



# Islamabad POST

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**Contributions of Pakistan diaspora vital: Zaheer Janjua**

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**Sunak enters race to replace Truss as UK PM**

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**Islam rejects sectarianism and extremism**

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## Briefs

**PML-N, PPP plan to remove Sanjrani**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) are gearing up to remove Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani through a no-trust move, a local news channel reported on Sunday, citing sources. According to sources privy to the matter, the PML-N and PPP have finalised the requisition for the removal of Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani and the senators of both parties have signed it.

**Hamza appointed opp leader in PA**

DNA

LAHORE: Former chief minister of Punjab and PML-N leader Hamza Shahbaz has been appointed as the leader of the Opposition in the provincial assembly, according to a notification issued on Sunday. Hamza became the chief minister of Punjab on April 30, 2022, after which he was de-notified as the Opposition leader. However, the PML-N-led govt lost its power in Punjab after Pervez Elahi became the chief minister of the province as the Supreme Court had declared the ruling of former Punjab Assembly deputy speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari in the chief minister's election "illegal".

**PTI seeks action against Capital police**

DNA

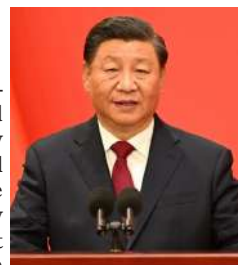
ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Asad Qaiser on Sunday wrote to National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf urging him to take notice against the police for their behaviour towards party's lawmaker Saleh Muhammad Khan. On October 21, police had taken into custody Saleh and his two security guards from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, under terrorism charges for allegedly shooting at the police contingent deployed outside the ECP.

## China's Xi clinches third term

Xi, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi were elected as the members of the Standing Committee

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Xi Jinping was elected general secretary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) at the committee's first plenary session held on Sunday, according to a communique. Xi Jinping presided over the session which was attended by 203 members of the 20th CPC Central Committee and 168 alternate members. Xi was also named chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission at the session. Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi were elected as the members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee at the session. Also elected were members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee at the session, which endorsed the members of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat nominated by the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. The plenary session named the members of the Central Military Commission.



**President, PM felicitate President Xi**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated President Xi Jinping on his re-election as General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) for the third term. The president, on his Twitter handle, extended his heartfelt congratulations to President Xi Jinping on his re-election as CPC General Secretary, and the best wishes for his health and happiness. "He is a true friend of Pakistan and champion for All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China," the president posted in a tweet. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister posted, "On behalf of the entire Pakistani nation, I congratulate President Xi Jinping on his re-election as CPC General Secretary for the 3rd term."

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## Asad Majeed hired 2 lobbying firms to promote Pak-US ties

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed Khan had already signed one of the most expensive lobbying deals with another firm to promote Pak-US relations before engaging with Fenton/Arlook LLC, a Pakistani newspaper reported on Sunday. Five days before PTI chief Imran Khan disclosed the alleged regime change conspiracy on March 20, 2022, Majeed recruited Fenton/Arlook LLC which later also became PTI's lobbyist. However, just four months before this agreement, the former envoy had already signed a deal with Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP to promote ties between Pakistan and United States. During his tenure as ambassador in Washington, the diplomat had signed one of the most costly contracts. As per the agreement, a copy of which is available with The News, Pakistan Embassy had agreed to pay \$100,000 monthly (\$1.2



million annually) to Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP. However, despite having an active lobbying contract with such an expensive firm, the ambassador had signed a new agreement with Fenton/Arlook for the same purpose for \$30,000 monthly. Five months later, in August 2022, Imran Khan's party engaged Fenton/Arlook LLC to promote the party's image in the United States. The PTI, on the other hand, agreed to pay the lobbying company \$25,000 every month. As per the contract signed between the Pakistan Embassy in the United States and Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, "The Firm shall provide general governmental relations services, to include providing policy advice and advocating on behalf of the Embassy before the US Congress, the Executive Branch, and relevant third-party organisations in Washington, DC. Upon execution of this agreement, our monthly retainer fee for this matter will be \$100,000 inclusive of charges and expenses saved for business-related travel to Pakistan, effective for an initial annual term, at which time this agreement will be re-evaluated."

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## PDM saved country at the cost of its credibility

Bilawal said that India, Europe and US were also struggling against political extremism



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Sunday that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) saved the country at the cost of its political credibility. Addressing the closing session of the 2-day Asma Jahangir Conference at a local hotel here, as the chief guest, he hoped that constitutional and democratic journey of the PDM would continue for the betterment of the country. "We will together tackle the political and religious extremism," he added.

Bilawal said that India, Europe and the United States were also struggling against the political extremism and expressed his hope the new generation would welcome democracy and reject all nature of extremism. He urged the youth to understand the issues of the country and protect themselves from the propaganda of an arrogant and selfish person who wanted to destroy the country for his politics. "If Asma Jahangir was alive and she asked whether you have become the minister in result of a deal then I replied her absolutely not," Bilawal said. He added that everything was not fine, but one should accept that the parliament and the institutions have progressed in several aspects. "There is always scope of betterment," he said. "It is important to be observed for the progress of parliament and democracy that Imran Khan was sent home through a constitutional way of no-confidence," Bilawal stated. "Whether you like it or not that there is only one method to remove a prime minister in the constitution and it is no-trust motion," he added.

Continued on Page 06

## Malaysian govt extends USD 200,000 aid for flood victims

Deddy Faisal says Malaysia extends its solidarity with the Government and people of Pakistan

DNA

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government of Malaysia has contributed USD200,000 to the flood victims in Pakistan. The contribution has been channelled to Pakistani Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund 2022 via the local Affin Bank account which was opened by the High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kuala Lumpur. Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh, Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia stated that Malaysia extends its solidarity with the Government and people of Pakistan following the devastating floods that have caused immense sufferings, loss of lives, destruction to infrastructures and properties as well as unprecedented social-economic losses. The people of Malaysia are with the people of Pakistan during this difficult period. Malaysia hopes that the contribution will assist in easing the sufferings of the flood victims.

## T20 WC: India beat Pakistan in a thriller

The climax of the match was the final over, which was given to left-arm spinner Nawaz on a night where spin was a liability for both sides



SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: In what was an instant World Cup classic that had its heroes, its villains, last-over drama and everything in between, India somehow managed to beat Pakistan by four wickets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday. The biggest of the heroes undoubtedly was Virat Kohli, who scored an unbeaten 82 off 53 that included a six in the final over when 16 were needed. Kohli, along with Hardik Pandya, helped their team recover from 31 for four to somehow drag it over the line.

Continued on Page 06

## No-ball, free-hit sparks debate

DNA

MELBOURNE: The T20 World Cup 2022 clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan on Sunday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground ended in a nail-biting win for the Men in Blue. However, the match's final over provided lots of drama due to a no-ball bowled by Mohammad Nawaz and the resulting free-hit. In a chaotic final over Kohli hit another six off a no-ball and then ran three after being bowled off the following free hit. The Pakistan players on the field and fans were upset with the fact that the batters were allowed to run byes after Kohli was cleaned up on the free-hit. It must be noted that runs on a dismissal off a free hit are legal, according to ICC rules and regulations. The ball becomes dead only when it is finally settled in the hands of the wicket-keeper or of the bowler. Former Australian cricketer Brad Hogg also questioned the decisions made by the on-field umpires.

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Anti-Brexit protesters call on UK to rejoin EU - Page 07

Hungarian National Day reception celebrated in style - Page 08

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# Experts urge multiple foreign policy options

Event was attended by a foreign Consul Generals, businessmen, retired ambassadors, academics, and researchers

NAZIR SIYAL

**KARACHI:** Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR), Karachi based registered think-tank, organized a seminar on "Pakistan's Economic Crisis and Foreign Policy Challenges" at a local hotel yesterday. Dr. Shamsad Akhtar Former Federal Minister of Finance & Former Governor State Bank of Pakistan and Ambassador (R) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry former Foreign Secretary & former Ambassador to the U.S. deliberated on the subject. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi Secretary General PCFR greeted the distinguished guests in his welcome address. Addressing the audience, Zuberi maintained that since independence Pakistan has faced a number economic

challenges including soaring foreign debt, trade deficit, inflation, and depreciating currency. Ambassador Shahid M Amin, Chairman PCFR highlighted the significance of the subject in his introductory remarks. Ambassador Amin said that economy and foreign policy are intrinsically linked with each other. While commenting on foreign policy Ambassador Amin maintained that instead of putting all eggs in one basket we should have multiple foreign policy options. The former Federal Minister of Finance and former Governor SBP, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar shared her thoughts on "Pakistan's Economic Challenges: Present and Future". She highlighted the challenges Pakistan has been facing on the economic front for last many years. She stressed upon the need of prudent and skillful economic

management to deal with uncertainties and risks Pakistan is exposed to. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry deliberated on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy Challenges Amidst Economic Vulnerabilities". Ambassador Chaudhry maintained that Pakistan is facing a number of foreign policy challenges that include navigating between U.S.-China rivalry, balancing between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Modi's India, unstable Afghanistan, and several non-traditional threats. He also highlighted that Pakistan's economic vulnerabilities have limited the options for dealing with the challenges at foreign policy front.

The talks were followed by lively question and answer session. The event was attended by a foreign Consul Generals, businessmen, retired ambassadors, academics, and researchers.



**KARACHI:** Ahsan Mukhtar Zuberi, Ambassador Shahid Amin, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, Ambassador Aizaz A Chaudhry and Ambassador Syed Hassan Habib at the seminar on Pakistan's Economic Crisis and Foreign Policy Challenges organized by PCFR.—DNA



**ISLAMABAD:** Chairman Pakistan sweet home along with ppp leader Saqib sheikh presenting flowers to newly elected member national assembly Syed Musa Gillani.—DNA

## Hub Bridge to be re-constructed in 18 months

**ISLAMABAD:** The authorities concerned have awarded work for the reconstruction of Hub Bridge in Balochistan which is expected to be completed in 18 months and would ensure a smooth flow of traffic. The recent spells of monsoon rain in July and August and subsequent floods this year caused massive damages in West-Zone, especially in Hub-Uthal-Bela section of National Highway N-25, resulting in the collapse of the Hub Bridge. The National Logistics Cell (NLC) has been awarded the construction contract for the Hub Bridge. The bridge was constructed in 1962 by Provincial Commu-

nication and Works Department, Balochistan. According to official information, the field staff was available on sites and had successfully carried out temporary restoration work on an urgent basis to ensure the smooth flow of traffic. All the damaged sections of the National Highways in Balochistan have now been temporarily restored and traffic has been resumed. Presently, work on a detour of this bridge has been started by the NLC to facilitate the commuters (HTV/LTV) on a temporary basis till the completion of construction on the new bridge, and the detour is expected to be completed within one

month. Meanwhile, a senior official when contacted said keeping in view the urgency of work in the larger national interest, the National Highway Council accorded approval to carry out permanent restoration works on G-2-G basis as per the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules from state-owned agencies. The official said the NHA along with Frontier Works Organization (FWO), NLC, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), and National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK) had already started carrying out a joint survey of flood damages, whereas

foreign consultant would also carry out assessment/rehabilitation and fresh Hydrology/Hydraulic study. It merits mention here that during devastating flooding heavy structures of N-25 between Hub to Quetta constructed by the Communication and Works (C&W) Department were also severely damaged and collapsed. This included Khanta Bridge at 116km, Lunda Bridge at 121km, five Culverts between 130-160km, and Sardi Wala Bridge at 216km. These heavy structures had been extensively assessed by NESPAK and were now under the design phase as per the revised hydraulic study.—APP

## Govt accords priority to tap potential of IT sector: Dar



**ISLAMABAD:** Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Sunday said that the government accords priority attention to IT sector to tap its true potential as it has immense potential for growth and could play significant role in strengthening Pakistan's economy. The minister was chairing a meeting of Prime Minister's Task Force on Information Technology (IT) and Telecom, which was also attended by Minister for IT and Telecom Syed Amin Ul Haque, Special Assistance for Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Ms. Shaza Fatima Khwaja, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Secretary Finance, Secretary IT and Telecom, Chairman Federal Board Revenue and Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).—APP

## 12 PTI workers arrested for damaging public property

DNA

**ISLAMABAD:** The Bara Kahu police have arrested 12 PTI workers on charges of damaging public properties during a protest against the ECP verdict. The arrested include Mujahid, Farazman, Haroon, Ayaz Khan, Fazl Mola, Usman Khan, Razmi Khan, Mehtab Hussain, and Zahid Hussain. Cases were registered against 78 nominated accused and hundreds of unknown workers in different police stations in Islamabad yesterday. Protest demonstrations and clashes with the security forces have started countrywide after the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision to disqualify of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshkhana case.

