Bayern Munich won the Bundesliga and Champions League double in the 2019-20 season, with Lewandowski netting 15 goals in Europe on the way to victory over PSG in the final. "I wanted to say to Robert that it was an honour to go up against him," said Messi at the 2021 ceremony. "He deserved to win it last year." –APP

Third T20 between Australia and England abandoned due to rain

CANBERRA: England were denied a clean sweep of their T20 series against Australia when persistent rain forced the third match to be abandoned in Canberra on Friday. Needing 130 to win from 12 overs, Australia were 30-3 from 3.5 overs when rain forced the players from the field for the third and final time. England captain Jos Buttler said his team was building up well to the T20 World Cup, after winning the three-match series 2-0. "We made some good strides in Pakistan and we came here (Australia) and continued that form," Buttler said. It was a disappointing end to the match, the last official game for both teams before the World Cup, which starts on October 22. After being sent in by Australian captain Aaron Finch, Buttler smashed 65 from only 41 balls as England reached 112-2 in their 12 overs. Australia, already 2-0 down in the three-match series, then needed 130 to win based on the Duckworth-Lewis method. And they got the worst possible start when Chris Woakes had Finch and number three Mitchell Marsh caught with the first two balls of the match to stun the home side. He then dismissed Glenn Maxwell in the third over to leave Australians in huge trouble at 17-3, before rain forced an early end. –APP

Neymar faces five-year jail-term request

BARCELONA: Brazil forward Neymar will stand trial next week on fraud and corruption charges over his transfer to Barcelona from Santos in 2013 and the complainant, Brazilian investment firm DIS, said on Thursday it was demanding a five-year jail term. Along with Neymar, the defendants in the trial being brought by Spanish prosecutors, which begins in Barcelona on Monday, are his parents, the two clubs, former Barca presidents Josep Maria Bartomeu and Sandro Rosell, and ex-Santos president Odilio Rodrigues. The case stems from a com-



plaint by DIS, which owned 40% of the rights to Neymar when he was at Santos. The company argues that it lost out on its rightful cut from the transfer because

the true value of the deal was understated. Neymar, who is a key member of the Brazil team that will be heading to the World Cup in Qatar next month,

has denied the allegations but lost an appeal in Spain's High Court in 2017, which paved the way for the trial. Baker McKenzie, who will be defending Neymar and his family in the trial, told Reuters they will argue that the Spanish courts "lack jurisdiction to prosecute the Neymar family" since the transfer involved Brazilian nationals in Brazil. Spanish prosecutors want a two-year prison term for Neymar and the payment of a 10 million euros (\$9.78 million) fine plus a five-year jail term for Rosell and an 8.4 million euros fine for Barcelona. –APP

PSG troubled as Mbappe future up in the air again

We were not going to secretly troll him," one source, formerly connected to the PSG board, told AFP of the claims Mbappe was targeted

PARIS: Less than five months after Kylian Mbappe signed a new three-year contract to supposedly end the uncertainty about his future, Paris Saint-Germain are once again facing up to the possibility of losing the France superstar. The Qatar-owned club sit top of Ligue 1 and their Champions League group, but all is not well in the French capital with a raft of reasons given for Mbappe reportedly wanting away. It has completely overshadowed PSG's build-up to Sunday's game against bitter rivals Marseille. The speculation started on Tuesday, hours before Christophe Galtier's team hosted Benfica in the Champions League, with Spanish sports daily Marca and several French media

reporting that Mbappe wants to leave as early as the January transfer window. Mbappe has in recent weeks let it be known publicly that he is unhappy with the position he has been asked to play in new coach Galtier's system, pointing out after playing for France last month that he has "much more freedom" playing for his country. Mbappe still scored his 12th goal of the season for PSG as they drew 1-1 with Benfica, but it is believed he is disappointed the club did not sign a top-class centre-forward in the close season – for example Robert Lewandowski, who went to Barcelona. PSG's football advisor Luis Campos told Canal Plus that Mbappe had "never spoken to me about

leaving in January". However, that was before the investigative website Mediapart reported on Wednesday that an agency called Digital Big Brother (DBB) had worked on behalf of PSG to deploy a series of Twitter accounts with the task of boosting the club's image. The work involved going after a number of targets earmarked by the club, including a supporter slapped by Neymar after PSG lost the 2019 French Cup final and a woman who accused the Brazilian of raping her. But there were also internal targets, such as Adrien Rabiot – now with Juventus – and Mbappe himself. "We worked for PSG. It bothers us for our reputation that PSG deny working with us," Frederic Geldhof,

who worked for a subsidiary of DBB called UReputation, told AFP. PSG have "firmly" denied the allegations that they asked the agency to work on their behalf. "We were doing everything to get him to extend his contract. We were not going to secretly troll him," one source, formerly connected to the PSG board, told AFP of the claims Mbappe was targeted. The affair carries similarities to the 'Barcagate' scandal which saw Barcelona allegedly hire a company to smear opponents of the club's board on social media. It may do little to help the relationship between PSG and their biggest star, even if there is surely little prospect of the club agreeing to sell Mbappe in the

