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Rishi Sunak to become next British Prime Minister

Detailed News On Page-01

Russia spy chief blames West for nuclear tension

Detailed News On Page-08



Kaira urges consultative approach

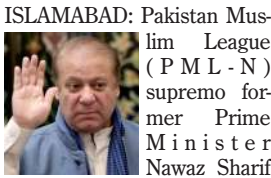
Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Nawaz celebrates Diwali

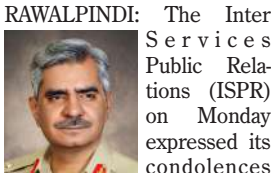
APP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (P M L - N) supremo former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday greeted Hindu Community in Pakistan and around the world on the occasion of Diwali. Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz also participated in a cake-cutting ceremony regarding Diwali in his London office along with party member of the National Assembly Darshan Lal. On the occasion, Nawaz Sharif cut the Diwali cake along with MNA Darshan Lal and expressed best wishes for the Hindu community, and prayed for the day to bring peace.

ISPR condoles death of journalist

DNA



RAWALPINDI: The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday expressed its condolences on the sudden death of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya. A statement issued on Monday said: "May Allah exalt the ranks of Arshad Sharif in the Hereafter and grant patience to the family of Arshad Sharif in this hour of sorrow." Senior journalist and anchorperson Arshad Sharif was shot dead by the police Sunday night in a "mistaken identity" case while travelling to Nairobi from the country's Magadi town, reported Kenyan newspaper The Star citing law enforcement officials.

Journalist's death 'tragic'

DNA



UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Monday called for a thorough investigation of the circumstances in which senior Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif was shot and killed in Kenya. "I saw the tragic reports about the incident," UN Secretary-General's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Toshakhana verdict IHC rejects plea to halt ECP order

Observes no bar on Imran to contest in by-elections; says ECP verdict only confined to his Mianwali seat

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday rejected Imran Khan's request to suspend the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) order instantly in the Toshakhana reference. On Friday, ECP disqualified the former premier in the Toshakhana reference, stating he had committed corrupt practices by making "false statements and submitting incorrect declaration". The PTI chairman, then approached IHC, against the decision. However, the registrar had raised objections to the petition. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case today and at the outset of the hearing, asked about the objections to the petition. He was informed by Khan's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar that one objection was on the biometric verification and the other that a certified copy of the ECP's decision was not attached to the plea. On the second point, Zafar told the court that the ECP is yet to issue its detailed verdict, adding that they had only received two pages of the order. "What is the rush in the case," asked IHC CJ at this point. Zafar told the court that his client has to contest elections in the coming days, adding that the ECP has also ordered that the PTI chief be prosecuted for corrupt practices.

Continued on Page 06

ECP issues detailed judgment in Toshakhana

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday issued its detailed judgment in Toshakhana reference that led to the disqualification of PTI Chairman Imran Khan. The detailed order carrying the signatures of all five members of the bench comes after PTI had raised objections over the delay in its release. The ECP's five-member bench headed by the Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja unanimously ruled against the former prime minister. "As per the statement of Imran Khan, he had purchased the gifts from Toshakhana paying Rs 21.564 million while the Cabinet Division has declared that the gifts had a value of Rs 107.943 million," according to ECP judgment. The commission, in its judgment, stated that the PTI chief was no more a member of the National Assembly and deemed his response "not correct".

Continued on Page 06

Russia could plan 'dirty bomb'

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Western countries accused Russia on Monday of plotting to use a threat of a bomb laced with nuclear material as a pretext for escalation in Ukraine, as Moscow evacuated civilians from a southern city in anticipation of a major battle. With Ukrainian forces advancing into Russian-occupied Kherson province, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu phoned Western counterparts on Sunday to tell them Moscow suspected Kyiv of planning to use a so-called "dirty bomb". In a joint statement, the foreign ministers of France, Britain and the United States said they had all rejected the allegations and reaffirmed their support for Ukraine against Russia. "Our countries made clear that we all reject Russia's transparently false allegations that Ukraine is preparing to use a dirty bomb on its own territory," they said. "The world would see through any attempt to use this allegation as a pretext for escalation." In an overnight address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the Russian accusation was a sign Moscow was planning such an attack itself and would blame Ukraine. "If Russia calls and says that Ukraine is allegedly preparing something, it means one thing: Russia has already prepared all this,"

Zelenskiy said. "So when today the Russian Minister of Defence organises a phone carousel and calls foreign ministers with stories about the so-called 'dirty' nuclear bomb, everyone understands everything well. Understands who is the source of everything dirty that can be imagined in this war." Asked about the fact that others did not seem to believe Russian's accusations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a briefing on Monday: "Their disbelief doesn't mean there's no threat ... The threat is evident." The Kremlin said on Monday that France and Germany were showing "no desire" to participate in mediation on the conflict and praised Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's offer to organise talks. Turkey helped broker the deal that allowed grain exports to resume under the UN's aegis in July, and also played a role in a prisoner swap in September, one of the largest exchanges. Yet French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday said Ukrainians will decide when peace is possible. He supported Western backing for Kyiv "so that at some point the Ukrainian people can choose peace... in the terms they will have decided". Since the beginning of the conflict in February, Macron has differed from other Western leaders in pushing to keep talks open with Putin.



RİYADH: Governor Riyadh Prince Faisal Bin Bandar Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. – DNA

PM in Riyadh to attend Summit

RİYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday arrived here on a two-day visit, mainly to attend the Future Investment Initiative Summit being held from October 25-27. The prime minister is visiting the Kingdom at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman bin Abdulaziz. At the airport, Governor of Riyadh Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud received the prime minister who was accompanied by a delegation comprising the federal ministers. During his stay in Riyadh, the prime minister will hold consultations with the Saudi crown prince to review the longstanding fraternal relations, with a view to further strengthening the multifaceted cooperation, especially in the economic field, according to the Foreign Office. – APP

JCP proposes three names for SC

IHC CJ Athar Minallah also included



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Monday approved three names of high court judges for the judgeship of the Supreme Court. The commission's meeting

Continued on Page 06

Rishi to become next British PM

Rishi Sunak, one of the wealthiest politicians in Westminster, will be asked to form a govt by King Charles

DNA

LONDON: Rishi Sunak will become British prime minister on Monday after other candidates quit the race to lead the Conservative Party, leaving him with the task of steering a deeply divided country through an economic downturn set to leave millions of people poorer. Sunak, one of the wealthiest politicians in Westminster, will be asked to form a government by King Charles, replacing Liz Truss, the outgoing leader who only lasted 44 days in the job. He defeated centrist politician Penny Mordaunt, who failed to get enough backing from lawmakers to enter the ballot, while his rival, the former prime minister Boris Johnson, withdrew from the contest saying he could no longer unite the party. "This decision is a historic one and shows, once again, the diversity and talent of our party. Rishi has my full support," Mordaunt said in a statement as she withdrew from

Continued on Page 06

Istanbul Declaration calls for fighting disinformation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Declaration adopted by the 12th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers has stressed on the importance of cooperation among the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states in developing necessary mechanisms to fight disinformation and other related challenges of the post-truth era. The information ministers of the OIC member states, including Pakistan's Mariyum Aurangzeb, participated in a conference titled "Combating Disinformation and Islamophobia in the Post-Truth Era" held in Istanbul, Türkiye on Saturday. According to a statement issued by the OIC Secretariat, the declaration underlined the

need for devising short, medium and long-term strategic processes in the overall fight against disinformation. It noted that the conference recognised the importance of focusing on specific issues and possible scenarios in the short term. The declaration further read that participants were aware of the crisis communication and management and mechanisms to check the accuracy of the information in the medium term. It added that the conference recognised



Continued on Page 06

Journalist Arshad Sharif murdered in Kenya

According to Kenyan authorities; Sharif was shot by police after he and his driver allegedly breached a roadblock



NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Journalist Arshad Sharif died in Kenya reportedly after being shot, his wife Javeria Siddique confirmed early on Monday morning. "I lost friend, husband and my favourite journalist [Arshad Sharif] today, as per police he was shot in Kenya," she tweeted. Confirming the journalist's demise, the Foreign Office said Pakistan's high commission-

