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UK's Prime Minister Truss struggles to savage premiership

Detailed News On Page-06

'Biden supports prosperous and strong Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08



Sadrists camp refuses to join new government

Detailed News On Page-08



PTI sweeps By-elections Imran comes out victorious

PTI performs well on 2 Provincial Assembly seats; PPP's Gillani defeats Shah Mahmood Qureshi's daughter in Multan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf Chairman Imran Khan emerged victorious in six of the seven constituencies that he was contesting from, with PPP's Hakim Balouch edging over him in Mair's NA-237. Overall, PTI managed to grab six National Assembly seats and two Provincial Assembly seats, while PML-N could only win one provincial assembly seat. PTI Chairman Imran Khan won the NA-31 Peshawar-V seat after beating ANP's Ghulam Ahmed Bilour as unofficial results of eight National Assembly, and three Punjab Assembly constituencies pour in. Khan bagged 57,824 to defeat his rival, according to unofficial results, with Bilour securing 32,253 votes – allowing the PTI chairman to win by more than 25,000 votes. The counting of votes started at 5pm after the polling – which started at 8am – was held without interruptions despite intense political activity. Sporadic clashes were reported in some constituencies. On the eighth seat that Khan wasn't contesting, PDM candidate Musa Ali Gillani emerged victorious, according to unofficial results. There are eight National Assembly and three



Sanaullah ordered to exit Faisalabad constituency

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The District Monitoring Officer (DMO) in Faisalabad Sunday ordered the expulsion of PML-N leader and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for violating the polling code. Per a statement, the DMO took strict notice of the interior minister's media briefing amid voting and ordered the expulsion of Sanaullah from the constituency's jurisdiction. The DMO said that holding a press conference by a public office-bearer on the polling day within the jurisdiction of a constituency is a violation of the election code. Earlier today, Sanaullah said that meeting with someone or attending a ceremony, whether it is held in connection with any happiness or grief, could not be termed as an election campaign. Talking to journalists, the interior minister said he did not violate the law in any area, adding that the federal agencies should comply with the directions issued by the election body.

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FAISALABAD: A female voter casting her vote during By-Election NA-108 Constituency. – APP

Sindh govt again seeks deferment of LG polls

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh government has again requested the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to reschedule the local government elections slated to take place in Karachi on October 23, citing lack of security personnel as a reason, media reported. The LG polls have been deferred and rescheduled multiple times. In a letter sent to the ECP, the government has sought deferral of the LG polls for another 90 days, saying that free and transparent elections would not be possible without proper security arrangements. The letter says that Karachi has a larger population than Balochistan. For the conduct of

Continued on Page 06

Govt to be '10 times stricter' on PTI's long march

Rana says Nawaz Sharif will decide for himself about returning

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday said that the government would be "10 times stricter" as compared to the policy adopted by the administration during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's long march to Islamabad in May as no one can be allowed to bring a new government through mobs. The statement comes a day after former prime minister Imran Khan, during an interview, announced that his much-hyped long march to the capital would take place in October. "If change is brought via a democratic process, we have no problems with it but we will not allow any long march under any circumstances," Rana Sanaullah said after casting his vote during the by-polls being held today.

The PML-N leader said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has all the power and all agencies must implement its orders. He urged the voters to come out and vote, adding that the polling was underway in a transparent and peaceful manner. "All agencies including Rangers and police have done a good job whereas the counting of votes will be completed as per the procedure," he added. Responding to a question, the interior minister said that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will decide for himself about returning to the country. Meanwhile, the federal government has approved a three-month extension in the deployment of Rangers in the federal capital. According to sources, the federal cabinet approved the extension in the deployment of Rangers in Islamabad after the federal capital's chief commissioner requested for an extension.

CPC 20th National Congress Chinese president vows to take control of Taiwan

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping on Sunday opened the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) in Beijing by pledging to take control of Taiwan and advocating the "one country, two systems" policy, according to the state-run media. In a speech to nearly 2,300 party members at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, the Chinese president said: "Resolving the Taiwan question is a matter for the Chinese, a matter that must be resolved by the Chinese." "We will continue to strive for peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and the utmost effort, but we will never promise to renounce the use of force,

and we reserve the option of taking all measures necessary. This is directed solely at interference by outside forces and the few separatists seeking 'Taiwan independence' and their separatist activities; it is by no means targeted at our Taiwan compatriots," the state-run media quoted the president as saying. "We have always shown respect and care for our Taiwan compatriots and worked to deliver



Continued on Page 06

Briefs Pakistan's nukes in safe hands

DNA

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says Pakistan is responsible country and its nuclear arsenals are in safe hands under a strong command and control system. Addressing a news conference in Karachi on Saturday, he said as far as security and safety of our nuclear assets is concerned, Pakistan meets each and every international standard in accordance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Azam Swati's remand extended

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Sunday further extended the physical remand of PTI leader Azam Khan Swati for a day in the "controversial tweets" case registered against him. Swati was taken into custody by the FIA's Cybercrime Wing (CW) from his home in Islamabad on October 13, after which he was presented before senior civil judge Shabbir Bhatti's court in the federal capital which approved a two-day remand.

Sheikh served notice to evict Lal Haveli

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: AML chief Sheikh Rasheed was Sunday directed to evacuate Lal Haveli, which is located in Rawalpindi and the political hub for the former interior minister.

Dar for greater policy support from IMF, donors

Urges the IMF to tailor its response to the situation in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has called for greater policy support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and multilateral donors in the backdrop of the climate-induced catastrophe and losses suffered by the country. The minister was addressing a meeting of MENAP (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan) Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in Washington DC. He urged the IMF to tailor its response to the situation in Pakistan and similar countries by taking into consideration the serious economic, social and political challenges that those countries were facing in the backdrop of climate induced calamities. He highlighted the humanitarian catastrophe and losses suffered by the country. Given the scale of disaster, he pleaded more policy support for Pakistan. He welcomed new IMF instruments Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) and Food Shock Window under Rapid Financing Instrument

(RFI) to support countries. He also thanked the IMF managing director for her sentiments and committed to complete the Fund programme despite challenges, according to press statement received here Sunday. The IMF managing director highlighted challenges faced by regional economies including from climate change events citing Pakistan's damaging floods. She expressed her deep sympathies with Pakistan and assured the Fund's full support. Meanwhile, the minister and Governor of State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed met Queen Maxima of Netherlands on the sidelines of annual meetings of IMF-WB to discuss financial inclusion and banking on equality. The two sides reiterated their commitment to work together to achieve fast progress in the subjects discussed. Dar also met Director General of Kuwait Fund Marwan Abdullah Yusuf Thunayan Al-Ghanem. The minister appreciated the contribution of Kuwait Fund to

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Pakistanis to say 'no to slavery', says Asad

Vows PTI to trounce cable of crooks to achieve real independence

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary General Asad Umar vowed that the people of the country would give unequivocal and unambiguous verdict against the imported government in Sunday's by-polls by casting votes to the PTI to say 'goodbye to slavery' once and for all.

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What forced Joe Biden to speak against Pakistan Nukes?

Comment
ANSAR M BHATTI

THE US President Joe Biden's remarks that Pakistan may be a dangerous place for it to have nuclear weapons without cohesion have caused uproar among all strata of the society. While different interpretations of the statement continue to pour in, one thing is for sure that US-Pakistan relations that seemed to have been put on track after removal of the Imran Khan government may again be derailed, albeit not for a long time. Pakistan-US interests are interlinked, especially when it comes to regional security and peace. Ever since the Afghan war, this relationship has seen many ups and downs with each side doubting others sincerity and seriousness. But despite all these vicissitudes this relationship continued to sustain and it will sustain even now. The timing of the US President's statement is quite intriguing. Our Army Chief has just concluded the US visit. Before him, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had an extensive tour.

Even before becoming the foreign minister Bilawal had visited America and interacted with high level US officials. Therefore it was quite surprising for all and sundry that how come the US President issues a statement against Pakistan when both the high level visits were dubbed as highly successful? In the light of the above, one is forced to assume that perhaps all did not go well during these high level visits. Joe Biden's statement is purely military-specific. The purpose of the statement appears to be putting pressure on the Pakistan Army when it points out as if there was no cohesion within the institution. Some analysts believe when Biden talked about cohesion, he actually meant cohesion in the ranks of the political leadership. Pakistan is faced with a deep political crisis these days. Imran Khan is on the roads dubbing the incumbent government a 'stooge' of America. Unlike, the former prime minister in limits by using various conventional and non-conventional methods. This is of course an unwarranted method employed by the respective governments against their opponents. However, it seems as if these methods are not helping the government much given the fact that popularity of Imran Khan has touched new heights simply because

this government has failed to perform. People's miseries have multiplied, no doubt, during six months. After Ishaq Dar's return Pakistani currency recovered a bit but the current depreciation of dollar is not because of the government policies or Ishaq Daq has any magic wand. It was because of certain factors including Pakistan-US improved relations. Then the PML N government is devising policies only for one year i.e till the next elections. In case of longer term policies indeed the government cannot achieve economic targets. Since these fiscal arrangements are election-specific and short term therefore it is very much likely that as soon as this government goes, inflation may again sky-rocket. The dollar may also go beyond control. Agreed, if relations with the United States are put back on track, the biggest beneficiary shall be Pakistan's sagging economy, but the question is can these relations become normal any time soon? The appointment of the new army chief is yet another issue the present government has to deal with. Imran Khan's threat to organize a long march is still lurking. As analysts believe he is probably waiting for the 'divine approval' before he sets off on the march. There is still no answer to the question as to

why Joe Biden chose this particular time for his tirade against the Pakistani nuclear program? If the American administration or the establishment wants to put pressure on the Pakistan Army, the question is why they want to do it? I personally think it will not take long for this secret to become public. On our part, Pakistani leadership needs to act in a responsible manner. It should also sit together when sovereignty and national pride is at stake, but unfortunately it may not happen because personal interests and egos of our worthy leaders appear to be more important than the national cause. For the political system to work smoothly we also need to have a real power transfer. What we have seen after 1988 is that power has always been shared – not transferred to the elected representatives. The recent statement of Imran Khan that he was not allowed to wield full power when he was the prime minister, is in fact a classic example of 'shared power' phenomena. But then if such a thing happens the politicians solely are responsible for that. When they are ruling, they just forget about who had elected them and sent them to the assemblies. Their bad governance and disconnect from the masses creates a vacuum. The un-elected forces then jump into the fray to fill that vac-

uum. Imran Khan, as many would opine, delivered a goody when he proposed that the current army chief may continue his work till the time of the new elections. It was indeed a surprise move on his part for he had been blaming the establishment for his ouster. The trick nevertheless put the sitting government in trouble. They were really faced with a situation of to be or not to be. But at the end of the day they perhaps decided not to pay any heed to this proposal. As things have transpired in the recent weeks, the Imran Khan era 'same page' arrangement seems to have been resurrected. The government wanted to postpone the by-elections, but the Election Commission, which probably wanted to entertain the govt plea, could not do so. On audio leaks, some voices within the PDM believe it may be yet another move to ditch them since leaks that belong to them happen to be of severe nature as compared with the ones relating to PTI. And above all, the stunning defeat of the PDM in the by-elections should ring alarm bells within the govt and allies ranks. The win, for sure, will put PTI in a better bargaining position besides further strengthening its narrative of the American involvement in the removal of the Imran Khan Government.

RCCI urges reduction in taxes on poultry sector

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafiq and Chairman of Pakistan Poultry Association Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf in a joint statement have demanded the government to abolish the 35% tax imposed on day old grand parent chick which is a seed in the poultry industry. Tax on import of mineral vitamins should be reduced so that poultry and eggs can be made affordable to masses. Saqib Rafiq while speaking at the ceremony regarding World Egg Day in collaboration with SB Eggs in Rawalpindi Chamber said that the volume of poultry industry in Pakistan has exceeded 1200 billion. The

poultry sector generates employment and provides source of income to more than 1.5 million people of Pakistan directly & indirectly, he added. He said that Pakistan is included in countries where severe stunting (44%) in young children is found and is at alarming level and increased consumption of eggs can help overcome this issue. Poultry industry can be developed by reducing the tax imposed on feed and machinery, he added. Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf said that the poultry industry is suffering due to the increase in production costs and heavy taxes. He demanded that the poultry sector is playing an important role in alleviating malnutrition in the country. Group leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza

Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, former presidents Dr. Hasan Saroosh Akram, Mian Humayun Parvez, Chairman Standing Committee for Poultry Dr. Farhan Farooq, members of the Executive Committee and Poultry Association attended the ceremony. Association representatives, women entrepreneurs, students and esteemed members of RCCI also participated.

On this occasion, a presentation was also given on the benefits and nutritional importance of eggs in daily diet.

At the end of the event, certificates and cash prizes were also given to the winners of egg dish competitions in various departments and painting competitions among school kids.



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by the President presenting bouquet to president ICCI. - DNA

Attique proposes Asian Summit

MIRPUR: Former prime minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan Sunday proposed that Asian countries should hold an Asian Summit to deliberate over re-configuration of their individual and collective status in the fast changing world politics, dominated by bloc interests to the disadvantages of Asian continent and its peoples.