## Rising Hindutva belies India's claim to be a secular democracy

**WASHINGTON:** India's reputation as a secular democracy has been eroded ever since the right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came into power in 2014, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, has said. "Gone are the days when India used to be called the land of (Mahatma) Gandhi," he told a public meeting in Washington on Sunday, while asserting that rising Hindutva fascism calls into question the country's claims that it upholds secular values. Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government has been

pushing to change the secular and democratic fabric of India into that of a purely right-wing Hindu nation, it was pointed out. Barrister Chaudhry said that Kashmiri diaspora in the US has played an important role in mobilizing global public opinion in favour of the rights of Kashmiri people, while highlighting that the rise of fascism was a clear threat to the minorities in India. Kashmiri Americans, he said, were best suited to bring home to the Biden Administration the importance of playing a role in persuading India and Pakistan to resume their dialogue that would lead to

the exercise by the Kashmiri people of their right to self-determination as guaranteed under 18 substantive United Nations Security Council resolutions. Barrister Chaudhry expressed thanks to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) - the second largest forum after the United Nations - which has once again reiterated its principled stand on the Kashmir dispute and also appointed a special envoy on Kashmir. Dr. Gulam Nabi Fai, Chairman of the World Forum for Peace & Justice, said that Kashmir was at war that India cannot win - like Vietnam for the United States.—APP

## KPRA arranges capacity building training

**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) arranged a week-long training workshop on comparison of KP Sales Tax on Services Act 2022 with sales tax laws of the rest of the three provinces to improve skills of its staff in Peshawar. Officials of KPRA Collectorate, Directorates and Regional offices took part in the training workshop concluded here which was arranged with the financial assistance of USAID-funded Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilization (KPRM) Activity at a hotel here on Sunday. The aim of the training workshop was to improve the skills of KPRA Officers in their routine working to minimize the risk of litigations. The trainers worked on showcase notices served by the KPRA officers, identified flaws in the notices and worked on assessment orders drafted by the KPRA officers along with maintenance of order sheets to leave no margin for litigations. Along with comparison of KP Sales Tax on Services Act 2022 with the sales tax laws of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan the trainers also discussed international best practices in sales tax regime. Officials of KPRA who took part in the training workshop thanked USAID KPRM for providing them the opportunity to learn from experts in the field of litigations.—APP

## Govt to take steps for solving enforced disappearances matter

**LAHORE:** Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that enforced disappearances is a serious matter and the government is committed to taking legal and practical steps for its solution. He was addressing a session titled 'Reluctance to Criminalise Enforced Disappearances and Arbitrary Detentions' on the last day of Asma Jahangir conference, held at a local hotel on Sunday. He said, "Enforced disappearances have become a stigma for our society."

Azam Tarar said that collective efforts would be made for finding solution to the problem. Country's constitution gives guarantee of personal freedom and human rights, he added. He said that right to life was the most cherished right in the Constitution. The law minister said that it was unfortunate that complaints regarding disappearances were received from Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Karachi, South Punjab and even from central Punjab.

He said that this matter was related to security; therefore its solution could be discussed in in-camera proceedings. Azam Nazeer said that matter of enforced disappearances was raised in the parliament and at different forums, which he added was a result of collective efforts of different segments of society. He said that two days earlier the National Assembly passed a bill of Ministry of Law in which it declared enforced disappearances as a crime.—APP

## 26 dengue cases in capital

**ISLAMABAD:** Dengue cases are on the rise in the federal capital, as 26 new dengue cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to District Health Officer Islamabad Zaeem Zia, the figure of confirmed dengue patients has reached 4,372 so far in this season. He said that during the last 24 hours, 23 cases were reported in rural areas of the federal capital with a total of 2,540 cases while three cases were reported in urban areas with a total of 1,832 cases. Director of the PIMS, Dr. Khalid Masood told that several measures have been taken to contain the disease.—APP

## RCCI "2nd Food Fest" to promote entrepreneurship

**Rawalpindi:** The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is going to organize the second edition of Pindi Food Fest (Food Mela) from 11th to 13th November at Ayub Park. The aim of organizing the food festival is to promote traditional and regional cuisine, introduce new flavors and provide opportunities to entrepreneurs for networking and branding. Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce President Saqib Rafiq has said that more than fifty stalls of different types of food will be set up in the three-day fair. Women entrepreneurs who are associated with the food business are also being given an

opportunity to launch their own brand. "This will also enable them to expand their business networks by interacting with other women entrepreneurs. Another goal of this festival is to encourage and inspire women who have not yet started their businesses to enter into the field of entrepreneurship, he added. He said that the Rawalpindi Chamber is going to do this event for the second time, last year we got good feedback. He further informed that on the occasion of the food festival, there will also be a musical evening, kid's carnival for the entertainment of families.—APP



**ISLAMABAD:** PESHAWAR: Nasruminnallah operation chief discussing with Protectorate Head NADRA and passport officials.—DNA

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

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

## Hotels & Restaurants

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

## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
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## Hospitals

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Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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# ICCI assures support to Sweet Homes for orphans

Zummarad Khan said that Pakistan Sweet Homes was the largest organization in the country dedicated to providing shelter and education to the orphan kids

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zummarad Khan, Patron-in-Chief, Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSH) said that his institution was working to provide better education to orphan children to make them productive citizens of the country. He said that many of these children would emerge as tomorrow's rising entrepreneurs to contribute effectively in the economic development of the country. He expressed these views during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with orphan children to congratulate the ICCI Office Bearers. Zummarad Khan said that Pakistan Sweet Homes was the largest organization in the country dedicated to providing shelter and education to the orphan kids. He said that with the support of collaborators, PSH has established its network in all parts of the country to make orphan



children valuable human capital of the country. He said that the network of PSH was expanding with the support of collaborators to empower the orphans so that

they could lead a respectable life and make useful contributions towards the economy of Pakistan. He hoped that the business community would continue to cooper-

ate with PSH so that it could play a more effective role for the economic empowerment of the orphan children. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry lauded the valuable services of Zummarad Khan for dedicating his life for the welfare of the orphan children. He said that providing education to orphan children of PSH was a great service to humanity and hoped that many of them would excel in various fields of life including entrepreneurship. He said that ICCI was ready to work with PSH for the skills de-

velopment of orphan children to make them skilled manpower for the industry. He said that ICCI can help in fostering entrepreneurship in these children to make them job creators instead of job seekers. He assured that the business community will continue to cooperate with PSH in its mission of providing a better quality of life to the orphan kids. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that businessmen were cooperating with many welfare-oriented projects to contribute for social development and assured that they would cooperate with PSH enabling it to serve more orphan kids across Pakistan. Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Tahir Abbasi, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Ch. Muhammad Naem, Maqsood Tabish, Faizan Shehzad, Ch. Masood, Abbas Hashmi and others were also present in the meeting and they appreciated the services of Zummarad Khan for PSH.

# RCB's anti-dengue campaign in full swing

RAWALPINDI: Cantonment Executive Officer of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB), Imran Gulzar has said that anti-dengue campaign in Cantonment areas was in full swing. He said the board had initiated efforts as dengue had become a major issue and all available resources were being utilized to eradicate it completely. He said, dengue larvae had been found in houses where water remains choked like in water tanks, used and old tyres, and uncovered utensils and accumulated rainwater, adding, the RCB management was utilizing all its resources to eradicate the disease, including clearing away stagnant water, nullahs, carrying out spraying indoors and outdoors, conducting daily door-to-door surveillance and improving the drainage system. According to RCB spokesman, the authorities concerned of RCB had been di-

rected to utilize all available resources to control dengue and accelerate the ongoing anti-dengue campaign besides strictly monitoring anti-dengue activities in all Cantt areas as September and October were very important regarding control of dengue. The authorities had also been directed that strict action in accordance with the law should be taken against negligent officials, he added. He informed that 105 FIRs were registered against SOPs violators during this season while several shopkeepers were also issued warnings. Fines were also imposed for violating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the government to control dengue, he added. He said, September and October were very important regarding control of dengue as most of the cases were reported during this period so the teams must focus activities to ensure elimination of dengue larvae.

The CEO said that anti-dengue surveillance activities, elimination of larvae, IRS Spray and fogging were being carried out in Cantt areas while special teams on emergency basis had also been constituted. He informed that anti-dengue teams visited different areas and issued notices to the violators. Anti-dengue spray was also being conducted in houses, he added. The CEO urged the residents to play their due role and remove stagnant water from rooftops and other places besides cooperating with the anti-dengue teams. He said the citizens were also being educated and informed about importance of sanitation, cleanliness and preventive measures against dengue. Lady health workers during door-to-door campaign were visiting houses to educate the community particularly females about preventive measures against the disease, he added. The main focus of the

campaign was on public health education, he said and informed that the sanitary staff had been directed to ensure timely cleanliness and proper solid waste disposal in all areas. The RCB teams were also visiting hotels, restaurants, workshops, tyre shops and junkyard godowns and apprising the citizens about dengue and adoption of maximum precautionary measures against dengue, he said adding, the teams were also removing stagnant water and dengue larvae from several breeding sites. The vulnerable points were regularly being checked and special inspection was being conducted to check dengue mosquito larvae, he said. The CEO urged the citizens to adopt precautionary measures and remove stagnant water from their homes and roof tops as most of dengue larvae and adult mosquito is found in air cooler water drums and scrap items.—APP

## Leadership praised for bringing Pakistan out of grey list

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday lauded the national leadership for bringing Pakistan out of the FATF grey list after four-and-a-half years. The victory proves that country can overcome almost all the challenges if leadership unites to achieve

a common goal, he said. The decision comes at a time when Pakistan's credibility on the global market has taken a pounding because of its precarious economic situation, he added. Talking to the business community, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that after placing Pakistan on the grey list in 2018, FATF gave Pakistan a 27-point action agenda, which was later increased to 34-points, related to money laundering, terrorist financing, and action against armed groups and individuals. Being on the list severely restricted Pakistan's international borrowing capabilities as it had to face higher transaction costs

due to the higher processing burden that 'enhanced monitoring' imposed on all transactions with the outside world. A neighbouring country continued to conspire to keep Pakistan on the grey list and friendly country China thwarted her recent move for which the business community is thankful. FATF's conditions were met despite many disadvantages and resistance from the hostile nations having influence in the watchdog which has now verified Pakistan's progress on reforming the anti-money laundering regime as well as the measures are taken to block terrorism financing, he added.

The business leader said that Pakistan was placed on the FATF's enhanced monitoring list which was widely resented but it has also done well for the country as authorities worked together to overhaul the regulation of the domestic financial system to enhance monitoring. These efforts have not only satisfied the FATF but it has also made it much more difficult to use the system to launder black funds or move them around. Authorities should continue strengthening our financial system by plugging remaining gaps and making sure no vulnerabilities are remaining that may be exploited.

# CDA committed to resolve masses problems

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: In line with the directions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Yousif, all out efforts are being made to resolve all the problems of the citizens, especially the affectees of Islamabad. In this regard, concrete steps have been taken which will help resolve the problems of the affectees more effectively. In this regard, the Chairman Capital Development Authority himself visited different areas in the first phase to better understand the problems of the affectees and also chaired khuli kachehris at the sites to solve the problems of the affectees at their doorsteps. In this regard, the Chairman Capital Development Authority along with the officers of the concerned departments have visited the areas of Sector E-12 Chak Mojhan, Dakhli Kuri, Sheikhpur, Sarai-e-Kharboza and other sectors. Moreover, on the special instructions of the Chairman CDA, Member Estate, Deputy DG Land and Director Land are visiting various areas on a weekly basis to listen to the problems of the affectees at their door steps and immediate steps are being taken to solve the problems on the spot so affectees may not have to move from pillar to post for their problems. Chairman CDA has directed that any negligence or incompetence in this regard will not be tolerated. Similarly, on the instructions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Yousif, camps were also established in different areas for addressing problems of affectees including name correction, correction in records and other issues according to rules and policies on the spot. According to the details, a comprehensive plan has been devised to resolve the longstanding problems of affectees after reaching out them at their doorsteps. Under this plan the affectees who have not yet received rehabilitation benefits, will be given rehabilitation benefits in accordance with rules and policies. The rehabilitation process which is halted since long will be restarted. Furthermore, steps are also being taken to announce the BUPs awards soon for those sectors where the awards in respect of BUPs has not yet been announced. In this regard, a comprehensive plan has been prepared on the special instructions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority, the rehabilitation benefits will be released phase wise so that the problems of the affectees of Islamabad could be resolved and the development works of the sectors development can be accelerated. In this way development works in the sectors and rehabilitation process of affectees will be completed simultaneously.



