



# Islamabad POST

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**Will not take extension, retire in five weeks**

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**Pak-Turkiye to cooperate in entertainment**

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## PTI to challenge verdict

# Imran Khan disqualified for time being

Disqualification under Article 63 P means disqualification for the remaining period of the National Assembly or whenever fresh elections are called

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in a consensus verdict in Toshakhana reference, disqualified former prime minister Imran Khan and ruled that the PTI chairman is no more a member of the National Assembly. Criminal proceedings will be initiated against the PTI chairman for misdeclaration, the verdict said. Experts say that disqualification under Article 63 P means disqualification for the remaining period of the National Assembly or whenever fresh elections are called. The case will now be tried in a trial court. The trial court then will decide whether he should be disqualified for five years or for entire life. Experts also have termed the verdict not very damaging for the PTI as it has not disqualified the PTI Chairman for five years or whole life. The ECP stated that Imran Khan submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices under Article 63(1)(p). Under the said article, a lawmaker is disqualified for the time being from being elected or chosen as



a member of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) or of a provincial assembly. The decision was taken unanimously by the ECP's five-member bench but the Punjab member Babar Hassan Bharwana was not present as he was unwell. "As a sequel to our abovementioned findings, facts available on record and keeping in view the argument of learned counsel for parties herein, we are of the considered opinion that the Respondent has become disqualified under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution read with Section 137,167

and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, consequently he ceases to be a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and his seat has become vacant accordingly," the ECP order stated. "As the respondent has made false statements and incorrect declarations, therefore he has also committed the offence of corrupt practices defined under Sections 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, punishable under Section 174 of the Elections Act, 2017. The office is directed to initiate legal proceedings and to take follow-up action under Section 190(2) of the Elections Act, 2017." The verdict was announced amid tight security in the Red Zone where at least 1,100 police officials were deployed under the command of a senior superintendent of police to control the law and order situation in the area. The officer was assisted by five superintendents and six deputy superintendents of police. The ECP had reserved its verdict in the Toshakhana case on September 19 after arguments were completed from both sides.

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### Imran urges workers to call off protest

Asks them to get ready for long march

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to the Election Commission of Pakistan's verdict to disqualify him in the Toshakhana reference, PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan Friday said he will challenge the decision. "I already knew about the disqualification," he said while alleging the Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja of being "biased." In a pre-recorded message, the former premier claimed that the CEC was the coalition government's man. "The nation should be prepared. I will give you a call anytime," Khan told PTI supporters. The former premier also directed his workers to stop protesting and focus on the upcoming long march.

### PDM leaders hail ECP decision

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The political leaders from ruling coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) while hailing Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision in Toshakhana case disqualifying former Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said that former prime minister had initiated politics of disqualification and allegations and himself was proved guilty of theft. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Friday called for the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan after he was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). In a Tweet she alleged that

Continued on Page 06

## Not seeking another extension: COAS

Says army had decided to distance itself from the country's politics

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa Friday said that he will not take an extension and retire after five weeks. According to media reports, the COAS said that the army will not play any role in politics. He said he would not be seeking another extension in his tenure, which ends on November 29, asserting that the army had decided to distance itself from the country's politics. He made these remarks while addressing a security workshop in Islamabad. According to journalists who attended the workshop, the army chief said the military had decided to remain "apolitical". It is pertinent to note that the extended term of General Bajwa is ending on November 29 and the government has announced that the appointment of his successor will be made in due course and according to the Constitution. PTI Chairman Imran Khan has called for deferring the appointment, saying the incumbent rulers are not qualified to take a decision in this regard. Gen Bajwa's statement

Continued on Page 06

## Army Chief visits NDU

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday said the national cohesion and unified response to guard and promote Pakistan's national interests were imperative for progress. The COAS visited the National Defence University (NDU) and delivered a talk to the participants of 24th National Security Workshop and spoke on various challenges to national security and response measures, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. While talking to the participants, the Army Chief said, "Pakistan has faced many challenges but came out stronger every time. Our fight against terrorism is one such example which only succeeded due to the united nation's approach." The COAS emphasized that peace and stability could only be achieved if rule of law and state writ were established. - DNA

## Afghans deserve mercy

The abuses of Afghans in neighbouring countries especially in Iran will be mentioned in dark chapters of history

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Afghans, who, on the grounds of fears for their lives, left the country after the empowering of Taliban in mid-August 2021, are still forced to stumble across the world especially in neighbouring countries including Pakistan. Still hundreds of families, mostly women and children, are waiting for their turn to land in any Western European country. Though a large number of people, after the Taliban's second takeover of Kabul in mid of August 2021 succeeded in slipping to Europe, America, Central Asian countries and the Middle East. And thousands of others due to the proximity of geographical location, had moved to Iran and Pakistan. By the way, there are not many differences in the policies of Iran and Pakistan in terms of continuing the war

and conflict and cropping up obstacles in return for peace and stability in Afghanistan, but in terms of providing shelter to refugees and treating them, the approach of both the neighbours are in contrast. People of almost all areas and regions of Pakistan belong either from Afghanistan or being to Afghan tribes scattered throughout Indian subcontinent, therefore they are having blood relations and sympathies with the Afghans irrespective of policies of ruling corridors if Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Not only people from all four provinces across the country, but even the dwellers of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan also cannot remain silent on the abuse of Afghan refugees or residents by state institutions. While in Iran, the policies are different for the Afghans even since the days of civil conflict and former Soviet Union invasions. The abuses of Afghans in neighbouring countries especially in Islamic Republic

of Iran will be mentioned in the dark chapters of history. For this reason, after the Taliban takeover on August 15, 2021, majority people from Afghanistan came to Pakistan and a limited number of them, fortunately or unluckily, have reached Western countries. Unfortunately in the sense that most of them escaped and detached from their loved ones and their motherland. And bad luck in the sense that those who have a luxurious and possessive lifestyle in Afghanistan will now be counted among the immigrants in alien lands or countries. However, Almighty Allah gifted these people with survival at the time when thousands were either made hostages or eliminated in fake encounters by Taliban. But still the majority are in wait and facing missiles in hotels and apartments at Islamabad, Peshawar and other places throughout Pakistan.

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to France, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

### Euro Village Romanian ambassador invites people



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan Nicolae Goia has said many people know Romania for its beautiful landscape and buildings but not many people know that Romania have many versions to its credit modern jets engines; 3 D movies and other important used in our life such as anti-ageing cream; insulin are the Romanian inventions. The ambassador expressed these views during his video message released ahead of the Euro village festivities that will take place on October 29. The ambassador further said that people who are interested in knowing about all these Romanian inventions and many more they are welcome to join the Embassy on next Saturday and be part of the Euro Village festival. It may be mentioned here that the Euro Village with take place at the PNCA on Saturday October 29, 2022. All the Europeans missions shall set up stalls showcasing products of their respective countries.

### Holiday Notice

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

## FATF pulls Pakistan out of 'grey list'

Pakistan has made significant improvements to strengthen the effectiveness of this framework for combating terrorism financing

DNA

PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - the world's money laundering and terror-financing watchdog - said on Friday that Pakistan has been removed from the grey list and is no longer subject to its increased monitoring process. The Paris-based inter-governmental body had put Pakistan on its grey list of untrustworthy jurisdictions in June 2018 because of "strategic counter-terrorist financing-related deficiencies." FATF President Raja Kumar, in his press conference at the conclusion of its plenary, stated that Pakistan had been on the grey list since 2018. He said: "It has two concurrent action plans. After a lot of work by Pakistani authorities, they have largely addressed all of the action plan items."

Continued on Page 06

## Hina, French minister discuss ties

PARIS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar met here on Friday with Thierry Pflimlin, President France-Pakistan Business Council and François Bitoutzet, Managing Director VivaTech. Khar delivered a talk at Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po University and met a delegation of Association of Grandes Ecoles and Campus France. In her meeting with Thierry Pflimlin, who is also CEO TOTAL Global Services,

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# Ministry kicks start major Youth Initiatives

Prime objective is to empower youth of the country: Ahsan Iqbal

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiative has geared up the process to implement the five major Youth Development Initiatives announced by the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Thursday. "The empowering the underprivileged youth by drastically increasing opportunities for their education, training and employability is critical for the future of Pakistan," said the minister after the launch of these initiatives.

The five 'Young Development Initiatives' were launched to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence Day of Pakistan. The five key initiatives include 200,000 Internships for Young Engineers, Uplifting of the 20-poor Districts

of Pakistan, Establishment of 250 Mini Sport Complexes, Establishment of Pakistan Innovation Fund, and 75 National Top Talent Scholarships Programme. "Only by privatizing the state investment in the young people, we can turn Pakistan's youth bulge from a liability into an asset," said Professor Ahsan Iqbal, while highlighting the significance of the initiatives. Under the National Development Internships Programme, 20,000 young engineers will be hired in PSDP funded projects to improve their skills and employability. The programme envisages paid on-the-job training for fresh young graduates in various fields. Similarly, the uplifting of 20 Poorest Districts of Pakistan is the second key initiative of the minister. Under this programme,

the 20 poor districts of the country particularly, Balochistan and FATA will be uplifted and a package of Rs 40 billion has been allocated this year. Under the Youth Development Initiatives, the construction of Mini Sports Complexes is also a major step aimed to increase the facilities of sports for the youth and Rs 1000 million have been allocated in PSDP 2022-23 for this project, said the minister, while highlighting the importance of the initiative. Pakistan Innovation Fund to be established and the objectives of the project include; to prepare a framework for effective innovation policy for the country including identification of factors that lead to positive and effective innovative regulatory processes. In this

regard, an Innovation Support Project has also been initiated under PSDP 2022-23 for which Rs 10 billion has been allocated. The fifth initiative is the 75 National Top Talent Scholarships Programme which provides Pakistani students with Master and PhD degrees in top 50 universities of the world. In this regard, Rs 4.7 billion has been allocated for this project to encourage and prepare talented students from low-income families who aspire for higher education but cannot apply for the admission in top universities due to lack of finances. The PM Shahbaz Sharif appreciated the minister for taking this great initiative, and asked him to expand such projects across the country. I assure you my complete support to finance such projects which actually empowers the youth, he concluded. —APP



ISLAMABAD: CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah calls on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. DNA

## French envoy visits CUI to bolster academic exchanges

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicholas Galey in meeting with the Rector COMSATS University Islamabad Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal held here Friday explored possibilities of bolstering exchange between the CUI and universities in France as well as strengthening the engagements with the French Embassy. The ambassador was accompanied by the French Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, Mounir Slimani and French Scientific and Higher Education Attaché Sabine Vermillard during his visit to CUI. It is worth mentioning that this was the maiden visit of the incumbent

French Ambassador to any university in Pakistan. Prof. Afzal along with officials, students and French alumni working at CUI welcomed the Ambassador on campus. Nicholas Galey was apprised about the engagements of COMSATS University with French universities including University of Nice, Sophia Antipolis, University of Cote d'Azur, School of Engineering and Chamber of Commerce in Paris. It was also informed that COMSATS University is presently availing the services of over 65 French Alumni as part of its faculty. Dr. Sajjad Madani, Registrar, CUI in a comprehensive briefing touched

upon CUI's national and international standing and outreach efforts. He said that CUI ranked invariably among top three universities of Pakistan on reputable international rankings. CUI has the largest pool of PhD qualified faculty members among its 2,700 faculty members. Dr. Madani said that CUI was actively engaged with French Embassy in Islamabad and regularly organized academic, research and cultural activities with active participation of students and faculty. Nicholas Galey lauded the efforts of the COMSATS University management and said he was very im-

pressed by the fast growth and quality of education in the varsity. Prof. Afzal thanked the Ambassador for sparing his precious time to visit CUI and cement the lasting ties with France. He called for enhancing joint research as well as increasing scientific exchange with French research institutes. Prof. Afzal said that notable contributions to science, technology and philosophy were made by French scientists and thinkers and that inviting notable French professors to COMSATS University would highly motivate students and faculty members. —APP

## LWMC CEO checks attendance of field workers

LAHORE: Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) Ali Anan Qamar on Friday paid surprise visit to Data Ganj Baksh and Ravi Town and checked the attendance and working of the field workers. During the visit, he reviewed the sanitation arrangements around Bhati Gate, Delhi Darwaza, Food Street and Data Darbar. He issued instructions to repair the rickshaw tippers standing in the workshop immediately and mobilise them in Walled City for waste collection. Special instructions were also issued to the operational teams to make all cleaning arrangements around main mosques. The CEO said that negligence with regard to cleanliness at historical places would not be tolerated at all. He said that officers of the operational team should be present in the field to ensure 100pc attendance of the workers. —APP