"Almost all UN-recorded geographical disputes still unsettled for well over 75 years belong to the Asian continent embroiling the community of Asian nations into anger-filled policy practices, he told this while talking to a lawyers group meeting. The delegation was headed by veteran legal expert Malik Mohammad Hayat Awan who suggested formation of International Lawyers Liaison Council to unveil legal basis of interstate disputes.

"Human economic backwardness and non-tech stalemate are the hallmarks of Asian landmass ditching the peoples into groaning poverty. Most unfortunately the continued state of unsettled of all outstanding disputes Kashmir and Palestine issues included have become causative regional instability contributors. What else would be more disastrous than the fact that even UN Security Council's disputes resolution modes and recommendations on Kashmir and Palestine are not being implemented under the very nose of the international community. - APP

Afghan CG calls on Amir Muqam

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Prime Minister on Political, Public Affairs and National Heritage Engr. Amir Muqam on Sunday met with Afghan Consul General Hafiz Mohib and discussed the matters pertaining to Pak-Afghan bilateral relations. The meeting was held at the residence of Afghan Consul General, discussing several matters, including relaxation in visa policy, trade card on Pak-Afghan border, and import and export activities between the two neighbouring countries. Amir Muqam informed Hafiz Mohib about public concerns regarding the current worsening law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in Swat district. He demanded of the Afghan government to play its role in establishing peace in the region. - APP

Jhelum chamber of commerce and industry delegation visits ICCI

KAMRAN GUJAR

JHELUM: The delegation of Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by the elected President Khawar Shahzad, President Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Malik Khawar Shahzad, Senior Vice President Mazhar Akram, Former Vice President FPCCI Punjab Raja Mohammad Anwar, Chairman UFG group and former member FPCCI, former executive member JCCI Mr. Raja Sajjad Akhtar JCCI arrived with his delegation, President Islamabad chamber of commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Vice

President Izhar-ul-Islam Zafar warmly welcomed, Jhelum chamber delegation included former President JCCI Dr. Kausar Naheed Anwar, former President Chaudhry Shakeel Ahmed, former President Omar Mushtaq Burgt, Ishaq Dar, member FPCCI Chaudhry Younis Gondal, former senior vice President Raja Talat Mehmood and former member Ch Sohail Aziz. UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, former President and secretary general of Islamabad chamber, former President FPCCI Malik Zubair Ahmed Malik, group leader Islamabad chamber Malik Khalid Iqbal, coordinator Islamabad chamber Malik

Sohail and vice President FPCCI Punjab Qazi Akbar were also present on the occasion. In his speech on the occasion, President Jhelum chamber of commerce and industry Malik Khawar Shahzad said that we will try to solve all the problems of the business community together with Islamabad and Chakwal chamber and also negotiate with the government for the best facilities for the business community and industry. President Islamabad chamber Ahsan Bakhtawari agreed with Malik Khawar's suggestion and reiterated the working of both Chambers together.

Public private partnership necessary for development

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: For sustainable development and achieving SDGs by 2030, experts termed collaboration between Government and non-government stakeholders and effective role of CSOs in advancing localization, implementation and achievement of SDGs as the real game changers towards success. These thoughts were expressed by development practitioners, civil society members and education champions in a Post HLPF consultation session on Pakistan's VNR Report 2022, presented by the Government in UN's High Level Political Forum in July 2022. The session was

organized was Awaz CDS - Pakistan and Education Champions Network. Awaz CDS-Pakistan engaged with education champions/ECN member organizations and other CSOs of the country to prepare an analysis of Government reporting and CSOs perspective on that and the same was presented in the consultation session. Highlighting priority SDGs especially SDG 4 and 5 on Gender Equality and Quality Education, Civil society members expressed their dissatisfaction on Government's focus on these SDGs in the VNR report. Chief Executive, Awaz CDS, Zia ur Rehman briefed the audience on the background and process of development of the Voluntary Na-

tional Review report. He appreciated the incumbent government's presentation of official VNR at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF). He said that several concerns still exist on critical sustainable development goals (SDG) priorities in the absence of policy coherence, efficient implementation and review mechanisms. According to him the report failed to capture and highlight the Citizens' Voices on VNR process and progress on SDGs collected through stakeholders' consultations. He stressed on the need of inclusion and participation of civil society representatives in the report making process for depiction of real

on ground situation. The Parliamentarians from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Saira Raza, Fauzia Abbas and Saira Jabeen participated in the event and appreciated the efforts and expressed need to put education and gender equality on priority and their plan to bring about a legislation and its implementation in this regard. Program Manager-AwazCDS-Pakistan, Mariam Amjad Khan, while sharing the CSOs perspective on official VNR 2022 and findings of the analysis of Government reporting said that Government has shared a number of good progress that has been made in recent times on SDG 4 and 5 but that's not the complete picture.

PHC seals 415 treatment centres

LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) has closed down 415 fake treatment centres in 30 cities during the last four weeks in an ongoing crackdown on backstreet clinics. According to the PHC spokesperson on Sunday, teams of the commission raided 1,840 medical centres and shuttered down 415 businesses, where quacks were working. On the other hand, qualified physicians have started providing medical facilities at 137 centres. Apart from this, monitoring of 856 such treatment centres has also been started where there were qualified physicians at the time of the raids. - APP

Dr Al Issa a catalyst promoting unity: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said Muslim World League (MWL) Secretary General Dr Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Alissa had been acting as a catalyst promoting unity among the Muslim Ummah. Highlighting the significance of Dr Alissa's visit to Pakistan, Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, told APP that he was making all-out efforts to unite all the Muslims under one platform for achieving common interests and resolving issues being faced by the Ummah globally. He said it was high time to remove differences and devise a unified strategy to meet the challenges with pragmatic approach. - APP

NUMS conducts MDCAT

ISLAMABAD: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) has successfully completed the gigantic task of holding Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) in Pakistan and two foreign countries. Vice Chancellor National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) Lt Gen Wasim Alamgir said that the MDCAT was held simultaneously in more than 20 cities throughout Pakistan and in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates on Sunday. He said this was due to well coordinated and robust arrangements made by our trained staff. The Vice Chancellor said that Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) had divided MDCAT among the Federation, provinces and MDCAT for NUMS to fill the seats in the medical colleges across the country. President PMC Prof Dr. Noshad Ahmad

Shaikh visited NUMS on Sunday where he was received by Vice Chancellor and senior management of the university. He also visited NUMS Control Room and was given a comprehensive briefing by Controller Examination Brig (R) Saifullah Butt on the elaborate arrangements for safe and transparent process. While talking to media, Dr Noshad Ahmad Shaikh appreciated NUMS arrangements and said that those students who would have NUMS MDCAT Certificate would also be eligible to seek admission on merit in MBBS and BDS in private colleges anywhere in the country as well. These students can also take MDCAT which was being conducted by PMC on November 13, he added. Later, PMC President along with Vice Chancellor NUMS Lt Gen Wasim Alamgir, Pro VC Academics and Pro VC Administration also visited NUMS examination centre in Rawalpindi and witnessed the students taking their test in a congenial atmosphere. In his comments Maj Gen (R) Syed Ammar Reza Hamdani, Pro VC Administration said that two officers of the University were specially sent to Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) and UAE (Ras-ul Khaima) to supervise the MDCAT while embassies of Pakistan in the two countries facilitated. - APP

Establishment should announce new elections, says Fawad

Shireen Mazari while tweeted, Khan for another sweep in bye elections. He stood steadfast on his narrative of Haqiqi Azadi against the entire state machinery! The nation has sent clear message. Will conspirators still not see where nation stands

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Getting some encouraging results on 11 seats in by-elections, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Senior Vice President and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has said the nation once again proved Imran Khan as the pivot of its hopes. The Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) central leader said in his tweet on Sunday evening that his party Chairman Imran Khan as the main contender in by-polls has a clear lead in all the seats.

In connection with the hopeful results, he asked the government and the establishment to respect the



wishes of the people and should immediately announce general elections in the country. In his tweet, he reiterated the stance of his party and the leadership that they are ready to discuss the election framework with the government. Another senior leader of Pakistan

Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) and former minister Dr. Shireen Mazari while congratulating to Imran Khan tweeted, Chairman Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf, Imran Khan for another sweep in bye elections. He stood steadfast on his narrative of Haqiqi Azadi against the entire state machinery! The nation has sent clear message. Will conspirators still not see where nation stands nor hear what nation is calling for? While commenting on the by-elections Finance Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Taimur Zafar Jhagra tweeted, 'Remember. This was not an election. This was a referendum to have a national election. And the people of Pakistan have given their verdict.'

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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

Hotels & Restaurants

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

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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PIMS.....	9261170-79
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Shifa International.....	4603666



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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: Founder President of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Samina FAzal welcomes Malik Sohail Hussai, Zafar Bakhtawari and others at the 3rd All Pakistan Women Presidents' gathering in Islamabad.-DNA

Alvi directs Bank to refund Rs 200,000 to fraud victim

The President said Silk Bank had committed maladministration by failing to appoint honest officials at its bank branch and unjustly withheld the profit amount

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld a decision of the Banking Mohtasib (BM) and directed the Silk Bank Ltd (SBL) to refund the bank account of a fraud victim with Rs 200,000 along with the remaining profit till the date and credit the amount in his bank account. The President said Silk Bank had committed maladministration by failing to appoint honest officials at its bank branch and unjustly withheld the profit amount. The President gave these directions while rejecting a representation of Silk Bank against a decision of BM in a case where a citizen of Multan, Muhammad Shafiq, the complainant, had invested Rs 200,000 in Term Deposit Receipt (TDR) with the bank, however, he was only paid profit for six months and when he went to withdraw the remaining profit from his account, he

was informed that his TDR was fake and he had been hoodwinked by the ex-Branch Operations Manager. The President in his decision held that since the complainant had produced original TDR which bore the bank's logo, duly stamped and signed by the ex-branch operations manager, the bank was responsible for any document signed by its employee on purportedly bank's stationery and stamp of the bank. He added that there was no litmus test for the general public to differentiate between the original and fake stationery of the bank. The President held that the bank's contention, that profit amounts of six months were credited in complainant's account through fund transfers from multiple accounts of the customers and not from the bank's payable account as normally done, carried no weight as a customer was usually satisfied when month-

ly profit was credited in his account. He said that it was not the duty of the customer to scrutinize the records and internal processes of a bank and to ascertain whether profit was credited in his account by the Bank by routing through bank's books and proper vouchers were passed. The President said that the Bank was shifting responsibility to complainant in order to cover its own internal lapses and controls. He observed that the bank had admitted that the ex-branch manager had signed the said TDR and had committed fraud and had been terminated from bank's service in a fraud case. He added that it was a well-settled principle of "vicarious liability" that an employee was liable for the loss caused to a customer through the wrongful act of his employee in the course of the employer's business. The President concluded that the appointment

of vigilant bank officials/officers, honest and professional staff was the responsibility of Bank and not of the complainant, who had posed his trust in the bank. He added that the Bank was the custodian and trustee of the hard-earned money of the account holder. "The bank official was there in the bank duly posted by the management, and there was unimpeachable evidence of commission of fraud by the bank official in the bank branch," he stated. The President, therefore, rejected the Bank's representation as the Bank could not escape the liability in a case of this kind, when the commission of fraud was established and admitted. "It is a case of wrongdoing and maladministration by the Bank officials. The Bank is, therefore, responsible to make good the loss of the complainant without further delay," the President added.-APP

PTI strongly condemns murderous attack on MPA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) strongly condemned the murderous attack on Bilal Ahmad Ghaffar PTI MPA PS -103 and PTI President Karachi Division by PPP goons after sensing their clear defeat, demanding ECP to take notice of the tragic incident. PTI Sindh President Ali Zaidi wrote a letter to Chief Election Commissioner about the

incident reporting by election NA-237 intimidation of murderous attack on Bilal Ahmad by Saleem Balouch MPA -PPP and Salman Balouch. He said that it was informed that the culprits of PPP have attacked our MPA and PTI President Karachi Division at polling station-129 Gazali Grammar School (Ghazali Goth), who sustained serious head injury. PPP goons attacked PTI Karachi President and has been taking to the Hospital with head injuries, as crim-

inals are ruling Sindh, he added. Bilal Ghaffar said that he was pushed and then set upon by "10-15 people", who attacked him with "bricks" in the city's Malir area by PPP workers. He stated that the police present there did not respond when he called for help, adding PPP MPA Saleem Baloch was the first one who attacked him. Ali Zaidi demanded the Chief Election Commissioner to take notice of the issue. PTI Central Secretary General Asad Umar

said that PTI Karachi President was attacked by the thugs of the PPP who was seriously injured. He said that in NA 237 Malir, Karachi, clear signs of large-scale rigging by PPP were now visible. PTI Central Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhary strongly condemned the attack on Bilal Ghaffar and added that PPP was a fascist party and just like the brave people of Karachi ended the terrorism of MQM, they would also teach a lesson to the thuggery of PPP.