## EV charging stations to be installed at Motorways

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

## IRSA releases 104,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 104,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 63,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1535.03 feet and was 137.03 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 33,700 cusecs while outflow as 45,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1169.65 feet, which was 119.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 4,900 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 75,800, 47,500 and 24,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,400 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

## 3 smuggling bids of wheat foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Sunday foiled three smuggling bids of wheat and seized 950 bags. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad and Taxila police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up three drivers namely Tassarwar, Rehan and Asif, who were trying to illegally ship out wheat flour out of Rawalpindi division.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST, Centreline and DNA News Agency Ansar Mahmood Bhatti meeting with Turkiye Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, at his office.—DNA

## Islam rejects sectarianism, extremism: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi said Islam rejected sectarianism, extremism, and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations. Addressing an 'International Tahzeem-e-Harmin Al-Sharifain Conference' in Abuja (Nigeria) the other day, he said to get rid of these social evils, it was necessary to disseminate the message of Islam in its actual context, which we received from the holy lands of Makkah and Madinah. Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council and Secretary General of International Tahzeem-e-Harmin Al-Sharifain Council said there was no room for such myths in Islam as it was a religion of peace, security, and moderation. He said the situation of unrest in some Islamic countries was due to external interference which could be stopped by forging unity in the Muslim Ummah. He said the union would help contain Islamophobia and resolve the issues confronting the Muslim Ummah on the global level. He also endorsed the stance of Saudi Arabia on the oil issue. He said that Pakistan and the entire Islamic world were standing by its narrative for global economic stability. Ashrafi said the entire Muslim Ummah's message was loud and clear that they would not compromise on the security, sanctity, and stability of the soil of Harmin Al-Sharifain at all costs. He said Kashmir and Palestine were the two burning issues of Muslim Ummah, and they should be resolved as per the will of the Kashmiris and Palestinians. He said interfaith dialogue was also the need of the hour adding that Pakistan had prepared a document, titled 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' (Message of Pakistan) to get rid of sectarianism, extremism, and terrorism.—APP

## Briefs

## Housing Ministry demands Rs 9,179 million for FY 2022-23

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Housing and Works has demanded the grant of a sum of Rs 9,179 million to meet the requirements of the ministry and attached departments for the current fiscal year 2022-23.

However, the "Finance Division has allocated a sum of Rs 5,915 million" as per the austerity measures for the current financial year which was conveyed to the ministry while budgetary allocation has already been finalized and approved in June 2022, an official in the Ministry told APP.

The official said that Finance Division already imposed austerity on budget allocation and reduced the budgetary allocation by Rs 55.163 million.

To a question, he said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was responsible for the maintenance and renovation of Pak Secretariat Islamabad. Therefore, no fund has been spent on Ministry's renovation. He said the Finance Division had already slashed the budget while making allocations. Hence, no funds had been surrendered to Finance Division and all the funds allocated during 2021-22 in relevant heads were utilized by the general section.

The official said the "Pak PWD has started sending notices to the allottees of government accommodation in Sector I-9/4 about payment of electric meter bills for water motors installed at residential blocks."

He said the Finance Division had allocated funds for payment of utilities in the relevant heads of accounts of the users while utility bills of the residential accommodation including hostels, rest houses and judicial residences should be paid by the users.—APP

## Construction of bridge in 12 months

ISLAMABAD: The authorities concerned have directed for the construction of the bridge and multi-cell culverts on National Highway at Talash and Shamsi Khan to be completed in 12 months.

"The construction of one Reinforced Concrete Cement (RCC) Bridge and multi-cell culverts on National Highway at Talash and Shamsi Khan in 12 District Lower Dir (Dir - Chitral Road N-45) has already been approved and is at the procurement stage," an official told APP on Sunday.

He said that the construction period for the said work was one year. "The work is expected to commence within three months, after completion of the procurement process as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules and PEC guidelines," he said and added, "The project has been approved for the replacement of Talash and Shamsi Khan Causeways with Permanent Culvert-Bridge between 110-113km Dir Lower Box Culvert at 110km and PSC Bridge at 112km (N-45).—APP

## ANF recovers over 26 kg narcotics; arrests four

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Sunday managed to recover over 26 kg narcotics and 145 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of four accused. According to an ANF spokesman, the ANF in an operation at Islamabad International Airport, recovered 135 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a passenger going to Saudi Arabia and 10 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a female passenger. In another operation, ANF recovered over 10 kg charas from the possession of two accused netted from Hyderabad.

The ANF and FC in a joint operation, managed to recover over 16 kg charas from Orakzai area. Separate cases have been registered against the accused, the spokesman said, and informed that raids were being conducted to net the accomplices of the accused.—APP

## Chinese team unveils report on Pakistan flood

Chinese team leader Xu Xianbiao also shared China's practical experience of flood control. He said that the team will soon come up with its detailed report, and hoped that the Chinese and Pakistani authorities will join hands to cope with the situation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of visiting Chinese disaster management experts presented its preliminary report on damages caused by the recent flash floods in Pakistan and suggested measures to prevent similar disasters in the future, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

The 11-member delegation, led by Xu Xianbiao from the Department of Flood Control and Drought Relief, Ministry of Emergency Management of China, presented the report after visiting various flood-hit areas of Pakistan.

The delegation also included experts from the Ministry of Water Resources of China, and the Me-

teorological Administration of China.

The report stated that the heaviest rainfall since 1961 hit 84 districts, or one-third of the total area of Pakistan, affecting nearly 33 million people, or one-seventh of the total population of the country.

The report said that Pakistan was unable to cope with the post-disaster situation alone. It stated that southern parts of the country are still inundated, and that water-logged areas are prone to infectious diseases and people have no access to clean drinking water. Homeless people living in shelters are in dire need of emergency relief. Crops on vast lands are destroyed and food shortage and hunger are imminent, the report stated.

The Chinese team leader Xu Xianbiao also shared China's practical experience of flood control. He said that the team will soon come up with its detailed report, and hoped that the Chinese and Pakistani authorities will join hands to cope with the situation.

The report called for further improved relief activities to ensure that the affected people have food, clean water, clothing, medical aids and shelter. The report called for speeding up the drainage in water-logged areas and giving priority to the restoration of lifeline installations, including power and transportation infrastructure as well as restoring the order of production and livelihood in flood-hit areas.

The report called for actively seeking international support for the restoration of housing infrastructure as soon as possible while avoiding areas vulnerable to mountain torrents, geological disasters and floods in small and medium rivers.

The report also called for the restoration of meteorological, hydrological and other water-damaged facilities. In the mid-term, the report suggested an integrated Indus Basin-wide flood control plan and improving flood protection layout by building reservoirs upstream, diverting flood water middle stream and expanding drainage capacity downstream.

The report called for incorporating major flood control projects in the national strategic plan, including flood control reservoirs, embankment reinforcement and capacity lifting, lake management and expansion of drainage projects.

The report also suggested the development of a national flood forecasting and early warning system based on big data technologies, improving application and early warning capabilities of satellite, radar and other monitoring systems, establishing community-oriented national mountain torrents disaster monitoring and early warning system, formulating a community-based evacuation plan and household know-how to enhance people's awareness of disaster prevention and emergency response.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in Senate Dr. Shahzad Waseem calls on PTI Chairman Imran Khan.—DNA

## Women Varsities Consortium joined by 10 more Varsities

RAWALPINDI: The British Council and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) have pledged to support 'All Pakistan Women Universities Consortium' (APWUC) in a meeting held here.

The consortium was founded in October 2021 by three founding members including Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, Lahore College Women University and Government College Women University Sialkot.

The central idea of this consortium is to strengthen the collaboration among women universities to achieve excellence in higher education of women to enhance the women development and empowerment in Pakistan.

In the meeting, ten more women universities have joined the consortium including Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University, Sukkur, Jinnah University for Women, Karachi, Government College for Women University, Faisalabad, Government Sadiq College Women University, Bahawalpur, University of Home Eco-

nomics Lahore, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, Women University Mardan, Women University Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Quetta and Women University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bagh.

The Vice Chancellors from these universities signed the consortium document and pledged to support women higher education in Pakistan by sharing resources, finding grounds of mutual interests and future planning for women higher education.

On the occasion, Dr. Nishat Riaz, Director Education, British Council Pakistan lauded the idea of women consortium and assured complete support of the British Council in multiple forms such as technical, knowledge sharing, goodwill and financial incentives. She emphasized that women must be involved in the decision making process at the policy level to ensure women empowerment.

She also emphasized on the need of creating a conducive environ-

ment where faculty and student retention can be ensured. She suggested multidimensional strategies for talent identification, youth motivation, career counseling and contemporary skill orientations for the young Pakistani women to unleash their full potential.

Dr. Bushra Mirza, VC, Lahore College Women University, who is also one of the founding members, provided a framework and suggested holding annual consortium meetings with partners to find mechanisms of documenting efforts.

Dr. Shaista Sohail, Executive Director, HEC suggested that established universities from the stable regions can support universities where women retention is an issue such as universities in Balochistan are facing such issues in few areas.

Being one of the founding members, Dr. Rukhsana Kausar, Government College Women University Sialkot, assured her full support to the cause.

Dr. Saima Hamid, VC, FJWU

played a significant role in bringing all stakeholders together. During the meeting she highlighted the progress of the consortium in a short span of one year. Under her leadership, a capacity building project with founding universities was recently completed.

In this project, the team of researchers from consortium member universities worked with both women as well as general universities to support all the women belonging to the field of higher education in Pakistan.

In addition to this project, a series of webinars and seminars were also arranged in different member and non-member universities.

Dr. Saima highlighted the power of academic networking and said that gender equality can be resolved through partnerships and collaborations and in this way we can contribute toward the two SDGs such as 'Gender Equality' and 'Partnerships for the Goals' and can become a significant support to the government's drive for achieving these SDGs.—APP

## Business community sees promising future

ISLAMABAD: Hailing the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) decision of Pakistan's removal from grey list, the business community on Sunday said coming out of the watchdog's increased monitoring process would boost economic activities and help put the ailing economy back on sustainable growth path.

The decision would restore the confidence of international financial institutions, help attract foreign direct investment, and promote exports from the country besides improving credit ratings for the country. Commenting on the mega development, President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Irfan Iqbal Shaikh lauded the efforts of civil and military leadership for achieving the landmark success for the country and said that it would further cement the government's endeavours to attain sustainable economic development.—APP

## 11 power projects completed under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: As many as 11 power projects with accumulative capacity of 6,369 MW under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been commissioned while 10 more projects are under various stages of development. According to data, in the energy mix of CPEC power projects, coal is leading with 8,220 MW, hydel 3,428 MW, Solar 1000 MW and wind 400 MW.

The projects already completed are included 1320 MW each Sahiwal Coal Power, Port Qasim, China-HUB Coal Power, 660 MW Engro Thar Power and Mine, 330 MW HUB-CO Thar, 720 MW Karot Hydropower, 400 MW Quid-e-Azam Solar Park, 100 MW UEP Wind Farm, 99 MW Three Gorge Wind Power Projects, 50 MW each Sachal Wind Farm and Hydro China Dawood Wind. The projects which are under various stages of development are included

1,320 MW Shanghai Electric (TCB-1) and Mine, 330 MW ThalNova Thar Power, Azad 700.7 MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Project, 1,124 MW Kohala Hydropower, 884 MW Suki Kinari Hydropower, 1,320 MW Thar (Oracle) Coal Plant, 600 MW Quid-e-Azam Solar Park, 300 MW Gwadar Coal/Solar Power Plant and 50 MW each Cacho Wind Power and Western Energy Pvt Ltd. 330 MW ThalNova Thar Power Project will start generation by December while 1320 MW Shanghai Electric will commence its generation before the next summer season. There are some six potential power projects which is expected to be included in CPEC in future are 640 MW Mahl Hydropower, 135 MW Taunsa Hydropower, 350 MW Toren More Hydropower, 260 MW Jamshill More Hydropower and 80 Phander Hydropower Projects.—APP

## Nimra Khan starring in drama

ISLAMABAD: Showcasing the cruel realities of society surrounding vulnerable families, an upcoming drama serial starring Nimra Khan is all set to air soon.