President, PM, lawmakers express condolences

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed profound shock and grief over the death of senior journalist Arshad Sharif. The president termed the death of Arshad Sharif a "great loss to journalism and Pakistan". He prayed that may the soul of Arshad Sharif rest in peace and may his family, which includes his followers, have the strength to bear this loss. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep grief over the death of Arshad Sharif. "I am deeply saddened by the shocking news of journalist

Continued on Page 06

Sharif paid price for speaking truth: Imran

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan expressed his grief over the brutal murder of a known anchor person Arshad Sharif, who he paid the ultimate price for speaking the truth, demanding judicial inquiry into the tragic incident. In a statement on Monday, PTI Chairman said that he was shocked by the brutal murder of Arshad who had to leave the country and hide abroad. "My prayers and condolences go to his grief stricken family," he added. He said that Arshad had to leave the country but continued to speak the truth

Continued on Page 06

Govt in contact with Kenyan authorities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan is actively engaged with the Kenyan authorities at multiple levels for speedy repatriation of the mortal remains of Mr. Arshad Sharif. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has spoken to H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya, to request early completion of formalities and repatriation of the mortal remains. The Kenyan President conveyed deepest condolences on the tragic incident, and assured complete investigations and repatriation of the body at the earliest. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Pakistan

Continued on Page 06

er to Kenya, along with other officials, reached Chiromo Funeral House in Nairobi where she identified Sharif's body. "Further procedures including police report are awaited," the statement said. The high commission would facilitate early return of Sharif's body to Pakistan, the Foreign Office said, adding that the journalist's family had been assured of all possible assistance. Mystery surrounds the circumstances that led to the journalist's death. Some Pakistani media outlets initially reported Sharif had been shot at but then said he died in an accident. Sharif's wife later tweeted he had been shot dead. Initially, Kenyan media quoted the local police as saying Sharif was shot dead by police in a case of "mistaken identity". It said the incident took place on Sunday night along the Nairobi-Magadi highway. A statement released by the National Police Service of Kenya later confirmed that the incident occurred last night along the Kwenia farm/Kamukuru Marram road within Magadi,

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

MoU signed for restoration of sukkur barrage – Page 02

Alvi for addressing underlying reasons for Islamophobia in world – Page 03

Niaz launched to transform lives of persons with disabilities – Page 04

General election essential in UK – Page 05

Barcelona destroy returning Valverde's Athletic Bilbao – Page 06

Private sector, govt must work together: Ahsan Iqbal – Page 07

Myanmar military air raid kills 60 in Kachin state – Page 08

MoU signed for restoration of Sukkur barrage

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Project Management Office (PMO) Sindh Barrages Improvement Project (SBIP) Irrigation department, Government of Sindh has signed contract agreement for Rehabilitation and Modernization of Sukkur Barrage, Restoration and Upgradation of Sukkur Barrage.

SBIP-S1 Package contract on 24 Oct 2022, at PMO-SBIP office Karachi with China Road & Bridge Corporation – Hubei Shuizong Water Resources and Hydropower Construction Co. Ltd. held Joint Venture- CRBC-HBSZ (JV). The worth of the accepted contract is Rs. 17.07 billion which includes the rehabilitation of structure and repairs in stone masonry of superstructure and RCC arches, replacement of main barrage gates and hoisting system to work without counterweights, RCC Jacking of piers in Canal Head Regulators and foundation overlay concrete, temporary river training works/ coffer

dams for isolation of a group of spans for foundation physical inspection/ repairs, and testing for weakness, scour protection works at barrage and off taking canals, replacement of all gates in canal head regulators, replacement of gate lifting motors/ electrical system for all barrage and canal head regulator gates, installation of new 11/0.4 kV transformers and standby generators, instrumentation and monitoring system with automatic data acquisition system, CCTV and telecommunication system, construction of new buildings, laboratories, workshop and offices renovation with matching of monumental and aesthetic architectural aspects. Project Director, PMO-SBIP, Ghulam Muhiuddin Mughal and Mr. Lyu Ming, Authorized representative of the JV signed the agreement on behalf of Sindh Irrigation Department and the JV respectively. The contract signing ceremony was witnessed by Procurement Director SBIP Abdur Razaq Memon, and Xiao Zhangang, Technical Officer SBIP Imran Aziz Tunio,

Finance Manager SBIP Abdul Ghafoor Chandio, Deputy Project Director SBIP Sajid Bhutto, Assistant Director Procurement SBIP Faraz Noonari, Assistant Engineer Farhana Shams, Nazir Lashari, Sharyar and Khadim Sufi of Mott MacDonald consultant, and contractor representative were also present on the occasion.

Addressing to the ceremony, Ghulam Muhiuddin Mughal PD PMO SBIPs congratulated the Consultant of the project Mott MacDonald Ltd. UK based company, PMO-SBIP team and contractor CRBC-HBSZ (JV), said that today's event is a good sign for the restoration and Up-gradation of the much-needed barrage in Sindh. He added that Sukkur Barrage is a remarkable project to ensure water, agriculture and flood protection in Sindh. Speaking on the occasion, Director Procurement Abdur Razaq Memon said that PMO-SBIP has already awarded contract SBIP/SC-01 of Rs. 95.00 million, for consulting services of the project to Mott MacDonald Ltd. and associated with MM Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd. The consultancy agreement includes project implementation, construction supervision, contract management, administration, and support in implementation of environmental and social management plan, project management support, and role as Engineer he said. Speaking on the occasion, Technical Officer PMO-SBIP Imran Aziz Tunio said the SBIP is a vital project for Sindh and would help address the issue of sedimentation and irrigation water regulation to the Sindh and economic hub of Pakistan. He said that upgradation of Sukkur Barrage will commence in a few weeks. Tunio expressed the hope that the project would be completed within the timeline to ensure its benefits to the people at the earliest.



Inequalities must be eliminated

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Monday said that inequalities must be eliminated to achieve the sustainable development goals as modern societies were thriving with modern economy. He made these remarks, while addressing at a 'Grand National Dialogue on Socioeconomic Development to Mitigate Disparities' organized by the Center of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR) and the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here. Prominent economists, ex-Ambassadors and people from different walks of life participated in this dialogue. Speaking at the occasion, the minister said that dialogue on social and economic development on the part of COPAIR and IPRI was very important. The main key to development

in the 21st century was knowledge, said the minister, while emphasizing the importance of digital modern tools. It is a challenge for governments to give digital knowledge to every section of the society, with the digital economy they have to work on poverty, health and other sectors, he said while highlighting the positive impact of digital knowledge. He minister informed the participants that in 2010 his government had started a laptop scheme through PSDP which helped millions of students to get themselves empowered with the digital economy.

Dr. Amina Munawar Awan, President of COPAIR, highlighted the Center of Pakistan and International Relations regarding the goals of sustainable development. She said that COPAIR would also formulate its recommendations regarding sustainable development goals and socio-economic reforms. Due to the fact that many people in Pakistan were devastated, she said that there was a need to set new goals for social and economic development in the country. Chairman COPAIR and former Ambassador Khalid said that there was a need to set new goals for social and economic development in the country. – APP

Traders delegation calls on Governor Punjab

LAHORE: A Pakistan Textile Traders Association delegation led by Chairman Adnan Umar Saigal called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed various matters during a meeting at the Governor's House, here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said Pakistan is currently passing through a difficult phase in terms of economic development, and the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is determined to strengthen Pakistan economically. He said the PML-N and the coalition parties accepted the responsibility of the government in difficult situation, adding that that they were well aware that this decision might cost them politically, but at that time they preferred to save the country at the cost of politics and decided to save the country and steer it out of crisis. He said the situation is gradually improving, adding that with political stability in the country, the economy of the country is also improving. The Governor Punjab said things have started to improve and the entire team under the leadership of the Prime Minister is working hard. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said it is a positive development that Pakistan's name has been removed from FATF's grey list, it will not only strengthen the country's economy, but also increase textile exports. – APP

Pak, Turkey to increase coop in housing sector

ISLAMABAD :The brotherly nations of Pakistan, and Turkey on Monday agreed to increase cooperation in various sectors, especially in low-cost housing.