Hub Bridge to be reconstructed in 18 months

ISLAMABAD: The authorities concerned have awarded work for reconstruction of Hub Bridge in Balochistan which is expected to be completed in 18 months and would ensure smooth flow of traffic. The recent spells of Mon-

soon rains in July and August and subsequent floods this year had caused massive damages in West-Zone, especially in Hub-Uthal-Bela section of National Highway N-25, resulting in collapse of Hub Bridge. The National Logistics Cell (NLC) has been awarded the construction contract of the Hub Bridge. The bridge was constructed in 1962 by Provincial Communication and Works Department, Balochistan. According to official information, the field

staff was available on sites and had successfully carried out temporary restoration work on urgent basis to ensure smooth flow of traffic. All the damaged sections of the National Highways in Balochistan have now been temporarily restored and traffic has been resumed. Presently, work on detour of this bridge has been started by the NLC to facilitate the commuters (HTV/LTV) on temporary basis till completion of construction on new bridge.-APP

Authorities directed to identify illegal buildings

RAWALPINDI :The authorities concerned of RDA have been directed to conduct a survey to identify illegal residential and commercial buildings. According to RDA spokesman, the authorities were instructed to take strict action in accordance with the law against the building rules violators.-APP

Plan needed to achieve climate resilience

ISLAMABAD: After facing a recurring phenomenon of natural catastrophes from scorching heat waves to massive inundation due to torrential monsoon, the country is in dire need of a long-term adaptation strategy founded on Nature Based Solutions (NbS) to ensure climate resilience. Ranking among top ten vulnerable countries to climatic changes as revealed by global watchdog 'German Watch', Pakistan direly needed proper adaptation strategy or plan as its entire nature conservation efforts remained focused on climate mitigation. Country's National Adaptation Plan is mostly considered as a significant tool or mechanism for adapting to climate change. Its objective is to enhance resilience of a region against climate change effects by creating holistic medium and long term plans, including the integration of adaptation measures into national policy. A two-year project to develop the adaptation plan, supported by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and funded by the Green Climate Fund with US\$ 2.7 million, was formally launched back in March 2021. However, the then PTI government kept the process slow and left the plan in limbo. "Previous regime showed a criminal negligence in formulation of national adaptation plan as many key initiatives related to adaptation merely ended up on papers," remarked Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman. "Since, we have taken this issue very seriously.

I assure all out efforts to prepare much needed climate adaptation plan by the end of this year," she added. The Minister recently launched the country's largest NbS "Living Indus initiative" to conserve and protect second most polluted river in the world. "Indus feeds entire agriculture and humanity living around it from north to south. So, we will have to ensure development in harmony with nature

Entrepreneurs demand single digit interest rate

He strongly demanded that the government should bring down the interest rate to single digit which will increase business and investment activities and help improve the economy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the State Bank of Pakistan has made significant hike in the policy interest rate due to which business activities are shrinking and if this situation continues, our economy will weaken more in the coming days while the investment will also be discouraged, so he demanded the government to bring the interest rate into single digit so that business can be promoted with ease and the economy can come out of current difficulties. He expressed these views while addressing a delegation of Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which visited ICCI led by its President Malik Khawar Shehzad to congratulate the new Office Bearers of ICCI. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that currently the interest rate in Thailand is 1%, Taiwan 1.63%, Malaysia 2.5%, South Korea 3%, China 3.65%, Vietnam 5%, Bangladesh 5.75% and India 5.9%, but the interest rate



in Pakistan is 15% which is the highest in the region, which is a major obstacle in the way of promoting business activities. He said that the best way to bring Pakistan's economy out of trouble is to significantly increase exports, but this is very difficult to do in an environment of high interest rate.

Therefore, he strongly demanded that the government should bring down the interest rate to single digit which will increase business and investment activities and help improve the economy. Malik Khawar Shehzad, President, Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) said in his address that

due to high interest rate, high prices of POL & utility tariffs and other factors, business and industrial activities are facing great difficulties due to which about 1600 textile factories have been closed. Therefore, he demanded the government to take concrete steps to promote ease of doing business and reduce the interest rate significantly, otherwise more businesses would close down. He said that due to the increase in the interest rate, the country's debt also increases many times. He said that Pakistan's debt, which was 48 billion dollars in 2008, has now increased to 116 billion dollars, which is alarming. ICCI Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik, JCCI Group Leader Raja Anwar, FPCCI Vice President Qazi Akbar, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zubair Ahmad Malik, Mohammad Ijaz Abbasi, Malik Sohail Hussain and others also spoke at the occasion. They stressed that the government should make a future strategy in consultation with the business community to promote business and economic activities so that Pakistan can be put on the path of better development and growth.

PM calls for ensuring food security

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday called for taking collective steps to ensure food security in the world. In tweets on social media platform Twitter on the occasion of World Food Day, he said the recent devastating floods in Pakistan had destroyed standing crops on millions of acres. He said an agricultural country like Pakistan had to import edible items to compensate for these crop losses. "Today World Food Day highlights the need for collective measures of the world to ensure food security of different countries." "Due to climate-induced natural disasters and because of rising prices in the international market, there is a risk of further shortage of already scarce nutritional food at the international level," the prime minister added. He said that the climate change was having negative effects on our lives and the increase in poverty and hunger were the foremost issues.-APP

Govt to restart polio vaccination drive in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Polio Programme has planned to restart the immunization campaign in the flood-hit areas as soon as it becomes feasible. According to an official of the programme, it is high time to take measures to prevent children from this disease as in the given circumstances, the risk of polio has amplified. He said that the large-scale movement of people, in addition to the high transmission season for the poliovirus, escalates the risk of wild poliovirus spreading. He said that despite the extreme climatic conditions, the Pakistan Polio Programme would conduct an immunization campaign wherever possible. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination said that a positive environmental sample for Poliovirus was detected from Karachi, in addition to four other isolates from Bannu, Peshawar, Swat and Lahore. He said that Karachi being home to communities from across Pakistan was a historic polio reservoir and remains among areas categorized by the programme at high risk of wild poliovirus transmission. The humanitarian crisis in the wake of the unprecedented floods will pose graver challenges to Karachi and other areas of Pakistan in the foreseeable future, "as millions of people are displaced and moved to urban centres for refuge", he added.-APP

Tobacco exports witness 97.36 pc increase

ISLAMABAD: Tobacco exports during the second month of fiscal year of 2022-23 increased by 97.36 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July 22-August 22, tobacco worth US\$ 10,253,000 were exported as compared to the exports of US\$ 5,195,000 during the same period of last year. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Vegetables increased by 53.13 percent, worth US\$ 57,717,000 as compared to exports of US\$ 37,691,000 during the same period of last year. Meanwhile, meat and meat preparations exports also increased by 32.71 percent as the exports recorded during current fiscal year were US\$ 65,754,000 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which were US\$ 49,547,000. During the period under review, All other food items exports increased by 26.29 percent, worth US\$ 189,257,000 in current fiscal year, as compared to the exports of US\$ 149,864,000 during the same period of last year.-APP

Briefs

Enforcement against violation of load limits

ISLAMABAD :The concerned authorities on Sunday said that enforcement against violation of load limits was carried out on National Highways and Motorways to ensure public safety. They told that a total of Rs 3,406,494,123 amount (2,236,315 tickets) of fine was imposed from January 1, 2020 to September 27, 2022 on overloading of goods 15 percent in excess of permissible limits. Meanwhile, an amount of Rs 67,646,000 fine (67,385 tickets) was imposed for carrying goods less than 15 percent in excess of permissible load from January 1, 2020 to September 27, 2022," an official told APP.

He said moreover, National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) was taking several steps to ensure enforcement against all violations on Highways and Motorways. "Road Safety briefing, awareness and sensitization walks, seminars, workshops, lectures, presentation, stalls etc. are conducted by Road Safety Awareness Units of NHMP on daily basis to aware the public on the matter," he said. The official said brochures, booklets, pamphlets were also distributed among the participants of various road safety activities as well as general public and drivers at toll plazas, interchanges, weigh stations, bus and taxi stands. He said round the clock vigilant patrolling was also being done while special campaigns against over loading and cancellation of licenses and route permits of habitual and offenders were also being undertaken.—APP

Four bids to smuggle wheat flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department, Rawalpindi, and the district police while foiling four bids to smuggle wheat and flour, seized 1,505 bags of the commodity here on Sunday. According to the district administration spokesman, the Food Department teams along with Suddar Wah police conducted raids in different areas and arrested four drivers, who were identified as Abdul Raziq, Aslam, Abdul Majeed and Javed, and recovered 1,505 bags of wheat flour from their possession. He said, the Food Department and the district police, on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, were strictly monitoring all the exit points of the district to prevent wheat smuggling.—APP

EV charging stations to be installed at Motorways

ISLAMABAD: The Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations would be installed at five Motorways locations, keeping in view the numbers of vehicles commuting on a particular road. "NHA has included EV charging stations in the contracts of filling station. Concessionaires/contractors are installing the same in line with the numbers of EV vehicles commuting on a particular road," an official told APP.

He said that presently, the EV charging stations were being installed at locations, including Rashakai service area, Islamabad -Peshawar motorway (M-1), Tandliyanwala service area, Lahore - Islamabad motorway (M-3), Dandawal service area, Pindi Bhatian -Faisalabad, Khanewal motorway (M-4), Khanewal service area, Pindi Bhatian - Faisalabad, Khanewal rnotorway (M-4) and Hazara service area, Hassanabdal-Havelian Expressway (E-35). "Moreover, M/s MORE (Pvt.) Ltd. being the BoT concessionaire of M-2, has installed EV charging facility at Bhera Service Area on M-2," he said. He was of the view that other fuel stations across the motorway network would also install the EV charging facilities, with an increase in the number of EV vehicles.—APP

Minimum age for marriage of girls should be 18 years

PODA conference concludes at Lok Virsa



ISLAMABAD, Observing International Rural Women's Day (Saturday) the rural women from 123 districts present the 15th Annual Rural Women Conference by PODA-Pakistan here at Lok Virsa demanded to set minimum age for marriage for girls 18 years. They said that this age limit should be for all beyond race, ethnicity and creed. The Three-Day Annual Rural Women Conference organized by PODA-Pakistan and supported for European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Election Commission of Pakistan, National Database Registration Authority (NADRA), GIZ and National Endowment for Democracy concluded today (Saturday) on passing a unanimously agreed resolutions highlighting rural women's issues at the grassroots level to ensure their constitutional rights. PODA-Pakistan has been organizing the Annual Rural Women Conference since 2008 in Islamabad. Urging the legislators, policy makers and parliamentarians to main the primary principle of gender equality enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan to uphold women's political, social and economic rights, the gathering passed a set of resolutions unanimously. The resolution focused mainly on the areas of health, education, women's

financial inclusion, climate change, access to basic social services, political participation and women's constitutional and citizenship rights while highlighting the need to adhere and ensure the principle of equal representation of rural women at all levels, policy, planning and implementation. The conference participants of four provinces and regions of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan urged the provincial governments to adopt policies based on the concept of gender-equality which includes all segments of the society from person-with-disabilities, transgender persons, minorities, different ethnicities and indigenous communities to allocate resources for their development, while at the same time recognizing their contributions in the national development. The conference participants reiterated their demand to recognize rural women as "farmers" so that equally to men they could be benefited from the government policies. Reiterating European Union Delegation to Pakistan's commitment for gender equality, present on the occasion, Thomas Seiler, Deputy Head said this conference is a "platform from where you make your voices heard collectively to tackle problems and challenges". He also recommended the participants to take back their action plan in the



form of conference resolutions with them to work on it at union level with their utmost resilience. He said that European Union Delegation to Pakistan has been working closely with the government of Pakistan and with other donors in assessing the needs for rebuilding the flood-hit areas and supporting future recovery efforts. "Women are among the most at risk in flood-affected areas. However, at the same time they need to be on the frontline of relief plans ensuring their needs are treated on priority," Thomas Seiler said. Thomas Seiler also termed the conference an effective drive in connecting women's demands raised from this platform with the steps taken and efforts initiated by the state institutions of ECP and NADRA for ensuring women's equal participation in political processes. Lauding the efforts of PODA, Farkhanda Naz, Provincial Ombudsperson Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace urged to extend harassment act to protect women working in informal sector. Earlier President, PODA Sameena Nazir presented an overview of the previous annual rural women conferences. Nuzhat Shirin, Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women also spoke on

the occasion terming conference a unique place for nurturing "a great sense of sisterhood" among women which was in itself a great accomplishment to celebrate. Deputy Head of EUD to Pakistan, Thomas Seiler, awarded partner organizations and rural women for their contributions taking forward the conference's agenda into their districts across Pakistan. The solidarity partners who received awards were: Nuzhat Shirin Chairperson Sindh Commission on the Status of Women, Rukhshanda Naz KP Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment at Workplace, Shaheen Farooqi, Bhera Press Club, Zarina Salamata, member PODA board, eminent poet, Kishwar Naheed. Rural Women Leaders who were awarded included: Queta Noor, Mirpur, AJK, Shahida Irshad, Quetta, Balochistan, Shazia Fida Gilgit, GB, Rukhsana Jahengir, Swat KPK, Mehwish Majeed, Layyah, Punjab and Azra Memon, Dadu, Sindh. Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women, Nilofer Bakhtiar, Reema Aftab, DG Inclusive Registration, NADRA, Moazzma Yousaf, Director Inclusive Registration and Zahid ur Rehman Assistant Director NADRA were also among the award recipients for their contributions to uplift the cause of rural women.