Under the banner of 7th Sky Entertainment, the upcoming tale is a story of a family burdened under the stigma of social evils while deceitful faces are haunting them. Starring bigwigs of the industry, the cast of this drama includes Nimra Khan, Maria Malik, Laiba Khan, Ayesha Gul, Behroze Sabzwari, Shabbir Jan, Farhan Ally Agha and Farida Shabbir along with other co-stars. Written by Dilawar Khan & Anila Syed, and directed by Shahid Younus, this upcoming tale will be aired on a popular private television network very soon as it has already released two of its teasers depicting the heart-wrenching storyline.—APP

## Chairman Senate felicitates President Xi Jinping

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has felicitated Chinese President Xi Jinping on being elected as Secretary General of the Communist Party of China for the third consecutive term.

In his congratulatory message, he said that "Under the prudent leadership of President Xi Jinping, China is making unprecedented progress in every field, Pakistani people and leadership attach great importance to relations with China."

He said that the Pakistani leadership aims to promote the joint Pak-China comprehensive strategic partnership and advance bilateral relations.—APP

## AIU to hold Int'l conference on interfaith relations on Monday

ISLAMABAD: A three-day international conference on "Interfaith Relations: Challenges and Prospects" would be held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) on October 24 (Monday).

According to an AIU spokesperson, international and national experts, teachers and researchers will present their research papers. "The purpose of the conference is to promote interfaith harmony and to examine the challenges we are facing today," he added. Currently, efforts are being made to create a society based on tolerance all over the world, and this conference will be a milestone in these efforts.

Vice Chancellor, AIU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum will preside over the opening session of the conference while Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Muhyiddin Hashmi is the chief organizer of the conference.—APP

## 680 smuggling bids of flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police while foiling 680 smuggling bids of flour seized over 12,578 metric tons during last three months.

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 680 drivers who were allegedly trying to smuggle wheat and flour. 505 FIRs were also lodged against the rules violators, he added.

He said, the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. The administration succeeded to intercept 680 vehicles besides seizing 12,578 metric tons wheat and flour. The authorities had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said adding, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi had instructed the authorities to monitor the movement of wheat round the clock.—APP

## Railways to get fleet of 20 modern coaches by end of month

ISLAMABAD: The first fleet of 20 state-of-the-art coaches of Pakistan Railways from China would arrive in Pakistan by the end of the current month to provide comfortable and international standards journey to the passengers. "Pakistan Railways has procured 230 new passenger coaches from China, which will not only facilitate the passengers but also generate more revenues for the department," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said that Pakistan Railways had already allocated Rs 21,712 million for the project "Procurement and Manufacturing of 230 Passenger Coaches" in the current fiscal year 2022-23. Pakistan Railways has worked out a plan to replace

old and obsolete signal gear from Lodhran-Multan-Khanewal-Shandara Bagh mainline section during the current fiscal year, he added. He said Pakistan Railways had allocated one billion rupees for the project titled "Replacement of old and obsolete signal gear from Lodhran-Multan-Khanewal-Shandara Bagh mainline section." "The signaling system of 44 stations was automated by Computer Based Interlocking (CBI) over Shandadpur-Mirpur Mathelo and Lodhran-Shandara Bagh section," he added.

The initiative, he said, had considerably improved the arrival and departure timing of trains owing to swift operation in the automated section. The engineering restrictions on tracks were being removed to curtail the

running time of passenger trains. "Pakistan Railways is rigorously pursuing Main Line-I project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to upgrade its track which faced delay during the last four years," he said. He said Rs 5 billion were already allocated for the ML-I project in the current fiscal year 2022-23. The project would increase train speed from 120 to 160 km per hour, he added. The official said the journey time would be reduced by half after the implementation of the project.

To a question, he said the 50 kilometers Narowal Chak Amru section was closed in 2005 due to huge recurring operational losses, an over-aged track, and a non-remunerative section.—APP

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## New CCP Politburo Standing Committee

**T**HE Chinese Communist Party has finally unveiled the men who will rule China for the next five years. The Politburo Standing Committee is China's equivalent of the presidential cabinet. It is considered the elite of the elite within the party, and getting to the top often requires not only a stellar political track record, but also deft manoeuvring of internal rivalries. It is not unusual to see big reshuffles of the Standing Committee after a term ends, and this time it is no different. Effectively handpicked by President Xi Jinping, most of them are new to the team apart from Zhao Leji and Wang Huning. Most, if not all, are seen to be Xi loyalists. Here are the men who, led by President Xi, make up the power centre of China.

**Li Qiang:** Current political post: Party secretary of Shanghai. Seen as Xi's most trusted junior colleague, Li worked in small counties in Zhejiang province. When Xi was party chief of Zhejiang, Li served as his chief of staff. Many believe Li will become the next Premier, the second-in-command after Xi.

**Zhao Leji:** Current political post: Head of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. Zhao has been seen as a rising star in the Chinese leadership, and has close links to the Shaanxi province, much like Xi. After entering the Qinghai provincial government, he swiftly rose up the ladder and became governor at the age of 42 - the youngest person to become a provincial governor.

**Wang Huning:** Current political ranking: First secretary of the Communist Party's Secretariat. A former scholar and professor, Wang rose through the ranks after catching the eye of senior politicians. He was recommended to then-president Jiang Zemin and promoted to become Jiang's consultant. As the party's political theorist, Wang is considered to be the brains behind many Communist Party concepts. China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative was also believed to be his idea.

**Cai Qi:** Current political ranking: Mayor of Beijing. A close ally of Xi, he has worked under the Chinese leader in the Fujian and Zhejiang provinces and has called for absolute loyalty to him. He also attracted controversy when he launched a plan in 2017 to reduce the population of the capital, that ultimately forced out many low-income earners from the city.

**Ding Xuexiang:** Current political ranking: Director of the Office of the General Secretary and Office of the President. A trained engineer, Ding started his political career at a government-affiliated research centre in Shanghai. Though he lacked experience as a provincial-level party secretary or governor - usually considered essential in the climb to power - he became Xi's secretary in 2007. Since 2014 he has been the head of the presidential office, effectively acting as Xi's chief-of-staff. A strong advocate of Xi Jinping Thought, he is one of Xi's most trusted aides.

**Li Xi:** Current political ranking: Party secretary of Guangdong province. A Xi loyalist with close ties to the Chinese leader's family, Li is seen as a crisis-solver for handling a 2017 scandal in Liaoning province over falsified economic data. He was the party leader in the politically significant city of Yanan, which Mao Zedong used as the party's headquarters during World War Two and where Xi spent seven years of hard labour.



## Pakistan leaves the FATF list

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

**A**FTER four years, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has removed Pakistan from its grey list. Pakistan was included in this list in 2018 when it was unable to check the risk of money laundering. During this period, Pakistan could not discuss or strike a deal with IMF, the World Bank, the European Union, and the Asian Development Bank (ADP). Pakistan needed the support of China, Turkey, and Malaysia and their supporters to leave the list. In a statement following Pakistan's removal from the list, it read: "The FATF welcomes Pakistan's significant progress in improving its 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. Pakistan is therefore no longer subject to the FATF's increased monitoring process."

Now that Pakistan has been removed from the FATF grey list, the country can focus on enhancing its economic activities and improving its rating in the books of International Credit Rating agencies. Much work needs to be done as the government, its various sectors, and their concerned offices have to make up for the four years that were lost while Pakistan was on the FATF grey list. Measures must be taken to attract foreign investment. The financial and economic system of Pakistan must be realigned with national and international goals and standards so all acts and tasks remain transparent. The removal of Pakistan from the list will also facilitate the ninth review of the IMF scheduled in November 2022. The disbursement of SDR 894 million will be used to bring Pakistan out of the financial crisis that it has been in for a long time

# America's self-inflicted energy apocalypse

Michael Shellenberger

The US oil and gas industry eagerly expanded production between 2010 and 2020 by fracking so much shale that many of them went bankrupt because prices were so low for so long. And oil and gas industry has long sought to expand refinery production and been thwarted by opposition at local, state, and federal levels. Republicans tried again to expand refinery capacity in 2008...

**T**O many people outside of the United States, the behavior of President Joe Biden toward Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations seems bizarre. As a presidential candidate, he threatened to treat Saudi Arabia as a "pariah." Then, as president, Biden and his aides have urged Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members to produce more oil. But he did so in a highly insulting way, refusing to shake hands with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, when Biden visited in August, and allowing his aides to roughly demand that Saudi Arabia pump more oil, simply because Biden wanted it to, in order to lower gasoline prices in advance of the elections next month, without any consideration of the interests of Saudi Arabia and other oil exporting nations. Unsurprisingly, Biden's heavy-handed efforts have backfired. "In August," the Wall Street Journal reported last week, "the Saudis had planned to push OPEC+ to raise oil production by 500,000 barrels per day, but [Crown] Prince Mohammed ordered the increase lowered to a token 100,000 barrels a day after the Biden visit." Angered, Biden's energy-security envoy, Amos Hochstein, emailed the Saudi energy minister accusing him of breaking his word. The email upset the minister, who shortly thereafter rallied other OPEC+ nations to cut oil production for the first time since the pandemic began, which they did on October 5. To some extent what has occurred is the result of in-

competence and arrogance. The US has for 80 years made demands on Saudi Arabia and expected them to be met. But Biden's threat to make Saudi Arabia a "pariah" angered and threatened the nation, as did arrogant demands to increase production. Part of the blame properly belongs to Biden, who has lost the subtlety and deftness he once had as a politician. He is now angrier, less patient, and gruffer, as powerful 79-year-old men can often be.

Yet the underlying problem is not personalities but policy. The Biden administration is beholden to apocalyptic climate activists, radical environmentalists, and green billionaire donors in the Democratic Party, who have successfully prevented Biden from expanding oil production in the US. It would have been easy for Biden to make up for the loss of Russian oil imports through expanded domestic drilling. Where the US had imported around 18 million barrels of Russian oil per month, we produce 19 million barrels of oil domestically per day. Instead, Biden has leased less public land for oil and gas production during his first 19 months in office than any other administration since World War II, according to a Wall Street Journal analysis.

It is certainly possible for the US to pursue a sane energy policy while turning away from oil by expanding the role of nuclear power and natural gas. Yet nothing could be less appealing to the self-styled environmentalist progressives who are determining the Biden Administration's energy policies. Why are nuclear power and natural gas undesirable? Because those two technologies would make unnecessary the radical social transformation that renewable energy advocates desire. Nuclear power and natural gas are straightforward plug-and-play technical fixes that make energy cheaper, not more expensive. With renewables, progressives can demand control over when you use electricity. They can justify expensive make-work programs to manage the high cost of unreliability. And renewables make energy more expensive, and scarce, as thus reduce economic growth, which radical environmentalists wrongly believe to be the "root cause" of environmental destruction. While progressives play on public fears of nuclear wastes and meltdowns, the relative safety records of the different plausible energy choices America might make are clear. Only nuclear waste is safely managed; solar panels are full of toxic metals that go into landfills or are shipped to Africa. Nuclear is the safest way to make electricity for all the electric cars that will shortly be mandated in California and other states. As for natural gas, it reduced emissions 22 percent between 2005 and 2020. Renewables can't power modern civilization. Progressives know this. That's why they favor them while, at the same time, they drive up gas prices by shutting down production. In May, President Joe Biden's EPA shut down a large oil refinery in the US Virgin Islands that investors had wanted to upgrade to reduce pollution. Biden has leased less federal

land and offshore areas than any president since World War II. And he and his cabinet officials have repeatedly said their goal is to "end fossil fuel." At the same time, Biden, his cabinet, and his spokespersons have turned around and blamed gas station owners, refineries, and oil producers, for high gasoline prices. In June, Biden accused oil refiners of price gouging even though they were operating at 94 percent of their capacity. And he said, "This idea that [the oil and gas firms] don't have oil to drill and to bring up is simply not true." But it was true.

This tactic of bald-faced official lying and scapegoating in defense of unworkable energy policies has been going on for decades. In 2006, Congressional Democrats killed federal legislation to increase refinery capacity and then turned around and blamed the industry for restricting supplies. "They thrive in an environment where markets are tight," said Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), who is today a Senator. The same year, Senate Democrats killed legislation to expand oil production. "We need lower gas prices and energy independence," said the late Senator Harry Reid. "Republican leaders have proposed the same old solution: drill, drill, drill. But drill, drill, drill is not going to deliver the results we need." In fact, it was drill, drill, drill (and frack, frack, frack) that resulted in the US becoming the world's largest oil producer in 2018.