## CM lays foundation stone of dev projects

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Friday laid the foundation stone of 29-KM long old GT road Gujrat-Lakhanwala dual road project costing Rs.9.11 billion along with GT road Samtan to Gujrat-Dinga dual road and flyover project to be completed with Rs.2.83 billion. Speaking on the occasion, he said these projects would benefit the commuters of different areas. The projects would be completed in four phases and construction work would be complete on a priority. He said Ehsaas program was a best public welfare initiative to provide subsidised commodities to eight million families. —APP

## IK committed 'worst-ever crime': Attaullah

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Narcotics Control Attaullah Tarar Friday said PTI chairman Imran Khan had committed the 'worst-ever crime' by concealing and selling the gifts he had been receiving from foreign dignitaries and countries as Prime Minister of Pakistan. "Imran Khan committed the worst ever crime by not declaring the gifts. He has received a lot of gifts but concealed them. But he committed another biggest crime of selling them at extremely cheap rates," he said. The SAPM expressed these views at a news conference

along with Law Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and PML-N senior leader Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualified PTI chief Imran Khan for five years under Article 63(1)(p) for misdeclaration in the Toshakhana reference. The Election Commission of Pakistan has disqualified PTI Chairman Imran Khan, finding him guilty of not sharing details of Toshakhana gifts and proceeds from their sale during his time as prime minister. In the decision announced by the ECP, it has been said that Imran Khan is no longer a member of the Na-

tional Assembly. According to the verdict, Khan has been found involved in corrupt practices and his seat in the National Assembly has been declared vacant. The SAPM further revealed that there was another unique instance that all members of Imran Khan's entourage declared gifts they received from a country on their return to Pakistan, except him (IK). There could be two things either the host country did not give any gift to Imran Khan, having understood that he would sell out the gifts, or he would have concealed it, Attaullah Tarar added. —APP

## GOC 44 Division meets tribal elders of Gwadar

QUETTA: The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 44 Special Security Division held a meeting with the local elders, political elites, administration officers, religious leaders and representatives of the fishing community of Gwadar. Describing the importance and role of local leadership in the development of Gwadar, the GOC said Gwadar had more potential than any other region of Pakistan, according to the Inter Services Public Relations on Friday. The GOC also highlighted the very important role of women in the development journey of Makran. He stressed the need to address the fishermen's issues on priority. "A large community in the area is directly linked to the trade in petroleum products," he said, adding there was no alternative and better means to benefit the local people.

## Govt to move no-trust motion against Senate deputy chair

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to move no-confidence motion against Senate Deputy Chairman Mirza Muhammad Afridi. A resolution in this regard is likely to be submitted in Senate Secretariat any time. According to the sources, the government has the support of over senators in the upper house of parliament. They claimed that the government alliance has a clear majority in the senate as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf enjoys the support of only 33 lawmakers in the house. The allied parties will decide about the new deputy speaker once the no-trust move is successful. The Awami National Party

and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam have become active to



secure the deputy speaker seat. Mirza Muhammad became the deputy chairman senate in March. He was nominated by the then prime minister Imran Khan. He is the first person to be elected as the deputy chairman senate. —APP

## One more infected with deadly coronavirus

RAWALPINDI: One more person was diagnosed with fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,679. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Friday, the infected cases included 44,052 from Rawalpindi and 3,627 from other districts. The report added that the new case had arrived from the Potohar town area while eight confirmed patients were quarantined at homes, and no one was admitted to any district's health facility. The report further updated 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. The district health authority said that during the last 24 hours, 1,001 samples were collected, out of which 1,000 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.11 percent. —APP

## Rana urges workers to come out for ECP

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said on Friday urged all organizations and parliamentarians of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to peacefully come out to show solidarity with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Friday, he said that he said ECP's decision has exposed Imran Khan's corrupt practices. He asked parliamentarians and all the organizations of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz to take to streets in their respective areas in a peaceful manner to express solidarity with the Election Commission. Rana Sanaullah said Imran Khan and his cronies should refrain from creating difficulties in people's lives. He said the nation should recognize this mania and every individual and all institutions should play their due role in eradication of this evil. The Minister said Imran Khan is pursuing a foreign and anti-state agenda. He said all law enforcement agencies, especially Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, should stand by the state instead of becoming minions to Imran Khan and his cronies.

## Passage of Criminal Laws Amend. Bill 2022 termed as major success

Bill has been unanimously passed from the NA after amendment by BNP chief, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, he said in a statement

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Friday termed the passage of the Criminal Laws Amendment Bill 2022 from National Assembly as a major success in efforts against enforced disappearances. The Bill has been unanimously passed from the National Assembly after amendment by Balochistan National Party (BNP) chief, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, he said in a statement. The federal minister said that according to the approved Bill, the heinous

act of enforced disappearance has been declared a crime and those who commit such a crime will be brought to justice while the victims' families will be given justice, ending the exploitation. He said that the BNP chief opposed clause 514 of the proposed Bill stating that if the information of the plaintiff or the person providing the information is not correct, he should be imprisoned for five years and fined one lakh rupees. The BNP's stance was that such a clause would discourage complainants

and informants and make it very difficult for heirs to prove their claim in such sensitive cases. Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar accepted the objection of BNP chief and removed the clause from the Bill and presented it in the House which was unanimously approved. Federal Minister Agha Hassan Baloch said that the unanimous approval of this Bill by the joint efforts of BNP and the government is a big victory for the affected families of Balochistan. —APP



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman  
Mobile: 0300 8553342



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Dr. Christian Turner calls on Federal Minister Ayaz Sadiq. DNA

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

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

- Airlines**  
 Turkish Airlines.....8494949

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

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

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

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

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

- Water Tank**  
 Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Experts call for end to civil-military duality in political system

**Solution demands a constitutional framework with objective criteria to measure performance while military's role in political processes should be adjusted according to constitutional**

DNA

ISLAMABAD Governance weaknesses and problems in Pakistan are direct outcome of prevalent duality in its power structure, run by different de jure as well as de facto entities. This duality bearing on civil and military establishments, in non-compliance with constitutional obligations, has thrown the democratic political system out of equilibrium. This aspect of the political system, along with several others, was discussed in the Grand National Dialogue on Pakistan's political system and governance, organized jointly by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, and the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). The dialogue was chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS and moderated by Dr. Syed Tahir Hijazi, senior academic and former Member (Governance), Planning Commission of Pakistan chairman IPS. The speakers and discussants included Brig. (r) Raashid Wali Janjua, director research, IPRI, Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, president, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT), Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS, Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal secretary and senior research fellow IPS, Dr. Rashid Aftab, director, Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, Zaheeruddin Dar, founder, Centre for international Entrepreneurship and Trade and political economist, Nazeer Ahmad Mahar, executive director, The Research Initiative, Dr. Riaz Inayat, Member NADRA, Dr Muhammad Saleem, senior economic and former Member, Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary and senior fellow at IPS, and Naufil Shahrukh, IPS' GM Operations. The trichotomic power branches have failed to fulfil their constitutional obligations as a result of the pseudo-parliamentary system of Pakistan, which has some presidential features. This, along with the lack of political will and duality of the political system, doesn't benefit the constitutional values, argued Ahmad Bilal. has resulted in a weakened governance system, as indicated by

the low position of Pakistan in governance indicators, including the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), where Pakistan ranks at 140/180, and the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2021, where Pakistan ranks 130/139. The solution demands a constitutional framework with objective criteria to measure the performance while the military's role in the political processes should be adjusted according to constitutional and democratic values. In addition to these fissures, as indicated by Abu Ahmad Akif, there are inherent flaws in political practices and the organizational structure of the system, leaving little or no space for governance. The anomalies of the system, ranging from the buildup of elitist capture to the electoral flaws and the bureaucratic role, have removed any margin for reforms and governance strategy, he pointed out. Reckoning on this, Dr. Rashid Aftab rested

his view that within the three-tiered governance structure – federal, provincial, and local government – a prominent trend has been the absence of devolution of power according to change in time, due to reluctance of the provinces. While it goes against the 18th Amendment, which has validated Article 140-A, obliging the provincial government to devolve power, a participatory governance system, focusing on empowering local government institutions, must be achieved. As the economy forms a major part of this organizational and governance structure, Zaheeruddin Dar shared his insights on economic governance while giving denotation to ease of doing business, which has been hitting the skids because of increasingly higher return expectations from investors due to increasing war, political instability, cultural, and corruption risks. Another factor is the government own-

ership of businesses. He viewed this as a route to the creation of monopolies and hostile takeovers. He further stressed focusing and pushing forwards the private sector with a visionary approach to build successful economic governance and a welfare-oriented system. Particularly relevant, or rather the foundation, of the political system, is the electoral process, the reform of which is pivotal to democratic governance. Nazeer Ahmad Mahar shared his findings on electoral reforms, and stated that the 2018 elections, conducted under a rather empowered ECP, saw a 30% increase in voter registration and turnout. However, there is still a gap in women and youth participation in selecting a representative for the governance and political system. According to the 2017 census, youth form 64% of the population while the 2018 election saw a 13% deficit in youth voters.



## Rector NUST conferred PEC Excellence Award

ISLAMABAD:Rector National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari has been conferred the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Excellence Award- 2021 (Lifetime Achievement) in recognition of his meritorious contributions to the field of Engineering and Science and Technology development in Pakistan.

According to a news release issued here, the Rector NUST has been conferred the PEC Excellence Award-2021 by the President, Dr Arif Alvi.

A graduate of Cranfield University, UK; Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad; University of Balochistan, Quetta; and Military College of Engineering (MCE), Risalpur, Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari has held many prestigious positions during his illustrious career spanning over 35 years.

Prior to assuming the charge of Rector National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), he has served as Director General Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), and Commandant NUST Military College of Engineering (MCE), besides remaining on the faculty of MCE, National Defence University Islamabad, Command and Staff College Quetta, and Pakistan Military Academy Abbottabad. Under Engr Bukhari's continuing stint as Rector NUST, the university has made monumental strides forward vis-a-vis international standing and visibility, academic and research pursuits, disruptive innovation, result-oriented partnership with industry and so on.

His major contributions as Rector NUST inter alia include expansion of Pakistan's first Science and Technology Park - the National Science and Technology Park, establishment of School of Interdisciplinary Engineering and Science (SINES), School of Health Sciences (under construction), introduction of new programmes of study, labs, etc. Under his sagacious leadership, NUST is fully poised to achieve new heights of glory.—APP

## Locomotion: a new trend in physical exercise

ISLAMABAD :Locomotion is a full body exercise which builds high levels of strength, flexibility and body control besides adopting four core movement patterns including bear, monkey, crab and frog.

Talking to APP, Personal Trainer and Nutrition Coach Ammara Gul Agha on Friday said that animal movements had been used in different types of martial arts like gymnastics and yoga. "If animal movement is added in routine for workout and rehabilitation, it will increase the range of motion by strengthening the joints", she added.

Ammara said that those people who are facing joint limitations such as frozen shoulders and stiff joints they can adopt locomotion for developing strength, control and flexibility. She said locomotion synchronizes mind-body connection because the subject remains aware of the body movements. The exercise also improves issues of body balance in elderly people by enhancing the coordination in their limbs, she added.

She highlighted that the movement combinations of bear, monkey, crab and frog create a complete workout. "Bear movements help in arm strength and spine mobility, monkey and frog improve lateral movements while crabs strengthen the core", she explained. Answering a question, she said that locomotion is not meant for the weight loss but it improves the mobility and fitness by enhancing the range of motion and eliminating the limitations of the body movement.