Bilawal extends best wishes to Chinese Communist Party

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Sunday extended his best wishes to the Communist Party of China (CPC) on its 20th National Congress. In a message, Bilawal Bhutto said throughout its history, the Chinese Communist Party had made enormous contributions to progress and prosperity of the Chinese nation and for global peace. "Leaders like Chairman Mao hold a legendary status in this journey and the Chinese march towards development. Now under the visionary leadership of the General Secretary Xi Jinping, the People's Repub-

lic of China is moving at a fast pace towards the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, he added. Bilawal said that the 20th National Congress was taking place at a time when the tides had changed and were transforming the international political, economic and social landscape. "I am confident that under the wise leadership of the CPC, China will continue to play its due role in the international politics and for global peace." "Pakistan Peoples Party and the Communist Party of China enjoy a rich history of bilateral cooperation and exchanges," he recalled. "Steered by my grandfather

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and my parents Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and former president Asif Ali Zardari, the two parties have established close bonds and contributed to solidify bilateral friendship between our two countries." The Foreign Minister said the people of Pakistan had watched with great fascination and pride the ascent of its closest friend and strategic partner. As all weather strategic partners and iron brothers, the Foreign Minister said we are inspired by the CPC's foresight in steering the Chinese nation on a path of high quality governance and socio economic development,

We are confident that our close partnership will continue to grow from strength to strength, he said and added that he was certain that the outcome of the 20th National Congress of the Party would serve to further strengthen bilateral friendship and promote deeper cooperation as envisioned by the two peoples of Pakistan and China. As I congratulate the Chinese people on the occasion of the 20th National Congress of the CPC, I extend my best wishes for the continued peace and prosperity of the people of China under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, he expressed.

PR demands huge grant to restore its flood-damaged infrastructure

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Civil Engineering of Pakistan Railways, in a summary moved to the Ministry of Railways, has demanded huge grant of money for the restoration of infrastructure damaged by massive torrential rains and floods. The Civil Engineering Department required about Rs 53 billion to restore the signals system, as many as Rs 60 billion to fix the partial damage suffered by 33 Railway Stations in Lahore, Karachi, Multan,

Sukkur, Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Quetta divisions and over Rs 6 billion to make the communication tower and other equipment functional again, sources in the Pakistan Railways told APP. They said the signals system had also suffered massive destruction in Lahore, Karachi, Multan and Sukkur divisions due to unexpected rains and flood in most parts of the country. The sources said for the repairing of the drainage system at 41 railway yards and their restoration, an estimate of Rs 2.23 billion was made, adding that 3,187 kilometres track of Main Line-I, II and III was completely destroyed. Likewise, they said 1,446 railway bridges and culverts were damaged out of which two railway bridges were completely destroyed

in Quetta division while one of the two bridges in Sukkur and Karachi divisions were also washed away. The Railways official informed that a total of 1,181 railway bridges were damaged and a sum of Rs 433 billion was estimated for their restoration and the construction of 259 new ones. Regarding the tracks, they said that due to the floods, 109.4 kilometres of tracks in Chaman, Mirpurkhas, Khokhrapar, Hyderabad, Quetta and Sialkot sections were completely destroyed. A stretch of 68.123 kilometres of tracks was partially damaged in this section, they added. To repair the damage and for safety in the future, they said an amount of Rs 17 billion would have to be spent on this section along with the construction of 79 new bridges.—APP

ITP enhances capacity for effective patrolling

ISLAMABAD: The ITP have decided to give 50 motorbikes and 150 cops to police stations for effective patrolling and prompt response in case of any emergency call. According to police source, two officers will be deployed along with the SHOs to facilitate him for routine affairs and ensure effective policing in their respective area. He said that IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has restructured the Islamabad Capital Police on new lines to make the Operations Division more efficient in view of the law and order situation.—APP

Youth Club's 'Wrong Number' helps impart true religious knowledge

The Youth Club is actively engaging youth of leading educational institutions including NUST, LUMS, PIEAS, etc

ISLAMABAD: The Youth Club has organized a one-day spiritual conference titled 'Wrong Number' for Muslim youngsters and educated families to revitalize their knowledge and understanding of Islam amid an onslaught of misconceptions perpetrated among Muslims under the garb of modernism and liberalism. The Youth Club, founded by Raja Zia ul Haq, is a non-profit organization working on ethical and moral values for youth, providing a platform for educated youth and families to practice their energies and potential on the Islamic way for their betterment. The

"Wrong Number" event's theme was inspired by the concept of avoiding the damages of getting religious knowledge from the wrong sources just like dialing a wrong number was avoided. Moreover, it intended to connect the masses to authentic sources i.e. the "right number of Islamic knowledge", the speakers' rich content on need-of-the-time topics such as preserving the family system, liberalism, avoiding 'bid'ah' [inauthentic innovation in religion], feminism and the like). The event received massive public support with a full house of over one thousand attendants, where

67 organizers, including 80 volunteers participated in the arrangements. The event included a fundraiser that collected donations for aiding the Islamic cause of spreading authentic religious knowledge and positive change. The Youth Club also arranges trips and retreats for youth and families as per shariah laws. However, Wrong Number was the Club's mega-conference yearly held in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. The main speakers included CEO Raja Zia ul Haq, Taha Bin Jail Country Manager Youth Club, Regional Director Sindh Wajid ul Din, Regional director Punjab

Mughera Luqman and Muhammad Ali. However, the club also held activities for children separately under the conference. The Youth Club is actively engaging youth of leading educational institutions including NUST, LUMS, PIEAS, etc. The mega event was part of its campaign 'Winds of Change', which is a yearly nationwide tour featuring such conferences. The initiative was expanded across 20 plus mega cities of south and central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan, Sindh, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Around 15 to 20% Pakistani students in every class dyslexic

RAWALPINDI :Chairperson of IDEAS and Department of Social Welfare, Punjab, Iram Mumtaz said some 15 to 20 percent of children studying in every class in educational institutions of Pakistan lack the timely ability to learn and understand due to dyslexia. The IDEAS Chairperson while stating international studies and statistics said five years ago, the number of dyslexic children in Pakistan was 12 million which gradually increased over time. Mumtaz said one of the main reasons for this was the lack of timely identification and therapy of dyslexic children. "There is an urgent need to take timely measures to inform parents, teachers, institutions and especially the government about dyslexia. So that dyslexic children can be made active citizens of the country like other children by timely therapy," she said. The IDEAS Chairperson mentioned that a workshop was held at Women Development and Welfare Center, Sewing Center, Department of Social Welfare and Bait ul-Maal, Rawalpindi, in connection with the "Dyslexia Children Awareness Campaign" organized by IDEAS every year in Pakistan, like the rest of the world. The workshop was participated by more than 50 female teachers and staff members, including specialist therapists Gulnaz Shah, Maleeha Arif, Dr Shaiста Kamran, Dr Sadia, Lamiya Munaaf, Sumbal, Zeeshan Masood and others who worked with dyslexia children in IDEAS. The female teachers were sensitised on the importance of paying special attention to children who were facing difficulty in writing, reading, learning and understanding while studying. On this occasion, Chairperson Iram Mumtaz along with her fellow members informed the female teachers and staff about the various methods of learning and teaching dyslexic children through practical activities. After understanding the development and learning process of a dyslexic child, the teachers also demonstrated by doing a practical demonstration. The teachers thanked Mumtaz and her members and termed the workshop as crucial for teachers. — APP

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ANF recovers over 109 kg narcotics, arrests 6

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas of the country seized over 109 kg of narcotics and arrested six drug smugglers. According to the ANF spokesman, ANF and Sindh Rangers in a joint operation conducted on National Highway Karachi recovered 105 kg hashish and arrested three accused. In an operation the ANF Sindh caught two drug smugglers from Badin and recovered four kg heroin. The ANF also recovered 116 ice-filled capsules weighing 145 grams at Sialkot International Airport from the possession of a passenger going to Bahrain. Separate cases were registered against the accused, he said, adding that raids were being conducted to net the accomplices of the accused.—APP

1,031 coronavirus samples collected within 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority, Rawalpindi, had collected around 1,031 coronavirus samples during the last 24 hours, out of which 1,030 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.11 per cent. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Sunday, one more patient was reported from Potohar town, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 47,674. He added that the infected cases included 44,048 from Rawalpindi and 3,626 from other districts. "Presently, nine confirmed patients are quarantined at homes while no one is admitted at any district's health facility", the report added. The report further said that 7,006,011 people, including 44,790 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021.—APP

Around 1.3 mln children to get deworming tablets

RAWALPINDI: Around 1.3 million children between the ages of 5 to 14 years will be given free of charge deworming tablets during a five-day drive which will commence in the Rawalpindi district on November 1. District Health Officer for communicable diseases Dr Waqar Ahmed, while talking to APP, said that an effective micro plan was being devised to cover the maximum number of children during the drive. said that the children between 5 to 14 years would be given free of charge mebendazole 500 mg tablets provided by the Government of Punjab. Dr Waqar added the drive would help overcome malnutrition and abdominal infections among the children, adding teenagers, including those studying in seminars and schools, would also be given medicines.—APP

RCC Bridge to be constructed in 12 months

ISLAMABAD: The authorities concerned have directed for the construction of the bridge and multi-cell culverts on National Highway at Talash and Shamsi Khan to be completed in 12 months. "The construction of one Reinforced Concrete Cement (RCC) Bridge and multi-cell culverts on National Highway at Talash and Shamsi Khan in 12 District Lower Dir (Dir - Chitral Road N-45) has already been approved and is at the procurement stage," an official told APP on Sunday. He said the construction period for the said work was one year. "The work is expected to commence within three months, after completion of the procurement process as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules and PEC guidelines," he added.—APP

Xi Jinping and China's party congress

Food, not PCR tests ... Reform, not the Cultural Revolution ... We want to be citizens, not slaves." And alongside that, most astonishingly, a call to overthrow Xi Jinping. The man who dared to unveil those demands on banners hung from a bridge in Beijing will pay dearly. Protests are still rarer and more harshly treated since Mr Xi took over; this was even more remarkable in the heavily policed period before the national party congress begins on Sunday.

In the wake of Maoism's disasters, the elite's survivors, including Mr Xi's own father, collectivised and semi-institutionalised politics to prevent another strongman wreaking havoc. But under the last leader, Hu Jintao, China's problems - from grotesque corruption and gross inequality to soaring protests and environmental destruction - grew increasingly obvious. So did the party's inability to solve them. That, and the Arab spring, explains a turn to repression that preceded Mr Xi but which he intensified.

Party elders handed him power, but he seized more. His axing of presidential term limits in 2018 confirmed suspicions that he planned to rule indefinitely. The party congress matters because his real power flows not from being head of state but primarily from being general secretary of the Communist party, and also chairman of the central military commission. In China, the party and the gun remain supreme.

Few expect Mr Xi to anoint a successor at the congress (and only the brave or foolish might seek that honour). Instead, it will signal his latest concentration of authority, perhaps by adopting the title of chairman, which was once Mao's. His sweeping anti-corruption campaign has seen off potential rivals. While eradicating opposition within the party, he has simultaneously extended its reach and tightened its grip. Its control has reached its brutal apotheosis in the treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Hong Kong's freedoms have been crushed. His tough rhetoric on Taiwan has increased domestic expectations that action may follow. Many approve of his nationalist, ideological leadership, albeit thanks in significant part to the propaganda lauding his "landmark accomplishments" and understanding of the people, and to ever-increasing censorship.

But China's growing problems cannot be quashed as critics can. Underlying economic problems have broken through and will be worsened by the country's demographic timebomb, as well as increased state control and the increasingly unsustainable zero-Covid strategy. US export controls on semiconductors are already taking effect. The growing hostility from Washington, the west and other parts of the world is largely, though certainly not solely, due to China's increasing belligerence.

These challenges are too vast and complex to be solved by one person. Even the best ruler cannot govern well if surrounded by yes men too scared to tell the truth. For the foreseeable future, this is Mr Xi's party and his country; but 1.4 billion people must live in it - and the rest of us must live with it.