The US oil and gas industry eagerly expanded production between 2010 and 2020 by fracking so much shale that many of them went bankrupt because prices were so low for so long. And the oil and gas industry has long sought to expand refinery production and been thwarted by opposition at the local, state, and federal levels. Republicans tried again to expand refinery capacity in 2008, only to face the now-familiar argument from Democrats that oil companies were manipulating supply to keep prices high. "It's been more than 30 years since America built its last new refinery," said then-President George W. Bush. Responded Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). "Don't buy this argument that it's about refineries. They have more capacity that they're holding back, so that they can keep their product dear and limited and short, and so that the consumers will ultimately pay more."

In the spring of 2020, Democrats killed a proposal by President Donald Trump to replenish the SPR with oil from American producers - not OPEC+ - at a price of \$24 a barrel. In September, the Biden White House promised OPEC+ a whopping \$80 a barrel. At the time, Trump was seeking to stabilize the American oil industry after the COVID-19 pandemic massively reduced oil demand. Trump and Congressional Republicans proposed spending \$3 billion to fill the SPR. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer successfully defeated the proposal, and later bragged that his party had blocked a "bailout for big oil." Even boosters of the Biden White House viewed the Democrats' opposition to refilling the SPR as a major blunder. "That decision," noted Bloomberg, "effective-

ly cost the US billions in potential profits and meant Biden had tens of millions of fewer barrels at his disposal with which to counter price surges." Moreover, observed Bloomberg, it will take significantly more oil today to fill the SPR than it would have two years ago. In spring 2020, the SPR contained 634 million barrels out of a capacity of 727 million. Now, the reserve is below 442 million barrels, its lowest level in 38 years. The decision looks even worse considering the decision by OPEC+ to cut production.

Sanity seems unlikely to prevail anytime soon. Biden doesn't want to anger his environmentalist base of voters and donors, who oppose expanded domestic oil production, but accept that increasing OPEC+ production in the short term may be a political necessity. Biden and the Democrats are pursuing a long-term strategy to shut down the US oil and gas industry, which they demonize as an apocalyptic threat to the planet. The cold political calculation behind such language is that the US oil and gas industry is a red state business that is friendlier to Republicans than to Democrats. Destroying the US oil and gas business may or may not save the planet - but it will certainly help Democrats and hurt Republicans.

That strategy has led the White House to engage in the tricky if not impossible task of trying to control the price of oil, not just in the US but also globally. In addition to its pleadings and offers to OPEC+, the Europe Union has just approved a price cap on Russian oil that had been pushed by the Biden administration, but which most experts believe won't work since Russia could sell its oil to China, India, and other developing nations, who have already said they won't cooperate with the price cap. In the end, it's clear that Biden's efforts are backfiring both economically and politically. He looks amoral, having gone from calling Saudi Arabia a "pariah" to urging a court to give the Saudi Crown Prince sovereign immunity. And Biden looks weak, unable to influence OPEC+ in the way past American presidents could.

The problem for Biden and Democrats is that there is no obvious fix. Their base of voters and their millionaire and billionaire donors have been educated to believe that climate change threatens imminent global apocalypse unless we stop using oil and gas immediately and switch to solar panels, wind turbines, and electric cars. As such, they face a deeply structural problem.

Over time, Democrats will need to learn that they can have cheap energy or expensive energy, just as they can produce more oil at home or be more dependent upon oil abroad. Until then, and increasingly as energy prices rise in the US, the Democrats will cede the moral high ground to their political opponents who are demanding a significant expansion of oil and gas production. If Biden isn't careful, it won't be the Saudis who are perceived as a "pariah," but rather the Democratic Party.

- Source: Al Arabiya

# Could EPC hold Europe together in face of Russia ?

Dimitar Bechev

Western Balkan leaders politely agree. Privately, however, they are anything but excited about what could turn out to be a talking shop, like the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), at best, and a diversion away from the EU, at worst. The stakes are high for Turkey and the UK as well. For those two, the EPC is a political opportunity to re-establish themselves in Europe and influence regional affairs. We were given a taste of what could be in store, when in Prague, Erdogan found himself sitting...

**T**HE European Political Community (EPC) is now a fact. A summit in Prague on October 6, attended by leaders from some 44 countries, inaugurated the pan-European club. Originally proposed by French President Emmanuel Macron in a speech before the European Parliament, the EPC includes the European Union's 27 members as well as its neighbours: from Ukraine to Azerbaijan and from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Georgia. Significantly, the forum also includes the United Kingdom and Turkey, two principal actors in "wider Europe", which are both outside the EU. Prime Minister Liz Truss and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan both made an appearance in Prague. With such a lineup, Macron had good reasons to feel content. A new organisation was born to take care of security and stability in Europe and France is in the driving seat. The Elysee thinks it has a vision and a plan. From the French perspective, the EPC kills two birds with one stone.

On the one hand, it draws neighbours into the EU's orbit - even hard cases, such as post-Brexit Britain and Turkey, which is at loggerheads with a number of the Union's member states, including France. More than that, the EPC embraces war-torn Ukraine and other EU membership hopefuls in the post-Soviet space, such as Moldova and Georgia. On the other hand, it is a broad and loose arrangement, as the EPC leaves enough room for integration to accelerate within the EU, and especially its core formed by the eurozone. COVID-19 led to more fiscal solidarity in the form of joint borrowing. Paris is championing further deepening of common institutions and policy, especially if it happens under its leadership. It all adds to the coveted goal of "strategic autonomy", the idea that "Europe" (that is, the EU) should invest in internal cohesion and also strive to act independently in international affairs at a time when US-China bipolarity is taking shape.

The big question is whether the EPC works for the countries on the EU's outside. Do they see added value in it or, to the contrary, accept to play a part in order to indulge the EU and/or France? The answer varies according to where you sit on the map.

For Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, the EPC is a welcome development. It anchors them even more robustly in the EU-centred regional order and reinforces the pre-existent web of treaties and institutional templates that link them with the 27-strong club. In June, the European Council granted Kyiv and Chisinau candidate status.

Now the EPC draws a symbolic yet clear-cut boundary between them and Russia which is using any means possible, including war, to rebuild its empire. So Macron's brainchild really counts for something in the East.

Things are much more ambiguous in the Western Balkans which have been stuck for nearly two decades in the EU's waiting room. The French president has tried to reassure Balkan countries that membership in the EPC will not harm their accession path. The fact that the Czech Republic, which is holding the presidency of the EU Council at the moment, hosted the inaugural meeting was meant to send a strong signal in that respect.

Western Balkan leaders politely agree. Privately, however, they are anything but excited about what could turn out to be a talking shop, like the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), at best, and a diversion away from the EU, at worst.

The stakes are high for Turkey and the UK as well. For those two, the EPC is a political opportunity to re-establish themselves in Europe and influence regional affairs. We were given a taste of what could be in store, when in Prague, Erdogan found himself sitting in a lobby together with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Nikol Pashinyan and Ilham Aliyev. Flanked by Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hunga-

ry, the Turkish president appeared to be mediating between the two Southern Caucasus states, a role habitually reserved for Russia.

Truss, for her part, used the Prague gathering to reset relations with Macron, committing to hold a UK-France summit next year and discussing matters of the day, including the ongoing energy crisis affecting both countries. In the long term, the EPC could provide the basis for a step-by-step convergence on policy between London and the EU.

Yet, the EPC may struggle to fulfil the role of a catalyst for closer and more cooperative relations with Turkey and the UK. The EU's relations with both Ankara and London remain strained.

Turkey's squabbles with EU members Greece and Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean are not getting resolved anytime soon and, in fact, may become worse as Greek and Turkish elections scheduled for the summer of 2023 approach. The UK and the EU are giving no indication they are going to overcome the impasse over the contents of the Northern Ireland Protocol which London wants to revise in order to eliminate the customs border in the Irish Sea which now separates Ulster from the rest of the country. It would probably take a Labour government to put relations on a sounder basis, which would no doubt give a boost to the EPC, too.

The recent history of French diplomacy in Europe offers many examples when lofty visions have crashed into the rocks of harsh political realities. President Nicolas Sarkozy's Union for the Mediterranean lost momentum soon after its launch in 2008. President Francois Mitterrand's "European Confederation", an EPC predecessor of sorts, remained on the drawing board in the early 1990s.

This new initiative might fare better, riding on the tailwinds of the war in Ukraine. Yet it is too soon to tell if it would make a big difference in European politics.

- Source: Al Jazeera

## Briefs

## China's Xi clinches third term

FROM PAGE 01

The session approved the secretary, deputy secretaries and members of the Standing Committee of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) elected at the first plenary session of the 20th CCDI. Ding Xuexiang, Xi Jinping, Ma Xingrui, Wang Yi, Wang Huning, Yin Li, Shi Taifeng, Liu Guozhong, Li Xi, Li Qiang, Li Ganjie, Li Shulei, Li Hongzhong, He Weidong, He Lifeng, Zhang Youxia, Zhang Guoqing, Chen Wenqing, Chen Jining, Chen Min'er, Zhao Leji, Yuan Jiajun, Huang Kunming, Cai Qi are the members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi are the members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Xi Jinping is general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. Cai Qi, Shi Taifeng, Li Ganjie, Li Shulei, Chen Wenqing, Liu Jinguo, Wang Xiaohong are the members of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee. Xi Jinping is Chairman while Zhang Youxia and He Weidong are vice chairmen respectively. The members of the Central Military Commission are Li Shangfu, Liu Zhenli, Miao Hua, Zhang Shengmin, Li Xi is Secretary while Liu Jinguo, Zhang Shengmin, Xiao Pei, Yu Hongqiu (f.), Fu Kui, Sun Xinyang, Liu Xuexin, Zhang Fuhai are deputy secretaries of the Standing Committee of the CCDI. Members of the Standing Committee of the CCDI are Wang Xiaoping, Wang Aiwen, Wang Hongjin, Liu Jinguo, Liu Xuexin, Xu Luode, Sun Xinyang, Li Xi, Li Xinran (Manchu), Xiao Pei, Zhang Shengmin, Zhang Fuhai, Chen Guoqing, Zhao Shiyong, Hou Kai, Yin Bai (Naxi), Yu Hongqiu, Fu Kui, Mu Hongyu.

## President, PM felicitate President Xi

FROM PAGE 01

The prime minister further said that it was a glowing tribute to President Xi's sagacious stewardship and unwavering devotion for serving the people of China.

## Asad Majeed hired...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan will be invoiced for this retainer quarterly in advance and no work will begin until the invoice has been paid," reads the agreement. Diplomatic sources raised the question that when the embassy already had a lobbying firm on its retainer and that too at a very high price, what was the reason for hiring another firm for the same job? What was the urgent need for hiring Fenton/Arlock when the embassy already had an agreement with Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP?

## England down Afghanistan

DNA

PERTH: England have defeated Afghanistan by five wickets in their opening match of the T20 World Cup on Saturday. Chasing a modest target of 113 runs, England reached home in 18.1 overs for the loss of five wickets. Liam Livingstone top-scored for the winning side with 29 runs in 21 balls. England's top-order struggled to get going with Alex Hales scoring 19 runs in 20 balls. Meanwhile, Jos Buttler and Dawid Malan scored 18 runs each. Rashid Khan was the pick of the bowlers for Afghanistan as he conceded only 17 runs in his full quota of four overs while also picking up the wicket of Harry Brook. Earlier, Sam Curran took his first five-wicket haul in Twenty20 internationals as England bundled out Afghanistan for 112. England skipper Jos Buttler, who leads the team in his first global tournament since becoming white-ball captain, won the toss and elected to field first, and the seam bowlers combined with superb catching did the trick for the team billed as one of the tournament favourites.