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works Iftikhar Ali Shallwani in a meeting with Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Paçaci discussed matters of mutual interest. Both sides vowed to implement the accords signed between the two brotherly states. Welcoming the newly appointed ambassador, the secretary of housing expressed his best wishes for his future endeavors. Shallwani extended his support to the ambassador in all relevant matters. He reiterated that Pakistan and Turkey enjoy cordial fraternal ties and mutually beneficial bilateral relations. This very relationship is based on common faith,

values, culture, civilization linkages, history, and mutual trust, said Shallwani. He underscored that Pakistan immensely values its ties with Turkey. The ambassador expressed similar thoughts for further promoting ties between both the brotherly countries in all domains of mutual interest, particularly in the housing and manufacturing sectors. The federal secretary extended a cordial invitation to Mehmet Paçaci to attend the upcoming first International Housing Expo-2022. The envoy supported and expressed his country's participation in the event and said it will bring mutual dividends to both friendly countries. Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority Chairman, Lieutenant General Anwar Ali Hyder was also present on the occasion. – DNA

FPCCI, UN to collaborate for SDGs

KARACHI: President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Irfan Iqbal Sheikh welcomed the steps taken by the United Nations in Pakistan to promote sustainable, inclusive and socially responsible business growth and practices. On the occasion of FPCCI and UN's consultative session on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the potential of sustained collaboration, the President FPCCI also expressed his desire to collaborate with the UN from the platform of the chamber on behalf of the entire trade and industry community of Pakistan, said a statement issued here on Monday. He said FPCCI was in a unique position to create awareness in all sectors of the economy on SDGs, climate change, gender equality and social justice. The high-profile event was attended by UN officials from its various organs namely United Nations Resident Coordinator Office, UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Development Program, UN International Children's Education Fund, Food and Agricultural Organization, World Food Program and Global Compact from Pakistan, Bangladesh and USA. SVP FPCCI Suleman Chawla informed that FPCCI had functional and representative standing committees in place on various socioeconomic sectors of the economy. It could fully support the UN's Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Pakistan for the period of 2023 – 27. – APP



KARACHI: Ambassador of Argentina in a meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Tesori. – DNA

PFUI-Workers condole over Arshad Sharif death

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists-Workers (PFUI-Workers) expresses deep sense of sorrow and concern on the mysterious killing of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya. Arshad was killed by police firing in Nairobi night between Sunday and Monday. The president Shamim Shahid, Secretary General Raja Riaz, members FEC and office bearers of affiliated units said the killing of Arshad Sharif has shrouds mystery and prevailed a sense of fear among the Journalist community as he was a descending voice and critical to regime. His murder has raised many questions.

Argentine Ambassador calls on Governor Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: Ambassador of Argentina Leopoldo Francisco Sahores met Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Monday. Deputy Head of Mission Camilo Ernesto Silberkasten was also present on the occasion. The governor said that Pakistan-Arentina bilateral relations span over many decades and we are keen to increase exports to Argentina while promoting trade and exchange of delegations. He further said that investment from Argentina will prove to be important in bilateral relations. The Ambassador of Argentina said that Argentina is willing to invest in various sectors and measures are being tak-

en for the stability of bilateral relations. Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday met with Argentinian and Swiss ambassadors, who called on him here at the CM House. They discussed the flood situation and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The chief minister and Argentinian Ambassador Leopoldo Francisco Sahores, apart from the flood situation, discussed the purchase of plastic bags for storing wheat and other grain, said a statement issued here. Argentina has the technology to manufacture plastic bags used to store grains. The plastic bags are medicated, therefore protect the grain from getting moistured and infested with we-

vils, the statement reads. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that his government procured 1.5 million tons of wheat every year, therefore his government wanted to purchase such bags. He directed his Special Assistant Syed Qasim Naveed to discuss the matter with Food Minister Mukesh Chawla and then negotiate with Argentina to purchase the bags. The chief minister of Sindh in his meeting with Swiss Ambassador Georg Steiner, discussed the investment opportunities in different sectors, including water, agriculture and energy in Sindh. Murad and the ambassador agreed to hold more meetings through the provincial investment department and commercial attaché.

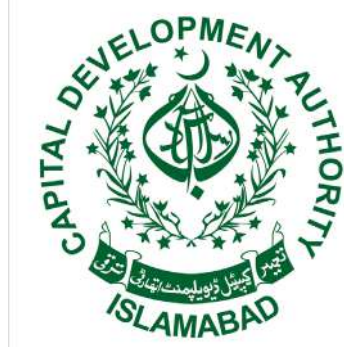
All out effort being made to resolve citizens' problems

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Usman Younis has said that all out effort is being made to resolve the problems of the citizens, especially the land affectees of Islamabad. For the purpose, the CDA chairman said, concrete steps had been taken which would help resolve the problems of the affectees more effectively, according to a press release issued here. He 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 doorstep.

The CDA chief along with the officers of the departments concerned visited various areas, including Chak Mojohan, Dakhli Kuri, Sheikhpur and Sarai-e Kharboza, in E-12 and other sectors. Moreover, on special instruc-

tions of the CDA chairman, Member Estate, Deputy DG Land and Director Land are visiting various areas on a weekly basis to listen to the problems of the affectees, the press release says. Immediate steps are being taken to solve their problems on



the spot. Usman has directed that any negligence or incompetence in this regard will not be tolerated, it further mentions. Similarly, on the instruc-

tions of the CDA chief, camps were also established in different areas for addressing problems of the affectees, including name correction, correction in records and to resolve other issues, it said.

According to the details, a comprehensive plan has been devised to resolve the longstanding problems of affectees after reaching out to them. Under the 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 has been 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 have not yet been announced. The rehabilitation benefits will be released phase-wise so that the problems of the affectees of Islamabad could be resolved and the development works in the relevant sectors can be accelerated.

Trade ties key component of Pak-EU multifaceted relations

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce and Investment, Syed Naveed Qamar met the Chair of the European Parliament's committee for International Trade (INTA), MEP Bernd Lange in Brussels, Belgium on Monday. Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and other officials were also present during the meeting. The Commerce Minister underscored that trade and investment ties were a key component of Pakistan's multifaceted relationship with the EU. The Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Plus has been a mutually beneficial undertaking that played an important part in the growth of Pakistan's bilateral trade with the EU countries, he added. According to a press release issued by Pakistan Embassy in Brussels, the Minister highlighted that economic stabilization and growth were the key priorities of the current government particularly in the aftermath of the devastating floods and the EU remains a major partner for Pakistan to realize these objectives. Naveed Qamar emphasized that the GSP Plus was an excellent model for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides, as Pakistan's export to the EU has increased by

86 percent whereas the EU's exports to Pakistan grew by 69 percent, since inception of the scheme in 2014. He expressed the hope that the new GSP Plus regulation would continue to focus on its central tenets of supporting sustainable development, poverty alleviation and good governance in the beneficiary countries. The Chair INTA Committee MEP Lange thanked the Commerce Minister and agreed to work together in further strengthening Pakistan-EU relations, including enhanced exchanges. During his meeting with European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr Janusz Wojciechowski, the Minister for Commerce and Investment stressed the importance of enhancing Pakistan-EU cooperation in agriculture sector especially for modernization of agro-based industries, expansion of storage facilities, research, water management, food security and flood protection. In a separate interaction, Naveed Qamar met the Standing Rapporteur of Trade Monitoring Group for South Asia in the Committee on International Trade, MEP Maximilian Krah and briefed the MEP about ways and means to further strengthen Pak EU trade and investment relations. The minister is visiting Brussels on a weeklong official visit from October 23 to 29. – APP

Imran wants NRO in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan wanted a National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) like concession in the Toshakhana through blacking tactics.

"The PTI chief has been threatening to hold a long-march whose sole purpose is to get his disqualification reversed in the Toshakhana case," he said while addressing a news conference. He demanded the initiation of criminal proceedings against Imran Khan in line with the verdict of the Election Commission of Pakistan in the Toshakhana case. The minister said Imran Khan had committed the "worst-ever crime" by concealing and selling the gifts he received during his visits to foreign countries as Prime Minister of Pakistan. He alleged that Imran Khan received several gifts during his visits but did not declare them. However, selling those gifts was tantamount to a bigger crime than



that, usadik said Imran Khan did not submit any bank statement of the money he earned after selling those gifts. He recalled that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Shraif was disqualified for not taking a salary from his son. On the contrary, Imran Khan had been dis-

qualified over corrupt practices.