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US' 'friendship' has awoken more Europeans

In recent days, major European countries such as Germany and France, as well as the EU, have made intriguing statements on their relations with China and the US. EU trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said at a conference in Berlin on Tuesday that "decoupling" from China is not an option for companies in the EU. He also expressed his "deep concerns" about the US Inflation Reduction Act, arguing that the act discriminates against EU's automotive and renewable energy industries. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, speaking at the same conference on the same day, said decoupling from China would be a wrong path, and he criticized that US Inflation Reduction Act could trigger "a huge tariff war." The almost unanimous rhetoric reflected a delicate consensus emerging on the European continent, and the signal is positive. Although the official public attitude of Germany and France, including the EU, has always been to oppose "decoupling" and support economic globalization and multilateralism, some people within Europe have stepped up their "decoupling" rhetoric against China under the guise of "reducing dependence." Especially when Washington is pushing toward this direction from the outside, it is both timely and necessary for European leaders to clearly reiterate their positions and attitudes, and to warn of the radical populist trend that is spreading in Europe. It is worth noting that while displaying a relatively pragmatic attitude toward China, Germany, France and the EU began to openly express their dissatisfaction with the US. This is not only an active correction to the signs of a recent imbalance in the European diplomacy as a whole, but also a self-awakening after accepting a harsh reality lesson. But Europe made such a big sacrifice in exchange for what? It is the US profiting from Europe's misfortune. French President Emmanuel Macron recently couldn't help but complain that US gas is too expensive, saying France is "paying four times more than the price you [the US] sell to your industry." According to some media, US companies can earn more than \$100 million per container ship of LNG bound for Europe. For European people, who are being hit by the energy crisis, the Americans are making extremely immoral money from a disaster. Is this the "friendly price" of the US? For Europe that suffers a lot of loss, is such a friendship from the US too cheap or expensive? According to several UK media reports, the British government will officially designate China as a "threat" in the near future. As the previous description is "systemic competitor," it must be said that it is a regression, going against the diplomatic reflection and adjustment in the European continent. Different choices of countries such as the US, the UK, France and Germany have shown sign of differentiation within the transatlantic alliance, which is exactly the prominent feature of a multipolarized world. As long as we uphold multilateralism, opening-up and cooperation, we will not worry about having no friends, let alone having no partners. The US will sooner or later pay the price for its overbearing arrogance and selfishness, and the UK will pay the price for its strategic muddy-headedness, while pragmatic, rational countries which stick to principle will reap the rewards.

The world must shun the Taliban but help the suffering Afghan people

ISHIAQ AHMAD



There are no signs that the Taliban are willing to accept even the bare minimum of such conditions.

Afghan women and girls enjoyed relative freedom under US-sponsored Afghan governments for two decades, until their country returned to repressive Taliban rule last year.

As part of the 2020 Doha Agreement, which paved the way for the current Taliban rule, Afghan women and girls were guaranteed the right to continue to enjoy these same freedoms.

The US has imposed a set of new sanctions on the de facto Taliban regime in Afghanistan in response to its persistent refusal to grant Afghan women and girls their fundamental rights to employment, education and freedom of movement in public. The sanctions, announced this week by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, "restrict the issuance of visas for current or former Taliban members, members of non-state security groups, and other individuals believed to be responsible for, or complicit in, the repression of women and girls in Afghanistan through restrictive policies and violence."

While Taliban rulers rightfully deserve these punitive measures for their breach of faith on gender rights, a key challenge facing the international community is to ensure that further sanctions do not disrupt the provision of urgent humanitarian support for the Afghan people ahead of another harsh winter.

The Taliban's return to power last year is an unfortunate reality that the world cannot ignore and must recognize. In one form or another, the international community has to deal with the regime as a stakeholder for Afghan political settlement. The US sanctions policy seems to make a clear distinction between engaging with the Taliban leaders and legitimizing their regime. After all, the latest travel ban was imposed after US Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West and CIA Deputy Director David Cohen met their Afghan counterparts in Doha last week. But there is a fine line to be drawn between engaging in talks with Taliban leaders and legitimizing their de facto rule. The minimum terms of engagement with them should include the implementation of a democratic political system specific to the conditions in Afghanistan, the protection of fundamental human rights, and the cessation of repression against ethnic and sectarian minorities.

There are no signs that the Taliban are willing to accept even the bare minimum of such conditions. Afghan women and girls enjoyed relative freedom under US-sponsored Afghan governments for two decades, until their country returned to repressive Taliban rule last year. As part of the 2020 Doha Agreement, which

paved the way for the current Taliban rule, Afghan women and girls were guaranteed the right to continue to enjoy these same freedoms. The Taliban's leaders also publicly pledged not only to allow girls to go to school and women to work and move freely in public, but also to include representatives of minority groups in their government.

None of these commitments have been honored. In fact, the human rights situation has worsened over time, leading to mass protests by female activists in Kabul and growing instances of terrorism against minorities, particularly the Hazara community.

In March, the Taliban reneged on its pledge to reopen secondary schools for girls. In July, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan reported serious allegations of human rights violations under the Taliban's 10-month rule, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, torture and a clampdown on free speech, peaceful protest, and the ability of women and girls to access education, employment and move freely.

Last month, Richard Bennett, who in April was appointed the UN's special rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, reiterated these findings in his first report on the state of human rights abuses under Taliban rule and their devastating effects on the Afghan people.

Even Afghan men are not immune from Taliban repression. Just last week, all male teachers and high-school students in Kandahar were ordered to sign a written pledge that they would adhere to Taliban's interpretation of Shariah, including a strict dress code and the compulsory growing of beards.

The Taliban regime is in breach of another crucial clause of the Doha accord, namely the pledge by its leaders they would not allow Afghanistan to once again become a safe haven for international terrorist groups.

It is clear from the killing in July of Al-Qaeda chief Ayman Al-Zawahiri in a US precision-strike attack in downtown Kabul that the Taliban regime did not sever its links with the terrorist organization responsible for the 9/11 attacks. Al-Qaeda has had the deadliest terrorist profile for almost three decades, which could resurface

at any time in another wave of global terrorism. The UN estimates that more than 10,000 terrorists are currently in Afghanistan. The regrouping of terrorist groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and the East Turkestan Islamic Movement remains a continual source of concern for Central Asian republics and China, respectively. There has already been a resurgence of Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan in tribal border areas and the Swat valley, where there were mass protests after a school van was attacked last week.

The Islamic State-Khorasan Province currently is the most active terrorist organization in Afghanistan, with the potential to carry out international terrorism, just like Al-Qaeda. It appears to seek to fight the Taliban but its actual target is the minority Hazara population, which has been subjected to scores of attacks in seminaries and hospitals, including a devastating suicide bombing last week that killed 25 people, mostly young women, at an education center in Kabul.

Clearly, the Taliban regime has lost the trust of the international community as it shelters members of major terrorist organizations and their leaders, and violates the fundamental rights of women, girls and minorities. It must be shunned and ways found to help the Afghan people.

Fortunately, there is a significant overlap in the interests of great powers and regional states in human rights and counterterrorism issues in Afghanistan. Therefore, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, Russia, France, the US and the UK) must unite to reprimand the Taliban regime. Their strongest leverage is diplomatic recognition, which must be denied as long as Taliban leaders do not mend their ways.

Another source of leverage in the hands of the international community is frozen Afghan bank accounts.

Last month, the US government set up a \$3.5 billion "Afghan Fund" to promote economic stability in Afghanistan. This money can be released to the UN agencies involved in efforts to improve the near-famine conditions in the country, which is a moral responsibility for the international community.

PAF serves without dereliction

Asma Ishaq

Pakistan has been ranked one of the top countries which has received the worst affects of climate change. The monsoon brought the predicted-horrible repercussions in real. The bad weather was there but so as the mis-management to tackle it. The historic floods continued to pull down the infrastructure in all the four provinces one after another.

Work hard in silence and let one's success be the noise." PAF is one most suited force in the light of this thought. The first defined job of PAF is certainly to guard the aerial frontiers of the Motherland. For this, PAF proves in the words and action both that it never sleeps! However, one 'Fazaia Honour Code' that the PAF pledges, "A Fazaia shall help the people in difficulties and those struck by natural calamities." This code of honour

has always been well-taken care of amidst the toughest time of any natural calamity. This year 2022, monstrous monsoon hit the country. PAF being the first responder to the call of duty has exhibited the fullest vigilance in helping the fellow countrymen.

Pakistan has been ranked one of the top countries which has received the worst affects of climate change. The monsoon brought the predicted-horrible repercussions in real. The bad weather was there but so as the mis-management to tackle it. The historic floods continued to pull down the infrastructure in all the four provinces one after another. First it hit Balochistan, then Sindh, next was South Punjab and then in the last it was KPK. The damage was almost unimaginable, hundreds of precious lives were lost. Likewise, floods destroyed thousands of houses and many low-lying villages were washed away. Flood water ruined all the standing crops too. The loss of lives, property, livestock and crops all made the historic-tragic scene of the country. All this situation brought a new series of challenges for the immediate rescue, rehabilitation and medical services.

Directives From The ACM: Having seen the catastrophic destruction after this natural calamity, the Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar issued the directives to establish the organizational setup for the swift assistance of the needy people. PAF took the lead and served the finest performing all the assigned duties. For this purpose, all the operational and non-operational Air Bases of PAF were made the main unit for the help centers. The commands of ACM were strong and clear: to provide the immediate rescue, relief and medical support then and there. The ACM also emphasized on avoiding any kind of dereliction and to maintain the vigilance keeping the tradition of PAF intact in the execution of all operations. Following these directives, the PAF established, 'Pakistan Air Force Flood Relief Fund' to collect the much needed financial assistance for the flood victims. The following accounts have been ma-

dein four banks for the collection of donation:
Allied Bank's Account: PK85ABPA0010099183680023
Askari Bank's Account: PK96AS-
CM000385165000097

Bank Islami's Account: PK38BKIP0310000096360001
Habib Bank's Account: PK09HABB0022997001211801
Rescue Operations: Hundreds to thousands of people were stranded in the flood water. The first of all the first-task was to rescue as many of those people as it could be made possible. PAF carried out the rescue operation successfully. The highly skilled PAF pilots went for the rescue operation even in the bad weather condition. Despite the conspicuous danger to their crafts due to the high wind circulation, PAF continued to be successful in all the rescue operations.

Relief/Rehabilitation Operations: Approximately 33 million got affected directly during the flood. Starting from June that continued till mid of September, heavy rains and floods claimed 1.600 lives. The task of rehabilitation for PAF was huge. The foremost was for provision of shelter to the homeless and helpless people. PAF began to set up the tent city and chose the suburbs of main cities for making these temporary colonies for the flood affectees. At present, 45 tent cities are being run by PAF throughout the country for facilitation of flood victims. Just a couple of days ago, PAF has established the second largest tent city about 150 KM away from Karachi in collaboration with the Turkish relief agency AFAD. This family sized tent city comprised of 500 makeshift houses. These are improvised shelter home keeping the upcoming weather conditions in winter. Likewise, monetary assistance program has been launched to give financial relief to those people who have lost the property and business-asset in the flood.

Facility Of Food: One third of Pakistan went under water. The food which is the first survival source got totally unavailable in the areas inundated in water. Such situation continued to get worsened. PAF calculated the requirement of food on the top most priority

level. PAF arranged the drinking water and safe food catering services in all the areas. It completed the next target of provision of rations to the maximum people in need. In some areas, where the weather condition was still not suitable for the ground assistance so PAF decided to go for the air aid. Ration bags were dropped off to the people aground in the water.

Medical Support: The flood left a great number of people injured or got contracted with different diseases. Children, old and women were the most vulnerable victims. PAF not only provided the first aid upon reaching the flood hit areas but also continued its medical support to date. The doctors and para medical staff from PAF hospitals established field medical camps. All these camps have been fully equipped with the essential as well emergency nature of medical aid. Not a single day has passed when PAF medical camps have stopped its medical services in the flood affected areas. **PAF Schools and Colleges:** It is not just the say but the fact too that PAF performs the duties in an unprecedented manner. Accompanied with the PAF personnel and educators, students of PAF schools and colleges made much commendable effort to bring smiles on the face of their brothers and sisters in this testing time. Kids from PAF schools and colleges raised donation on their own in order to buy stationary, chocolates, and sweets. Around 17000 packets collected as well packed by PAF students were distributed. All these kids received deserved admiration for the selfless effort at such young age.

PAF Never Sleeps! In the aftermath of horrible flood, PAF once again has proven the line: PAF never sleeps from showing up its service for the fellow countrymen. The recent relief operations during and after the historic flood is the testimony of pledge taken as the Fazaia Honour Code to work for the humanitarian cause. PAF has definitely appeared as in lead to rebuild Pakistan. The natural calamity can be damaging but the determination to restructure is greater!

Briefs

Imran comes out victorious

FROM PAGE 01

Punjab Assembly sets on which the by-elections are being held. The National Assembly constituencies are NA-22 (Mardan-III); NA-24 (Charsadda-II); NA-31 (Peshawar-V); NA-108 (Faisalabad-VIII); NA-118 (Nankana Sahib-II); NA-237 (Malir-II); NA-239, (Korangi), Karachi-I; and NA 157 (Multan-IV). The provincial constituencies are PP-139 (Sheikhupura-V); PP-209 (Khanewal VII); and PP-241 (Bahawalnagar-V). Unofficial results of National Assembly seats are as follows: NA-22 Mardan-III: PTI Chairman Imran Khan defeated Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JULF) candidate Muhammad Qasim .NA-24 Charsadda-II: Unconfirmed and unofficial results from 226 polling stations show that PTI candidate Imran Khan will defeat ANP candidate. NA-31 Peshawar-V: According to results from all polling stations, PTI Chairman Imran Khan easily defeated ANP Ghulma Ahmad Bilour. NA-108 Faisalabad-VIII: Imran Khan defeated Abid Sher Ali, the nephew of Nawaz Sharif. NA-118 Nankana Sahib-II: According to unofficial and preliminary results PTI candidate Imran Khan defeated PML-N's Shezra Mansab Ali. NA-237 Malir-II: PPPP candidate Abdul Hakeem Baloch defeated PTI chief Imran Khan overwhelmingly. In NA-239 Korangi, PTI candidate Imran Khan easily defeated MQM candidate. NA 157 Multan-IV: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Ali Musa Gillani defeated PTI's Meher Bano Qureshi who is daughter of Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Unofficial results of Punjab Assembly seats are as follows: PP-139 Sheikhupura-V: PML-N's Chaudhry Iftikhar Ahmed Bhangoo was leading with 18,396 votes while PTI's Muhammad Abu Bakr behind. PP-209 Khanewal VII: PTI candidate Faisal Khan Niazi defeated PML N candidate. PP-241 Bahawalnagar-V: PTI candidate Malik Muzaffar was well poised to register a win over his PML N opponent. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said that overall, the polling process remained peaceful, and the commission's central control room received 15 complaints of code violations.