She expressed that weight loss should not always be the aim but focus should be on increasing the physical autonomy, quality of life and on training the body for routine work.—APP

## Secretary IBCC gets 3 years extension

ISLAMABAD:Keeping in view of the performance as Secretary Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC), Prof Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah is given a three-year extension and will continue to serve the nation. According to a press release issued here on Friday, Prof Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah was appointed as Secretary IBCC in October 2020. During his tenure of two years, he worked to improve the internal systems and standards of IBCC and got it ISO 9001:2015 certified, which is an international standard to demonstrate the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements. This changed whole working

environment of the institution in very positive manner. He worked on the digitization of the organization and introduced the process of attestation & equivalence thus setting the organization on modern pathways. In addition to this, he introduced the E-Office system at IBCC secretariat to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability while making the environment paperless and reducing the chances of human errors. On his extension, Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani personally visited IBCC Secretariat to congratulate Prof Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah. Also, Secretary Services Government of Sindh, Salim Rajpoot, Secretary Boards & Universities Government of

Sindh, Mureed Rahimoon, Vice Chancellor National Skills University Professor Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Chairman (PEIRA) Miss. Zia Batul, Managing Director National Book Foundation congratulated him. Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed, CEO Aga Khan Board Dr. Shahzad Jeeva, Chairman Hyderabad Board, Chairman Mirpur Khas Board, Azam Habib, National Coordinator Inter University Consortium Muhammad Murtaza Noor, Officials of Ministry of Federal Education & Education Professional Training and other dignitaries congratulated him and expressed their belief that Dr. Malah would continue his services for betterment of the organization and facilitation for public.—APP

## SC registrar returns PTI application

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Registrar Office returned on Friday a constitutional filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Andaleeb Abbas seeking disqualification of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. In her application, Abbasi had alleged that PM Shehbaz was guilty of breaching his oath by including proclaimed offenders in his delegation during a foreign visit. The petition maintained that PM Shehbaz misused his powers and violated the constitution after taking proclaimed offenders including his son Suleman Shehbaz and Hussain Nawaz, former PM Nawaz Sharif's son, as part of an delegation to meet Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman April 28, 2022. — DNA

## Footwear exports increase 27.07% in Q1

ISLAMABAD :The footwear exports witnessed an increase of 27.07 percent during the first quarter of fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of the last year. Pakistan exported footwear worth US \$48.972 million during July-September (2022-23) against the exports of \$38.540 million during July-September (2021-22), showing growth of 27.07 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of footwear also increased by 68.86 percent by going up from 4,052 thousand pairs to 6,842 thousand pairs, according to the data. Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear rose by 28.68 percent as it surged from \$32.185 million last year

to \$41.417 million during the current year. The canvas footwear exports of the country stood at \$ 0.250 million during the current year against \$ 0.023 million during last year, showing an increase of 987.33 percent. Likewise, the exports of all other footwear goods increased by 15.37 percent during the quarter under review as these went up from \$6.332 million last year to \$7.305 million during the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the footwear exports appreciated by 41.12 percent during the month of September 2022 as compared to the same month of last year. The footwear export during September 2022 were recorded at \$15.580 million against the export of \$11.749 million in September 2021.—APP

## FBR working to simplify tax System: Ayesha

**Tax collectors and taxpayers are working for common goal of improving Pakistan's economy, therefore, there is a need to develop a relationship of confidence**

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue is working to simplify the tax system and minimize direct interaction with tax collectors in order to facilitate the taxpayers. Tax collectors and taxpayers are working for the common goal of improving Pakistan's economy, therefore, there is a need to develop a relationship of confidence and understanding to further enhance tax revenue of the country. This was said by Ayesha Khalid, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Regional Tax Office, Islamabad while addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Adnan Inamullah Khan Commissioner-IR (WHT), Ms. Adeela Yousaf Khan Commissioner-IR (Ops) South Zone and Ms. Aisha Asad Deputy Commissioner RTO Islamabad also accompanied her at the occasion. Ayesha Khalid said that RTO has set up a Grievances Cell to address the tax complaints of taxpayers and said that ICCI should nominate a focal person for coordination with it to address the tax grievances of the business community. She said that RTO Islamabad would consider the request for a Help Desk at ICCI to facilitate its members in filing of tax returns. She said that such Desks can also be set up in major markets to facilitate the traders. She assured that RTO Islamabad in collaboration with ICCI would try to address the tax issues of the business community in order to achieve the set tax targets.



Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said RTO Islamabad should provide a list of top 100 taxpayers to host a ceremony at ICCI to recognize their tax contribution and the Federal Finance Minister would be invited as chief guest to the event. He said that all Chambers of Commerce are playing a positive role in broadening the tax base as no business person can get their membership without registration in the tax system and stressed that FBR should develop close liaison with major chambers of commerce to identify the new taxpayers instead of milking the existing taxpayers. He said that RTO Islamabad should take ICCI on board

before sending its inspectors to markets to address tax matters with joint efforts. He said that the business community should be given representation in the policymaking process of FBR to promote a tax system that should facilitate the growth of business and investment activities. He said that attractive benefits to taxpayers would remove fear factor and attract more people towards the tax system. He said that a Committee comprising representatives of ICCI and RTO Islamabad should be considered to address the tax issues of the business community. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI thanked Chief Commissioner RTO for visiting

ICCI and said that ICCI would work in close liaison with RTO to facilitate the taxpayers. The representatives of various markets and sectors including furniture, jewellery, real estate, overseas employment and others highlighted their tax issues and stressed that RTO Islamabad should play a role to address them. Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, Baser Daud, Khalid Chaudhry, M. Rizwan Chheena, Ashfaq Chatha, Khalid Mehmood, Hamayun Kabir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Raja Imtiaz, Maqsood Tabish, Faizan Shehzad, Ms. Munizeh Majid and others also highlighted various tax issues for the attention of Chief Commissioner RTO, Islamabad.—APP

## Briefs

**'Project to promote electric vehicles on cards'**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the government was planning to promote the use of electric vehicles in the country and would establish a network of the related charging infrastructure. In this regard, the prime minister directed the departments concerned to present him a comprehensive plan at the earliest. Shehbaz Sharif also asked the Ministry of Trade and Industries, Ministry of Power and Energy and the Board of Investment to extend every possible facility to investors interested in the sector of electric vehicles. He was chairing a high-level meeting on inclusion of electric buses in the fleet of public transport, promotion of electric vehicle industry and alternative energy resources. The prime minister emphasized that to make the country self-sufficient in energy reserves, there was a dire need to develop renewable power resources. He mentioned the recent approval given by the government for launch of 10,000 megawatt solar project. The solar project, he said, would not only reduce environmental pollution but also ensure generation of cheap electricity by cutting reliance on costly imported fuel, thus saving valuable foreign exchange. The meeting was presented with the proposals on electric buses for public transport and was also updated on the increasing use of electric vehicles across the world. It was informed that the development of industry and infrastructure of electric vehicles would significantly bring down the country's import bill besides opening up opportunities of foreign investment and employment.—APP

**Senate Session prorogued**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Friday prorogued the session amid protest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legislators for the issuance of production orders of Senator Azam Sawati. After the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, Opposition Leader in the Senate Dr. Shahzad Waseem raised the issue of the arrest of Senator Azam Sawati who is under trial on the charges of alleged controversial tweets against the security forces of the country. Chairman Senate assured to the opposition give time after finishing the agenda items but the opposition members not just interrupted him but also cordoned off the treasure bench. However, the Chairman asked the state minister for law and Justice Senator Shahadat Awan to start the legislative business by presenting 17 motions seeking time to lay the reports of different standing committees.—APP

**19 drug peddlers, bootleggers arrested**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police in their ongoing operations against law-breakers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 19 drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders and seized over nine kg narcotics, liquor and illegal weapons from their possession. According to a police spokesman, in line with special directive of City Police Officer, Rattaamral, Waris Khan, Bani, New Town, Dhamial, Kalar Syedan and Gungmandi police conducted raids and rounded up 10 drugs peddlers and bootleggers namely Waqar Hussain, Qaiser Mehmood, Qasim, Suleman, Abbas, Ismail, Rizwan, Waheed, Jamal, Tasawar, and recovered over nine kg charras, five liters liquor and two bottles of liquor from their possession. Similarly, raids were also conducted to net illegal weapon holders and City, Gungmandi, New Town, R.A. Bazar, Airport and Chontra police held nine accused namely Idrees, Qasim, Faizan, Waqas, Zohaib Zafar, Irfan, Ayaz, Arslan and Azmat on recovery of eight 30 bore pistols, a Kalashnikov and ammunition.—APP

# Alvi for embracing digital tech for economic development

## President awarded gold medals and merit certificates to the students who achieved academic distinction in different sub-fields of accounting

**MAHNOOR ANSAR**

ISLAMABAD: has called for adopting digital technology, IT tools and innovations perpetually being made in all sectors, including the accounting and financial sector for ensuring accelerated economic development. The President expressed these views while addressing the Members' Convocation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), at Awan-e-Sadr. President ICAP, Mr Ashfaq Yousaf Tola, Vice Presidents of ICAP, members of the accounting and financial sector, and students attended the ceremony. The President called upon the decision-makers and institutions to set in place an efficient system to keep track of new and

emerging technologies, evaluate the cost, predict usage and create management and support structure for their speedy adoption to remain abreast with the developed world. He underlined the need for the government sector to adopt the "double-entry" system of accounting, and automation as the economies throughout the world were rapidly shifting to automation, high-speed financial modules and secure transaction systems with the help of ICT and digital means to infuse efficiency, accuracy, transparency and accountability in bookkeeping and financial transactions. The President said that Pakistan was in dire need of trained human resources and professionals, including Chartered Accountants, and it should increase the number of university graduates and



professionals by adopting online and hybrid modes of learning in its education system. He added that as compared to the traditional education system, which was more reliant on brick-and-mortar infrastructure, hybrid and online education could help increase the number of graduates in a cost-effective manner. He further said that 2-year associate degree programmes should also be considered as the industry and market

were in dire need of skilled professionals. The President also appreciated the Prime Minister's digiskills programme, which had helped impart digital skills to millions of people from diverse academic backgrounds throughout Pakistan. The President urged the members of the financial and accounting sector to provide leadership to help in the documentation of the economy, discourage theft and tax avoidance, curb corruption and help the government to generate just and fair taxes and revenues. It was the moral responsibility of every individual to discourage corruption, criminal activities and harassment for nurturing a healthy society, he added. The President said that enacting clear laws, ensuring their stringent and fair implementation, imparting justice through the due pro-

cess of law, and inculcating self-accountability and piety in individuals would pave the way for discouraging corruption and corrupt practices at the societal level. President ICAP, while addressing the ceremony, said that ICAP, being the regulating body of the accounting profession in Pakistan, had more than 9000 members, who were serving within Pakistan as well as abroad. He added that ICAP was helping strengthen the regulatory framework in Pakistan and was cooperating with important policy-making institutions and regulators, including the State Bank of Pakistan, FBR and different government ministries. Earlier, the President awarded gold medals and merit certificates to the students who achieved academic distinction in different sub-fields of accounting.

**Karandaaz partners with PSPA**

ISLAMABAD: Karandaaz Pakistan here on Friday signed an agreement with Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA) to provide technical assistance for the Authority's social protection programs. The ceremony was chaired by Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA), Tauseef Dilshad Khatana and Chief Digital Officer, Karandaaz Pakistan, Rehan Ahmed Akhtar. The ceremony was held in the presence of Chairperson Punjab Ehsaas Program Senator, Dr. Sania Nishtar, Senior Program Officer of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Syed Ali Mahmood and other senior officials from both organizations. This partnership will not only facilitate PSPA in improving their social protection programs but also ensure seamless digital payments through Raast. The partnership also aims to devise new programs for PSPA to further spread their mandate.—APP

**Weekly inflation goes up by 0.35%**

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on October 20 for the combined consumption group witnessed an increase of 0.35 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 205.27 points against 204.55 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here on Friday. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 27.13 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 0.35 percent increase and went up to 210.78 points from last week's 210.05 points. Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 witnessed an increase of 0.37 percent, 0.37 percent, 0.39 percent and 0.32 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 23 (45.10%) items increased, 14 (27.45%) items decreased and 14 (27.45%) items remained stable. The items which recorded decrease in their average prices on week-on-week (WoW) basis included pulse masoor (3.63%), chicken (3.49%), wheat flour (1.95%), potatoes (1.88%), pulse mash (1.74%), pulse moong (1.13%) and LPG (0.45%). The commodities which recorded increase in their average prices included pulse masoor (3.63%), chicken (3.49%), wheat flour (1.95%), potatoes (1.88%), pulse mash (1.74%), pulse moong (1.13%) and lpg (0.45%).—APP

**ISLAMABAD: Khurshid Barlas meeting with Ambassador of Turkmenistan on Friday. DNA****Turkish graduates provides 120 tons of relief**

ISLAMABAD: Turkish graduates association provided humanitarian assistance of 120 tons to the flood-affected people in Pakistan. Pakistan Alumni and Members Association (PAM-DEK), a nongovernmental organization created by Turkish students studying in Pakistan, gave humanitarian assistance of 120 tons to flood victims in the Sindh province of Pakistan, which was recently hit by the worst natural disaster in the history.—APP

**177 dengue patients admitted to allied hospitals**

RAWALPINDI: As many as 177 dengue patients were admitted to three hospitals in the city, out of which 128 belonged to the Rawalpindi district. District Coordinator of Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Friday informed that 63 patients were admitted to Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 61 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 53 to the Holy Family Hospital. He added that 55 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, including 21 from Potohar town urban area, 12 from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, 11 from Rawalpindi Cantonment, three from Chaklala Cantonment, two from Taxila Cantonment, Gujjar Khan and Taxila city, while one of each case arrived from Taxila rural and Kahutta. The Health Officer informed that five patients were in a critical position at BBH while the total tally recorded 3,910 cases.—APP

## NAVTTTC-NAC uploads the accreditation manual on website

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Shahid Khan directed to upload the revised accreditation manual on NAVTTTC website for views and comments from stakeholders.