January transfer window. One to watch: Laurent Blanc Over six years after he last coached in Europe, Blanc is back on a Ligue 1 bench this weekend as he takes charge of Lyon for the first time against Rennes. The 56-year-old replaces the sacked Peter Bosz. He arrives with Lyon languishing in ninth place in the table, already nine points adrift of the Champions League places. Blanc coached PSG from 2013 to 2016, winning three straight Ligue 1 titles. His only coaching job since then came at Al Rayyan in Qatar, where he spent a year before departing in February. Key stats 4 – Four clubs in Ligue 1 have changed their coach in just the last week. Blanc at Lyon has started a trend, with strugglers

Brest, Auxerre and Reims also replacing their manager in recent days. 6 – Lorient are on a club record run of six straight top-flight wins. They will go top of the table, at least for 24 hours, if they beat Reims on Saturday. 19 – PSG are on a 19-game unbeaten run in the league before facing Marseille, who have won just one of the last 25 meetings of the great rivals. Fixtures (times GMT) Friday Strasbourg v Lille (1900) Saturday Lens v Reims (1500), Lens v Montpellier (1900) Sunday Toulouse v Angers (1100), Auxerre v Nice, Nantes v Brest, Rennes v Lyon, Troyes v Ajaccio (all 1300), Monaco v Clermont (1505), Paris Saint-Germain v Marseille (1845). –APP

Imran demands end to 'reign...

FROM PAGE 01 successful in the general elections," he said. The PTI chairman also said that the incumbent government, which came into power through a "foreign conspiracy", would not remain in office for long. "My nation has stood up for its future." Separately, while speaking to lawyers in the metropolis, the former prime minister said that the nation is facing a "decisive time" as if "big thieves" keep getting NROs then the country would not have a future. He said that lawyers understand the need for upholding the law and that is why they should support his cause. "Powerful people steal money and launder it abroad. This is why, I am waging jihad and I want all of you to support me," the ex-prime minister said.

Pound slides amid UK political drama

LONDON: The pound fell on Friday after under-fire British Prime Minister Liz Truss sacked her finance minister and made a dramatic policy U-turn, while an equity rally ran out of steam. The yen struck a new three-decade dollar low as a rise in US inflation expectations cemented expectations of more hefty Federal Reserve rate hikes. Truss sacked finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng as pressure mounted on her government following last month's big-spending, tax-slashing mini-budget, which spooked markets. The September 23 budget sent the pound tumbling to a record dollar low, near parity with the greenback, and bond yields surged before stabilising thanks to interventions by the Bank of England. Sterling sank more than one percent to under \$1.12 after Truss dismissed Kwarteng. It fell even lower after Truss appointed Jeremy Hunt as her new finance minister and announced a dramatic policy U-turn, before clawing back some of its losses. In her first Downing Street press conference, Truss stated the "need to act now to reassure the markets", abandoned her plans to eliminate an increase in corporation tax and said spending would not increase as rapidly as planned. "The soap opera that is UK politics continues to dominate FX (forex) markets Friday," said Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management. UK 10-year government bond yields rose after the Bank of England publicly stated it would end its costly market interventions on Friday. – APP

Germany says gas reserves nearly full

BERLIN: Germany on Friday said it had filled its gas reserves to 95 percent of capacity faster than expected as it prepares for a winter deprived of Russian energy supplies. Europe's largest economy had been heavily dependent on Russian gas and has raced to bolster its reserves after deliveries from Russia halted following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. "Storage levels today surpassed an average level of 95 percent," the economy ministry said in a statement. "That shows that regulation is having an effect and supply is strengthened for the coming winter." Berlin in July adopted a raft of measures so that gas stocks would reach 95 percent of capacity by November. Economy Minister Robert Habeck called Friday's report an "important milestone". He said government action had managed "to regulate a market that was largely unregulated in the past decades so that we could fill the storage facilities faster than expected despite the halt in deliveries via the Nord Stream 1" pipeline from Russia. "Now we need to continue to strengthen supply for the coming winter," Habeck acknowledged. The total gas reserves amount to 240.8 terawatt hours of capacity, according to the German Association of Energy and Water Industries, which groups local utilities and regional as well as inter-regional suppliers. However, that amount is only enough to cover Germany's needs for two months in the wintertime based on past average usage of between 90 and 120 terawatt hours per month. – APP

Briefs

Five dead in North Carolina shooting, suspect captured

Washington: A shooting Thursday in North Carolina's capital Raleigh left at least five people dead, including an off-duty police officer, officials in the southeast US city said, adding that a suspect had been captured.

Raleigh Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin said the shooting occurred near the Neuse River Greenway, a popular trail in the area.

"This is a sad and tragic day for the city of Raleigh. Just after 5:00 pm today, multiple people were shot," she told a press conference.

The Raleigh Police Department "has confirmed five fatalities. One of them was an off-duty Raleigh police officer."

The shooter, a "white male juvenile," was taken into custody shortly after 9:30 pm, Raleigh Police Lieutenant Jason Borneo said in a follow-up press conference. The mayor had earlier reported that the shooter was being "contained in a residence in the area" by police. One victim, Borneo said, remained in critical condition. Also among the wounded was a canine officer who had been taken to the hospital, although Borneo reported that an injured police officer had been released.