Dar for greater policy...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan's economic development and discussed the ongoing projects and the potential new areas of investments. The minister held a meeting with President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Masatsugu Asakawa and thanked him for support provided over the years as a major development partner of Pakistan and also for the recent post-flood commitments. The ADB president assured the finance minister of approval of BRACE programme amounting to US \$1.5 billion and of continued support to Pakistan. The minister also met his Libyan counterpart Khaled Al-Mabrouk and both the dignitaries discussed issues of mutual interest. In his meeting with Managing Director of International Finance Corporation (IFC) Makhtar Diop, the minister appreciated the role of the Corporation in promoting private sector development in Pakistan. He also discussed potential means of enhancing IFC engagement in Pakistan, particularly for trade finance. He assured all the facilitation required by the IFC in that regard. Makhtar Diop assured the finance minister of IFC's continued support to Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention here that Dar is leading Pakistan's delegation in the IMF / World Bank's 2022 Annual Meetings being held in Washington DC. Other delegates include Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Governor of State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed, Finance Secretary Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, Secretary Economic Affairs Division Dr Kazim Niaz and Additional Secretary, Finance Division, Ali Tahir. - APP



GWADAR: Amb Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, DG ISSI led a 11 member delegation visit to Gwadar Development Authority. Delegation comprised members of business community, media and academia. Delegation was briefed about current work and future plans for the development of Gwadar port and city. - DNA

UK's PM Truss struggles to salvage premiership

"I worry that over the past few weeks, the government has looked like libertarian jihadists and treated the whole country as kind of laboratory mice in which to carry out ultra, ultra free-market experiments," Tory MP Robert Halfon, who supported Sunak

LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss insisted on her commitment to economic discipline but Conservative critics stepped up warnings Sunday that the party faces electoral oblivion under her crippled leadership. With even US President Joe Biden joining in attacks on her libertarian platform, Truss admitted it had been a "wrench" to fire her friend Kwasi Kwarteng as chancellor of the exchequer on Friday. But writing in the Sun on Sunday newspaper, she said: "We cannot pave the way to a low-tax, high-growth economy without maintaining the confidence of the markets in our commitment to sound money." That confidence was jeopardised on September 23 when Kwarteng and Truss unveiled a right-wing programme, inspired by 1980s US president Ronald Reagan, of £45

billion (\$50 billion) in tax cuts financed exclusively by higher debt. Markets tanked in response, driving up borrowing costs for millions of Britons, and the Conservatives' poll ratings have similarly slumped, leading to open warfare in the governing party mere weeks after Truss succeeded Boris Johnson. She has been forced into a screeching policy U-turn, but depressed the markets even more with a painful press conference on Friday. Kwarteng's replacement Jeremy Hunt is now warning that taxes may in fact have to rise, while pressing for spending restraint by his cabinet colleagues even as Britons endure a cost-of-living crisis. The new chancellor met Truss at the prime minister's country retreat on Sunday to thrash out a new budget plan which he is due to deliver on October 31, effectively demolishing the programme that brought her to power. "It's going to be very, very difficult, and I think we have to be honest with people about that," Hunt said in a BBC television interview - prompting a warning from trade unions of concerted strike action if he enforces painful cuts. Hunt defended Truss. "She's been willing to do that most difficult of things in politics, and that is to change tack," he said, adding: "The prime minister's in charge." But many questioned that verdict. "Truss has become a pointless prime minister - an empty vessel with no policies or power," the Sunday Times editorialised. The Treasury declined to confirm reports that Hunt plans to delay a planned cut to the basic rate of income tax, removing yet another headline measure announced by the new government last month. Up to

100 letters expressing no confidence in Truss have been submitted by Tory MPs, the Sunday Times and Sunday Express said. Opponents were said to be coalescing around Truss's defeated leadership rival Rishi Sunak and another one-time foe, Penny Mordaunt, for a possible "unity ticket" to rebuild the stricken Tories. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace could be another compromise candidate for leader, the Sunday Mirror reported. "I worry that over the past few weeks, the government has looked like libertarian jihadists and treated the whole country as kind of laboratory mice in which to carry out ultra, ultra free-market experiments," Tory MP Robert Halfon, who supported Sunak, told Sky News. "Of course, colleagues are unhappy with what is going on, with haemorrhaging in the opin-

ion polls," he said. "It's inevitable that colleagues are... talking to see what can be done about it." Fellow Tory Alicia Kearns, newly elected as chair of the powerful foreign affairs committee in the House of Commons, also questioned Truss's prospects for survival. "It's a very difficult one," she told Times Radio. "We've had questions around our moral competency (under Johnson). We've now got questions around our fiscal competency." But Johnson loyalists - still seething at Sunak's perceived disloyalty towards the scandal-tainted former leader - warned against a coronation that cuts out Tory grassroots members. Any new leader would face strong pressure to call an early general election, and the opposition Labour party has streaked far ahead in the polls. - APP

benefits to them. We will continue to promote economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation across the Strait," Xi said. "The policy of 'One Country, Two Systems' is a great innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It has proven to be the best institutional arrangement for ensuring sustained prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao after their return to the motherland." "This policy must be adhered to over the long term," the president said. The summit is held every five years where party delegates decide future policies and back new leadership roles. "We will fully, faithfully, and resolutely implement the policy of 'One Country, Two Systems,' under which the people of Hong Kong and Macao administer Hong Kong and the people of Macao administer Macao, both with a high degree of autonomy. We will remain committed to law-based governance in Hong Kong and Macao," Xi said. Xi Jinping also listed major principles to build a "modern socialist China" in all respects. "On the journey ahead, we must firmly adhere to the major principles of upholding and strengthening the Party's overall leadership, following the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, applying a people-centered development philosophy, remaining committed to deepening reform and opening up as well as carrying forward our fighting spirit," Xi said. "Our future is bright, but we still have a long way to go," he said. The quinquennial summit is being held when the US sees China as its major rival and is mulling steps to liquidate dependency on Chinese supply chains. The two nations hold the world's top two economies, respectively, and they have strong militaries.

Chinese president vows to...

FROM PAGE 01

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Sindh govt again seeks deferment...

FROM PAGE 01

the LG elections, the ECP intends to establish at least 5,000 polling stations. However, the Sindh government is responsible for making security arrangements for the polling stations, requiring at least 39,000 security personnel to maintain law and order. The letter says that at present, the government has only 22,507 police personnel to be deployed at polling stations. In addition, there are 1,305 extremely sensitive and 3,688 sensitive polling stations in the city.

Pakistanis to say 'no to slavery', says Asad

FROM PAGE 01

Talking to media persons, PTI Central Secretary General urged the people that it was not an ordinary elections but a jihad to rid the country of these cable of crooks to achieve the real independence. He said that all the political analysts and observers were unanimous on the point that PTI Chairman would quite comfortably thrash its political opponents to regain power in the country if ECP held fair and transparent elections. However, Asad said that the ECP did not work as in impartial state institutions, as there were reports cropped up from several polling stations of severe electoral irregularities. He stated that police special branch people were sitting in polling stations in Karachi and were trying to influence the votes, adding that Rana Sanullah also ran the elections campaign in sheer violations of election code of conduct. Asad Umar went on to say that let us see what the ECP should do on these massive irregularities, as it was said that notice was taken. However, he added that whether it would remain mere a notice or some practical and tangible actions were taken against the responsible people. Terming the turn out good, he said that 'today's evening the nation will tell clearly that they will not accept slavery come what may'. Talking about the country's crippling economic situation, PTI Secretary General expressed apprehension, as the country was going from bad to worse, as reports emanating from international markets were clearly indicating that Pakistan was fast heading towards default.

Swiatek beat Pegula to reach San Diego final

SAN DIEGO: World number one Iga Swiatek of Poland rallied after a rain delay to defeat sixth-ranked American Jessica Pegula on Saturday and reach the WTA San Diego Open final. Swiatek, seeking her eighth title of the year, advanced to her ninth WTA final of the season by defeating Pegula 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 after two hours and six minutes. But the three-time Grand Slam champion will have to wait until to find out her opponent in the championship match. Heavy rain forced suspension of the second semi-final with 19th-ranked American Danielle Collins, this year's Australian Open runner-up, leading Croatia's 77th-ranked Donna Vekic 4-6, 6-4, 4-2, after two hours and 29 minutes. In a rematch of this year's

French and US Open quarter-finals, Swiatek dropped the first set just before a lengthy rain delay that allowed the 21-year-old Polish star to regroup. "I came back and I wanted to be really composed and not lose in those important moments," Swiatek said. Swiatek raced ahead 3-0 and broke again on a forehand winner in the eighth game to force a third set, which she also dominated, taking the victory with a break when Pegula netted a forehand. Winner of a WTA-best 63 match this year, Swiatek improved to 4-1 all-time against Pegula, having lost their first meeting in 2019 at Washington but winning this year at Miami and in the US and French Open quarter-finals. Swiatek, a runner-up last week at



Ostrava, seeks her 11th career WTA title. Her titles this year include Qatar, Indian Wells, Miami, Rome, Stuttgart and the US and French Opens. Collins won her only WTA titles last year at Palermo and Silicon Valley. Vekic won her third career WTA title last October at Courmayeur in her most recent tour final. - DNA

71M people face poverty due to war: UN

NEW YORK: Some 71 million people have faced poverty due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, according to the UN Development Program (UNDP). The impact of the war on food and energy prices is expected to increase the number of poor in the world. According to the UNDP report on the effects of the Russia-Ukraine war, approximately 51 million people fell below the poverty line in the first three months of the war which started on Feb. 24. Increasing the number of the poor in the world to 9%, the war has also caused the daily income of around 20 million people to fall below the poverty line of \$3.20 in lower-middle-income countries. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic caused up to 163 million people to fall below the poverty line last year, while increasing the number of people working for \$2.15 a day by 8.1%, which is the extreme poverty line. The World Bank estimates that this year, the figure will rise by 75-95 million. Also, food inflation is expected to further hit the poor, while it is estimated that two-thirds of per capita income will be spent on food expenditures in lower-income countries, while this rate is expected to reach a quarter of the income in developed countries. The World Bank said it planned to reduce the ratio of the poor to 3% by 2030 as a difficult target to reach based on pre-pandemic projections, while the target has become harder to achieve with the coronavirus pandemic. According to UN data, half of the world's income earners below the extreme poverty line live in South Asia. The poor in sub-Saharan Africa account for one-third of the world's poor, while the number of poor in the Middle East and North Africa has more than doubled since 2015. Although the internal conflicts in Syria and Yemen had the biggest impact on the Middle East, the effects of the pandemic were experienced by all income groups. The COVID-19 has dealt the biggest blow to the global goals to reduce poverty in the last 30 years, the data showed. - APP

Haney retain undisputed lightweight title

MELBOURNE: American Devin Haney kept his unbeaten record intact Sunday by battering Australian George Kamboos with his thunderous right hand in a rematch to remain undisputed lightweight world champion. The highly-rated 23-year-old successfully defended his WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO belts at Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena in a unanimous points de-

cision with one judge scoring the bout 119-109 in his favour, and the other two both having it 118-110. Haney now looks to fight next either two-time Olympic champion Vasily Lomachenko or Shukur Stevenson. "We're taking on all comers. No matter who it is, we want to fight the best fighters in the world. I believe I'm the best fighter in the world," Haney

told reporters afterwards. The American is only the eighth boxer to hold all four belts from the major sanctioning bodies - WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO - at the same time. He beat Kamboos unanimously in June to achieve the feat and become the first undisputed lightweight champion since Pernell Whitaker in 1990, first in the four-belt era which began in 2004. - APP

Namibia stun Sri Lanka in T20 World Cup opener

Sri Lanka, who won the Asia Cup last month, lost Mendis for six when his top-edge off Wiese ballooned up to land in the gloves of Zane Green

GEELONG: Jan Frylinck smashed 44 runs and took two wickets as Namibia hammered Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka by 55 runs to cause a major upset in the opening match of the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday. The left-handed Frylinck and JJ Smit, who made an unbeaten 31, lifted Namibia to 163-7 with their 69-run seventh-wicket stand after being invited to bat first in Geelong. Sri Lanka were then bowled out for 108 in 19 overs with David Wiese, Frylinck, Bernard Scholtz and Ben Shikongo taking two wickets each in the team's first of three opening-round matches. The African minnows are on course for a second straight Super 12 place after achieving the feat on their T20 World Cup debut

last year in the United Arab Emirates. "Incredible journey, last year was a special experience for us. We've started a great win, but a lot of work to do throughout this tournament still," skipper Gerhard Erasmus said after the stunning win. "It's been a historic day for us. The opening day has been quite special but we want to kick on from here and qualify for the Super 12 stage. We understand the bigger picture as well." Cricket icon and India's batting great Sachin Tendulkar tweeted: "Namibia has told the cricketing world today... 'Nam' yaad rakhna! (remember the name!)" Namibia lost their openers inside three overs with returning fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera getting a wicket third ball when

Michael van Lingen was caught at deep third-man. Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton fell to a brilliant diving catch by wicketkeeper Kusal Mendis after a 12-ball 20. Stephan Baard and skipper Erasmus attempted to rebuild with a stand of 41 but Sri Lanka's bowlers kept chipping away with wickets.