The minister said a small number of people were out on the roads to protest the ECP decision despite the PTI ruling in the two provinces. As regards the availability of gas during the current winter, Musadik assured that the gas availability during this winter season would be better as compared to the previous year. He said the government was making all-out efforts in this regard. The minister said that the government had arranged two additional cargoes of LNG- one each in January and February—that would help better manage energy shortage in the coming winter peak with the support of additional imports of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). He said the Prime Minister had also directed to arrange more LNG cargoes to provide maximum relief to the consumers. Musadik said Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, Sui Southern Gas Company Limited, PARCO and PSO had also been directed in that regard. – APP

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow we announce the sad demise of our dear and beloved

Asim Qadir Haye

S/o Mr. & Mrs. Abdul Qadir Haye, Former IGP Islamabad and Balochistan in Islamabad on 24 October, 2022.

Please recite Fateha and pray for his maghfirat. May Allah bless him with Jannat-ul-Firdous, Aameen. Namaz e Janaza will be held at H-8 graveyard on Tuesday, 25 October, 2022 at 4:00 pm.

Bereaved

Dr. Mohammad Ali Haye and Dr. Sehar Azeem Qadir Haye and Fatima Asma Sanauallah Asim (wife) Sabrina Qadir
Phone: 0321-5000160, 0300-8544542

اللَّهُمَّ اِنَّا اِلَيْكَ رَاْجِعُونَ

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
Emergency	
Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20
Enquiry	
Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092
Hospitals	
CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	561116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666
Departments	
CDA.....	9221334-43
CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343
Water Tank	
Islamabad.....	0321-5744480

Alvi for addressing underlying reasons for Islamophobia in world

President also asked the ambassador-designate to work for enhancing trade among the member countries of OIC

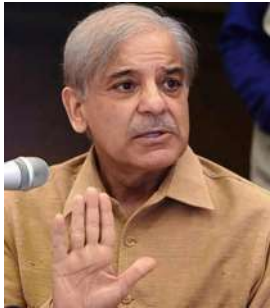


DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the need to identify and collectively address the underlying reasons for the rising incidents of Islamophobia across the globe through the forum the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), adding that OIC was the collective voice of the Muslim Ummah. The President expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador/Permanent Representative-designate to OIC Jeddah, Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Talking to the Ambassador-designate, the President said that OIC should take effective steps for the protection of the fundamental human rights of Muslim minorities across the globe. He further said that the world should take notice of rising incidents of violence against minorities, especially Muslims, in India. He said that Indian Hindutva ideology should be discouraged worldwide. He expressed his hope that all the brotherly Muslim member states of OIC would be able to make a positive development toward the resolution of the Kashmir issue and address the plight of the people of the Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The President expressed his concern over Israel's violence and illegal actions against innocent Palestinians, adding that such actions were against humanitarian norms, human rights and International Law. He said that there could not be permanent peace in the Middle East unless the issue of Palestine was resolved. The President said that Pakistan was working for the promotion of science and technological cooperation among OIC countries through the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COM-STECH). "Pakistan can offer online education and IT skills to member countries through Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Virtual University (VU)'s educational modules", he added. He said that almost 8,000 foreign students were benefiting from VU and this number could be increased with further collaboration with Islamic countries in the education sector. The President also asked the ambassador-designate to work for enhancing trade among the member countries of OIC.

ADB's \$1.5b BRACE Program to help flood victims: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Asian Development Bank's "Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditure" (BRACE) Program would go a long way to improve Pakistan's financial position and help flood victims, besides building the resilience and infrastructure. The prime minister, addressing the signing ceremony of \$1.5 billion program here, thanked the ADB for extending timely support to Pakistan at a "critical time." He said the ADB had always been a great partner and recalled the institution's support for the solarisation of schools and other projects during his stint as the chief minister of Punjab. The prime minister also expressed gratitude to the ADB President for "gracious support" to Pakistan which was aimed at providing social protection, promote food security, and support employment for its people amid devastating floods and global supply chain disruptions. In his remarks, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar recalling his "fruitful" meeting with the ADB president in Washington, said the organization had always supported Pakistan in a pragmatic way and also thanked the Bank's vice president for the timely support. He said the incumbent government was struggling to deal with the economic challenges inherited from the previous government. He said the floods had inflicted the loss of around \$32.4 billion loss to the country and reiterated the government's resolve to bring the country to the normalcy. According to ADB



statement, the \$1.5 billion countercyclical support is part of a significant response package to support people, livelihoods, and infrastructure in Pakistan in the wake of the recent floods which have affected over 33 million people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and agriculture. It will also help to expand the number of families receiving cash transfers from 7.9 million to 9 million, increase the number of children enrolled in primary and secondary schools, and enhance geographic coverage of health services and nutritional supplies for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 2 years old.—APP

Marriyum visits Arshad Sharif's residence

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday visited the residence of deceased journalist Arshad Sharif, to condole the tragic death with his mother. She sympathized with the widow, children and other family members of Arshad Sharif. Speaking on the occasion, she said government was taking all possible measures to promptly repatriate the dead body of deceased journalist. She said the dead body would be repatriated as soon as possible. She urged media to not to speculate over the tragic death, adding specific details of tragic incident would be shared with media immediately after receiving from Kenyan authorities. She said Pakistan high commissioner in Kenya was in contact with Kenyan authorities, adding the envoy had solicited services of a lawyer for fulfilling legal requirements. She said Prime Minister was grieved over the untimely death and he, in a telephonic conversation with mother of Arshad, condole the tragic death. The mother of Arshad Sharif had asked the prime minister to ensure early repatriation of Arshad Sharif's body from Kenya, she added. She said Prime Minister assured of completing arrangements on war footing basis adding the government was in contact with Kenyan authorities in this regard. The minister said that the mother of Arshad had informed that the prime minister also visited their residence on sad demise of Arshad's younger brother some years back.—APP

Int'l conference on Interfaith relations begins at AIOU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A three-day international conference on "Interfaith Relations: Challenges and Prospects" started yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad. The inaugural session was presided by Vice Chancellor, AIOU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum while Dr. Alexandre PAPAS, Director at CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research), Paris was the keynote speaker. Dr. Tryna Lyons from The University of Arizona Global Campus, USA, Prof. Dr. Abu Sufyan Islahi, Department of Arabic, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India, and Dr. Herman Roborgh from Minhaj University were among other guests. This conference is being organized by Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, AIOU and the Higher Education Commission (HEC). Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Muhyiddin Hashmi, Chairman, Department of Interfaith Studies, Prof. Dr. Ghulam Shamas ur Rehman and Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Sajjad are the organizers of this conference. The three-day conference will have 5 sessions in which discussions will be held on the topics of interfaith and social diversity, minority rights and environment, interfaith harmony and dialogue, religious interpretations and extremism, religion, peace, violence, and interfaith studies. Prof. Dr. Alexandre Papas said in his address that Sufism is the best way to progress toward peaceful coexistence among interfaith harmony. He said that Sufis have given peace, harmony, and tolerance to society. He said that peace and harmony can be nurtured by the promotion of Sufism in the present era and the goal of human welfare can also be achieved. Other speakers emphasized the need for joint efforts to promote religious harmony and peace. They expressed their determination that people of different religions will make the world a place of peace and human dignity. They said that inter-religious discourse is needed to establish an atmosphere of harmony and peace in the world, and we have to play our part to create harmony among all the countries of the world and all religions should come forward to play a role. They congratulated Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, and the organizers for holding the conference and termed it as good progress in terms of dialogue between different religions.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi addressing a ceremony in connection with the Lift Educational Programme for out of school children, organized by Lift Welfare Foundation, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. —DNA

UAE PAP administers over 647 million doses of polio vaccine

ISLAMABAD: The UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE PAP) has announced the results of the UAE Polio Vaccination Campaign carried out in Pakistan from 2014 to the end of September 2022, highlighting that the campaign succeeded in administering 647,758,365 doses of vaccination against polio in nine years in Pakistan. The move follows the directives of President UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the follow-up of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, to offer humanitarian and development aid to Pakistan, support its health sector and launch-related prevention programmes in the country. In 2014, the campaign targeted 3 million children, bringing the number to 17 million children per month during 2022. Since 2011, Sheikh Mohamed donated US \$376 million to humanitarian and charity efforts aimed at providing vaccines and financing polio eradication campaigns, most notably in countries targeted by his initiative, which are Pakistan and Afghanistan. During the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, the UAE Polio Vaccination Campaign managed to provide 192,181,646 doses of the vaccine from July 2020 until September 2022. The campaign's geographical coverage comprised 85 difficult to reach high-risk areas in Pakistan, and its scope included 35 areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, where local children received 326,953,462 doses of the vaccine, as well as 33 areas of Balochistan Province where children received 94,850,025 doses of the vaccine, 14 areas of Sindh Province where children received 192,241,029 doses.—APP