When asked about a motive for the shooting, he said it would likely "come to bear" in the coming days.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, who attended the evening press conference, told journalists that: "Tonight terror has reached our doorstep."

"The nightmare of every community has come to Raleigh. This is a senseless, horrific, and infuriating act of violence that has been committed." Gun violence is a major problem in the United States where more than 34,000 people have died in shootings so far in 2022 alone, more than half of which were from suicide, according to the Gun Violence Archive website.

"We must do more," Baldwin told the press conference. "We must stop this mindless violence in America. We must address gun violence. We have much to do, and tonight we have much to mourn."

The North Carolina shooting occurred after a jury earlier in the day rejected the death penalty and backed life imprisonment for Nikolas Cruz, who shot and killed 17 people at a Florida high school in 2018. Mass shootings have repeatedly stunned the nation, reigniting debate on gun control, a hot-button cultural issue that has made little headway in Congress.—APP

G20 offers help for global crisis: Minister

WASHINGTON: Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati stated that the G20 forum offers hope and serves as a navigation amid the crisis, such as the current uncertain global situation.

"We believe that the G20 can become a sign of hope that can (help the international community to) navigate when a crisis occurs. The confidence is based on historical facts when the G20 was able to overcome the global financial crisis (in 2008)," the minister remarked at the opening of the 4th Meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FM-CBG) here on Wednesday evening local time.

The FM-CBG is organized by Indonesia's 2022 G20 Presidency under the Finance Track to discuss various global economic finance issues. The minister noted that the world is currently in a state of recession due to various global challenges that may potentially weaken the world's economic growth, such as geopolitical conflicts, rising energy and food prices, as well as high domestic inflation in several countries. Hence, these challenges cannot be faced by each country alone since the handling of the turmoil necessitates multilateral cooperation, especially from the G20 group that accounts for 85 percent of the world GDP.—APP

Unipolar world order losing legitimacy, says Khamenei

There are individuals among the Shias who are extremists because of their beliefs or other reason, just like there are also extremist individuals among the Sunnis; extremism exists

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the unipolar world order in which one or two states impose their will on other countries is no longer accepted.

"The political map of the world is changing," Ayatollah Khamenei told Iranian officials and guests of the 36th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran on Friday.

The issue of being in a unipolar world where "one or two countries forcing other states and nations has lost its legitimacy," he said, adding, "Nations have been awakened. The unipolar world order is no longer accepted and is gradually losing its legitimacy."

In a unipolar system, he maintained, arrogant powers such as the US, would design their own schemes and dictate them to other countries such as Iraq, Syria, Iran, or Lebanon. The people of the world are

awakening to the truth of those powers and are opposed to one or two states bullying others into obedience, he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said Islamic unity means being united in safeguarding the interests of the Islamic Ummah across the world. "Unity means being united in protecting the interests of the Islamic Ummah (community)," he said.

It also does not mean geographical unity, he maintained, as some Arab countries tried to get united in the 1960s and 1970s. "This is impossible."

"We should first detect the interests of the Muslim Ummah. Then, nations should come to an agreement on that and see what the Ummah needs at the time; [they should see] to whom they should be foes, [and] with whom friends, and how they should engage in friendship."

Unity means implementing "joint actions against the plots of the Arrogance," he added. The 36th International Islamic Unity Con-



ference officially opened on Wednesday at Tehran's Summit Hall with the participation of delegates from over 40 countries

The annual conference is organized by the Iran-based World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought. The annual event

marks Islamic Unity Week which coincides with the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

"Islamic unity, peace and avoiding division and conflict within the Islamic world" has been named as the main theme of the conference. Just war and peace,

Islamic brotherhood, countering terrorism, accepting religious consensus, empathy, and sympathy, mutual action among various Islamic schools of thought, and condemning normalization of relations with the Zionist regime are among the other topics of the event.

The conference will wrap up this afternoon after issuing a statement.

The Muslim Ummah can attain a "high position" in the new world which is gradually being shaped, he said, adding that the Muslim world can become a "role model" and a "pioneer." However, he continued, the only condition for realizing this is to have unity and overcome the temptations of enemies, especially the US and Israel. "Unity among Islamic nations is possible but it needs efforts," he said, adding, most hope on this issue is pinned on elites and thinkers of the Muslim world as they can guide the public opinion toward the issue. "If the public opinion is formed in a country, the administrative policies

of that country will forcibly move in that direction." Ayatollah Khamenei went on to note that the Islamic Republic stood against two major powers of the time, namely the US and the Soviet Union. "The powers had differences in tens of issues but they were united in one thing: opposing the Islamic Republic," he said, adding, "They imagined that they could uproot this seedling [but] this seedling has now turned into a mighty tree." "They are damn wrong in thinking that they can uproot it," he said. Further expanding on unity, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that differences in religious schools of thought, i.e. Sunni or Shia, should not lead to strife or discord among people, noting that American and British politicians, who are anti-Islam and are neither good towards Shias nor towards Sunnis "have brought the 'Shia-Sunni' debates into their circles, and this matter is really dangerous."