He made these directions while attending the 5th meeting of National Accreditation Council for Technical & Vocational Stream (NACTVS) held at National Vocational Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman (NACTVS),

Mian Waqas Masud. The Chairman NAVTTTC Shahid Khan also graced the occasion. The main agenda item was the revision of Accreditation Manual of NAVTTTC which was developed in 2018. National Accreditation Council of NAVTTTC has reviewed and revised the manual with the technical

support of British Council. The chairman directed to upload the revised accreditation manual on NAVTTTC website (<https://navtttc.gov.pk/nac-manual/>) for views and comments from stakeholders (TVET service providers, public & private vocational and technical training institutes, assessors, teach-

ers, industry personnel, employers and the general public) to further enhance the quality of accreditation manual. In this regard, views/comments and suggestions regarding revised accreditation process and standards can be shared online on NAVTTTC website till 15th November, 2022.

## Bamboo to reverse land degradation in Pakistan

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Bamboo plantation has rich potential to reverse land degradation in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Quoting Muhammad Umar Farooq, a senior official of Rangeland Research Institute, National Agriculture Research Center. "Bamboo can be a critical part of Pakistan's ongoing efforts to reforest degraded land as well as create jobs and reduce poverty." "Bamboo is like gold for poor farmers. Our farmers use it for sheltering, ski folding and use them as roofs, furniture, mats and

decoration pieces. They can earn 1000 to 3000 rupees daily per person right from the fields to the factories." Umar Farooq told Gwadar Pro that they specified the planting requirements to the farmers, such as the plant-to-plant distance. "If the number of plants per acre is more, then the production will be improved." Landslides, wind erosion and desertification are converting irrigated lands. In Pakistan, around 27 thousand hectares of land face deforestation per year. Umar suggested that all the associated departments coordinate and address the issues through bamboo plantation. "I prefer bamboo

because it is a fast-growing plant. Trees like pine take 20 to 25 years to meet the requirements. Bamboo is a plant which can fully grow in 4 to 5 years. Within 4 years, 18 to 20 smaller plants can be grown around the bamboo, and these smaller plants are very beneficial in land holding. After the rainfall, the soil will not erode, the plants' root system will be holding the soil. Similarly, when melted glaciers cause floods and hit the plants, they still hold the soil and protect it from erosion," he said. Bamboo industry in Pakistan is not well-organized. However, things will change as Pakistan became a per-

manent member of The International Network of Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), an organization headquartered in China that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo. Umar Farooq believes that there will be more Pak-China cooperation in the bamboo industry in the future. "The industry can produce different products. For example, China is producing bamboo floors, and even bamboo fiber—the world's most expensive fiber. If we take guidance from them and give attention to the bamboo sector under the umbrella of INBAR, we can enhance the economy of the country."

## Political leaders hail ECP decision disqualifying Imran

ISLAMABAD: The political leaders from ruling coalition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) while hailing Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s decision in Toshiha Khana case disqualifying former Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday said that former prime minister had initiated politics of disqualification and allegations and himself was proved guilty of theft. Talking to media persons after announcement of judgment in front of ECP, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Barrister Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha said he was expecting that after the decision, Imran Khan would also be impression for 3 year sentence under election act. Ranjha said Khan had initiated politics of allegations and now was himself a proven thief resulting in disqualification from politics and still would have to be accountable for 2018 onward filled returns before ECP. The PML-N leader further said that Imran Khan was declared guilty of corrupt practices because he had sold gifts he acquired for pennies from Toshiha Khana and made the Nation fool by labeling allegations of corruption against his opponents. Speaking on the occasion, Jamiat-e-Ulema (F) leader, Maulana Salahuddin Ayubi said that today was a day of happiness for Pakistan and its people. President Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman, ten years earlier, declared Imran Khan as a Jewish agent and lobbyist, he added. Today's ECP decision had proved in front of the whole world that Imran Khan was no more "Sadiq and Ameen" but a traitor, he said. The JUI-F leader said that Imran Khan had caused damage to this country and its population. He has derailed the country's economy with his wrong policies. He said "Imran Khan who calls other thieves has been declared as a liar. Now we have to clean Pakistan from a traitor and Jewish lobbyist", he added.

**3G, 4G services available to 78% population**

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Cabinet Nadeem Abbass on Friday informed the National Assembly that 3G and 4G services were available to 78 per cent population of the country. Responding to questions during question hour, he said that the government was in the process of consultation with stakeholders for assessing the 5G technology launch in the country. He further said that as per GMSA, 49 per cent of the world's total population did not have mobile internet. Furthermore,

3.4 billion people were not using mobile internet, despite living in areas with mobile broadband coverage. At present, he said, only 17 per cent population had coverage of 5G. He said the government was now in the process of consultation for assessing the 5G technology launch in the country. He said that PTA had renewed operation licenses in 2021-22 for Pakistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan with the following obligatory measures for network expansion and Quality of Service (QoS) improvement. To keep AJK and GB's telecom sector at par with recent development in Pakistan, PTA conducted the first-ever spectrum auction in AJK and GB in 2012.—APP

## AIOU organizes seminar on Political Map of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: An awareness seminar on the "Political Map of Pakistan" was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) here Friday. The speakers emphasized the need to make the new generation aware of the areas included in the new map of Pakistan. They said that the map was the interpreter of the aspirations of the Pakistani nation which reflected our destination and the dream that their ancestors saw. Senior academicians and historians from Quaid-e-Azam University, International Islamic University, Allama Iqbal Open University and representatives of Junagadh state also participated in the event.

Rana Tariq Javed, Director of Student Affairs, Allama Iqbal Open University, hosted the seminar. Dr. Syed Akmal Hussain Shah, Professor at International Islamic University explained the audience about the importance of the political map of Pakistan. He spoke in detail about the states, localities, and regions of Jammu and Kashmir as per the new political map. He said that Junagadh was the first princely state to sign the document of accession to Pakistan on September 15, 1947. He said that on November 9, 1947, India attacked Junagadh and we celebrated it as a black day because

on this date, Indian forces occupied Junagadh. Asif Awan said that before the partition of India, there were 562 princely states in the Indian subcontinent, in which Junagadh was the second largest state. Dr. Farooq Dar and Dr. Kishwar Sultana also explained the importance of the political map and the details of the new areas added. Rana Tariq Javed, in his vote of thanks, said that Vice-Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Al Qayyum and Registrar, Raja Umar Younis had given special instructions for conducting this seminar. He said that awareness seminars were also being organized in the regional campuses.

**British HC sympathizes with Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Christian Turner here on Friday extended his deepest condolences over the loss of lives and large-scale destruction caused due to the devastating floods in Pakistan. During a call on meeting with the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the British High Commissioner apprised him about the flood relief assistance provided by the UK government and stated that UK would help climate resilient reconstruction. On the occasion, the minister extended gratitude for the assistance, according to press statement issued by EAD, adding he also acknowledged the role of United Kingdom as one of the largest bilateral partners of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary EAD, Kazim Niaz, Additional Secretary, EAD, Mr. Humair Karim and Development Director, FCDO at Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ms. Jo Moir.—APP

**Khan putting handsome amount on campaigns**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir Khan on Friday said that Imran Khan was frustrated and angry due to which he had been putting handsome amount of money in their public meetings but unfortunately it was not providing him advantage. He said that coalition government was engaged in relief and rehabilitation works but Imran Khan's party was trying to bring mob in the federal capital for creating chaos. He warned that local administration would take action if anyone found involved in creating law and order situation, he said while talking to a private television channel. The people were facing multiple challenges due to recent floods in the country, he said, adding, Imran Khan should utilize the money for flood affected persons. The minister said that holding protest demonstration was the right of citizens but violating law and order would not be allowed at any cost.—APP

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## Imran Khan disqualified

THE Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday disqualified PTI chief Imran Khan in the Toshakhana reference under Article 63(1)(p) for making "false statements and incorrect declaration", triggering protests in various cities. The verdict against the PTI chief comes as a big blow to the party which a few days ago won big in by-polls across the country, following up on its resounding victory in the July by-elections in Punjab – both seen as indicators of public support for the ousted former premier. The written ruling, a few pages of which are available with Dawn.com, says the respondent had "intentionally and deliberately" violated the provisions contained [in] sections 137, 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, as he "has made false statement (sic) and incorrect declaration before the Commission in the statement of assets and liabilities filed by him for the year 2020-21". Hence, he attracts disqualification under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution read with sections 137 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, it added. Legal experts had widely interpreted this as Imran being disqualified till the end of the current National Assembly (NA) term. As such, he has been de-seated as a member of the NA and by-polls could be held on the seat vacated following his disqualification. Following the disqualification of former prime minister Imran Khan in the Toshakhana reference, PTI activists took to the streets across the country to record their protest against the verdict issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). According to police sources, three major arteries leading to Islamabad have been blocked by the district administrator to avoid any untoward incident. The Islamabad traffic police advised commuters to use Peshawar Road or Lehtrar Road as Chongi No 26 and Athal Chowk in Bhara Kahu have been closed to all types of traffic due to the protests. Commuters, ambulances, students, and motorists remained stranded for hours in traffic after the PTI's workers blocked Faizabad-Murree Road. The police restored to tear-gas shelling against PTI activists when they tried to enter Islamabad via Faizabad. The PTI's supporters staged a protest demonstration in Okara and blocked the GT Road. In Lahore, PTI activists took out a rally on Ferozpur Road and suspended the Metro Bus Service from Gajomta to Kalma Chowk. The activists staged protests at Shahdara Chowk, and GPO Chowk on Mall Road and took out rallies in other areas of the city. In Peshawar, a large number of protesters gathered at the Stadium Chowk, Saddar, set tyres on fire, and chanted slogans against the ECP's verdict against Khan. The charged activists of the party held demonstrations in Swabi, Swat, Nowshera and other cities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



## Liz Truss: a quitter after all

BORIS Johnson's resignation in July was the very opposite of a national tragedy. But Liz Truss's departure on Thursday was a moment of national farce. Never has a prime minister been less suited to the job than she was. Never has a resignation been more needed by the country. Having boasted that she was not a quitter, Ms Truss threw in the towel a day later. The about-turn was par for the course for the most belligerently incompetent British prime ministership in modern, and perhaps any other, times. She departs humiliated, after 45 days, the shortest serving prime minister in British history. But she deserved to go. Ms Truss's Downing Street announcement followed a torrid 24 hours of Conservative mayhem, unmistakably the death throes of a collapsing regime. The then home secretary, Suella Braverman, was sacked after an argument about looser immigration controls. Conservative MPs were then reduced to dismayed disarray over how to vote on a Labour motion against fracking. After that, it was simply a matter of time. On Thursday, the backbench 1922 Committee chair, Sir Graham Brady, went to No 10 to say that the game was up for Ms Truss's inept and tin-eared leadership. In her brief tenure, Ms Truss proved that she lacked the skills to lead. Her judgments and her tone were almost always wrong. Elected by party members without the backing of Tory MPs, she took her victory as a partisan mandate. She exiled the majority of MPs, more of whom had supported Rishi Sunak than her, from her government before being forced to bring some of them back too late. In a Downing Street where neoliberal ideologues and thinktanks were given free rein, she slashed taxes for the rich – a shocking move that proved a deserved economic and political disaster. None of this, however, will end the ferment and factionalism consuming the Tory party. There has been talk of MPs coalescing around a compromise unity candidate to succeed Ms Truss – Theresa May spoke up for this approach on Thursday. But the Tories appear too far gone in disunity and rivalry for a stitch-up like that to work. The early signs are that several serving and former ministers will try again, as in July. New rules, requiring 100 nominations, have been set so that Tory members can be pressed not to overturn the MPs' preferred leader a second time. Such an outcome would be terrible for the Tory party and British democracy, and catastrophic for Britain. The party would feel unleadable and the country ungovernable. The markets might take fright, especially if there was yet another change of chancellor. But it would be the public, already suffering a battering on costs and budgets, and with record numbers dependent on food banks, who would suffer most. That is why, in the end and sooner rather than later, the true solution to the crisis in the Tory party is an early general election. Only a new government with a new mandate can give the British people the fresh start that they need and deserve.