## El Sirty, Fayrouz annex international squash titles

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan squash took-off with the Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International Men's Squash Championship for Men & Women getting underway with the finale match being held on October 23rd between Egyptian Players, who battled it out on the court. Pakistan Squash Federation has been putting tremendous efforts for revival of international squash in the country. PSF in collaboration with Serena Hotels, has arranged the Chief of Air Staff International Squash Championship for Men & Women 2022 in Islamabad Sports Complex. The Ladies were presented their winnings by The Chief Guest Mrs. Viqar-oolah Khan and Wife of Air Marshal Mrs. Amir Masood, while the men's final hosted Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Mr. Mo-



hammad Zahid Mahmood as the Chief Guest along with Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels. The tournament was played from 19-23 October 2022 with Egypt ruling the semi-finals with all entries being of the Egyptian Players, the Men's Final was won by Mostafa El Sirty (World Ranking 27), who played a smashing success against

fellow countryman, Mo-hamad Al Sherbini (world ranking 28) who was the runner up. The men's championship has a prize purse of USD 30,000 whereas the women's event has a prize of USD 12,000 dollars. The opening ceremony was scheduled on 19 October whereas the championship finals were played

on 23 October. Apart from Pakistan, a group of 30 foreign players from 14 different countries (Germany, Spain, Egypt, Singapore, Austria, Malaysia, Serbia, USA, Hungary, England, Qatar, Czech Republic, Iran & Kuwait) played. Egyptian lady players Malak Khafagy (world ranking 73) and Fayrouz-A-

boelkheir (world ranking 82) smashed it out of the park for a thrilling game, with Fayrouz-Aboelkheir winning and Malak coming in 2nd. "Serena Hotels has joined hands with the PSF and PAF for the national cause of promoting squash in the country. We heartily appreciate the sports diplomacy initiative as shared by Serena Hotels as their

integral part to build stronger relations with the communities. Pakistan has a tradition of excellence in many sports, but competitive sports require the support of organizations through sponsorships and promotions." Mr. Aziz Boolani said the CEO of Serena Hotels to the press while discussing the future of Squash in Pakistan.

## Ten Hag hails Man Utd 'spirit' after Chelsea draw

DNA

LONDON: Erik ten Hag hailed Manchester United's "spirit" as Casemiro grabbed his first goal for the club in stoppage-time to salvage a dramatic 1-1 draw at Chelsea.

United left west London on a six-match unbeaten run as he netted with a header that was awarded by goal-line technology after crossing the line by millimetres. "I have to make a big compliment to my team. To fight back with a fourth game in

ing dropped by Ten Hag after his refusal to come on as a substitute in Wednesday's win over Tottenham. It would be no surprise if United and Ronaldo parted ways in the January transfer window, but Ten Hag's men did not appear troubled by the striker's

one point behind fourth-placed Chelsea, who are unbeaten in eight matches in all competitions since Graham Potter replaced the sacked Thomas Tuchel. "It's disappointing because we're 1-0 ahead at the end but over the course of the game a point is

ing off in tears in the second half after a World Cup injury scare. Varane's leg twisted awkwardly as he stretched in a failed attempt to intercept a pass towards Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, leaving him crumpled in a heap on the pitch for several minutes. The 29-year-old was eventually able to walk around the pitch unaided, but his angst at potentially missing the World Cup, which starts on November 20, was clear as he punched the corner flag in frustration. "We have to wait 24 hours and then we will know what it is," Ten Hag said. Lost in the fuss over Ronaldo's antics was the vibrancy of United's performance against Tottenham and they retained that quality at the Bridge. Luke Shaw fizzed a low drive just wide from the edge of the area, then Anthony's curler forced a good save from Kepa Arrizabalaga. Fernandes' pin-point pass opened up the Chelsea defence again, leaving Marcus Rashford one on one with Kepa but a poor first touch saw his shot thud into the keeper's chest. Rashford didn't let that mess drain his confidence and he surged into the Chelsea area for a fierce strike that Kepa palmed away.



sea on Saturday. Ten Hag's side were seconds away from defeat after Jorginho's 87th minute penalty put Chelsea ahead in United's first match since Cristiano Ronaldo was sent into exile. But former Real Madrid midfielder Casemiro ensured

10 days, you see the spirit and how they deal with setbacks. Really good," Ten Hag said. "We dictated the game and I am happy with that. If you concede a goal late it is difficult. It is a fair result." Ronaldo was missing from the United squad after be-

latest petulant outburst. With Ronaldo banished, United were still the stronger side for long periods, while there were no chants in support of the 37-year-old from the visiting fans packed into one corner of Stamford Bridge. Fifth-placed United remain

about right and I'm not sure if we did enough to win it," Potter said. "A really fighting performance from us, we improved a lot after 30 minutes so we will take what we get." The only concern for United was the sight of France centre-back Raphael Varane limp-

ing off in tears in the second half after a World Cup injury scare. Varane's leg twisted awkwardly as he stretched in a failed attempt to intercept a pass towards Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, leaving him crumpled in a heap on the pitch for several minutes. The 29-year-old was eventually able to walk around the pitch unaided, but his angst at potentially missing the World Cup, which starts on November 20, was clear as he punched the corner flag in frustration. "We have to wait 24 hours and then we will know what it is," Ten Hag said. Lost in the fuss over Ronaldo's antics was the vibrancy of United's performance against Tottenham and they retained that quality at the Bridge. Luke Shaw fizzed a low drive just wide from the edge of the area, then Anthony's curler forced a good save from Kepa Arrizabalaga. Fernandes' pin-point pass opened up the Chelsea defence again, leaving Marcus Rashford one on one with Kepa but a poor first touch saw his shot thud into the keeper's chest. Rashford didn't let that mess drain his confidence and he surged into the Chelsea area for a fierce strike that Kepa palmed away.

## Bagnaia on brink of MotoGP title

DNA

SEPANG: Francesco Bagnaia declared he could relax at last after winning a dramatic Malaysian motorcycle Grand Prix on Sunday to put him on the brink of a first MotoGP world championship. The Italian's champagne remains on ice, however, after rival Fabio Quartararo finished third to take the battle to the season's final race at Spain's Valencia in two weeks. Bagnaia would have clinched the title had Quartararo finished outside podium places at Sepang, but the Ducati rider instead extended his lead to 23 points. Bagnaia took the chequered flag in 40min 14.332sec, 0.270sec ahead of fellow Ducati rider Enea Bastianini. Quartararo completed the podium 2.7sec adrift. "Now I can relax!" said a jubilant Bagnaia, who now just needs to finish higher than 15th in Spain to be crowned world champion for the first time. "The weekend was quite tough after the mistakes I did yesterday. For Valencia, we have to understand that we can be strong without forcing like we did yesterday. Today our pace was good enough without doing crazy things."

Asked to defend 15 runs, Nawaz got a wicket off the first ball, and avoided a boundary off the next two deliveries as well before bowling a no-ball that was smacked for a six by Kohli. He got another wicket late in the over but that proved insufficient as Kohli had done the job by then. Earlier, Pakistan posted a decent recovery after an almost nightmare start that saw both their star openers perish early. If-tikhar Ahmed and Shan Masood's half-centuries helped the Green Shirts post 159.8 runs. After inviting Pakistan to bat first, Indian seamers found plenty of bounce and movement, just as they had in their first encounter during the recent Asia Cup. Babar Azam was out on golden duck and Mohammad Rizwan followed him back in the dugout soon after. Shan Masood played the anchor and hung around till the end but the real star was the much-criticised If-tikhar Ahmed, whose 34-ball 51 at one point threatened to unclench India's grip on the innings. However, once he fell, the leakage of wickets resumed, with no one sticking with Masood for long enough. The one-down lefty finished with 52 runs off 42 balls. A 16-run cameo at the very end by Shaheen Afridi was invaluable in boosting the score.

## PDM saved country at the cost of its credibility

FROM PAGE 01

He said that he believed that Imran Khan was a selected prime minister. He said in the past prime ministers were either hanged or forced to leave the country. He said the political parties had never thought that Imran would attack on the economy of the country for his political survival.

Bilawal said that as soon as the PDM succeeded in rescuing the country from economic crises, unfortunately the historic flood had created another problem for the nation, adding that from Gilgit-Baltistan to KPK, South Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh provinces had badly affected by the flood and still these areas were in great trouble. "About 33 million people are affected due to the flood," he added. The flood was a historic calamity, he said. He said that the world should also rescue us to face the challenges after the flood as the rest of the world was responsible for the global warming not Pakistan, adding that today Pakistan was in trouble and tomorrow any other country could face the same situation. "Our core issue should be restoration of flood affected people's life instead of politics now," Bilawal said. He said that political clashes would continue but need of time was to help flood victims by joining hands.

He said that the people themselves were struggling against the burden of weather change which was injustice as the political parties should jointly support them in this hard times. He said that solution of the impact of global warming in Pakistan was in working unanimously. He said that the government would make this challenge as a test case and it would be a pilot project for the globe. The minister said that the coalition government would work to improve the agricultural and irrigation system for the better future.

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## T20 WC: India beat Pakistan in a thriller

FROM PAGE 01

The climax of the match was the final over, which was given to left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz on a night where spin was a liability for both the sides.

Asked to defend 15 runs, Nawaz got a wicket off the first ball, and avoided a boundary off the next two deliveries as well before bowling a no-ball that was smacked for a six by Kohli. He got another wicket late in the over but that proved insufficient as Kohli had done the job by then. Earlier, Pakistan posted a decent recovery after an almost nightmare start that saw both their star openers perish early. If-tikhar Ahmed and Shan Masood's half-centuries helped the Green Shirts post 159.8 runs. After inviting Pakistan to bat first, Indian seamers found plenty of bounce and movement, just as they had in their first encounter during the recent Asia Cup. Babar Azam was out on golden duck and Mohammad Rizwan followed him back in the dugout soon after. Shan Masood played the anchor and hung around till the end but the real star was the much-criticised If-tikhar Ahmed, whose 34-ball 51 at one point threatened to unclench India's grip on the innings. However, once he fell, the leakage of wickets resumed, with no one sticking with Masood for long enough. The one-down lefty finished with 52 runs off 42 balls. A 16-run cameo at the very end by Shaheen Afridi was invaluable in boosting the score.

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## No-ball, free-hit...

FROM PAGE 01

Taking to Twitter, the former spinner asked why it was not "a dead ball when Kohli was bowled on a free hit". Hogg was also unimpressed with the fact that the umpires didn't go for the review on the waist high no-ball.

## Sri Lanka dominate in nine-wicket win over Ireland

PERTH: Sri Lanka cruised to a nine-wicket victory over Ireland in their Super 12s opener at the T20 World Cup in Hobart. Kusal Mendis smashed an unbeaten 68 from 43 balls as Sri Lanka secured victory with five overs to spare. Ireland earlier limped to 128-8, with top-scorer Harry Tector, who hit 45 off 42, one of only three players to reach double figures. Sri Lanka's spinners were particularly impressive, with Maheesh Theekshana taking 2-19 and Wanindu Hasaranga 2-25. The result means Sri Lanka sit second in the early Group 1 table as one of three teams on two points, with New Zealand top and England third on net run rate. "I'm really happy about the way we played the game - we wanted to play as a team and everyone contributed," said Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka. "We knew coming into this game spinners will play a major part. We used that tactic in this game and are looking forward to keep using this tactic. "Mendis has been consistent and plays according to the situation most of the time. That's high class batting and the consistency that Sri Lanka needed and now we've got that."

The 2014 champions now travel to Perth for a match against holders Australia on Tuesday (12:00 BST). Ireland take on England at Melbourne the following day (05:00). Ireland went into this game full of confidence after thrashing two-time winners West Indies by nine wickets in their final group match to reach this stage, but this was a sobering reality check on a chilly afternoon in Hobart. Following successful chases in their previous two matches, captain Andy Balbirnie surprisingly chose to bat first after winning the toss, but their innings never got going. - DNA

Following successful chases in their previous two matches, captain Andy Balbirnie surprisingly chose to bat first after winning the toss, but their innings never got going. - DNA

## Real Madrid turn on the style to beat Sevilla

The Brazilian winger finished eighth in Ballon d'Or vote, disappointing some Madrid fans, but Ancelotti urged him to use it as encouragement to strive for more this season

DNA

MADRID: Just when it seemed Real Madrid might consider dropping points in the title race, the champions calmly moved up a gear to secure a 3-1 win over Sevilla on Saturday and extend their La Liga lead. Carlo Ancelotti's unbeaten side moved six points clear of rivals Barcelona, thanks to two strikes in three minutes from Lucas Vazquez and Fede Valverde in the final stages. Sevilla thought they might take something from the game when Erik Lamela's leveller cancelled out Luka Modric's early strike, but Madrid confidently wrestled control of the match back. Vinicius Junior, through on goal in the 79th minute, unselfishly squared for Vazquez to roll the ball home and then Valverde continued his own sublime form with a rocket which left Sevilla goalkeeper Bono scrambling helplessly. It was a rip-roaring finale to a fine night for Madrid supporters. Karim Benzema had offered the Ballon d'Or he won on Monday to the masses at the Santiago

Bernabeu before kick-off, handed his trophy by former winners Modric and Zinedine Zidane. Fans brandished goal sheets laid out for them by the club. Although they



were not able to watch the French striker here, with a thigh problem keeping him out, their team maintained their momentum. It took Real Madrid just five minutes to open the scoring. Vinicius was the architect, picking the pocket of Gonzalo Montiel, driving forward deep into the area and then sliding a perfect pass across to split the defence and leave Modric with a simple finish on his 450th appearance for the club.