Sweden unveils minority govt with far-right support

STOCKHOLM: The next government of Sweden will be a coalition of three right-wing political parties, with support from the far-right.

Ulf Kristersson, the Nordic nation's likely next prime minister, announced that his Moderate party would be joined by the Christian Democrats and Liberals in a formal coalition.

The far-right Sweden Democrats, the biggest opposition party, will not be an official member of the government but the four parties will, together, pursue a unified government policy which means Kristersson will have to rely on the Sweden Democrats to govern effectively.

"This mandate makes us feel that change is not only necessary but also possible," Kristersson, 58, told reporters, cautioning that Sweden's problems are so big, they would take time to fix.

The deal signed between the four parties is called the "Tidö Agreement", after the castle where the negotiations took place, and Kristersson said the agreement was based on the parties seeing similar problems, and coming up with joint solutions for

how to tackle them.

Kristersson said on Friday that when the new government takes office, there should be a budget that creates stability for Sweden. He also wants benefits reform that "means it never pays better to live on benefits than to work". He said there would be more of a focus on foreigners learning Swedish so they can get into the job market, cuts to international aid, lower fuel prices and protection against soaring energy costs. Meanwhile, the leader of the Sweden Democrats, Jimmie Kesson, said he would like to have been part of a majority government, but that his party will have extensive political influence, and have secured concessions from the other parties in return for their support outside the coalition.

"We must deliver politically and especially in areas that our voters think are particularly important," Kesson said. Some of these areas include reform of the criminal justice to introduce tougher sentences for repeat offenders, among other reforms, and lowering the number of quota refugees

Sweden is willing to accept each year.

The leader of the Liberals, Johan Pehrson, said his party had to compromise its positions during the month-long negotiations since the election on 11 September, but that his party is united behind the deal.

The Liberals had balked at the idea of being in a formal coalition with the Sweden Democrats, but having them outside the government seems to have placated his members.

In terms of policy areas, Pehrson spoke on Friday about the importance of education, and the need for freedom of the media and independence of the judiciary, as well as securing continued abortion rights for women.

Ebba Busch, the leader of the Christian Democrats, says the new coalition has a mandate to make "the healthcare reform of the century," and wants to invest in a new national healthcare agency as well as improved care home facilities.

"I am happy that our partner parties have reached an agreement on how Sweden can be governed," Busch wrote on Twitter.

"These are troubled times in our world and also here at home, but difficult problems are best solved together. This means a new start for Sweden. We are ready."

There has already been some political reaction to the announcement of Kristersson's rightwing "3+1" government and its broad policy agenda.

Swedish Green MP Per Boland decried a lack of a mention of the climate crisis when Kristersson outlined some of the biggest problems the country was facing and criticised the deal. "The agreement will be a heavy burden for a colder and more insecure Sweden," said Bolad, saying it would increase child poverty, create insecurity and build walls between people.

"What we get is a death blow for the climate, and a death blow for Sweden's voice in the world," he wrote on Twitter.

Meanwhile, on the Swedish stock market, shares in an independent school group fell 9.5% when the new government announced a policy proposal to ban fee-paying schools from making too much profit.—Agencies

Russian, Azerbaijani, Armenian FM's meet in Kazakhstan

ASTANA: The foreign ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia gathered for trilateral talks on the sidelines of the leaders' summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital on Friday.

Earlier, statements from the offices of the top diplomats said Sergey Lavrov, Jeyhun Bayramov, and Ararat Mirzoyan would address the current situation in Azerbaijan's Karabakh region and the implementation of the agreements signed following a Russian-mediated truce between Baku and Yerevan in the meeting.

Before the meeting, Lavrov said he hopes to discuss the implementation of the trilateral agreements on Karabakh reached in November 2020 and January 2021 to understand "how to move forward." "A separate topic is the negotiation of a peace treaty in addition to agreements on unblocking economic and transport communications, and conducting delimitation through the creation of a bilateral commission between Azerbaijan and Armenia

with the advisory assistance of the Russian side," Lavrov said.

For his part, Bayramov said that the Azerbaijani side would concentrate on preparing a peace agreement with Armenia.

"We will focus on aspects of post-conflict settlement for which foreign ministers are responsible. In particular, we are talking about a peace agreement, the topic of which we are discussing," he further said.

The meeting agenda will also include other issues related to peace in the South Caucasus, including border delimitation, the unblocking of communications and humanitarian issues, he added. The Karabakh region was liberated from nearly three-decades of Armenian occupation during the 44-day clashes in the 2020 fall, which ended after a Moscow-brokered ceasefire. The peace agreement is celebrated as a triumph in Azerbaijan.

The CIS summit has begun on Friday morning under the auspices of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.—Agencies

South Korea sanctions 15 North Korean individuals

SEOUL: South Korea on Friday imposed sanctions on 15 North Korean individuals and 16 institutions in response to recent missile tests and drills by tactical nuclear operation units.

This is for the first time Seoul has announced its unilateral sanctions against Pyongyang since 2017, Yonhap News Agency reported. South Korea has blacklisted officials from shipping companies, the North's missile program, and those involved in the procurement of weapons of mass destruction.