Sherry felicitates Hindu community on Diwali

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday felicitated the Hindu Community in the country on their religious festival of Diwali. In a message shared by the minister on her Twitter handle, she said, "Happy Diwali to the Hindu community across the country. Diwali is a festival of love, light and prosperity. We should share each other's happiness and share love. May the candles of love, tolerance and prosperity burn forever." The tweet was followed by the hashtag #HappyDiwali. Diwali has a unique importance in the sub-continent and the world over as a religious festival of lights. The festivity marks the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and the human ability to overcome. The festival all over the world is celebrated by the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and others as a holiday. The word Diwali has been derived from the Sanskrit word deepavali, meaning "rows of lighted lamps." It is linked to Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, prosperity and good fortune and is celebrated for five days.—APP

5338 mln tons wheat confiscated, 274 arrested since Aug

WAH CANTT: Around 5,338 metric tons of wheat and wheat products were confiscated, 274 bids to smuggle the commodity were foiled and as many accused were arrested, since August. This was stated by District Food Controller Rawalpindi Sufian Asif Awan on Monday while briefing media persons at Sangiani toll plaza on the preparations of the Food Department to curb smuggling of wheat. The figures shared by the Food Department cover the period from August 1 to October 23. Sufian said that the accused tried to smuggle wheat and flour using different vehicles, including 32 wheeler trucks and mini trucks. They were trying to smuggle the same from various parts of the Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that seven check posts were established at various points of the district to prevent wheat smuggling, adding that the attempts to illegally transport the commodity were foiled at designated and non-designated routes, especially the Islamabad- Peshawar Motorway (M-1), Rawalpindi- Peshawar GT Road and the link routes, particularly Taxila-Khanpur road and Taxila-Hattar road.—APP

Underage drivers cause fatal road accidents: CTO

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a comprehensive campaign against the juvenile drivers in the city. In a statement issued here on Monday, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Naveed Irshad said strict action will be taken against juvenile drivers and added that their vehicles, rickshaw, Chingchi will also be impounded without any discrimination. He said that many incidents took place due to the driving of under age who are not aware of traffic rules and regulations. Apparently juveniles drive rashly which put the others' life in danger, he added. The CTO said that directions had been passed on to the sector in-charges and traffic wardens that under age drivers should not be given any concession and confiscate vehicles beside imposing fine. He said it is the prime duty of their parents not to hand over vehicles to juveniles until they get license. He urged the citizens to cooperate with the traffic police so that the precious lives could be saved.—APP

Briefs

Umrah insurance mandatory for overseas pilgrims

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has said that overseas pilgrims arriving in the kingdom to undertake umrah or lesser pilgrimage must have a medical insurance document securing the holder benefits of up to SR100,000. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah said the document is included in the visa fees and covers certain health cases, as there are emergency cases, COVID-19 infections, accidents, death, and cancellations or delays in departure flights. In recent months, Saudi Arabia has introduced a set of facilities for performing umrah in the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Mecca and visiting the Prophet Mohammed's Mosque in Medina, Okaz newspaper reported. The ministry clarified that the Umrah insurance policy is mandatory for pilgrims coming from outside Saudi Arabia, stressing that it is included in the visa fee, as it provides its holder with comprehensive coverage.—APP

Nationwide anti-polio campaign starts

ISLAMABAD: A week-long national anti-polio campaign to eradicate the disease from the country began here on Monday. During the campaign, anti-polio teams will pay special attention to the children living in flood-affected areas. According to details, millions of children up to the age of five would be given polio drops by health workers across the country as part of the door-to-door vaccination campaign. A week-long anti-polio campaign is being carried out in 14 districts of Punjab including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Mianwali, Khushab, Sialkot, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Layyah, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan, and Rajanpur, electronic channels reported. In Sindh, around 6.5 million children under five years of age will be given oral polio vaccine drops during the drive. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, a three-day anti-polio campaign will commence in 28 districts. In Balochistan, 1.7 million children up to the age of five years will be administered anti-polio drops during the campaign. Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel appealed to the parents to cooperate in making the country polio-free.—APP

Growth in edible oil, veg ghee production 6.4%

ISLAMABAD: The domestic production of edible oil and vegetable ghee during first two months of current financial year grew by 6.4 percent and 6.6 percent respectively as compared to the output of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-August 2022, over 81,897 metric tons of cooking oil domestically manufactured as against the manufacturing of 76,982 metric tons in same period last year, according to the quantum index of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) release by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The local output of edible oil recorded about 2.9 percent growth as about 39,845 metric tons of the above mentioned commodity manufactured in August, 2022 as against the output of 38,713 metric tons of same period last year. Meanwhile, local output of vegetable ghee recorded at 229,133 metric tons in two month of current fiscal year as compared the production of 214,950 metric tons of same period last year. In August, 2022, the local production of vegetable ghee was recorded at 110,061 metric tons as against the output of 109,334 metric tons last month last year. During last two months of current financial year tea blending witnessed 7.2 percent increase as 28,184 metric tons of tea blended locally as compared the blending of 26,227 metric tons of same period last year.—APP

Niaz launched to transform lives of persons with disabilities

The initiative also involves PWDs in its manufacturing process, hence providing employment opportunities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In Pakistan, persons with disabilities are often not visible in the community. A lack of understanding of their basic needs and accessibility have left PWDs somewhat shunned from the general public. According to World Health Organization (census 2017), estimated 30 million people are living with some form of disability in Pakistan. With this in mind, Founder Niaz, Hussain Odhwani developed an innovative social enterprise to increase the integration of disabled individuals into society through providing them customised wheelchair based on their body measurement and disability needs. The initiative also involves PWDs in its manufacturing process, hence providing employment opportunities. Niaz is unlike anything we have seen in past," says Hussain Odhwani, which is a platform to connect people with deserving persons with disabilities suffering from extreme poverty. "Given the lack of opportunities for people with disabilities in our community, we sought



to find a creative solution in form of a disability gift store and one that could also engage overseas Pakistanis. We will continue to research on disability needs to offer socially responsible gifts that can transform lives." "Many prominent individuals were enthusiastic about the initiative and have joined the network as Honorary Ambassadors from around the globe, particularly to be part of an innovative solution to address a pressing social issue," Hussain added. Niaz website has been officially launched, where gifter can select a person with disability from the verified list, order a customised wheelchair and get it delivered to the gift recipient. The gifter will also receive delivery confirmation in form of a video as a token of gratitude along with a quarterly impact report on how these gifts are transforming lives of PWDs. To find out more about Niaz, visit—www.niazsupport.org.

Quaid-i-Azam University digitizes 24,000 rare manuscripts

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) digitized over 24,000 dissertations and rare manuscripts that would be available online to researchers and readers around the world. Talking to APP Muhammad Anwar Ijaz, Chief Librarian of QAU said that the process of digitization was started with an existing photocopier but later Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) built an Incubation Center and Digitization Center at the

university for sharing Türkiye's entrepreneurial and innovation capacity. He said that digitization would not confine the knowledge sources and become online for everyone. "Availability of these sources will also help in reducing the plagiarism as the data which is not online can be reused without the permission of the author", he added. He highlighted that the cooperation of TIKA helped in finding local solutions to technological problems, and making good use of the existing in-

tellectual potential by putting the Incubation Center into service. He said over 10,000 books and over 400 historical and cultural works from the 18th and 20th centuries in several languages, especially in Arabic, English, and Sindhi, kept in the library of the university would be digitized. Talking to APP Muhammad Hamid, Assistant Librarian at QAU said that the process of digitization was started with the existing resources, and a photocopier was used to scan the documents and now the

modern fast scanner machine was available to them. He said Optical Character Recognition (OCR) was used to convert images into text with the help of free source software. "The size of scanned files has also been reduced without compromising the quality", he added. Muhammad Hamid also extended his cooperation and help to the librarians, universities and institutions that wanted to learn the digitization of books with their limited resources.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PAEI Khurshid Barlas along with delegation giving invitation of Pakistan Property Expo ambassador of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugio. — DNA