## Is Russia's silent majority waking up?

Sergey Faldin

They do not necessarily support the war or killing Ukrainians, but if Putin says that is what must be done, then, according to them, perhaps, he is right. Or, at least, that is how it has been for the past two decades: through the war with Georgia and the illegal occupation of its territories in 2008; the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and the start of the war in the Donbas in 2014; and the intervention in the war in Syria in 2015. Disappearance of imported European cheese and currency fluctuations aside, the vatniki never felt the impact of these reckless decisions by Putin. Kremlin made sure that people lived their lives in isolation of these events, watching them on TV screens from comfort of their living rooms, packaged as glorious conquests by media propagandists

ON September 21, I woke up to the news that my country had announced a "partial mobilisation". The details given by President Vladimir Putin were vague; reports by independent media claimed that unpublished parts of his draft decree put a mobilisation target of one million people. Almost immediately after the announcement, I started receiving calls for help on Telegram, asking for advice on how to flee Russia. Some of my friends who had left before the war and I organised a chat group to answer questions on which countries do not require a visa, how to rent a cheap apartment and set up a bank account. The chat accumulated more than 150 potential draftees fleeing the country in just three days. Some of them had already received notices from the military office, but most had not and had no intention of risking getting one. This was one of many social media initiatives which, along with various organisations, have helped Russians flee the draft. Within hours of the announcement, flights out of Russia were bought out and long queues formed at border crossings with neighbouring countries, including Georgia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. According to Russian media reports, by October 4, some 700,000 people had left the country. Millions of Russians were affected directly or indirectly, whether they and their family members decided to stay, were drafted or left. It was clear that in his desperation, Putin was dragging Russians into a war that nobody but he needed. The negative reaction to the "partial mobilisation" was registered even by pollsters – long seen as unable to provide an accurate reflection of public opinion in Russia. A poll conducted by independent pollster Levada Center registered a sharp increase in the number of people who said they were "very concerned" about the war in Ukraine – from 37 percent in August to 56 percent in September; that is in addition to 32 percent who say they are "rather concerned". Putin's approval rating also took a hit. It dropped from 83 percent to 77 percent. But to many, 77 percent may still look like a large number for a president who is sending hundreds of thousands to a brutal war. How can that be reconciled with the 88 percent who say they are "very concerned" and "rather concerned" about the war in Ukraine? How can this be? Since the war started, there has been a lot of debate about whether Putin's popularity is as high as polls show. If one dives deep enough into how these surveys are conducted, it's easy to see that the outcome couldn't have been any different. As Dmitry Muratov – the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and chief editor of the independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta – explained in a recent interview, pollsters have much more information about people they call than just their phone number. Russians are aware of that and when they get a call, asking whether they support Putin, they are much more likely to answer "yes", fearing that a "no" may have negative consequences for them. Furthermore, as Muratov points out, the rate of those who refuse to respond in the first place is quite high – possibly around 75 percent. With such skewed analytics, no wonder the official results show that Putin's approval rating is high.

But there is also another factor: the Kremlin's industrial-sized propaganda machine, which is aimed at keeping the Russian population misinformed and politically passive. This machine, along with a lack of political freedom and the recent purge of all major independent media outlets, has contributed to the formation of a layer of society known as "vatniki" ("from the Russian word for a type of warm coat). These people live shrouded in apathy generated by Putin's propaganda, as if wrapped in a comfortable cotton coat. They do not necessarily support the war or killing Ukrainians, but if Putin says that is what must be done, then, according to them, perhaps, he is right. Or, at least, that is how it has been for the past two decades: through the war with Georgia and the illegal occupation of its territories in 2008; the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and the start of the war in the Donbas in 2014; and the intervention in the war in Syria in 2015. The disappearance of imported European cheese and currency fluctuations aside, the vatniki never felt the impact of these reckless decisions by Putin. The Kremlin made sure that people lived their lives in isolation of these events, watching them on TV screens from the comfort of their living rooms, packaged as glorious conquests by media propagandists. War and international policy were, to the vatniki, nothing more than entertainment. In a recent conversation about the inertia of the majority in Russia, a friend summed up the world of the vatniki quite well. She reflected on her grandmother's behaviour: "She chooses nothing in her life or her country. She is not an active Putin supporter, she simply accepts everything she sees on TV. There's no buffer of reflection between watching TV and creating an opinion. It's not that she doesn't express her opinion directly; it simply doesn't exist." But the mobilisation shook things up. It put many Russian families at risk of losing their comfortable life and even their breadwinner – which is still a man in most Russian families. That made a lot of vatniki feel quite worried. It is one thing watching the news, cheering Russian soldiers as they grab territories of other countries, it is another having your grandson get drafted and die from a HIMARS strike. Waking up from a peaceful slumber of propaganda manipulation is hard and, as in the case of the older generation of Russians, almost impossible at times. The Russian state media creates the illusion that politics is hard and that Putin is the only one able to handle it – so the Russian people might as well support him. My grandmother, in her mid-sixties, who has two grandsons, said, "[This mobilisation] is the right thing to do, I am sure, but it would be better not to have it." Then, as if catching herself saying something outrageous, she added, "Our country was simply forced into all these actions, and I would very much like it all to end as quickly as possible." A friend observed a similar reaction in her mother, a retired history teacher living in Saint Petersburg: "She asks not to talk about politics. Since the beginning of the war, she said that the government knows better. After the mobilisation, she just cries non-stop.

But she will never say that he is against Putin. She's afraid." Having fed the Russian people lies and the illusion of safety all these years, on September 21, Putin suddenly broke an unwritten social contract with them: guarantee stability and comfort, and avoid dragging them into his foreign policy adventures. Now the illusory feeling of security under Putin's rule is gone for many Russians. The mobilisation decree states no specific criteria on who might get drafted. And while government officials have tried to sugarcoat the draft by – for example – adding the word "partial" to it – there have been many reports of people being rounded up for military service without regard to the rules of who can and cannot be drafted. But most of these violations of draft rules have happened far away from Moscow and St Petersburg, the country's political centre, where the Kremlin wants to preserve peace and quiet. This has created a false sense of security among many of their residents. As the first wave of mobilisation started to subside and some people realised they weren't directly affected by it, they returned to their old habit of pretending the war didn't concern them. My mother, a middle-aged woman living in Moscow, is one of them. "At first, it was scary. Then it became calmer ... in the end, none of my acquaintances was taken away. Perhaps the authorities decided to soften the pressure. But I don't know what to expect next, and I don't believe anyone," she told me. It is unclear how long the majority will be able to delude themselves that all is good. In the immediate future, at least, protest seems unlikely. As a friend of mine, an aspiring twenty-something politician who decided to stay in Moscow, even at the risk of getting drafted, to fight against the regime, told me: "The biggest problem in Russia is that people can't unite; they're atomised, and left feeling helpless." But as Russia's disorganised army continues to face setbacks in the "annexed" regions, the screws will tighten. On October 19, Putin announced martial law in the occupied territories and imposed strict security measures in Russian regions. We might see the next stage of the mobilisation start, even if now Putin is saying that it will end in two weeks – a cheap attempt to calm down the people. In the coming months, we may see more Russians receiving notices from all over the country. More families may lose loved ones on the battlefield; more people may lose friends and acquaintances. More people may be labelled "missing in combat" to not to inflate the Russian death toll in the war. This, in addition to a collapsing economy – due to Western sanctions and Russia's disproportionate military spending – may finally wake people up to the truth: Russia is a criminal state, with an illegitimate political system, broken judiciary and a government of crooks. If the full-scale invasion of Ukraine was not enough to awaken people, then the corpses of sons and grandsons may be the ones to strip the vatniki of their cushioned lives and push them to the streets.

- Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Truss's departure signals the 'end game' for UK Tories

Andrew Hammond

The remarkable developments in London follow one of the most remarkable weeks in UK political history. A growing number of Conservative MPs reached the conclusion that Truss needed to be replaced. Her fate was sealed by last month's disastrous mini-budget, which proposed turning on the fiscal taps through massive tax cuts and public spending that spooked financial markets. Last week, she sacked her finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng, but the turmoil surrounding her leadership only deepened, with many recognizing he was a scapegoat for Truss herself. Kwarteng was no "rogue" colleague, but one who had a joint agenda with Truss. Indeed, it was she who pushed Kwarteng to be bolder than he wanted to be in last month's reckless emergency budget. In general, it is clear too that the blame must lie at Truss's door for creating a narrative around the new government's economic policy that was unwise and unsustainable, especially in the midst of a looming downturn. During the leadership election contest over the summer, she artificially inflated expectations that she would end what she called a failed UK consensus that had "peddled a particular type of economic policy for 20 years that hasn't delivered." It was also naive to launch last month's emergency budget without economic forecasts from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility. As if this domestic political humiliation were not enough for Truss, US President Joe Biden weighed in last weekend to call her abandoned budget plan a "mistake," and said it was "predictable" when she was forced last week to walk back her plans. So, less than two months after assuming office, and after the worst start of any modern British prime minister, Truss is packing her bags. Those who could succeed her in the contest include former

reaction to any UK fiscal event in living memory, with Kwarteng's resignation last week meaning there have now been four UK finance ministers in four months – Sunak, Nadhim Zahawi, Kwarteng and Jeremy Hunt. As the fate of Truss exemplifies, the political longevity of prime ministers since 2019 has decreased too, with three since then (Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Truss) and a fourth now to come. Compare this withbefore, when David Cameron served six years, Gordon Brown three, Tony Blair 10, John Major six, and Margaret Thatcher 11. However, remarkable as the past few weeks have been, they fit a wider pattern of underlying UK political flux since at least the Brexit referendum in 2016. This is no better documented than in the British Election Study, which indicates how much voters are increasingly influenced by key "shocks", such as the coronavirus pandemic, that have seen traditional partisan voting patterns eroding faster than ever, adding to volatility – including the 2017 and 2019 elections, in which more people changed their vote than ever before in the post-war era. The chief beneficiary of Truss's travails will be the Labour Party, which is calling for a general election. Some recent polls have given the party leads of over 30 percentage points, the highest since Tony Blair's landslide election victory in 1997. The calls for a general election have particular potency as there will now have been two changes of prime minister since the last election. The last time the UK was in this territory was nearly a century ago, when Stanley Baldwin won the 1935 election and handed power to Neville Chamberlain, who ceded power to Winston Churchill in 1940 during the Second World War. But the circumstances of 2022 are different from those of wartime Britain in 1940. Labour takes nothing for granted, given the volatile political mood and the forthcoming election of a new prime minister. However, there is a growing sense in the country that the Conservatives may now be reaching the "end game" of their current period of office, and will fail to emerge as the largest party at the next election for the first time since 2005.