"We strongly condemn North Korea for staging a series of missile provocations with unprecedented frequency recently and

suggesting the use of tactical nukes against us," the agency said, citing a Foreign Ministry statement.

The announcement came hours after North Korea fired another short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) into the East Sea at 1:49 a.m. Friday (1649GMT Thursday) and fired 170 artillery shots into maritime "buffer zones."

President Yoon Suk-yeol also called North Korea's latest pre-dawn missile launch and artillery fire into "buffer zones" a violation of the 2018 agreement.

Yoon was referring to the 2018 agreement between the two countries, which created buffer zones along land and sea boundaries and no-fly zones above the border. However, the North Korean military said the latest missile launch and artillery fire were in response to South Korea's "provocative action."—APP

UK's Royal Mail to cut 6,000 jobs

LONDON: Britain's Royal Mail announced on Friday it could cut up to 6,000 jobs by the end of August 2023 as it continues to lock horns with trade unions.

In a statement, Royal Mail's parent group International Distribution Services announced it will post an adjusted operating loss of £350 million (\$395 million) this year, due to a number of factors that include a series of strikes that have and will take place.

The Communication Workers Union (CWU) represents around 115,000 Royal Mail workers. They have carried out strikes over pay and conditions in September and October, with more scheduled later this month and in November.

The statement said: "We will be starting the process of consulting on rightsizing the business in response to the impact of industrial action, delays in delivering agreed productivity improvements and lower parcel volumes."

Royal Mail will cut 10,000 full-time roles by next August, which will involve 6,000 redundancies by that time.

Royal Mail chief executive Simon Thompson said: "This is a very sad day. I regret that we are announcing these job losses."

"We will do all we can to avoid compulsory redundancies and support everyone affected."

"We have announced today losses of £219 million in the first half of the year. Each strike day weakens our financial situation."

"The CWU's decision to choose damaging strike action over resolution regrettably increases the risk of further headcount reductions."—APP

8 students killed as boat sinks in Cambodia

ANKARA: At least eight young students were killed and three others are still missing after a motorboat sank in southeast Cambodia, local media said Friday. Students were traveling on a boat when it capsized near Kampong Dor Toteung late Thursday evening, Khmer Times reported.

So far, eight bodies of students have been recovered, three are still missing, while three students and the boat operator have been rescued alive. Kandal Provincial Police Commissioner Major General Chhoeun Sochet said 14 students aged 12 to 14 were returning to their homes on an islet in Koh Chamroen village when their boat capsized.

He blamed the tragedy on excessive speed, overloading, and careless driving. Sochet said the search for the missing students is still ongoing.—Agencies

Lawsuit filed against TotalEnergies

PARIS: Two environmental groups have sued French energy company TotalEnergies for "aiding and abetting war crimes" in Ukraine.

The complaint was filed by Razom We Stand and Darwin Climax Coalition Thursday with the anti-terror prosecutor's office in Paris. The climate activists accuse TotalEnergies of using a gas field in Russia, partially exploited by TotalEnergies, to produce fuel for Russian warplanes used in the Ukraine war.

The energy company helped provide the Russian government "with the means necessary to perpetrate war crimes," the lawsuit said. Until recently, TotalEnergies held a 49% stake in Terneftegaz, which exploits the Termokarstovoye gas field in Siberia.

The remaining 51% of the company was owned by the Russian company Novatek, in which TotalEnergies also has a 19.4% stake.

The energy company has denied the accusations made by the climate activists. In response to a request from Anadolu Agency, press spokesman Gael Baudet said: "We would like to remind you that the unstable condensates produced by Terneftegaz which are then stabilized by Novatek in its Purovsky plant, were exported abroad as indicated by Novatek: it is therefore impossible for them to have been used by the Russian army as fuel for its aircraft."—APP



ISLAMABAD: British Minister of State for South Asia & Commonwealth Lord Tariq Ahmad calls on Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. — DNA

2 Palestinians dead amid escalation in Israeli violence

Many Palestinians have also sustained injuries or lost their lives in incidents due to allegations that they attempted stabbing or car-ramping attacks against Israeli settlers and forces

FOREIGN DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Two Palestinian youths are dead as Israeli forces continue a violent crackdown on Palestinians in refugee camps across the occupied West Bank and al-Quds. A 20-year-old Palestinian, Mateen Dabaya, was shot dead by Israeli forces on Friday during a raid on Jenin city and camp, WAFA news agency reported.

Special Israeli military units carried out the attack which sparked intense clashes with Palestinians. The report added that Israeli soldiers fired live bullets at Palestinians, killing Dabaya and wounding six others, including Abdullah Abu al-Teen, a doctor working at the Khalil Suleiman hospital. The Palestinian doctor was severely injured while he was trying to save one of the casualties shot by Israeli forces.