Int'l conference on 'Role of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem'

ISLAMABAD, Oct 24 (AP-P): International conference on "The Role of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus for a Climate Resilient Pakistan" commenced here Monday, aimed at identifying gaps in the water-related policy, procedures and practices and strengthening capacities for competing water requirements of multiple sectors. The three-day conference would also focus on improving water governance and strengthening water, food security and nature-based solutions. The conference is being organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in collaboration with ministries of planning and development, water resources etc in connection with Pakistan Water Week 2022. Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated the International Conference on Pakistan Water Week 2022. The conference began with experts focusing on a range of conservation measures, such as Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), improving water governance, Nature-based Solutions, strengthening water and food security, technological innovation, and greater awareness rais-

ing, for sustainable development in Pakistan. I strongly believe that owing to the recent extreme climatic events in Pakistan, the second Pakistan Water Week moot will help the organizers, line departments, and stakeholders in the formulation and shaping up of policies aiming at a climate resilient Pakistan", said the minister, while inaugurating the conference as a chief guest. First session was attended by Dr Rachael McDonnell, Deputy Director General, IWMI, IWMI Board Member, Simi Kamal, Dr Mohsin Hafeez, Country Representative, IWMI Pakistan and water and climate experts. The conference will continue till October 26 which includes an exhibition as well. "IWMI has great potential to lead us in achieving a water-secure Pakistan through sharing best scientific practices for the successful implementation of national policies on water, climate and food security", said the minister. The minister further said that there were clear opportunities to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on poor rural communities and IWMI could play a significant role in this transformational journey. "In the wake of the imminent water crisis and

prevailing climate change impacts, this international conference will lead to devise a workable, inclusive and comprehensive guidance for developing sustainable land and water solutions in the Indus Basin," remarked the minister. The minister added that for the country's water and food security, the construction of two mega storage dams i.e. Diamer Basha Dam and Mohmand Dam Hydropower project has been initiated. These together with other small dams would add 10 MAF storage by 2030. Similarly, he said that recently, Naulong Multipurpose Dam and Chashma Right Bank Canals have been approved by ECNEC which together would bring 333,000 acres of barren land under cultivation thus bringing socioeconomic uplift in the project areas. For the country's energy security, the government is striving hard to harness the identified environment-friendly hydropower potential of over 42,000 MW generation capacities available in the Upper Indus Basin, known as Indus Cascade, in a drop of more than 7,000 feet within a stretch of 500 km length, said the minister, while highlighting the initiatives taking by the government.—APP

Chairman Senate sees early resolution of Kashmir Issue

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani Monday said that people of Jammu and Kashmir would get their right to self determination soon for which they had been striving for past 75 years. In a message issued here the eve of 75th foundation day of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), he expressed complete solidarity with the people of illegally Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and said the people of Pakistan were supporting firmly Kashmiri brethren in struggle for their just cause. He said India had snatched autonomous status of the Jammu and Kashmir through an illegal move on August 5, 2019 to suppress the liberation struggle of the people but he said it would not be able to sustain its illegal occupation through such draconian laws and actions. He said innocent people of IIOJK had been subjugated with worse type of human rights violation besides denying their right to self determination pledged by the United Nations through its several resolutions and appealed the international community to take cognizance of human rights violations in IIOJK.—APP

23 NUST researchers ranked among Top 2% globally

ISLAMABAD: As many as 23 researchers from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) have risen to prominence this year by standing amongst the world's Top 2 percent research luminaries. Four of these have also been recognized for their career-long impact. NUST has consistently made headway in its Research and Development pursuits, bolstering its way to the top in Pakistan, and contributing towards nation building through transformative higher education. NUST is currently ranked #334 in the world, #74 in Asia and #1 in Pakistan, as per QS University Rankings 2023 and among top 200 universities of the world as per THE Impact Ranking 2022. The number of NUST researchers featuring among Top 2 percent of the world has steadily increased over the past three years. The data for ranking is published by Elsevier, a global leader in information and analytic business. The researchers are ranked

based on a composite index factoring in several bibliometrics, including citations, hirsch-index and authorship positions etc. The researchers are from seven different institutions of NUST and twelve different disciplines, including Artificial Intelligence, Signal Processing, Materials, Chemical, Mechanical, Bio-medical, Robotics, Cyber Security, Computer Science, Design and Manufacturing, Humanities and Mathematical Methods in Fluid Mechanics. The esteemed researchers recognized this year include Dr Noreen Sher Akbar, Dr Meraj Mustafa, Dr Mubasher Jamil, Dr Salman Raza Naqvi, Dr Faisal Shafait, Dr. Adeb Shahzad, Dr. Shahid Iqbal, Dr. Muhammad Moazam Fraz, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed, Dr. Irfan Ahmad Rana, Dr. Irfan Hussain Gul, Dr. Muhammad Usman Akram, Dr. Haider Abbas, Dr. Hassan Ali Khattak, Dr. Tayyaba Noor, Dr. Farooq Ahmed Tahir, Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Dr. Muhammad Jawad Khan, Dr. Safia Akram, Dr Tahir Abdul Hussain Ratlamwala, Dr. Tahir Mehmood, Dr. Syed Ali Hassan, and Dr. Muhammad Ishaq. The esteemed researchers recognized for their career-long impact include Dr Noreen Sher Akbar, Dr Mubasher Jamil, Dr Meraj Mustafa, and Dr Faisal Shafait.—APP

Pakistan desires to promote relations with Iran

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said that Pakistan wanted to promote its relations with Iran in the fields of film and drama. Talking to Minister of Culture of Iran Muhammad Mehdi Esmaili, on the occasion of the OIC Ministers of Information Conference in Istanbul, she said Pakistan and Iran had historical and fraternal relations, and also the people of both countries were culturally and religiously connected to each other. She urged Iranian filmmakers to benefit from the incentives given by the government to the film industry in Pakistan. The government of Pakistan had abolished taxes on the film industry, culture and tourism sector in the 2022 budget, she added. The minister said foreign filmmakers were being given

rebates in joint ventures in the fields of film and drama. She said Pakistan and Iran were enjoying historical and fraternal relations, adding the people of both countries were culturally and religiously connected to each other. During the meeting both the dignitaries reiterated their resolve to further strengthen mutual ties in various fields including economic, commercial, and cultural. Vowing to further strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of information, art and culture, Iranian Minister of Culture invited Marriyum to participate in the film festival scheduled to be held in Iran. Pakistani films would be screened in Iran's film festival. Marriyum thanked Iran for its solidarity and support with the Pakistani nation in the context of the devastating floods in Pakistan.—APP

Atif Khan's artistic work to be displayed at TAG on Oct 27

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Tanzara Art Gallery (TAG) will showcase the work of prominent artist Atif Khan in an exhibition titled "Tales of the Heart" to be held on October 27 (Thursday). Vice Chancellor National College of Arts will inaugurate the exhibition which will continue till November 09. Atif has successfully built a niche for himself in the local as well as the international art market. His work interweaves Islamic miniature painting with modern

geometric design and popular culture. The artist successfully creates mysterious narratives through his juxtapositions of Mughal era figures within mandala-like landscapes. As a contemporary image maker, Khan pushes his artistic limits through varied artistic thoughts and visuals explorations of social-political and culture issues. He has built a unique visual vocabulary of interweaving storytelling that addresses itself through a soul searching

FM congratulates President Xi

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday felicitated President Xi Jinping on his re-election as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "Heartiest felicitations to President Xi on re-election as CPC General Secretary. It reflects enduring confidence of the Chinese nation in his sagacious leadership and befitting acknowledgment of his lifelong service to China."—APP

Imran Khan hiding corruption: Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan was hiding his corruption under the garb of his claims of powerless rule.