The Brazilian winger finished eighth in the Ballon d'Or vote, disappointing some Madrid fans, but Ancelotti urged him to use it as encouragement to strive for more this season. Returning from a sciatica problem, Thibaut Courtois also presented his Yashin Trophy for being the world's best goalkeeper to supporters, which was his only task of note until the second half. He soon had another - picking the ball out of the back of the net. Erik Lamela finished well after being set-up by Montiel, who stole the ball from Vinicius in a reverse of the opening goal. Former Madrid playmaker Isco fired into the side netting as Jorge Sampaoli's side attacked the second half with more gumption.

## Briefs

## Canadian sentenced to 16 months in jail

TRENTON: A Canadian man who perpetrated a "racially motivated" attack on a Black Muslim woman and her daughter was sentenced Friday to 16 months in prison and probation for two years.

Richard Bradley Stevens, 43, accosted the pair Dec. 8, 2020, while they were sitting in their car outside a shopping mall in Edmonton, Alberta.

He uttered racial threats, broke a window and when the pair exited the vehicle, he tore off their hijabs and punched one of the women repeatedly until she passed out. He pleaded guilty to two assault counts and one mischief count.

Stevens' defense was that he was off his medications that help control a psychotic disorder and was not thinking clearly because he had taken drugs. But Judge Ferne LeReverend did not buy his excuses.

"I reject that because he specifically referred to them as f—ing Somalis and demanded they leave the country," said LeReverend. She said Stevens has demonstrated a "history of prejudice."

He has a long criminal record, has been on probation several times and has demonstrated racial prejudice on other occasions. The older woman is a mother of 10 and the court was told Stevens' attack erased her sense of security and left lasting mental health wounds. She was bedridden for six months because of a leg injury sustained in the attack.—APP

## UN commission finds war crimes committed in Ukraine

NEW YORK: An independent UN commission found reasonable grounds to conclude that war crimes and human rights violations were committed in Ukraine since the beginning of the war in late February.

UN political affairs chief Rosemary Di Carlo told the Security Council that the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine submitted its report to the General Assembly this week and found Russian troops responsible for the vast majority of violations identified.

But it also found that Ukrainian forces have violated international humanitarian laws in some cases. The commission documented patterns of summary executions, unlawful confinement, torture, ill-treatment, rape and other sexual violence committed in areas occupied by Russian armed forces. Di Carlo said more than 6,000 civilians were killed in Ukraine, including 397 children.

A total of 9,634 people have been injured. "The actual figures are likely considerably higher," she added. She expressed "grave" concern about the destruction of critical energy infrastructure following recent Russian strikes that threaten to expose millions of civilians to extreme hardship.—APP

## Anti-Brexit protesters call on UK to rejoin EU

Across Europe, soaring inflation is behind a wave of protests and strikes that underscores growing discontent with the spiraling cost of living and threatens to unleash political turmoil

LONDON: Tens of thousands of protesters have marched through central London, waving EU flags and calling on the UK to rejoin the European Union.

Thousands of Britons who gathered from across the UK in a protest called the National Rejoin March, walked from Park Lane to Parliament Square in London, calling Brexit a failure.

Parliament Square Garden, the last stop on the march, was covered in blue European flags as supporters waved EU flags and carried placards, reading "Brexit was never going to work", "For lower bills #rejoin the EU", "We want our star back."

Some other signs read, "cost of leaving crisis" and "Brexit got the UK done."

"We should negotiate a deal, get the Customs Union back, the single market, and progress from there" in order to re-join the EU, Steve Bray, well-known as "stop Brexit man" who has been protesting against Brexit since 2019, said in a speech. "In long term, we're



going to suffer because we're not able to sell and buy from Europe, which is our biggest market," said Joshua Allotey one of the protesters from Winchester, who works for a local authority. Oliver Jackson, a 26-year-old warehouse worker from Dorset, said, "Brexit has been the slow death

that has been bleeding the UK dry for years." "The best way to get the UK back on track is to rejoin, "at the very least, the single market and then the EU," he added. The march took place while the ruling Conservative party is looking for a new leader after the departure of Liz Truss, Britain's

shortest-serving prime minister. Truss became Britain's fourth prime minister in six years after being elected to lead the Conservative Party by its members, not the broader electorate, and with support from only around a third of the party's lawmakers. In this short period, Truss cata-

putled the already ailing UK economy into free fall by presenting a plan to cut taxes for the wealthiest and borrow from the banks.

"I wanted to act but to help people with their energy bills to deal with the issue of high taxes, but we went too far and too fast," she stated. "I do want to accept responsibility and say sorry for the mistakes that have been made."

The next prime minister must secure 100 nominations from lawmakers by Monday to run in a contest to choose the leader of the ruling Conservative Party. So, no matter who replaces Truss, the next prime minister will face the dilemma of food prices rising by 14.6% in 12 months.

Energy prices have driven inflation in the 19 countries of the eurozone to a record, making it harder for people to buy what they need. Across Europe, soaring inflation is behind a wave of protests and strikes that underscores growing discontent with the spiraling cost of living and threatens to unleash political turmoil.—APP

## Contributions of Pakistan diaspora vital: Janjua

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Mr. Zaheer A. Janjua has said that while the world has come to our assistance in the wake of devastating floods that hit Pakistan this summer, it is the people and the diaspora of Pakistan whose contributions will count in the end. He made this statement while addressing a fundraising dinner held in the capital of Ottawa. He told the audience the United Nations had re-assessed and raised its appeal to provide relief and assistance to the people affected by floods in Pakistan to USD 816 million. He said the Canadian government had also provided CAD 30



million in aid besides matching donations up to CAD 7.5 million by various organizations and donors in Canada for the flood victims in Pakistan. But this aid was a drop in the ocean and a big effort was needed to repair the damage that had been caused by floods. He called the overseas Pakistan the strategic asset of Pakistan, and applauded the Pakistani diaspora in Canada for its dynamism and vibrancy and contributing enthusiastically to the flood relief efforts in Pakistan. He also lauded the role played by organizations such as Indus Development Foundation Canada and the Pakistani doctors in Canada for providing healthcare to the needy in Pakistan.

## Mexican president backs US migration policy for Venezuelans

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Friday endorsed US President Joe Biden's new immigration program to expel Venezuelan migrants into Mexican territory.

According to Lopez Obrador, the new policy protects Venezuelan migrants from the dangers of crossing the country irregularly, including the presence of organized crime and human traffickers.

"This is also to discourage the activity of 'polleros' and human traffickers because there are those who charge, deceive and put migrants at risk, they do not care if they are assaulted and injured during the journey, but we have to take care of the human rights of migrants if this mechanism is opened, we have to take

advantage of it, not say that it is useless or it will not be enough," said the president at a press conference.

On Oct. 12, the US Department of Homeland Security announced that only 24,000 Venezuelan immigrants would be eligible for temporary visas in American territory. The new migration policy imposed a series of requirements on Venezuelans, including the need for a "supporter" — an individual with legal status in the US who can financially sponsor them, and that the entry into the US must be by air travel. The program, which seeks to discourage migration to the US, leaves thousands of Venezuelans who do not have supporters living in the US or the means to travel by plane ineligible for the visas. In addition,

all Venezuelans who try to cross the US-Mexico border will be immediately shut down and return to Mexico. "What is being asked is that they do not make the journey, and especially if they pass through Mexico, they would no longer have the right to this temporary visa," added the president. On behalf of Washington, the Mexican government has pledged to regulate the migratory status of Venezuelan immigrants in Mexico, following the "Remain in Mexico" policy imposed by then-President Donald Trump in 2019.

According to Lopez Obrador's calculations, there are currently 140,000 Venezuelan migrants living in Mexico, for which he has pledged protection and care.

"We are going to support those in our territory, as

we always do, with shelters, food, and medical attention," he said.

This is not the first time that the Mexican government has followed the anti-immigration plans of the United States. Since the first year of Lopez Obrador's administration, the Mexican government has allocated resources to militarize the country's borders, using military personnel in immigration control tasks. The Mexican government reported a record-breaking number of arrests of migrants traveling through Mexico without documentation.

In 2021 alone, immigration authorities apprehended 307,569 migrants, making Lopez Obrador the president that has arrested the most migrants in a single year.—Agencies

## West seeking to throw countries into disarray

TEHRAN: Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mikdad has said that the West is seeking to plunge independent countries, like Iran, into confusion and disarray, stating that the US and its allies want the Islamic Republic to be dependent and in ruins. Mikdad made the comments during a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Sunday. The top Syrian diplomat pointed to the bitter and disastrous results of foreign interventions in his war-ravaged country under the false pretext of protecting human rights, and the abject failure of the Tel Aviv regime and its supporters in hatching plots and creating crises for the Syrian government and nation. "They [the West] seek to plunge independent countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, into crisis. The United States and the

West want Iran to ruin and become dependent, not prosperous, developed, and independent. Everyone saw what the US and its allies did to Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan," Mikdad said. Amir-Abdollahian, for his part, reiterated that the Palestinian issue and support for the resistance front as well as the Syrian government and people are among Tehran's principled and logical positions.

"Political and propaganda campaigns could by no means undermine the Iranian government and nation's determination to follow the path to progress, independence, and dignity, protect the stability and security of regional countries and counter foreign interference and the Zionist regime's acts of aggression," the Iranian foreign minister said. "They [the West] will vigilantly thwart the enemies' plots, Amir-Abdollahian stated.—APP

## Libya's Dbeibeh rejects deal on 'sovereign positions'

TRIPOLI: Prime Minister of Libya's Tripoli-based unity government, Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, has rejected an agreement with East Libya-based parliament on changing heads of the country's sovereign positions.

On Friday, Parliament Speaker Aguila Saleh and Khaled al-Mishri, head of the Tripoli-based High Council of State, which acts as a senate, agreed during their talks in Morocco to change heads of the sovereign positions before January.

"Libyans are asking everyone to fulfill their obligations towards elections. Talking about parallel tracks such as sharing sovereign positions is no longer acceptable," Dbeibeh said on Twitter.

He called on both Saleh and al-Mishri "to accelerate the adoption of a fair constitutional rule that ends the legal problem that hinders the holding of elections."

Oil-rich Libya has remained in turmoil since 2011 when longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi was ousted after four decades in power.

The situation has worsened since March when East Libya-based Parliament appointed a new government led by former Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha, but Dbeibeh insists he will cede authority only to a government that comes through an "elected parliament," raising fears that Libya could slip back into a civil war.—APP

## Attack in Niger kills 11

NIAMEY: A suspected jihadist attack on three lorries and a motorcycle in western Niger near the border with Mali killed 11 people, local sources told AFP on Sunday.

The attack took place on a remote road in the so-called "three borders" region between Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso plagued by jihadist insurgents linked with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

A local government official in the Banihangou area where the attack occurred said armed men intercepted three trucks on a remote road on Saturday morning and killed their nine occupants.—APP

## Turkey plans 2 new military facilities in Syria

ANKARA: The Turkish military reportedly plans to construct two new military facilities in the northern part of war-ravaged Syria, as the Ankara government is making efforts to flush out members of the US-backed Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militant group from areas close to its border. The Arabic-language Enab Baladi news website reported that the two bases are believed to be built near Deir Balut and al-Ghazawiyah crossings, which connect the northern regions of Aleppo province to neighboring Idlib province.

The crossings link the regions occupied by Turkish-backed militants from the so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA) to the areas controlled by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham Takfiri terrorists. A top FSA member told Enab Baladi that Turkish forces have been stationed in the district where these two military bases are expected to be built, but the construction has not started yet.—APP



LAHORE: Ambassadors of EU, France, Spain, Sweden and others attending Asma Jahangir conference, in Lahore. -DNA

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**Briefs**

**Pakistan needs more steps for economic recovery**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will have to take internal measures along with help from the international community by implementing economic reforms to recover from the cataclysmic floods, said World Bank Vice President for South Asia Martin Raiser on Sunday. In an interview with Pakistani television, Raiser talked about Pakistan's situation after facing heavy flooding and said that the country has been badly affected by the climate change. He said that the depth of the crisis is unprecedented. The vice president of the global lender said that the international community needs to help Pakistan, however, Islamabad also needs to implement financial reforms. "In order to recover from the devastations caused by floods, Pakistan needs a roadmap," he added. Raiser said that Pakistan would have to take internal steps as the citizens are already disturbed by massive electricity bills. "This is why the [authorities] are facing losses in distribution and the prices are high."