Wissam Abu Bakr, director of Jenin Governmental Hospital, said the injured doctor is in critical condition. The raid follows the killing of an Israeli soldier on Saturday at a checkpoint near Shuafat Palestinian refugee camp, which was followed by a massive manhunt for the suspected

attacker, who remains at large. The brutal attacks in Jenin have also targeted medical aid workers. Mahmoud Sa'adi, the head of the Emergency Department of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in Jenin, said on Friday that the occupation forces have directly shot and injured two aid workers who were trying to transfer one of the injured Palestinians to the hospital. Ibin Sina Hospital in Jenin also said that one of the emergency workers have been injured by a shot in the neck and transferred to the hospital. Meanwhile, a Palestinian prisoner succumbed to his injuries on Friday at a hospital in occupied territories. Mohammad al-Saeed Ghawadra, 17, from the refugee camp of Jenin had been detained on September 4 in the Jordan Valley. He was suffering from severe and deep burns covering 90% of his body. According to the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS), Ghawadra was the 232nd slain Palestinian prisoner since 1967. Flare-ups have also been reported across the occupied West Bank as Palestinians confronted Israeli troops accompanied by settlers. More than 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the Israeli-occupied territories since the start of the year, including 51 in the besieged

Gaza Strip during Israel's three-day onslaught in August. Israeli forces continue their near-daily raid-and-arrest operations in various parts of the West Bank, wounding or killing Palestinians. Such raids are carried out while Israeli settlers also conduct acts of violence against Palestinians and their property. Settler violence is rampant in the occupied Palestinian territories. The acts of violence and vandalism, known as price tag attacks which are committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and their property, have risen in recent years. However, Israeli authorities rarely prosecute Israeli settlers for their assaults on Palestinians and their property and the vast majority of the files are closed due to deliberate police failure to investigate properly. Many Palestinians have also sustained injuries or lost their lives in incidents due to allegations that they attempted stabbing or car-ramping attacks against Israeli settlers and forces. As many as 74 Palestinians, including 37 children, have been killed so far this year, many as a result of the use of lethal force by the Israeli authorities in a manner described by the UN Human Rights Office in the Occupied Territories as a violation of international human rights law.

Briefs

Authorities urged to promote Afghan transit trade

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: President Frontier Custom Agents Association, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi Friday urged authorities to take steps for promotion of Afghan Transit Trade that was affected by recent floods. He expressed these views in a meeting that was attended by Customs high ups, Pakistan and Afghan businessmen associated with transit trade. He said that concerns of business community relating to Afghan transit should be considered and steps should be taken for their addressal. Director Transit Trade Peshawar, Arbab Qaisar Hamid who attended the meeting said that Afghan authorities have been requested to send transit documents at the earliest after updating their own system.

Russia 'to repair blast damage by July 2023'

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia's government has ordered contractors to finish repairs to a key bridge linking annexed Crimea to Russia by July 2023. The bridge was damaged by a blast last Saturday which officials say left at least three people dead. Russia blamed Ukraine for the attack but Kyiv has not said it was behind it. The 19km (12-mile) bridge, Europe's longest, is a key supply route for Russian forces in Ukraine, but heavy goods vehicles are unable to use it. The explosion caused mid-way sections of one of the two carriageways of the bridge to collapse into the sea and also damaged the railway line. Currently, lorries are forced to queue for a ferry, in a process which is thought to take several days.

Belarus says Russian troops to arrive for joint deployment

WEB DESK

MINSK: Belarus said on Friday that Russian troops would soon be arriving to take part in a "regional grouping" of forces to protect its borders. "Troops from the Russian component of the Regional Grouping of Forces will start arriving in Belarus in the next few days," the Minsk defence ministry said. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said earlier this week that his troops would deploy with Russian forces near the Ukrainian border, citing what he said were threats from Ukraine and the West. On Friday President Alexander Lukashenko placed Belarus in what he called a state of heightened terrorism alert due to tension on its borders. Ukraine has denied attacking Belarus.

Putin says no plan yet for further mobilization

Most of the 300,000 people due to be called up had been, Putin added

NEWS DESK

ASTANA: President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia's call-up of reserve forces to fight in Ukraine, criticised as chaotic by some Kremlin allies, had been vital to hold the front line but would be wound up in the next couple of weeks. Russia has conducted a broad mobilisation of Russians to reinforce its long front after Ukraine won back territory in recent weeks. Moscow has also threatened to use nuclear weapons to defend territory including four regions of Ukraine it annexed late last month but does not fully control. "The line of contact is 1,100 km (680 miles), so it is practically impossible to hold it with forces formed only of contract soldiers, especially since they take part in offensive activities," Putin told a news conference at the end of a summit in Kazakhstan, adding that those mobilised were being properly trained. Putin said there were no plans for new massive strikes on Ukraine "for now" after what Ukraine said was the firing of 100 Russian cruise missiles this week, mainly at its electricity and heat infrastructure. It was Russia's biggest air assault yet in a nearly 8-month conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people. "We do not set ourselves the task of destroying Ukraine. No, of course not," Putin said, describing the war he started on Feb. 24 as unpleasant but saying he had no regrets. Putin's comments will add to speculation that Russia's supply of cruise missiles is dwindling. Over the next two weeks, he said, Russia would wind up the mobilisation, which has been criticised by some of the Kremlin's hardline nationalist allies and led thousands of Russians to flee to neighbouring countries to avoid service. Most of the 300,000 people due to be called up had been, Putin added. He also repeated the Kremlin position that