In a flurry of tweets, the Federal Minister lambasted the PTI chief on his arrival at the Islamabad High Court to challenge his disqualification by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Senator Rehman said Imran Khan's statements showed that there was no one more helpless than him. "Earlier he said he was a powerless prime minister, now he says someone else gave his party tickets in 2018," she added. She while brushing aside Imran Khan's statements said that it was not powerlessness rather incompetence, adding, "Imran Khan first put the responsibility of running the government on others and now made the same for his party business." He [Imran Khan] who was disqualified in the Tosha Khana misappropriation case was still calling his opponents as looters, Sherry Rehman said. Imran Khan was guilty of corrupt practices and misdeclaration, she added. She queried, "With what honour does he take the name of Asif Zardari and others?" Imran Khan was still challenging the ECP's disqualification authority in court, she said, adding, "He did not go to the court to prove his innocence rather he want to stop the legal proceedings against him." The Minister argued that if Khan had not done plundering in the Tosha Khana and was innocent then why he was evading from the probe. "Imran Khan is threatening long march only to influence institutions and decisions.

He know that people are not coming out for his personal political interests. Imran Khan has been constantly looking for excuses to cancel the call for long march for the last six months," Sherry Rehman said.—APP

Lost

I have lost the original book of my car suzuki swift color red pearl in Islamabad. Registration no. YZ-216, Eng : PKS13018551 Chs. PK10018549. If anyone finds it kindly send it to house number 639, street 24, ghauri town phase 4A.

General election essential in UK

Three and a half months ago, he was forced by his party to resign his premiership in disgrace. Yesterday, Boris Johnson landed back in the UK, fresh from a holiday in the Caribbean amid the squall of drama that surrounds his every move, to attempt the launch of his bid to lead the country again in the wake of Liz Truss's resignation. There is perhaps no greater symbol of the contempt the Conservative party has for voters than the scores of MPs apparently willing to disregard the fact he is being investigated for misleading parliament – and may well face a Commons suspension and perhaps even a byelection before the year is out – in order to re-elevate to high office a charlatan who has repeatedly demonstrated that he is devoid of the integrity citizens should expect from their prime minister.

This absurd state of affairs is just the latest chapter of the decade-long Tory psychodrama that has imposed untold hardship on British people, eroded their trust in politicians and made Britain an international laughing stock. It is the sorry tale of a governing party that abandoned any attempt to fashion real solutions to the problems the country faces in favour of populist rhetoric about Brexit, without considering the consequences – for its own fortunes, for our political institutions and for the country as a whole. As a result, the UK is mired in an economic crisis made immeasurably worse by the actions of four successive Conservative prime ministers. The disaster of Truss's brief premiership – the shortest in history – has had a long gestation. Her six weeks in office, during which she tanked the economy with a huge package of unfunded tax cuts, have been the culmination of 12 years of Conservative leadership: a woeful tale of bad decision after bad decision. Of course, the main impact of Brexit has been to make Britain's structural economic problems even worse: to make exports harder, growth worse and economic inequalities sharper. The vote to leave the EU meanwhile strengthened the Tory ideological right, pushing it to demand ever more from party leaders. Johnson won a decisive 80-seat majority when he went to the country in December 2019. But it was not his personal popularity that delivered him such a large win; in Jeremy Corbyn, he faced the least appealing Labour leader for generations.

The Conservative party's dramatic downward trajectory should serve as a warning to any politician tempted by the heady pull of populism. Promising voters the earth with reforms that will actually make their lives worse may win votes in the short term when packaged with a good sales patter. But there is always a reckoning; always a moment when the voters see through the deceit. That reckoning is what Conservatives are now being forced to confront. Their political implosion must not be allowed to wreak fresh harm on the rest of the country.

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Ethiopia's devastating war

Millions displaced. Brutal attacks on civilians. A soaring death toll. Deliberate attacks on infrastructure. And little hope of a negotiated exit. Ethiopia's northern Tigray region is enduring probably the most brutal and deadly war being waged in the world today. Tens of thousands of combat fatalities have reportedly followed the failure of a ceasefire in August. Yet the world is paying little heed. Assessing the true toll is impossible given that most communications have been cut off. Researchers at the University of Ghent have estimated that between 380,000 and 600,000 civilian lives alone have been lost, with 30,000-90,000 killed in direct attacks, but most dying for lack of food or healthcare. In a region already beset by hunger, but which had made some significant strides, food has become a weapon of war. Nearly half the population is in severe need of food aid. There is clear evidence of war crimes by all parties, including widespread sexual violence, although civilian casualties are believed to be overwhelmingly Tigrayan. The conflict broke out in November 2020, following a political dispute in which the federal and regional Tigray governments declared each other illegitimate. The Ethiopian prime minister and Nobel peace prize winner Abiy Ahmed said he was launching a strike on the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) because it had attacked an army base. Eritrea joined his cause. While some food aid finally arrived in Tigray this spring, Addis Ababa and its allies continued to block commercial traffic to the region, fuel shipments remained extremely limited, and electricity, telecommunications and banking services remained cut off. Now even the humanitarian operations are once again suspended. The UN secretary general, António Guterres, has warned that the situation is spiralling out of control and there is no military solution. Yet Mr Abiy and his allies still appear bent on one. Their current offensive is infantry-heavy, with poorly trained and equipped troops flung towards enemy lines, in addition to airstrikes. Eritrea has intensified mobilisation, reportedly detaining parents whose adult children try to avoid conscription. Despite significant setbacks, many Tigrayans have come to see this as a fight for their very survival; giving up may look as dangerous as persisting. The International Crisis Group has warned of a serious risk of accelerating atrocities, especially given the surge in hate speech against Tigrayans. The African Union, the obvious forum for pursuing a solution, has failed to make progress. While the US has invested effort in diplomacy, it has not always been consistent in following through. The European Union has seemed largely uninterested, especially since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Though there is a good case for UN action, including an arms embargo, the path is strewn with obstacles. Donors must make clear to Addis Ababa that anything more than humanitarian assistance cannot resume until it lifts the blockade and shows it is serious about pursuing peace. Tigray's leaders must similarly demonstrate commitment to African Union talks scheduled for Monday. The collapse of the truce is deeply alarming. But another halt to the disastrous conflict is possible. It will not happen without significant and sustained external pressure: that must be applied, and it must be done now.

Could the EPC hold Europe together in the face of Russian threat?

Dimitar Bechev

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.

The 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 are 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 Hun-

gary, 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.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Mental well-being should be prioritized in workplace

Sara Al-Mulla

Moreover, it is critical for human resource departments to introduce well-being programs that equip employees with the skills to effectively deal with stress, financial issues, health challenges, family pressures or practical emotional support, while at the same time infusing them with the motivation to pursue their dreams and ambitions. Such illuminating content should also be made available on company intranets or digital applications for timely and easy access. Inviting experts in on a regular basis to deliver practical talks on mental well-being can also be instrumental in disseminating practical advice.

Governments can never be too relentless in attracting and retaining talent. Now considered as powerhouses of global economies, exceptional talents have been instrumental in injecting innovation, productivity and economic growth across multiple industries, making them a valuable currency. But even as employers scramble to hire talents from all over the world, the post-pandemic reality demands a boost of productivity within existing talent clusters to recover economic losses born since the onset of COVID-19. What we need is a fundamental reimagining of talent productivity – by empowering individuals in their mental well-being capacity at the heart of the workplace.

To capitalize on this notion, we need to evaluate the landscape of mental well-being and how it impacts employee productivity. The US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation publishes the seminal report known as the Global Burden of Disease, which evaluates 286 causes of death, 369 diseases and injuries, and 87 risk factors in 204 countries. Results reveal that about 15 percent of the global population of working-age adults battle with mental illnesses, including depression and anxiety. This has dire consequences and challenges for employees as they seek to perform productively at work over a long period of time. Absenteeism and employee turnover naturally ensue, which have a negative effect on employers and economies. Last month, the World Health Organization issued a report on the state of employee mental well-being around the world. It revealed that lost productivity from depression and anxiety is costing the global economy a whopping \$1 trillion due to an annual loss of 12 billion working days, with Gulf countries losing an approximate \$3.5 billion.

At the same time, an individual's state of mental well-being is also exacerbated by workplace settings and policies, which can directly contribute to poor mental health and dim employees' creativity, productivity and performance. We can trace the disruption of mental well-being in the workplace to a number of influential factors. To illustrate, unreasonably heavy workloads and short deadlines can lead to elevated stress levels due to the pressures of delivering work expectations. Working long, inflexible and unsocial hours can also exacerbate employees' health. Moreo-

ver, subjecting employees to discrimination, bullying, exclusion or abuse is another contributing factor to reduced mental well-being.