**Palestinian resistance member 'assassinated' in Nablus**

DNA

OCCUPIED JARUSALEM: A senior member of the Palestinian resistance group Lion's Den has been killed in a bomb attack in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, amid an ongoing siege on Nablus imposed by the Israeli military following the killing of a soldier. Lion's Den announced in a statement that Tamer Kilani, a top member of the upstart organization, lost his life in an apparent assassination in the early hours of Sunday. The statement added that an explosive device attached to a motorcycle detonated in the Old City of Nablus, located approximately 49 kilometers (30 miles) north of al-Quds, as Kilani was passing by. Lion's Den likened Kilani's assassination to that of the two Palestinian resistance fighters, al-Nani Jawabra and Bassem Abu Sariya. They were assassinated in two separate explosions during the Second Intifada, also known as the Al-Aqsa Intifada. The Palestinian resistance group also threatened a "painful response," and called on the public to attend Kilani's funeral later on Sunday.

**Soldier embraces martyrdom**  
Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army on Sunday embraced martyrdom while thwarting terrorists' attack from inside Afghanistan across the international border who opened fire on a military post in Hassan Khel Sector of North Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release said the Pakistan Army troops responded in a befitting manner. The martyred soldier was identified as Assistant Lance Daffadar Waqar Ali (32-year-old, resident of Chota Lahore, Swabi) who embraced martyrdom during the fire exchange. "Pakistan has consistently been requesting Afghanistan to ensure effective border management. Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activates against Pakistan," the ISPR said. The Armed forces media wing further added that Pakistan Army was determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of its brave soldiers further strengthen its resolve.

**Hungarian National Day reception celebrated in style**

Cultural dances leave everybody spell bound; Ambassador Bela Fazekas says Punjab University built by a Hungarian professor

ANSAR BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas has said on the 23 October 1956 a student protest in Budapest turned into a national uprising for freedom and democracy against communist dictatorship. Two weeks later the Russian aggression crushed the heroic struggle of the freedom fighters. Two hundred thousand Hungarians left the country. Today 66 years later Europe is witnessing another Russian aggression. The Ambassador expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of National Day of Hungary. A large number of diplomats, government functionaries, members of the civil society members attended the event. Federal Minister/Chairman BOI Ch. Salik Hussain was the chief guest. The real feast of the event was a cultural performance by the two young Hungarians artists whose dances left the audience spell-bound. The ambassador further said Hungary and Pakistan established diplomatic relations only in 1965, but people-to-people relations between Hungary and this part of the subcontinent have started much earlier. Not everyone knows in this country that the oldest university of Pakistan, the University of Punjab was founded in 1882 by a Hungarian professor. The cultural and intellectual life of the 19th and early 20th century Lahore would not have been so rich and vibrant without the small community of Hungarian artists, professors, orientologists who lived there. Last year we finished the largest ever Hungarian cultural project in the capital of Punjab, the restoration of eleven



paintings of the Sikh gallery painted by a Hungarian artist in the 19th century. Ambassador Fazekas added, Hungary is not a big power. Neither politically, nor economically. But our globally renowned rich cultural heritage, the internationally recognized high quality of our higher education gives us a soft power status. Each

year more and more foreign students choose Hungary for their studies, including hundreds of Pakistanis. Currently nearly 3% of all foreign students in Hungary are from Pakistan. And this percentage is going even higher next year as the Hungarian Government decided to double the number of State Funded scholarships

for Pakistan from the current level of 200 to 400. 'Equally important is our economic and commercial cooperation. The frequent mutual visits and meetings between our ministers, parliamentarians, high-ranking military officials provide a solid political basis for enhancement of our economic and trade relations. In fact, our trade has

doubled in the last two years. There are more and more Pakistani-Hungarian joint ventures in the field of water management, agriculture and food industry'. He said, the flagship of the Hungarian companies present in Pakistan is the MOL, which is one of the largest foreign investors in the oil and gas industry and the second

largest producer of oil in Pakistan. I am very grateful to the MOL Pakistan company, to its management for their gracious sponsorship to the Embassy events including this reception today. A real performance is worth a thousand words and that is why after the speeches he invited the guests to witness very exciting cultural

journey with the help of two young Hungarian dancers. Ch. Salik Hussain in his speech thanked the ambassador for inviting him and providing him with an opportunity of sharing his thoughts on the occasion. He said Pakistan values relations with Hungary adding these relations would continue to grow even in the coming days.

**Rasheed claims Pakistan heading towards default**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (ANL) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Sunday warned that the country is close to default. In a statement on Twitter, the ANL chief said that the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has failed as he did not get any help and neither was he given the chance for a meeting. Sheikh Rashid underscored that the country is close to defaulting. He further said the upcoming ten days of politics are very important and also pinpointed that the problem of national security has arisen. "The country's assets are more precious to us than our lives," he added. The former federal minister lashed out at coalition government, in particular at the Sharif family. He said they are responsible for pushing the country into deep economic crises. Sheikh Rashid also shamed the top brass saying that, "The billionaire rule that did not give even 10 rupees from their pockets to the flood victims."



**Zelensky vows to down Russian missiles**

KIEV: As Russia continued to attack Ukraine's critical civilian infrastructure, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky pledged that his military would up its air defense systems to counter incoming Russian missiles. Zelensky said, "Those treacherous blows on critically important facilities are characteristic tactics of terrorists." He added, "The world can and must stop this terror." Even though Ukraine currently doesn't have the technical ability to down all of the missiles and drones Russia sends incoming, it is only a matter of time before Ukraine "will achieve that" with the help of partners, he said. In his nightly video address, Zelensky noted that Saturday Ukrainian forces downed 20 Russian missiles and more than 10 Iranian-made drones. Earlier, the Ukrainian air force confirmed that 33 missiles fired at Ukraine by Russia that 18 were shot down. In its latest assessment, Britain's Ministry of Defence says Russia is planning to bring mercenaries to defend its occupied territories as it faces counteroffensives by Kyiv. Wagner Group owner Yevgeny Prigozhin claimed online last week that his engineering teams were constructing an extensive fortified "Wagner Line" of defenses in Russian-occupied Luhansk, the ministry said. It added that a map Prigozhin had posted online "showed a section of newly constructed anti-tank defenses and trench systems south-east of Kreminka in Luhansk."

Russia has been using the Wagner Group in conflicts for several years, including in Syria and the Central African Republic. In a recent video, the mercenary group's chief appeared to be recruiting Russian prisoners to fight in Ukraine. The Institute for the Study of War (ISW) says Russia's military leadership is pulling its officers out of the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson ahead of an expected advance by Ukrainian forces. The think tank said Russian officers were being moved across to the eastern bank of the Dnieper River, while newly mobilized, less experienced troops would be left on the western side to slow the Ukrainian counteroffensive. Kherson is the capital of a region of the same name that was illegally annexed by Russian President Vladimir Putin last month. The city has been in Moscow's hands since early in the war. On Saturday, Russian-installed authorities there told all residents to evacuate immediately. - DNA

**Chinese dental clinic shooting suspect arrested**

KARACHI: A big development was made in the investigation of firing incident on a dental clinic of a Chinese national in Saddar, Karachi as the CTD police with the help of an intelligence agency on Sunday arrested another suspect involved in the high-profile shooting case. The CTD claimed to have arrested another suspect involved in the attack on a dental clinic run by a Chinese doctor in Karachi. They said that the suspect was arrested as a result of various raids, the CTD conducted in collaboration with a sensitive agency of the country. They revealed that the suspect was an accomplice of prime suspect

Waqar Kushik who had already been arrested on Oct 14 by the CTD. They said that the suspect helped Waqar to flee the scene by driving him to safety on his motorcycle after the shooting. On the pointation of prime suspect Waqar and with the help of technological assistance, the police have arrested another four suspects involved in the shooting. The police are also undertaking investigations regarding the contacts of the arrested suspects with the head and commanders of an outlawed organization. The investigators are conducting forensic analyses of the suspects' mobile phones and the recovered gun. On Sept 28, a Chinese dentist couple were critically wounded when a man posing as patient entered their clinic in a busy commercial area of Saddar and opened indiscriminate fire on the victims injuring Dr Richard Hu, his wife Phen Teyin and killing their assistant Ronald Raymond Chou. Dr Richard Hu ran this private clinic in Karachi for more than 40 years and the three victims held dual nationality of China and Pakistan, a police official told media after the shooting. Police on Oct 14, arrested a suspect, Waqar Kushik, who was said to be associated with the Sindh People's Army and was caught during a targeted operation. - DNA

**Saudi forum set to draw US business leaders**

President Joe Biden has vowed "consequences" for US-Saudi ties over an OPEC+ decision

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: A public spat between the United States and Saudi Arabia will not deter top Wall Street executives and US business leaders from a flagship investment event starting on Tuesday where the kingdom will seek deals to reduce its economy's reliance on oil. President Joe Biden has vowed "consequences" for US-Saudi ties over an OPEC+ decision this month to cut oil output targets, which Riyadh defended as serving market stability. The dispute was the latest shadow to be cast over the annual Future Investment Initiative (FII), which was hit by a Western boycott over the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and by the pandemic in 2020, leaving it a far cry from the 2017 inaugural event that Riyadh billed as "Davos in the Desert". FII recovered in 2019 after the uproar over Khashoggi's killing by Saudi agents, drawing big names from financial, defence and energy firms with strategic interests in the world's top oil exporter, but garnered relatively meagre foreign inflows. More than 400 US delegates are expected to attend this week, Richard Attias, CEO of the FII Institute, told Reuters, adding this was the largest representation of a foreign country. This year's edition, running October 25-27, includes JPMorgan boss Jamie Dimon, Pimco Vice Chairman John Studzinski and a BNY Mellon executive as speakers, and they still plan to go, spokespeople for the companies told.

**Sunak enters race to replace Truss as UK PM**

Political website Guido Fawkes, which is running a rolling spreadsheet of Conservative MPs' declared support, showed Sunak with the support of 140 legislators, Johnson with 75 and Mordaunt with 27

DNA

LONDON: Rishi Sunak has confirmed he will join the contest to replace Liz Truss as British prime minister and Conservative Party leader after economic turmoil forced Truss to resign after serving just 44 days in office. "The United Kingdom is a great country but we face a profound economic crisis. That's why I am standing to be Leader of the Conservative Party and your next Prime Minister," the former finance minister said in a statement published on Sunday, setting up a potentially bruising battle with his former boss Boris Johnson. "I want to fix our economy, unite our Party and deliver for our country," he said a day after he had

amassed enough support to stand for the contest. Truss became the shortest-serving prime minister in the UK's history after she resigned on Thursday following her disastrous tax cuts plans and policy U-turns plunged the markets into chaos, with the pound plunging to its lowest value. The unprecedented economic crisis drew a rare intervention from the Bank of England. The market turmoil forced Truss to sack her then-Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng and replace him with Jeremy Hunt who swiftly scrapped all of Kwarteng's economic agenda. Reports suggest that Johnson may also run to become prime minister, but he has not officially declared it. He reportedly held talks late on Saturday with Sunak, ac-



cording to British media, shortly after cutting a Caribbean holiday short and returning to London. The only other leader to have formally declared her candidacy is Penny Mordaunt, leader of the House of Commons and former defence minister. It would be her second contest for the party's leadership after she lost out to Truss. To enter the Conservative party leadership race, each potential candidate needs to secure the support of at least 100 Conservative MPs before 13:00 GMT on Monday. Political website Guido Fawkes, which is running a rolling spreadsheet of Conservative MPs' declared support, showed Sunak with the support of 140 legislators, Johnson with 75 and Mordaunt with 27.

Under the rules, only three candidates will be able to reach the first ballot on Monday afternoon, with the final two put to a vote on Friday, which is limited to about 170,000 signed-up members of the Conservative Party. Johnson's allies say he is "up for it" but many in the deeply divided Conservative Party do not want the 58-year-old Brexit architect back after they saw off four prime ministers in six years. Johnson had left Downing Street shrouded in scandal following a government revolt over a slew of crises. He is currently under investigation by parliament's Privileges Committee over whether he knowingly misled parliament over breaching lockdown rules. Ministers found to have knowingly misled parliament are expected to resign.