Russia was willing to hold talks to end what it calls a special military operation, although he said talks would require international mediation if Ukraine was willing to take part. Taken together, Putin's comments appeared to suggest a slight softening of his tone as the war nears the end of its eighth month, after weeks of Ukrainian advances and significant Russian defeats. Ukraine launched a counteroffensive in late August against Russian forces occupying the country since the start of their invasion in February, pushing them out of a large part of the northeast and putting them under heavy pressure in the south. Moscow's close ally Belarus ordered troops to deploy with Russian forces near Ukraine

this week, prompting concern it may send its forces across the border for the first time. On Friday President Alexander Lukashenko placed Belarus in what he called a state of heightened terrorism alert due to tension on its borders. Ukraine has denied attacking Belarus. Kyiv's main focus now is Kherson - one of four partially occupied Ukrainian provinces that Russia claims to have annexed in recent weeks, and arguably the most strategically important. Russia's TASS news agency said evacuees from the Kherson region were expected to begin arriving in Russia on Friday, a day after a Russian-installed official suggested people could flee to Russia, especially those around Kherson city. While some people in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine have fled to Russia as Ukrainian forces advance, others have reported being forced towards Russia and others still have fled westward to Ukrainian-controlled parts of their country. A flight of civilians from Kherson would be a blow to Russia's claim last month to have annexed around 15% of Ukraine's territory and incorporated an area the size of Portugal into Russia. Three quarters of U.N. members condemned the move as illegal on Wednesday. Kherson city, the only major conurbation Russia has captured intact since invading in February, controls the only land route to the Crimea peninsula seized by Russia in 2014 and the mouth of the Dnipro river that bisects Ukraine. Since the start of October, Ukrainian forces have burst through Russia's front lines in the region in their biggest advance in the south since the war began, aiming to cut Russian troops off from supply lines and escape routes across the river. Ukraine said earlier on Friday that its armed forces had retaken 600 settlements in the past month, including 75 in the Kherson region and 43 in the eastern Donetsk region. Reuters was not immediately able to confirm the battlefield reports.

No suspected case of Ebola reported in Pakistan: NIH

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Friday said no suspected case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was reported in Pakistan. According to an NIH spokesperson, the report of any such case was not correct and termed it baseless. He made it clear that Pakistan was not facing a direct threat of Ebola cases. "The news circulating on social media about Ebola cases is incorrect," the spokesperson added. He said keeping in view the situation in Uganda in September 2022, the NIH advised trade and travel organizations, including Central Health Establishment (CHE) and Border Health Services to remain vigilant and keep on monitoring the passengers coming from outbreak-affected countries. - APP

Weekly inflation eases by 0.57 percent

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on October 13 for the combined consumption group witnessed a decrease of 0.57 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 204.55 points against 205.73 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) statement on Friday. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 28.44 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

China firmly supports Palestinian cause: Ning

BEIJING: China firmly supports the just cause of Palestinian people to restore their national rights and will work with the international community to make relentless efforts until an independent state of Palestine is established, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning said here Friday. Addressing her regular briefing, she welcomed the agreement reached among Palestinian factions and said that China firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people. "We will work with the international community to make relentless efforts until an independent state of Palestine is established and peaceful coexistence between Palestine and Israel is realized," she added. Mao Ning said that China welcomed the agreement reached among the Palestinian factions and commends Algeria's efforts in this regard. "China always supports the internal reconciliation of Palestine and believes that this could help achieve unity within Palestine and promote peace talks between Palestine and Israel," she added. According to the reports, a total of 14 Palestinian factions, including the National Liberation Movement (Fatah) and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), signed in Algeria's capital Algiers a reconciliation deal, formally known as Algiers Declaration, on October 13. - APP



Five shot dead in North Carolina capital

CAROLINA: Five people including an off-duty police officer were shot dead in the North Carolina capital of Raleigh on Thursday, triggering a massive manhunt that shut down part of city for hours and resulted in the arrest of a juvenile suspect, officials said. Two people were wounded: a police officer who was treated and released and a person in hospital in critical condition, a police spokesman said. Multiple law-enforcement agencies took part in the manhunt, turning neighborhoods into crime scenes flooded with first responders. Citizens were told to shelter in place. The shooting broke out at or near the Neuse River Greenway, a trail that runs through part of the city. About three hours later, police said they "contained" the sus-

pect in a residence near a wooded area, later reporting that the suspect, described only as a juvenile white male, was taken into custody. Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin decried the latest outbreak of gun violence in America, while North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper lamented that "terror has reached our doorstep." "The nightmare of every community has come to Raleigh. This is a senseless, horrific and infuriating act of violence that has been committed," Cooper told a late night news conference. Media reported the shooter used a long gun. Police offered no details about how the shooting spree unfolded nor about the circumstances of the suspect's capture. Like others briefing reporters, Baldwin appeared pained and angry. - Agencies



WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Martin Raiser, World Bank's Vice President. - DNA

Germany says gas reserves filled to 95%

BERLIN: Germany on Friday said it had filled its gas reserves to 95 percent of capacity faster than expected as it prepares for a winter deprived of Russian energy supplies. Europe's largest economy had been heavily dependent on Russian gas and has raced to bolster its reserves after deliveries from Russia halted following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. "Storage levels today surpassed an average level of 95 percent," the economy ministry said in a statement. "That shows that regulation is having an effect and supply is strengthened for the coming winter."