- Courtesy: Arab News



prime minister Boris Johnson, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, Leader of the House of Commons Penny Mordaunt, Defense Secretary Ben Wallace, and former Home Secretary Suella Braverman. With the general public and the financial markets now awaiting the outcome of next week's leadership election, it is timely to reflect on the extraordinary events in the UK. At the heart of this was the most negative market

## Briefs

## Afghans deserve mercy

FROM PAGE 01  
Majority of Afghans who are stranded at scattered areas of Pakistan were either directly remaining occupants of important offices in government, semi government, diplomatic missions, foreign funded non government organisations and other lucrative jobs. On such grounds, their lives had to be at danger after Taliban takeover, therefore, their act of rushing to neighbouring countries could be appreciated and deserve support and encouragement on humanitarian grounds. No one can deny political victimisation of civilians at hands of gun toting Taliban throughout Afghanistan. According to the United Nations and other international organisations, during one year, the Taliban officials allegedly killed around 3,000 people on political grounds, while forcing hundreds of women into marriages with self-styled commanders and Amirs. Besides others, the Taliban regime has shuttered women's schools and deprived them of their legitimate right to education. After the occupation of Kabul by the Taliban, the majority of people who are willing or waiting to move to Pakistan and go to other countries are women and children. Many of them are staying with their close relatives or friends or in rented houses at Islamabad, Peshawar and other cities. During frequent visits to a few hotels in Islamabad, it was observed that a large number of boys and girls are among those waiting for their turns to fly to foreign countries. Inside hotels in Islamabad and other rented apartments, these people are confined to small rooms day and night. There is no friendly situation for these unfortunate victims who are victims of imposed wars and hostilities in their motherland. No one neglects the fact that Taliban are the value-added production of Afghan Mujahideen created in Pakistan with joint collaboration of the United States and its allies like Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. Right from migration of at least 80 leading influential families through Maj General (Retd) Naseer Ullah Babar till training thousands of Mujahideen and their conversion or substitution as Taliban, no other than these US led allies are responsible for all sort of miseries of Afghans. Even the spy agencies of the allies had changed their minds when former president Hamid Karzai initiated steps of making Afghanistan as "self reliant" after winning 2004 first ever Presidential polls and installation of a democratic set up through 2005 parliamentary polls. As a result of shifts in allies strategies and priorities, the terror acts especially attacks Afghanistan security forces and target killing of elites, supporting Karzai regime was intensified. Even Afghanistan hosted a well publicised Joint Jigs in August 2007, during which Afghan leadership begged peace, stability and friendly relations from Pakistan but the response from the military President and his subordinates remained too disappointing. Along with continued attempts of be-guaring President Karzai regime, extremism through well organised ways was mysteriously encouraged in adjacent Pushtoons dominated areas of Pakistan. Stimulation of extremism in Pushtoons dominated areas of Pakistan enabled the Afghan Taliban to continue stimulating pressure against US led NATO troops. Some but even almost all NATO members sensing the rate had started evacuating its troops from Afghanistan, thus paving the way for a patch up with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan influenced Taliban. And most recently no other than the US lead allies enabled Taliban to capture Kabul in mid of 2020 Doha Qatar Accord Ironically, despite not recognizing the Taliban regime, the US lead allies are extending every sort of support to the Taliban government. Irrespective of US apparent anger against the Taliban regime, compared to 90's, now the present Emirate Islami is present in Afghanistan. All US led allies are fully cooperating with the Taliban government. These allies are completely silent spectators to the ongoing inhumane treatment of people in Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani, officers of Pakistan Air Forces and players of Chief of Staff PAF Squash Championship posing for a picture during a dinner hosted by Serena Hotels. – DNA

# T20 World Cup: Ireland dump out West Indies

## Zimbabwe also stormed into the Super 12 stage of the Twenty20 World Cup for the first time Friday at the expense of Scotland

HOBART: Veteran opener Paul Stirling slammed an unbeaten 66 as Ireland made the Twenty20 World Cup Super 12 on Friday and sent two-time champions West Indies crashing out in a stunning upset. Disciplined bowling restricted the Caribbean side to 146-5, with Gareth Delany taking a career-best 3-16, before the Irish romped to their target for the loss of just one wicket with 15 balls to spare in Hobart. Stirling, at his seventh World Cup, shared in a blistering 73-run opening stand with captain Andy Balbirnie to supercharge Ireland's run chase. The final Super 12 slot will be decided later Friday when Zimbabwe meet Scotland. The West Indies won the tournament in 2012 and 2016, but came to Australia with a new-look team after the likes of Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard retired, and Andre Russell was overlooked. They stumbled badly in their opening match against Scotland, crashing by 42 runs, before recovering to emphatically beat Zimbabwe. But in Ireland, who are playing in their seventh straight World Cup and had only been beyond the first round once before, in 2009, they again hit the wall. After the West Indies won the toss and batted at a breezy Bellerive Oval in Hobart, the Irish bowlers sent down nine dot balls



among their first 15. In frustration, Kyle Mayers launched at a delivery from Barry McCarthy and was caught by Harry Tector at mid-off for one. The dangerous Johnson Charles slammed 4-4-6 off Curtis Campher but his luck ran out in the next over, slicing to Campher off spinner Simi Singh for 24. Brandon King, who missed the West Indies' last game with illness, was dropped two balls later and made the most of the opportunity, crunching four boundaries to steer them to 67-2 at halfway. Evin Lewis received treatment for a hamstring issue and

was out soon after for 13, ending a 44-run partnership. Skipper Nicholas Pooran (13) and Rovman Powell (6) didn't last against a quality attack as King (62 not out) did his best to push the scoreboard forward. In reply, Ireland got off to a cracking start with Stirling and Balbirnie on a mission, blazing 54 off the first five overs, with eight boundaries, four of them sixes. The spin of Akeal Hosein finally gave the West Indies a breakthrough in the eighth over with Balbirnie caught by Mayers after an entertaining 37 off 23 balls to end a de-

cisive opening stand. The run rate dipped but Stirling, in his 177th international, kept going and reached his 21st T20 half-century with another boundary and with Lorcan Tucker (45 not out) saw them home. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe stormed into the Super 12 stage of the Twenty20 World Cup for the first time Friday at the expense of Scotland, beating them by five wickets with skipper Craig Ervine hitting a half-century. The African nation limited the Scots to 132-6 with tidy bowling led by Tendai Chatara (2-14) and Richard Ngarava (2-28) before rattling through the run chase with nine balls to spare. Zimbabwe had been part of five previous World Cups but never gone beyond the first round before. But they have been improving since coach Dave Houghton, Zimbabwe's first Test captain back in 1992, came into the fold for his second stint in July. They beat Ireland to open their latest World Cup campaign then lost to the West Indies before booking their spot against the Scots. Scotland skipper Richie Berrington won the toss and opted to bat, but they were on the back foot immediately, losing Michael Jones, who struck a masterly 86 against Ireland, in the first over. Sikandar Raza took a superb over-the-shoulder catch off Chatara's bowling to dismiss him.

## Imran Khan disqualified...

FROM PAGE 01  
A five-member bench of the ECP, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the case. Meanwhile, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarrar said that Khan has been disqualified for five years by the Election Commission. Speaking after the ECP ruling in the Toshakana case, the federal minister said Khan provided "wrong information" to the electoral body. "The Election Commission showed restraint otherwise a separate action could have been taken against him." He said that Imran Khan's aides are calling the verdict unjust, which is wrong. Meanwhile, reacting strongly to the party chairman's disqualification, PTI leader Fawad Hussain Chaudhry slammed the ECP and said that the election body's attitude had been the worst. "We never pinned any hopes on it." "This is a shameful decision. It has disgraced the 220-million-strong nation."

## Not seeking another...

FROM PAGE 01  
Election on the same day the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) disqualified former premier and PTI Chairman Imran Khan from being a member of parliament, finding him guilty of misdeclaration in the Toshakana reference. Earlier this month during a visit to the United States, Gen Bajwa had confirmed he would not be seeking another extension to his tenure while speaking at a lunch at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington. During that gathering, Gen Bajwa had also said the armed forces had distanced themselves from politics and wanted to remain so. Earlier in April, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Major General Babar Iftikhar had also made it clear that Gen Bajwa was neither seeking an extension nor would he accept it.

## FATF pulls Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01  
Kumar maintained that the task force had conducted an onsite visit at the end of August. "The onsite team verified that there is a high level of commitment from the Pakistani leadership, sustainability of reforms and commitment to make improvements in the future," he said. "As a result of these action plans, Pakistan has made significant improvements to strengthen the effectiveness of this framework for combating terrorism financing." Pakistan will continue to work with APG: In its brief statement, the financial watchdog welcomed Pakistan's significant progress in improving its anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. "Pakistan has strengthened the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime and addressed technical deficiencies to meet the commitments of its action plans regarding strategic deficiencies that the FATF identified in June 2018 and June 2021, the latter of which was completed in advance of the deadlines, encompassing 34 action items in total," it read. It should be noted that Pakistan is therefore no longer subject to the FATF's increased monitoring process.

# Pak players disappoint in CAS-Serena Hotels Squash Championship

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Very disappointing performances were shown by Pakistan's squash players as no one is capable of reaching in the semifinal round of ongoing Chief of Air Staff-Serena Hotels Men's International Squash Championship and Serena-Combaxx Sports International Women Squash championship here at Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad. It is never seen in the history of Pakistan hosting international squash tournaments and no Pakistani player failed to qualify for the semi-final round of international championship as last hope of Pakistan Farhan Zaman also not succeeded in the quarter final round of the championship. Mohamed ElSherbini from Egypt who is the second



seed of the championship outclassed Farhan Zaman from Pakistan by 11-7, 11-7, 6-11, 13-11 in 37 minutes match duration. Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with PAF, Serena Hotels and Combaxx Sports, is organizing the Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International for Men and Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Squash Championship for Women to be concluded on October

23, 2022. Quarter Finals of Men & Women were played on Friday and detail results are appended below. The Semi Finals will be played on Saturday (Today) with following fixtures: **MENS' SCHEDULE:** Moustafa El Sirty (EGY) VS Balazs Farkas (HUN) 1345 Hrs. Yahya Elnawasy (EGY) VS Mohamed ElSherbini (EGY) 1500 Hrs. **WOMENS' SCHEDULE:** Nour Heikal (EGY) VS Malak Khafagy (EGY) 1300 Hrs.

## Hina, French minister...

FROM PAGE 01  
trade and economic relations between Pakistan and France as well as investment opportunities in Pakistan came under discussion. During the meeting with Minister of State Francois Bitouzet, they discussed developing linkages between start-up sectors of both the countries, and participation of Pakistan in next year's Vivatex event.

## PDM leaders...

FROM PAGE 01  
Imran Khan is now a "certified thief and liar" Mar-yam Nawaz, speaking to media persons outside her residence in London, said Imran Khan had been leveling baseless allegations against his political opponents and today he himself was disqualified on the charges of corruption and theft for five years.

## DG PSB Col @ Zaman removed from post

ISLAMABAD: Director General of Pakistan Sports Board Colonel R. Asif Zaman has been removed from his post. Col. R. Asif Zaman was appointed during the government of Imran Khan. Col. R. Asif Zaman was appointed for three years, but was dismissed from the post by the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination after just 19 months of appointment due to allegations of corruption. – DNA



## 'Immature' Dortmund hope to halt slide against Stuttgart

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund host Stuttgart on Saturday, with manager Edin Terzic urging his side to be more "mature" and find the "motivation" needed to prevent another season slipping away. Despite a 2-0 win away against Hannover on Wednesday which saw Dortmund through to the next round of the German Cup, Terzic complained his side "don't learn from our mistakes" and seemed to lack the necessary desire and fight a title-challenging side needs. "It takes a form of intrinsic motivation - (a motivation) that the boys need to switch on themselves," Terzic said. "It's not like it's happening on purpose. But what's missing is we aren't fighting back." Lose against Stuttgart and Dortmund could finish the round six points behind Bayern Munich - and 10 points behind leaders Union Berlin - with less than a third of the season played. – APP

# Gerrard's reputation takes a hit after Villa sacking

## Gerrard's former Liverpool team-mate Jamie Carragher said Gerrard's experience at Villa was a harsh lesson in how difficult the transition into a coaching career can prove, no matter your credentials as a player

LONDON: Steven Gerrard vowed he would "never quit" after his Aston Villa side slumped to another damaging defeat. Minutes later he was sacked in a severe blow to his managerial reputation. The former Rangers boss paid the price for just two wins in the first 11 Premier League matches of the season, with only goal difference keeping Villa out of the relegation zone after the 3-0 loss to Fulham on Thursday. The former Liverpool and England midfielder great, who replaced Dean Smith at Villa last November, was tipped as a potential long-term successor to current Reds boss Jurgen Klopp following his

successful spell in Scotland. Now Gerrard must bide his time as he waits for an opportunity to rehabilitate a reputation tarnished by his 11-month spell at Villa Park. The 42-year-old struck a defiant tone after his team slumped again, saying he would "never, ever quit anything whether it's football or in life" but the guillotine fell moments later, signalling a rare failure in a stellar career in football. Considered one of the greatest players in Premier League history, Gerrard made a promising start to life as a manager, guiding Rangers to their first Scottish Premiership title for a decade in 2021.