Namibia slipped to 93-6 when spinner Maheesh Theekshana got big-hitter Wiese caught behind for nought but Frylinck, who hit four fours in his 28-ball innings, and Smit had other ideas. The pair took the attack to the opposition with five fours and two sixes in the final five overs. Sri Lanka, who won the Asia

Cup last month, lost Mendis for six when his top-edge off Wiese ballooned up to land in the gloves of Zane Green. Shikongo silenced the Sri Lankan fans when he sent back Pathum Nissanka for nine and Danushka Gunathilaka for nought from consecutive balls. The left-handed Rajapaksa and Shanaka, who made 29, attempted to put the chase back on track with a partnership of 34 but Scholtz broke the stand with his left-arm spin. Scholtz got Rajapaksa out for 20 when he skied a shot and also sent back Wanindu Hasaranga. Frylinck ended captain Shikongo's resistance and the lower order soon followed to spark joyous celebrations when Wiese claimed the final wicket. - APP

result. However, this team has come back from defeat before. Let's regroup and win from here first target is to qualify. Come on boys let's do this!" Jayasuriya wrote on Twitter. Frylinck, a left-arm seamer who was named man of the match, removed Dhananjaya de Silva as Sri Lanka slipped to 40-4. The left-handed Rajapaksa and Shanaka, who made 29, attempted to put the chase back on track with a partnership of 34 but Scholtz broke the stand with his left-arm spin. Scholtz got Rajapaksa out for 20 when he skied a shot and also sent back Wanindu Hasaranga. Frylinck ended captain Shikongo's resistance and the lower order soon followed to spark joyous celebrations when Wiese claimed the final wicket. - APP



Briefs

Company bankruptcies in Japan rise in April-September

TOKYO: A total of 3,141 companies went bankrupt in the April-September period, up 6.9 percent year on year, a local credit research company has reported.

It marked the first increase in corporate bankruptcies in three years, according to a survey conducted by Tokyo Shoko Research Ltd. The firm said many companies experienced difficulties in repaying financial aid they had received from the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regionally, 29 prefectures including Hokkaido and Kyoto, saw bankruptcy cases growing during the period. Meanwhile, Osaka, Hiroshima, and other 14 prefectures saw the bankruptcy number decrease.

The service industry saw a total of 215 bankruptcy cases, the highest among different industries and up for the eighth straight month, while the construction industry saw the fastest growth in the number of bankruptcy cases, which was up by 29.8 percent from a year earlier. Due to high fuel prices, the transport sector saw a total of 162 bankruptcy cases, up 42.1 percent, while the real estate sector logged fewer cases, marking the smallest number in 30 years.

The research company said it is also seeing rising cases since August of bankruptcies caused by high raw material prices due to the weakening of the yen against the U.S. dollar and other major currencies.—APP

India reports 2,401 new COVID-19 cases

NEW DELHI: India's daily COVID-19 caseload Sunday decreased to 2,401, officials said. According to federal health ministry data released on Sunday morning, 2,401 new cases of COVID-19 were reported during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 44,628,828 in the country.

With the fresh cases, India's active caseload currently stands at 26,625.

The country also logged 21 related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll to 528,895 since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry said.

With the increase in cases, the daily positivity rate stands at 1.04 percent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 1.05 percent, the ministry data showed. The ministry said so far 44,073,308 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 2,373 were discharged during the past 24 hours.

According to the health ministry, until Sunday morning, 2,193,218,638 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. A cumulative total of 898,588,817 samples have been tested up to Oct. 15, the health ministry said Sunday. Out of these, 231,622 tests were conducted on Saturday alone.—APP

3 dead, over 55,000 affected in Sri Lanka's floods

COLOMBO: Three people have died and over 55,000 people from 13,902 families have been affected by floods and landslides in Sri Lanka in the past 72 hours, the Disaster Management Center (DMC) said Sunday.

The rainy weather that ushered in floods and landslides will continue till Wednesday, the DMC said. Meanwhile, Director of Irrigation (Hydrology) Eng. S.P.C. Sugeeshwara said the risk of floods in some areas will exacerbate if heavy rains continue. The landslide warning issued for six districts has been extended considering the adverse weather conditions, the DMC said. The Department of Meteorology said the current heavy rains are due to the influence of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) near the country.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Founder President of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Samina FAzal welcomes guests at the 3rd All Pakistan Women Presidents' gathering in Islamabad. The event was co-hosted by Rizwana Asif President IWCCI, immediate past president Naima Ansari and others. A large number of diplomats, their wives and women ambassadors also attended the event.—DNA

IMF program aftershocks start appearing: BMP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the government to focus on the implementation of fiscal and energy reforms to strengthen the economy, besides ensuring the sustainable growth, as the aftershocks of the IMF program are being felt by the trade and industry now. FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar emphasized the need for consistent economic policies to restore macroeconomic stability and market confidence, as \$ 1.5 billion production losses have been estimated on account of loss of only cotton crop due to recent flooding. So, the government must have to provide electricity and gas at competitive rates to the export as well as the

domestic industry, besides ensuring continuous power and gas supply to the industry, he demanded. He highlighted that Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change causing devastating damage to infrastructure and agriculture production. He said that the trade and industry have been enduring the IMF program since decades, but never before has it been so devastating, as the difference this time is the country's extremely fragile economy and the Fund's non-negotiable condition of withdrawal of all subsidies with no exemptions or waivers. The Businessmen Panel Chairman said that Pakistan's precarious financial situation has landed it into a deep debt trap where an overwhelming part of tax revenue is consumed in debt servicing alone. The Debt Policy states that as of 30 June 2022, Domestic

Public Debt reached Rs31.3 trillion as compared to Rs26.2 trillion on 30 June 2021. The key drivers for increase in public debt are primary deficit of Rs2.42 trillion, interest expense of Rs3.18 trillion and share of adverse performance of exchange rates that stood at Rs3.764 trillion. Similarly, on external front, Pakistan's External Public Debt is recorded at \$ 88.8 billion as on June 30 2022 as compared to \$ 86.5 Billion on 30 June 2021. Mian Anjum Nisar said that Pakistan's external public debt is sourced from three major contributions, with around 48% from multilateral loans, 22% from commercial sources like banks, Eurobonds and Sukuks. He said that the increased level of external debt can pose a great risk to fiscal framework of an economy especially when current account deficit is high, foreign

exchange reserves are at low levels and the exchange rate is under pressure. Pakistan's GDP growth since 2018 is continuously declining and rated as lowest in the region. The revenue targets are being met through oppressive and indirect taxation measures which on one hand are raising the cost of doing business and on the other, making it tough for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) considered as backbone of economy, to carry on their operations. The FPCCI former President said that the government is not ready yet to undertake structural reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund related to circular debt and management of state owned enterprises (SOEs). Moreover, reliance on indirect taxes for meeting revenue goals is also a major issue meaning thereby that government should improve its

taxation system if it wants to create a business friendly environment. We need a comprehensive plan to revamp or privatize SOEs as a significant portion of our revenue is directed towards these loss-making entities whereas the same can be used for developmental projects to facilitate businesses and public at large. Such projects will not only improve our infrastructure but also help to generate sufficient revenue to invest in the social sector. Further, new avenues for revenue must be explored so as not to burden the already tax-paying community. This would enable the government to fulfill its financial requirements through organic means rather than relying on expensive borrowings. Similarly, exports, home remittances and a positive foreign direct investment (FDI) balance can offset import requirements. Pakistan's reliance on traditional exports is responsible for poor foreign

exchange reserves. Keeping in view the new era of industrial revolution, Pakistan should focus on tech based exports to increase the share of its exports. Pakistan's economy has been under adverse external conditions, due to spillovers from the war in Ukraine, and domestic challenges, including from accommodative policies that resulted in uneven and unbalanced growth. Steadfast implementation of corrective policies and reforms remain essential to regain macroeconomic stability, address imbalances and lay the foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth. Efforts to strengthen the viability of the energy sector and reduce unsustainable losses are also essential. Further efforts to reduce poverty and protect the most vulnerable by enhancing targeted transfers are important, especially in the current high inflation environment.

PIA offer further discount for students traveling to China

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has further cut down its fare for students and other passengers traveling between Pakistan to China. Now, the one-way fare for students from Islamabad to Xian, Chengdu and Beijing will be Rs 224,000 while one-way fare for other passengers will be around Rs 279,200, as per official sources here on Sunday.

The passengers traveling between Pakistan and China can buy a return ticket at a cost of RMB 12,067 or an equal amount in Pak rupees. "Last month, the national flag carrier had offered a discount from 10 percent to 15 percent and an additional seven percent discount on the surcharge for students wishing

to travel between Pakistan and China. Currently, PIA is operating two weekly flights on Islamabad-Chengdu-Islamabad and Islamabad-Xian-Beijing-Islamabad routes. " Pakistani students and other passengers planning to travel to China to join their studies at educational institutions in China could take benefit from the new discount. A large number of Pakistani students enrolled in the Chinese universities could not return to China following Covid-19 travel restrictions. They are planning to come back to China to join offline classes as the Chinese authorities have allowed them to return. On June 20, a special of PIA plane brought the first batch of Pakistani stu-

dents from Islamabad to Xian. These students were stuck in the motherland because of travel restrictions under Covid-19 pandemic. Talking to APP, Tehsin Ahmad, a Pakistani student, said that the discount would greatly facilitate Pakistani students who planning to come back and join their offline education. He said a large number of students could now avail the offer of discounted fare and return to their respective universities in China. Abdul Karim, a Pakistani living in the Chinese capital also expressed pleasure over the reduction offered by PIA in its fare for travelers between Pakistan and China, adding, now people could more frequently travel between the two countries.—APP

4 dead in fire, clashes at Iran's prison

TEHRAN: At least four prisoners died and 61 others were injured in Saturday night's clashes and fire at Tehran's high-security Evin Prison, the country's judiciary said on Sunday. The fatalities happened due to "inhalation of smoke" as a result of the fire, the statement noted, adding that the victims were convicts of theft. The incident took place at around 9:10 p.m., local time on Saturday, when videos circulated online showed plumes of smoke rising from the prison compound followed by the sound of explosions and gunfire. State-run news agency IRNA initially report-

ed clashes between inmates and staff at the prison, adding that some prisoners set a warehouse of clothes on fire. It said on Saturday night only 8 people had been injured. Some local media outlets said inmates, mostly those with charges of financial crimes, burnt a sewing workshop at the prison following an altercation with the staff. On Sunday, conflicting reports emerged about the incident, with semi-official Fars News Agency saying some prisoners tried to escape and inadvertently stepped on a minefield in the hills north of the prison, which caused loud explosions.—APP

CPC National Congress to promote China's prosperity

DNA

BEIJING: The 20th National Congress of the CPC that met here on Sunday will promote China's development and share prosperity for the world, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), he said this Congress will lay a strong foundation for furthering China's ongoing progress and development journey. "I hope this congress will open a new chapter in the promotion of China-Pakistan relations and we wish full success to it. It will not only make important decisions for the Chinese domestic politics, economy and will also charter future trajectory for the Chinese economic progress," he stated.

He further said that under the leadership of CPC China has achieved outstanding progress and development. "China has done well in all aspects of its society and its economy. I'm really impressed by the scale and the magnitude of a high-quality development, in fields of communication transportation, high speed train, industrial development, agriculture, modernization, protection of environment, ecology, education..." he added. He mentioned that Pakistan-China future relationship is very bright and very promising in all aspects of life.—APP

Mexico: Promised land for migrants

TIJUANA: While many migrants risk their lives chasing the "American dream", Gabriel Zarate fled the rising cost of living in California and moved to the Mexican border city of Tijuana. The 38-year-old Chilean American now crosses over to work in San Diego as an English teacher during the day and returns home in the evening to Mexico. "One of the biggest reasons is the cost of living in Tijuana. It's significantly cheaper than in California," Zarate said.

Also, he added: "I love Mexican people and food." His neighbor and fellow English teacher Mike Rachal also made the move from San Diego, where he used to pay \$1,275 a month to rent a studio. "Here it's about half that," the 36-year-old said. The cheaper rents can be a sensitive subject in Mexico, where wages are much lower than in the United States and people are also facing increasing living costs.

Tijuana is one of the cities with the fastest-rising real estate prices in Mexico — up 10.7 percent in the first quarter of 2022 from a year earlier, according to the state-owned Federal Mortgage Society.—APP

Singapore reports 8,037 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE: Singapore reported 8,037 new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, bringing the total tally to 2,005,884. Of the new cases, 770 were detected through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests and 7,267 through ART (antigen rapid test) tests, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Health.