Berlin in July adopted a raft of measures so that gas stocks would reach 95 percent of capacity by November. Economy Minister Robert Habeck called Friday's report an "important milestone". He said government measures had managed "to regulate a market that was largely unregulated in the past decades so that we could fill the storage facilities faster than expected despite the halt in deliveries via the Nord Stream 1" pipeline from Russia. Habeck's ministry said that in October 2021, months before the current crisis began, storage was at an

average of 72 percent versus 95.14 percent today. The government said energy-saving measures in recent weeks and massive purchases of gas from other suppliers had led to significant progress. It has spent 1.50 billion euros (\$1.46 billion) to buy liquefied natural gas, with Qatar and the United States being major suppliers, and five new LNG terminals are planned to import it by sea. Meanwhile France said this week it had started sending natural gas to Germany as part of its pledge to ensure EU energy solidarity in the face of Russian-imposed shortages in response to Western sanctions. Berlin has also introduced measures allowing more coal-based power and reducing energy consumption in public buildings. "Now we need to continue to strengthen supply for the coming winter," Habeck said on Friday. - DNA

'Contaminated' medicine kills at least ten children in Yemen

He had various pains, so a doctor prescribed sedatives, but his pain only got worse and he lost consciousness

SANAA: Contaminated medication smuggled into war-torn Yemen has killed at least 10 children being treated for leukaemia in the rebel-held capital Sanaa, local authorities said Friday. "Ten children suffering from leukaemia have died" at the Kuwait Hospital, the Huthi rebels' health ministry said, adding they were among a group of 19 patients aged between three and 15. It said "bacterial contamination" had been detected in the injections administered to the children, adding that the medication had been smuggled into the country. Another child was in "highly critical condition", it said. The medication had passed its expiry date, a medical source in Sanaa told AFP, asking not to be identified for security reasons. The source warned that the casualty toll could rise. The mother of one of the children who died, contacted by AFP on the telephone, said her eight-year-old boy's injection was the first treatment he had received. "He had various pains, so a doctor prescribed sedatives, but his pain only got worse and he lost consciousness," she said, also declining to be named. "Then he died. I don't know how I'll live without him." She added that she had heard doctors say the medicine was contaminated. The health sector in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, has been devastated by years of war between the rebels and Yemen's government, backed by a military coalition. - APP

Terrorist responsible for attack on dental clinic arrested

KARACHI: The main accused behind firing at the dental clinic in Karachi was Friday arrested. According to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), the accused belonged to the banned Sindh Revolutionary Army (SRA). Raids were being conducted for the arrest of his accomplices. The accused had entered the dental clinic and shot a Canadian citizen of Pakistani origin dead and injured two doctors. Meanwhile, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon told the media that a sad incident had happened at the dental clinic in Saddar, Karachi. "One doctor was killed and two others were injured due to firing by the terrorists," he added. "The terrorists have been arrested through a joint action by the institutions," he stated. "The law-enforcement agencies are doing a good work. The movement of the terrorists had been examined through CCTV footage," he told the media. - APP

No concrete outcome of talks with TTP: Defence Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said the recent talks with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) bore no concrete outcomes whereas the armed forces were fully capable to contain any threat to national security. Addressing the Arab News Pakistan Annual Conference 2022 as a keynote speaker, the Minister said the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was under control and would be tackled amicably in case of any untoward situation. Khawaja Asif made it clear that the KP government should take cognizance whereas the federal government would support it in any case to counter terrorism. "It is very heartening to see public coming to streets on their own for their rights. I feel confident that the situation will be controlled. However, the recent

revival of few terrorists is an expected spillover from Afghanistan," he said. The Minister added that the success of relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan was of great significance as Pakistan could not remain oblivious to what was happening in Afghanistan. "Peace in Pakistan is dependent on peace in Afghanistan. We will use peaceful means to resolve the matter and we will use force if it's inevitable to purge the country from the menace of terrorism." He mentioned that the defence forces of Pakistan were fully equipped and the most battle hardened anywhere in the world. "The frontline forces for the last three decades are fighting against extremism. Our experiences and sacrifices are unmatched." The Defence Minister also shed light on the role of media in national security lens and said the importance of media for the national security was of huge significance in the present

era. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) had undergone very fundamental changes under the leadership of Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman and media was playing fundamental role in this regard. "Any change in departure from traditional way of governance to modern era practices is something like a paradigm shift which has occurred in the KSA." The Minister added that it was not only welcomed in the KSA rather in the region and beyond. He mentioned that media and change went hand in hand during the transformation triggered in any society as media played a lead role in bringing about that change. Khawaja Asif said the national Security at present was fundamentally the economic security of a state. Media, he said was always the precursor of wars in the previous times as it was always the media which brought to the forefront the strategic stance of warring parties.

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