The achievement won him hero status among the Rangers fans as it denied bitter rivals Celtic a record 10th straight league title. But Gerrard has been unable to build on that impressive work since moving to Villa Park, as a series of lacklustre performances have prevented him from winning over the club's supporters. He won just 13 of his 40 games in charge of the former European champions, losing 19 of those. When he joined the club they were 16th in the Premier League table. He led them to a 14th-place finish last season but leaves with Villa 17th in the table, level

on points with Wolves, who are in the bottom three. Despite being given significant transfer backing, including a swoop for Barcelona's Brazilian playmaker Philippe Coutinho, Gerrard was unable to deliver the "continuous improvement" that Villa chief executive Christian Purslow demanded. He has also been hampered by injuries to Diego Carlos, Boubacar Kamara and Lucas Digne, all of whom signed during his tenure. Coutinho - brought in on a permanent deal from Barcelona after a loan spell last season - has been a major disappointment. Gerrard, who played with the Brazilian at Liverpool,

said the player would "go up another level" after signing a four-year deal but Coutinho has yet to score this season and looks a shadow of the footballer whom Barcelona paid £142 million (£158 million) for in 2018. Gerrard's former Liverpool team-mate Jamie Carragher said Gerrard's experience at Villa was a harsh lesson in how difficult the transition into a coaching career can prove, no matter your credentials as a player. "When you go into management, you know the price on the ticket - and if results are not right or whether the players are letting you down or not performing, it

is the manager that carries the can," he told Sky Sports News. "That is always the case and that is the brutal part of football management." Villa, owned by billionaires Nassef Sawiris and Wes Edens, are reportedly prepared to pay one of the highest salaries in the Premier League to land a top replacement for Gerrard. Former Paris Saint-Germain and Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino has been linked with the post, along with ex-Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel. Whether either of the two men could be persuaded to join a club in Villa's perilous position remains to be seen. – APP

## Briefs

## Myanmar rebels attack key border town

YANGON: Ethnic Karen rebels in Myanmar attacked a key town near the Thai border on Friday, residents and local media said, with the military junta calling in air strikes.

The Karen National Union (KNU) has been a vocal opponent of the military coup last year, and has provided shelter to dissidents working to oust the junta. Its fighters, along with anti-coup "People's Defence Forces" have clashed sporadically with the military along the Thai border, sending thousands fleeing across the frontier for safety.

Friday's fighting began at 7 am (0100 GMT) in Kawka-reik, which sits on the road to a major border crossing with Thailand, a resident who requested anonymity told AFP.

The fighting was ongoing, they said, adding it appeared "armed groups" were trying to attack government offices.

"We are hearing heavy weapon shelling," they said, adding that three civilians were killed, and at least 15 were sent to hospital.

A KNU spokesman said its fighters were battling junta troops at various locations around the town.

The military called in multiple air strikes to support its troops on the ground, he said.—APP

## Dollar extends gains on Fed rate hike expectations

HONG KONG: The dollar extended gains Friday on expectations the Federal Reserve will press ahead with its programme of bumper interest rate hikes for the rest of the year.

Traders were girding for another possible intervention by Tokyo after the yen sank past 150 per dollar, while sterling remained under pressure owing to uncertainty in Westminster after Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned after just six weeks in office.

The fear that has gripped markets for most of the year returned after a brief respite at the start of the week, sending equity markets back into the red, with a series of better-than-expected earnings results unable to lift the gloom.

The dollar burst to a new 32-year high against the yen on Thursday as investors bet the Fed will ramp up borrowing costs much more as it struggles to rein in prices, while the Bank of Japan refuses to budge from its ultra-loose policies citing the need to support the torpid economy.

Even data Friday showing Japanese inflation hit an eight-year high last month — or more than 30 years when excluding VAT rises — was unable to change expectations that the central bank will continue to hold firm.

"In October, inflation may reach 3.3 percent or 3.4 percent as many food prices are going up, mobile phone fees are giving a lift and service prices are rising," said Mari Iwashita of Daiwa Securities Co.—APP

## President for improving Pakistan-Japan relations

President said these remarks while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Japan, Mr Raza Bashir Tarar, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed the need to accelerate efforts to further improve the existing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan, particularly focusing on economic, business ties and human resource development initiatives.

The President said these remarks while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Japan, Mr Raza Bashir Tarar, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

The President appreciated Japan's continuous support to Pakistan on the FATF platform and ask the envoy to convey his gratitude to the Government of Japan for its decision to suspend debt repayments due from Pakistan under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative.

The President said that bilateral trade between the two countries stood at around US\$ 2.56 billion, which needed to be improved with a greater fo-



cus on exports of Pakistani goods and products to Japan.

While appreciating the development cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with Pakistan, he directed

the Ambassador-designate to make efforts to take the bilateral relationship to a new and higher level of co-operation. He said that the avenues should be explored for creating cooperation between Japanese educational

institutions and industry for the provision of services of Pakistani IT human resources online to Japan and seeking Japanese assistance for online training to our human resources in the fields of

IT, digital technologies, artificial intelligence and other skills, which are needed by the industrial sector of Japan.

The President also highlighted that Japan was very important for Pa-

kistan as it had made valuable contributions in supporting development efforts over the years and had become the second largest partner of Pakistan by extending accumulated support of around US\$13 billion for the social and economic uplift of Pakistan throughout the year.

The President also stressed the need to work on reducing the Japanese tariff to bring Pakistani products at par with its competitors enjoying duty-free access to Japanese markets, especially in the textile sector.

The President asked the Ambassador-designate to sensitize the leadership of their host country on the urgency to resolve the Kashmir dispute as per various Resolutions of the UN Security Council and also on the increasing trend of marginalizing the minorities in India and Islamophobia, which had put the lives and livelihoods of the minorities, especially the Muslims under great stress.—APP

## Kremlin 'condemns' arrests of Russian nationals

MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Friday condemned the arrests of two Russians — including the son of a senior official — on a US request in Europe for alleged sanctions evasion and illegal sale of US technology to Russian arms companies.

"We are categorically against this and we condemn the practice of these kinds of arrests of Russian citizens," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, adding that Moscow will do "everything possible" to defend them.

Moscow on Thursday confirmed that Artyom Uss, whose father is the governor of the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk, was arrested at Milan's Malpensa Airport this week on a US request.

"Our diplomatic missions will naturally take part in protecting the interests of this Russian citizen," Peskov said. The US Justice Department on Wednesday announced charges against a dozen individuals — including five Russians — for "unlawful schemes to export powerful" US military technology to Russia. It said some of these had "been discovered on the battlefields in Ukraine.—APP

## OAS mission will 'analyze' Peru political crisis

LIMA: The Organization of American States said Thursday it will send a "high-level group" to Peru after President Pedro Castillo asked for the body's help in tackling the country's political crisis.

The decision came during a special OAS Permanent Council session in Washington following embattled Castillo's announcement late Wednesday he had sought the body's help to foster a national dialogue.

The council adopted a resolution offering "solidarity and support" for the "preservation of the democratic political institutional process" in Peru, calling on "all actors" to work within the "rule of law." The OAS designated "a high-level group consisting of representatives of member states, and consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to visit Peru in order to analyze the situation and report to this council," the resolution said.—APP

## Kremlin not expecting 'political wisdom' from UK

MOSCOW: Russia said Friday it was not expecting any "political wisdom" from the United Kingdom or any of its Western allies, a day after outgoing UK Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned.

"We cannot expect any insights or political wisdom from anyone in the West now... especially from Great Britain, where the current head of the executive is not elected by the people," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. He was answering a question about former prime minister Boris Johnson reportedly eyeing a return to Downing Street.

Relations between Moscow and London have sunk to record lows since Russia sent troops to Ukraine in February. Russia considered Johnson, who had good relations with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as a particularly unfriendly Western leader.—APP

## Canadian diplomatic delegation meets Raja Basharat

LAHORE: The first political secretaries of the Canadian embassy, James McNeer, Miss Amanda De Sadeleer and Senior Political Officer Muhammad Zubair, called on Provincial Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Environment Protection and Cooperatives Muhammad Basharat Raja at his chambers at the Punjab Assembly, on Friday.

Issues related to human rights, minorities, political situation, etc. were discussed in the meeting.

Basharat Raja, while talking to the Canadian diplomats, said that the protection of human rights, especially of minorities, was being ensured in the province.

"Punjab is the first province to create a separate department for human rights and minority affairs," he told the delegation.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association calls on Prime Minister. DNA

## PSX gains 76 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Friday witnessed slight bullish trend with gaining 76.44 points, a positive change of 0.18 percent, closing at 42,213.48 against 42,137.04 points on the last working day.

A total of 289,586,599 shares were traded during the day as compared to 267,572,500 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 7.870 billion against Rs. 6.281 billion on the last trading day.

Some 338 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 136 of them recorded gain and 176 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 26 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were: WorldCall Telecom with 30,622,000 shares at Rs 1.52 per share, Pak Refinery with 21,049,553 shares at Rs 17.81 per share, and Nishat PowerXD with 14,791,432 shares at Rs 20.55 per share.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 680 per share price, closing at Rs 10,680 whereas the runner-up was Gatron Industries with Rs.27 rise in its per share price to Rs.416.

Sapphire FiberXD witnessed maximum decrease of Rs 82 per share closing at Rs 1,018, followed by Siemens Pak with Rs 23.87 decline to close at Rs 781.97 per share.—APP

## Gold rate dips by Rs500

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs500 on Friday and was sold at Rs 147,400 against its sale at Rs147,900 the previous day.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat also decreased by Rs 428 and was sold at Rs 126,372 against Rs126,800; whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs115,841 against its sale at Rs 116,234. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and 10 gram silver remained stable at Rs1590 and Rs1363.16, respectively. The price of gold in international market decreased by \$14 and was sold at \$1623 against its sale at \$1637, the association reported.—APP

## Feed additives to play a significant role in poultry industry

DNA  
BEIJING: Feed additives could play a significant role in Pakistan recovering poultry industry, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday quoting Dr. Waseem Abbas, Pakistan National Manager of a feed technology company, based in Beijing.

"After the floods, the prices of raw materials such as corn, soybean meals, and oil are skyrocketing. At this point, feed additives will play a significant role in providing least-cost feed formulation and expedite the poultry industry recovery", said Dr. Waseem Abbas said in an interview with CEN.

Poultry is the second largest industry in Pakistan

after textile. It provides employment to almost 1.5 million people. However, due



to the floods, over 735,000 livestock and 2 million acres of crops have been adversely impacted, and severe damages have been done to communications infrastructure. "If we replace soybeans with proteins, oil with emulsifiers, even a

small amount can bring significant nutrition value and serve as a least-cost solution for farmers. Enzymes, in particular, are the most needed feed additives in Pakistan. In the past, most of enzymes were imported from Europe, but now China is making cheap sources of enzymes with equal quality with the method of submerged liquid fermentation. In Pakistan's feed additive market nowadays, over half comes from China", he told CEN reporter. In feed formulation, additives takes up only 10% of the content, but it is equally important to the rest 90% in that they are essential to improving the feed stuff digestibility.—APP

## China-Pakistan Digital Corridor to enhance co-op

Moin ul Haque told CEN that Pakistan has a rich repertoire of talent and human resources in different fields of science and technology

## DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have agreed to launch three new corridors, including the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor that would help enhancing cooperation in different fields of IT, said Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Moin ul Haque told CEN that Pakistan has a rich repertoire of talent and human resources in different fields of science and technology and IT-based science and technology have become very important for Pakistan. "We would be an important source of help for China in terms of software development. So, we are working together to set up training cen-

tres in Pakistan for developing software in different fields of IT", he stated.

He further said that the two countries recently agreed to launch three new corridors: the China-Pakistan Green Corridor, which will focus on the agricultural environment,

food security, and green development, the China-Pakistan Health Corridor which will help Pakistan get efficiency in the medical field, and then the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor which will boost Pakistan's IT industry. Ammar Jaffri Former Additional Director Gen-

eral FIA and Founder of Digital Pakistan said that emerging technologies have now become a lifeline for the achievement of The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & targets.

"We are aiming to organise an international conference about artificial intelligence on 23rd March 2023 in which local and foreign enterprises would participate and we would take strategic decisions to engage the government of Pakistan, and international organisations in our mega projects", he mentioned.

He further said that AI in areas of cyber security, SDGs, and emerging technologies is a much-needed zone where Pakistan has to work with China while Pakistan has a young population advantage in the region.



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**TAPAS ADHIKARI**  
Nepal offers huge incentives to foreign investors

CEO Moin ul Haque

**Briefs**

**4 terrorists killed in fire exchange with security forces: ISPR**

RAWALPINDI: As many as four terrorists were killed on Friday in an intense fire exchange that took place between the terrorists and the security forces in the general area Spinwam of North Waziristan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) informed that the killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against the security forces. Meanwhile, the forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorists, it said. - APP

**UK Tory rivals open truncated leadership race**

WEB DESK

LONDON: Contenders hoping to succeed the recently resigned British prime minister Liz Truss were to start their campaign on Friday but opposition parties demanded that the people in the UK get the chance to have their own say to finally put an end to months of political chaos. Following Truss' resignation on Thursday, party managers announced a shortened election process with results to be announced on October 28. After only 44 days in office, packed with economic crisis largely of her own making, the Conservative leader announced on Thursday she was stepping down. Truss admitted she "cannot deliver the mandate" on which she was elected by Tory members, after her right-wing platform of tax cuts disintegrated and as many Conservative MPs revolted. Truss had succeeded Boris Johnson on September 6 after a weeks-long campaign against Tory rival Rishi Sunak, vowing a radical overhaul as Britons struggle with a cost-of-living crisis.