Among the PCR cases, 739 were local transmissions and 31 were imported cases. Among the ART cases with mild symptoms and assessed to be of low risk, there were 7,025 local transmissions and 242 imported cases. A total of 574 cases are currently hospitalized in hospitals, with 13 in intensive care units. No new deaths were reported on Saturday, with the total death toll at 1,641. In response to a surge in cases over the past two weeks, Singapore's public hospitals have provided additional 200 beds for COVID-19 patients, said a statement issued by the ministry on Saturday. The statement added that public hospitals will operate a total of more than 800 beds for COVID-19 patients in the coming two weeks.—APP

Prospects of Pak-China traditional medicine co-op

"Chinese medicine is a very valuable crystallization of human civilization, and we hope to serve mankind. Complementation of traditional Chinese and Western medicine can improve the overall therapeutic effect

DNA

BEIJING: "Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Unani Tibb (traditional medicine in Pakistan) enjoy a broad space of collaboration in research & development, management and production," said Prof. Liu Xinmin, Member, Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional Medicine, World Health Organization (WHO) and Co-Director of Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on TCM (SPCCTCM) in an interview with Gwadar Pro. At a press conference on the efficacy and safety of Jinhua Qinggan Granules (JHGG) in treating COVID-19 patients in Pakistan at the beginning of this year, Prof. Liu Xinmin said, "this is China's first proprietary Chinese medicine to complete clinical trials guided by drug registration abroad, and it is also the first proprietary Chinese medicine to be verified by foreign scientists on the basis of international evidence-based medicine abroad." Prof. Liu Xinmin told Gwadar Pro reporter that, "International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi is internationally influential in the field of natural product chemistry. This is another recognition of traditional Chi-

nese medicine in Pakistan and even the international community after the successful clinical trial of Yinhuang Qingfei Capsule in Pakistan, and it is also a major booster to promote cooperation in traditional medicine between China and Pakistan." Pakistani herbal medicines have rich resources in the treatment of respiratory and skin diseases, and the products are exported to Central Asia and other countries. Pakistanis are accustomed to taking herbal medicines and are highly receptive to TCM. "In recent years, the industrial scale and research & development level of TCM have been significantly improved. China's management experience of high-quality herbal medicine resources can be shared with Pakistan. Pakistan is very active in international and exchange platforms, and Pakistan and China can jointly increase the popularity and influence of traditional medicine in the world," Prof. Liu suggested. After thousands of years of development, TCM has developed numerous effective treatments for plague. TCM has sustained efficacy in the face of complex and variable viruses, and it is well-suited to cope with the ever-changing COVID-19 virus. Prof. Liu Qingquan, President of Beijing Hospital of TCM introduced that TCM has formed an extremely strict theoretical law,

and its rapid accessibility is one of its greatest advantages and characteristics.

"Chinese medicine is a very valuable crystallization of human civilization, and we hope to serve mankind. Complementation of traditional Chinese and Western medicine can improve the overall therapeutic effect."

JHGG is produced by Juxiechang (Beijing) Pharmaceutical Company. According to Mao Zhibing, R&D Director of Juxiechang, the clinical testing of JHGG in Pakistan was carried out with the support of the Chinese and Pakistani governments and top-level research teams.

The protocols were approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, Ethics Committees in Pakistan, etc. "We intend to have more cooperation with Pakistan, such as conducting clinical studies in Pakistan on JHGG for additional indications, including upper respiratory tract infections of influenza. Pakistan also invites us to build a factory there, and we will send a local operation team to conduct clinical trials and market some other varieties there. In this way, both sides can form a cluster effect in the clinical application, sales, and use of products," Mao added, according to Gwadar Pro.

Briefs

Turkey denies involvement with migrant incident

AGENCIES

ISTANBUL: Turkey denied involvement in an incident where Greece found 92 illegal migrants close to its northern border with Turkey, Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Ismail Catakli said late on Saturday. "As you couldn't find one single case of a human rights violation by Turkey, you just seek to expose the image of your own cruelty as if Turkey did it," Catakli said on Twitter replying to a tweet by Notis Mitarachi, Greek Minister of Migration. Greek police said on Saturday that they have rescued a group of 92 migrants who were discovered naked and believed to have crossed into Greek territory from Turkey illegally. Catakli also called on Greece to stop "manipulation and dishonesty". Greece's Citizen Protection Minister Takis Theodorikakos said on Sunday that migrants' accounts suggested that they have been taken to Greece by the Turkish military police. "One would expect a working explanation from the Turkish government's side," he told a Greek television station.

Imran ridiculed electoral process: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Sunday said that Imran Khan has made this whole by-election a mockery. For him, this election has no meaning as he was contesting just to ridicule the electoral process, he added. The result of by-election will not have any impact on the date of the next general election. General elections would be held on time, he said. Adviser further said everyone has the right to protest, but if anyone tried to challenge the writ of the state, the government is obliged to defend it. Answering to a question advisor said "NA-157 Multan was of great importance for us, it will be a good contest and we will win," he said. - APP

Tunisia, IMF reach agreement on \$1.9 bn loan

TUNIS: Tunisia has struck a preliminary agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$1.9 billion loan to shore up its economy. "IMF staff and the Tunisian authorities have reached a staff-level agreement to support Tunisia's economic policies with a 48-month arrangement," the IMF said in a statement. The statement, however, said a final agreement for the loan "is subject to the approval of the IMF's Executive Board, which is scheduled to discuss Tunisia's program request in December." The IMF said the loan would restore "macroeconomic stability and strengthen social safety nets" for Tunisians. - APP

'Joe Biden supports strong, prosperous Pakistan'

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: The White House assured Pakistan on Saturday that President Joe Biden supports a strong and prosperous Pakistan, hours after the US leader stirred a storm by calling the South Asian nuclear nation a dangerous nation. "The president views a secure and prosperous Pakistan as critical to US interests," said White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre when asked to comment on Mr Biden's remarks. But others were not convinced this latest outburst will help Washington win over any 'hearts and minds' in the country that is already witnessing a wave of anti-US sentiment, championed by former PM Imran Khan. "Strange comment - not the type of thing senior US officials typically say publicly as much as they used to," said

Michael Kugelman, a Pakistan scholar at the Wilson Center, Washington. Mr Kugelman said he did not know what prompted Mr Biden's remarks, was but he likely received intel briefs that referred to Pakistan's churn-bad political polarization, an economic crisis, and resurgent terror. "That, combined with legacy concerns about nukes, may have prompted the comment." He said President Biden's reference to "without any cohesion" was apparently a comment on "current trends playing out in Pakistan more broadly right now, and not to nuclear issues per se." The comments, he said, "certainly won't help improve Pakistani public perceptions of the US, but I doubt it'll impact bilateral relations in a big way." Commenting on Islamabad's decision to summon the US ambassador, he said: "This is where finally having a formal ambassador back in Islamabad

will help." He noted that "reaction from Pak officials has also been fairly conciliatory." Prof Hassan Abbas of the US National Defence University said to him "Biden's statement appears to be a slip of the tongue." President Biden, he said, was not talking about any weakness in the nuclear command and control in Pakistan as the country has indeed developed a strong system over the last decade or so. "The US president was 'likely hinting at cohesion in the political sphere in Pakistan, given political instability and rising polarisation," Prof Abbas said. "The increasing use of anti-US rhetoric in PTI political rallies are concerning for Washington," he added. Tamanna Salikuddin of the US Institute of Peace, another US think-tank, said President Biden's remarks were not an official statement nor a change of policy towards Pakistan.

'LET'S COOK TOGETHER'



ISLAMABAD: The Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Deddy Faisal and his spouse hosted a cooking event at the Malaysian residence. The event was supervised by the Serena Hotels Executive Chef Pathmanathan Balangandaram. Spouses of diplomats of ASEAN and other embassies took part in the drill and enjoyed the event. Detailed coverage of the event shall be published in the coming issue of Centreline magazine. - DNA

Mobilization of funds must for poor countries

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 (developing countries) and China, has called for the international community to mobilize the financing required by the poor nations to deal with the adverse impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, increasing conflicts and depression of global economic conditions, and climate change. Speaking in the UN General Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic and social issues, Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, also stressed the need for appropriate and realistic planning and regulations as steps forward to better resource-utilization and sustainable development. Despite best efforts, he said in a debate on 'Operational Activities for Development' that developing nations are struggling to achieve notable progress on a wide range of goals and targets. Pakistan is the current chairman of G77 and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Nations' biggest intergovernmental group of emerging countries. Noting that severe effects of climate change are adding challenges to attaining Sustainable Development Goal 11, which is aimed at making cities



and human settlement inclusive, safe, the G77 chairman emphasized the need to mobilize concessional and grant

finance, especially for adaptation. A facility to deal with loss and damage should be established at the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, he added. Further noting that development activities tend to get sidelined and do not receive as many resources as humanitarian issues and other areas, Ambassador Aamir Khan proposed that the United Nations development system provide more capacities and access to concessional finance. Expressing concern over inadequate funding of the UN Resident Coordinator system, he underscored that adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the development system's activities is crucial for sustainable development. Such resources should be utilized in accordance with national priorities, he added. Reiterating that South-South cooperation cannot be measured and assessed in the same way as official development assistance (ODA) as its value "goes beyond direct and indirect costs", Ambassador Aamir Khan expressed hope that the conceptual framework by the Statistical Commission would further be developed.

Iraq's Sadrist camp refuses to join new government

DNA

BAGHDAD: Iraqi firebrand leader Moqtada al-Sadr's movement announced its refusal to join a new government being formed by Prime Minister-designate Mohammad Shia al-Sudani. Saturday's announcement came two days after lawmakers elected Abdul Latif Rashid as Iraq's new president, and he swiftly named al-Sudani as prime minister in a bid to end a year of political gridlock since the October 2021 elections.

"We stress our firm and clear refusal for any of our affiliates to participate ... in this government formation," Mohammed Saleh al-Iraqi, a close associate of al-Sadr, said on Twitter. The 52-year-old Shia former minister al-Sudani has the backing of al-Sadr's Iranian-backed rivals, the Coordination Framework, which controls 138 out of 329 seats in the Iraqi legislature. In June, al-Sadr ordered the 73 legislators in his bloc to resign, leaving parliament in the hands of the Framework, which includes representatives of the former paramilitary force Hashd al-Shaabi.

AU calls on Ethiopia rivals to 'recommit' to peace

NAIROBI: The African Union on Sunday called on the warring parties in the nearly two-year conflict in northern Ethiopia to "recommit" to peace talks, as violence intensifies in the Tigray region. The city of Shire in northwest Tigray has been bombarded for several days in a joint offensive by Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, with civilian casualties reported in the push against rebels from the war-torn region. The IRC, an aid organisation delivering relief to embattled Tigray, announced on Saturday that one of its staff was among three civilians killed in an attack in Shire, a city of 100,000 inhabitants. - APP

Mauritius offers its expertise to promote tourism in Pakistan

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Mauritius High Commissioner to Pakistan Rashidally Soobadar has offered his country's expertise to exploit Pakistan's untapped potential of tourism sector, saying he believed it can significantly contribute to the national economy. "Mauritius has a very organized tourism sector which contributes 25 per cent to its GDP, and I offer my country's technical assistance to promote services and system to make Pakistan an international tourists' hub" he said in an interview with APP. Quoting Pakistan's "mesmerizing scenic northern areas and weather conditions," Soobadar said Pakistan was an ideal country and, "I suggest the authorities concerned to adopt Mauritius model to make it an ideal tourists' destination." He said his country, a small island with 1.2 million populations, annually attracts over 1.5 million tourists which, "reflects how we have exploited tourism sector to contribute in our national economy." The Mauritius High Commissioner also offered to train Pakistani youth in hotel management as tourism sector's success "lies in the quality services being offered at these facilities establish around tourist destinations." "We have a very soft visa policy for Pakistanis and his country is ready to further facilitate to the willing students from here, who can benefit from the education opportunities available there." The Mauritius has 100 per cent literacy rate and its national are enjoying free

education, however, intending Pakistani students can be accommodated on a nominal fee structure, he added. He said that tourism sector had emerged as an engine of growth in Mauritius, and it is one of fastest growing socio-economic sectors that was fueling economic growth and creating jobs and business opportunities. Recommending Pakistan to make tourism a national subject, Rashidally said, besides good road infrastructure and standard hotels quality transport was also vital to facilitate and attract tourists. He also highlighted that opportunities for the Pakistani manpower in Mauritius exist. "The country has \$13,000 per capita income which is quite attractive for the Pakistani workforce." To a question about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, he said his country was interested to reap trade benefits from One Belt One Road initiative but some modalities were required to be determined for Free Trade Agreement between the two countries. After completion of the CPEC project the trade ties would be boosted with the entire region especially the African continent and Pakistan's access to those markets can help its economy, he remarked. The High Commissioner noting the cultural and historic similarities between the two countries said the cooperation could be extended in this area of common interest. Mauritius, Rashidally said, stood by the people of Pakistan in the times of calamities and his country's government and people's recent air shipment of relief goods for the flood affected here was testimony to this.

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