**Ukraine warns Russia planning to destroy dam**

KYIV: Kyiv accused Russia of planning to destroy a hydroelectric dam in the southern Kherson region, where Ukrainian soldiers have been steadily advancing and Moscow-installed authorities have begun evacuations. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces had mined the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant with the intent of blowing it up, in what would amount to a "catastrophe on a grand scale". Hundreds of thousands of people around the lower Dnipro River would be in danger of rapid flooding if the dam was destroyed, Zelensky warned in a speech Thursday to European leaders. He said cutting water supplies to the south could also impact the cooling systems of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest. And the North Crimean canal, which provides a crucial water supply to Crimea - occupied since 2014 by Russia - could be destroyed. - APP

**Swati granted bail in controversial tweet case**

ISLAMABAD: A lower court of Islamabad on Friday granted post-arrest bail to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI)'s Leader Azam Khan Swati in a controversial tweet case. The court accepted the bail against surety bonds worth Rs1 million and also instructed the accused to submit his passport. Special Judge Central Raja Asif Mehmood announced the verdict which was reserved in the last hearing after hearing arguments from both sides at length. It may be mentioned here that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had arrested Azam Swati after registering FIR for giving a controversial statement about the head of a state institution. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairman Board of Investment Ch. Salik Hussain, Faisal Karim Kundi SAPM on Poverty Alleviation, Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas and others listening to the national anthems on the occasion of the National Day of Hungary. - DNA

**ADB approves \$1.5 billion for Pakistan's social protection**

ADB's financing will provide the fiscal space needed for the government to implement its countercyclical development expenditure package, which is designed to target the poorest families in Pakistan who are often disproportionately affected in times of crisis

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday approved \$1.5 billion in financing to help the Government of Pakistan provide social protection, promote food security, and support employment for its people amid devastating floods and global supply chain disruptions. The loan that is expected to release by next week, is provided under ADB's Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures (BRACE) Program. The loan would help fund the government's \$2.3 billion countercyclical development expenditure program designed to cushion the impacts of external shocks, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a press release issued by the ADB said. Meanwhile, Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar said on his twitter handle "AlhamdoLillah! Asian Development Bank's Board has approved today BRACE facility of US Dollars 1.5 Billion for Pakistan. Agreement signing and release of funds in the week beginning Monday 24th Oct 2022". "Pakistan's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been impeded by external

shocks," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "Increasing business costs and rising living expenses are affecting millions of Pakistanis, especially the poor and vulnerable. ADB's program will help the government manage the impacts of high prices, increasing food insecurity, slowing business activity, and reducing income for vulnerable groups, many of whom are also reeling from the devastating floods." ADB's financing will provide the fiscal space needed for the government to implement its countercyclical development expenditure package, which is designed to target the poorest families in Pakistan who are often disproportionately affected in times of crisis. The government's support



includes specific measures to promote gender empowerment and climate change adaptation, which have become even more important in light of the recent floods. ADB's assistance will help to expand the number of families receiving cash transfers from 7.9 million to 9 million, increase the number of children enrolled in primary and secondary schools, and enhance geographic coverage of health services and nutritional supplies for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 2 years old. "The program is part of a comprehensive and well-coordinated package of support. It will help the government deal with the impact of the immediate shocks to the economy, while, in parallel, continue the structural reforms that are necessary to improve

the country's medium- to long-term macroeconomic prospects," said ADB Director for Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Tariq Niazi. "We are working closely with the International Monetary Fund and other development partners to ensure that our support through policy dialogue, technical assistance, and program lending is well-coordinated and that, ultimately, we are able to help the government improve Pakistan's resilience to shocks." ADB's \$1.5 billion countercyclical support is part of a significant response package to support people, livelihoods, and infrastructure in Pakistan in the wake of the recent floods which have affected over 33 million people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and agriculture. Pakistan was a founding member of ADB. Since 1966, ADB has committed over \$37 billion in loans, grants, and other forms of financing to promote inclusive economic growth in Pakistan and improve the country's infrastructure, energy and food security, transport networks, and social services, the press release added. - APP

**KS-relief extends relief assistance for flood victims**



مرکز الملك سلمان للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية  
**KING SALMAN**  
HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) continued its relief activities in Pakistan and distributed relief goods in flood-hit areas. To help the affected people cope with the devastation, Saudi Arabia's KSrelief has been busy providing emergency relief assistance in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan. KSrelief extends different land operations, including the provision and distribution of (50,000 Food Packages), (50,000 Mosquito Nets) and (5,000 Tents). These items were procured from Pakistan for humanitarian distribution in flood-affected areas across Pakistan to meet the basic needs of the affected people in those areas, said a press release issued by Saudi Arabia Embassy on Friday. These 50,000-food packages comprise all necessary essential food items, each package weighing 62 kg, 40 kg of flour, 5 Liters of cooking oil, 5 kg of Sugar, 5 kg of Rice, 5 kg of yellow split pea (Daal Chana), 2 kg of dates and a packet of energy biscuits for children]. These food packages are sufficient for the family for a whole month. The distribution process of these packages is in full swing and will complete soon, it added. Due to the critical situation and dire need

for tents, KSrelief also provides 5000 tents for temporary accommodation. The 50,000 Mosquito Nets will help protect them from mosquitoes in flooding. Apart from this, 25,000 more NFI kits and 25,000 winter relief kits weighing approximately 3965 tons; 610 trucks will be distributed in all the affected areas across Pakistan. 732,500 Individuals will benefit from this emergency ground relief assistance. A total of (4385) tons of relief goods have been distributed so far by KSrelief, and more than 785,636 people will benefit from this emergency relief assistance. It is important to mention that in September, Saudi Arabia established an air bridge to deliver relief goods to Pakistan. At least (10) ten planes carrying Saudi humanitarian aid (2952 Food Boxes, 972 NFI kits, 660 Tents, 1682 boxes of date, 3192 small blankets, and 5040 large blankets) weighted 420 tons have arrived in Pakistan and handed over to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in Karachi for onward distribution among the needy people living in different affected regions across Pakistan. 53,136 Individuals will benefit from this emergency relief assistance. - APP

**China 'thwarts' Indian move ahead of FATF moot**

"These Indian listings relate to moribund organisations and are designed to malign Pakistan and distract attention from India's sponsorship of TTP and BLA terrorism," Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram

NEWS DESK

UNITED NATIONS: China has once again thwarted an Indian move in the United Nations to malign Pakistan just days before an important meeting of the FATF. The first FATF plenary under the two-year Singapore presidency is taking place on Oct 20-21 in Paris. The financial watchdog is expected to consider a proposal to move Pakistan from the so-called gray list of potential violators to the whitelist. On Tuesday, India made a move in the United States to blacklist Shahid Mahmood, who had been designated by the US in 2016 as a Lashkare-Taiba fundraiser. On Wednesday, India made another move to blacklist Hafiz Talah Saeed, the son of Lashkare-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed. China, however, thwarted both moves by putting a hold on the Indian proposals. Highlighting such groups so close to the FATF plenary would have boosted India's efforts to keep Pakistan on the gray list. "These Indian listings relate to moribund organisations and are designed to malign Pakistan and distract attention from India's sponsorship of TTP and BLA terrorism," Pa-

kistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram told Dawn. Besides supporting terrorist groups in Pakistan, India was also going for Chinese targets to "sabotage CPEC and Pakistan-China economic cooperation," Ambassador Akram added. "We're glad China has rejected India's malign moves." In Islamabad, a spokesperson for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs told journalists that such moves were part of a "malevolent campaign" by India, through media leaks. "This is not the first time the Indian media has been fed through official leaks to promote misleading, baseless and fabricated propaganda against Pakistan, just before the official FATF meetings," the spokesperson said. The statement noted that the FATF and the wider international community "has repeatedly acknowledged the steps taken by Pakistan to improve its anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism-financing regime." The spokesperson pointed out that despite India's "feverish attempts" to politicise the process and cast doubts on Pakistan's efforts and accomplishments, FATF agreed in its June 2022 Plenary meeting that Pakistan had fully completed all substantive and procedural requirements of both its 2018 and 2021 Action Plans.

**Pakistani movies to be screened at Turkiye's festival**

The minister said steps were taken to give incentives to the artists and revive cinema culture in Pakistan by setting up new cinemas and rehabilitating the old ones. It was the best time to involve 70 per cent of the youth in the film and tourism industries

ISTANBUL: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb announced on Friday that Pakistan would participate in the upcoming film festival of Turkiye to showcase its best talent in the film industry. She made the announcement in a meeting with a delegation of the Turkish film industry. The minister was informed that the date of the film festival would be decided in a meeting being held next week in Turkiye in that regard. Marriyum said three new Pakistani movies could be screened at the film festival. During the meeting, both sides agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in the drama and film

industry, and setting up a film processing lab in Pakistan on modern lines. The Turkish film industry representatives said the best companies of the Netherlands and France based in their country could provide technical support in establishing the film processing lab in Pakistan. The delegation showed interest in launching joint projects with Pakistan in the film and drama industry. The information minister said a feasibility report would be prepared for joint ventures between the two countries in the film industry. She said cooperation of the Turkish universities would be



sought for inclusion of film making subjects in the academic curriculum. She informed the delegation that Pakistan was the world's third largest film producer in 1970. Marriyum said her government had formulated the country's first-ever film and culture policy, which included tax exemptions and incentives for the industry. Up to 70 per cent tax concession had been given for facilitating the production of new films, she added. She said the use of modern technology was made part of the national film policy to improve production quality and stories. The minister said steps were taken to give incentives to the

artists and revive cinema culture in Pakistan by setting up new cinemas and rehabilitating the old ones. It was the best time to involve 70 per cent of the youth in the film and tourism industries. She said the government would invite renowned producers in the international film workshops being arranged in the country for the youth. The film and drama, she said, played an important role in improving the image of a country at international level. Marriyum said the Turkish filmmakers could produce their movies in northern areas of Pakistan, which were rich in natural beauty. - APP

**OSCE has become 'center of deadlock': Cavusoglu**

ANKARA: Türkiye on Friday denounced the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) decision to send a mission to Armenia, saying the regional bloc has become a "center of deadlock." "The decision now taken is against OSCE's operating rules. Such a fait accompli is unacceptable," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said at a news conference in Mersin, southern Türkiye. He further said the security organization was unable to find a solution to the long-standing Azerbaijan-Armenia dispute as it "has sided with the occupier" for the past 30 years. The OSCE announced that it will send a needs assessment team to Armenia on Oct. 21-27 following Yerevan's invitation. On Tuesday, the bloc urged an "immediate cease-fire" after the latest border flare-up between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. Baku liberated several cities, villages, and settlements from Armenia's occupation during 44-day clashes in the 2020 fall, which ended after a Moscow-brokered truce. The peace agreement is celebrated as a triumph in Azerbaijan. - APP

**Southeast Asian ministers to hold talks on Myanmar**

PHNOM PENH: Southeast Asian foreign ministers will hold emergency talks in Jakarta next week to discuss strife-torn Myanmar ahead of November's ASEAN leaders' summit, diplomatic sources said Friday. Myanmar has been in chaos since a coup in February last year, with more than 2,300 killed in the military's brutal crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has spearheaded so far fruitless efforts to resolve the crisis, and the bloc is frustrated by escalating human rights atrocities - including the execution of political prisoners and a recent airstrike on a school. There has been little progress on a five-point plan from April last year, which called for an end to violence, increased humanitarian aid, and a dialogue between the military and the anti-coup movement. An Indonesian foreign ministry official said a meeting was scheduled for Thursday at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. The talks are expected to review progress on the plan. "A special meeting is now needed as there are specific issues that will be looked into further before the leaders' meeting," the official told AFP. - APP

**2 including KP police constable arrested**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Police arrested on Friday two men including a police constable for opening fire at the law enforcers outside the Election Commission of Pakistan. Talking to the media, DIG Operations Islamabad Police Sohail Zafar Chattha said that one of the suspects is a constable in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police and was deputised as a gunman with PTI MNA from Mansehra Saleh Muhammad. "He tried to open fire at Islamabad police officers," the DIG said. Chattha said that the officers present at the scene snatched the rifle from him and shifted him to the police station. "He had a government-issued Kalashnikov," the DIG. He said that the police will investigate how the suspect was able to bring the weapon there and why he committed the act. We are trying to identify the second accused, Chattha added.