Working in poor physical conditions can also have a negative impact on employees' health, such as places with poor lighting or limited natural light, excessive noise and poor ergonomics. Furthermore, a lack of clear communication on career progression, unfair financial compensation and underutilized skills can all dim an employee's productivity. Additionally, an employee's personal life can be jeopardized by a lack of flexible working arrangements, such as having to work away from home for long periods, strict measures regarding sick leave for oneself or to care for a sick family member, and a lack of flexible or remote working arrangements.

Considering the important role that employment plays in a person's life and its role in contributing to economic growth and societal welfare, it is critical that policies are enacted to improve mental well-being in the workplace. A number of solutions are at hand that necessitate the active support of multiple stakeholders, including governments, employers and health professionals.

Public policymakers and legislators should design nationally approved policies and legislation focusing on enhancing mental well-being in the workplace. Consulting a consortium of employers from across various industries will help fine-tune these guidelines and facilitate implementation later on. A mass media campaign promoting the principles and rights of employees to a more conducive workplace should be deployed and targeted at enterprises and workers alike. At the same time, enterprises should appoint or upskill human resource managers who have a strong background in deploying mental well-being policies and programs. Equally important is training supervisors in mental health literacy and managing related programs.

Vitally, the world of work should embrace a more human-centric approach and be shaped in a way that is harmonious with a person's personal life and commitments. Introducing flexible working hours and remote working options can do wonders in enabling

employees to balance all their personal and professional duties. Special leaves should be available for the carers of vulnerable dependents and family members, including children and elderly parents. Encouraging employees to take personal time off can also contribute to better health and positive outlooks.

Meanwhile, many fascinating studies have been published on how office design impacts employee well-being. Solutions include having sufficient natural lighting, interspersed plants, artworks, ergonomic furniture and an overall beautifully designed space. Designing recreational communal spaces can also promote social engagement and activity, such as having a library, a games room, a cafeteria or a garden. Offering subsidized subscriptions to local gyms can also be a great move to improve physical and mental well-being.

Moreover, it is critical for human resource departments to introduce well-being programs that equip employees with the skills to effectively deal with stress, financial issues, health challenges, family pressures or practical emotional support, while at the same time infusing them with the motivation to pursue their dreams and ambitions. Such illuminating content should also be made available on company intranets or digital applications for timely and easy access. Inviting experts in on a regular basis to deliver practical talks on mental well-being can also be instrumental in disseminating practical advice. Putting in place legal frameworks for dealing with unfair treatment, offensive behavior and abuse should be mandatory for safeguarding employees' rights to a healthy work setting. Another important intervention would be to secure mental health coverage in employee insurance packages.

These solutions create a new way to attract and retain talents who find the workplace a harmonious place that balances their personal and professional ambitions. By prioritizing mental well-being in the workplace, we can unlock talent potential and unleash high productivity, reaping massive economic rewards and elevated societal welfare.

Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Journalist
Arshad Sharif
murdered...

FROM PAGE 01
where "a foreigner namely Arshad Mohammed Shariff, a Pakistani national aged 50 years was fatally wounded by a police officer while a passenger in a motor vehicle KDG 200M. "At the time of the incident, deceased was in company of his brother namely Khurram Ahmed. Incident follows a circulation from Pangani Police of a stolen motor vehicle. The officers trailing the motor vehicle towards Magadi alerted police in Magadi who erected a road barrier," it said. The police service stated that the deceased's motor vehicle came upon the police barrier that Sharif's driver "drove through". "It is then that they were shot at, fatally injuring late Arshad Mohammad Shariff."

President,
PM...

FROM PAGE 01
Arshad Sharif's tragic death," he said. He extended condolences to the bereaved family of Arshad Sharif. "May Allah SWT grant him a place in Heaven. My deep condolences and prayers for the bereaved family," he said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday telephoned Kenyan President William Ruto and emphasised for an impartial and fair investigation into the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif. Discussing the tragic incident with the Kenyan president, the prime minister also conveyed serious concerns of the Pakistan nation and the media community. He also requested the Kenyan president to fast-track the fulfillment of formalities for returning the body of late journalist to Pakistan.

Sharif paid
price for...

FROM PAGE 01
while exposing the powerful on social media and today the entire nation is mourning his death. Imran Khan demanded that a proper judicial inquiry should be initiated to examine Arshad Sharif's statements and evidence from other sources. "We have descended into a state of brutality, unknown in civilised society, indulged in by the powerful against those who dare to criticise and expose wrongdoings," he added. Imran Khan stated that Arshad Sharif's murder has sent shockwaves across Pakistan. It has highlighted an ongoing targeting of anyone who dares to criticise or question those holding power. PTI Chairman went on to say that they saw a foreign abetted regime change conspiracy taking place sending Pakistan into chaos.

Govt in
contact...

FROM PAGE 01
High Commission in Nairobi remain in constant contact to facilitate and expedite the process. Pakistan has also formally requested the Kenyan government to hold an investigation into the incident. Acting Foreign Secretary Raza Bashir Tarar has also met the Kenyan High Commissioner in Islamabad to impress upon the importance of the matter and urgent repatriation of the mortal remains.

IHC rejects
plea to halt...

FROM PAGE 01
"The Election Commission has also directed to send the matter for a trial," said Zafar. However, Justice Minalah observed that the commission has a "stigma" that may affect the coming elections. "When there is no judgment then which order should the court suspend?" asked the judge. He also directed the counsel to address the objections raised by the registrar's office. "Disqualification will affect the people's minds. The short order is attached [with the petition]," said Zafar. At this, the IHC CJ asked Khan's counsel whether he had a certified copy of the short order. But the court was told by the lawyer that they have applied for a certified copy.

Barcelona destroy returning
Valverde's Athletic Bilbao

SPORTS DESK

BARCELONA: Ousmane Dembele scored and laid on a hat-trick of assists as Barcelona ripped apart Athletic Bilbao in a 4-0 win in La Liga on Sunday, to stay three points behind leaders Real Madrid. The French winger was at his thrilling best after being brought back into the side and challenged to make the difference by his coach Xavi Hernandez, ruining former Barca manager Ernesto Valverde's return to Camp Nou. Dembele netted the opener and then created goals for Sergi Roberto and Robert Lewandowski in the first half as Barcelona danced around Athletic. Ferran Torres fired home in the second half after Dembele found him in the area to complete the drubbing. It was Valverde's first game facing Barcelona since being sacked in January 2020 after winning two league titles, with the team top of the table in his third campaign when he was ousted. The visitors had started the season well

after Valverde's summer appointment and seemed capable of offering the Catalans a stern challenge. But just as three goals in an eight-minute spell helped Barcelona vanquish Villarreal on Thursday, another treble inside 11 first-half minutes killed off Athletic. Xavi selected Pedri to operate on the left of the attack in his 4-3-3 formation, as Barcelona legend Andres Iniesta did on occasion - giving further credence to the already frequent comparisons between the two. It increased the team's fluidity, as did a double pivot of Sergio Busquets and Frenkie de Jong, although the star dust was added by Dembele. The French winger took the game by the scruff of the neck in the opening stages and it was no surprise when he broke the deadlock in the 12th minute. Dembele's long-range strike was parried by Unai Simon, but Barcelona kept the move alive and Lewandowski whipped in a cross for him to head home. Barcelona doubled their lead six minutes later, when Roberto played a one-two with Dem-



bele, receiving the Frenchman's perfectly weighed pass and firing a deflected effort past Simon. The third followed with Dembele involved again, feeding Lewandowski, who turned exquisitely in the area and slammed home. It was his 12th of the season in La Liga in 11 appearances, the

division's runaway top scorer. Despite Barcelona's impending Champions League elimination and Clasico defeat, the supporters remain behind Xavi, chanting his name when he protested about Dani Garcia brutally colliding with Gavi. The 18-year-old midfielder tried to play on but went down

again a few minutes later and had to be replaced. Barca substitutes AnsuFati and Torres both came close soon after being introduced, although the hosts were happy holding on to their comfortable advantage. Eventually Torres did strike, teed up by Dembele, who was afforded an ovation

from supporters as he was replaced by La Liga debutant Pablo Torre. A double goal-line clearance by Busquets and then Eric Garcia denied Athletic a late consolation. Earlier Antoine Griezmann hit a brace, including one goal direct from a corner, to earn Atletico Madrid a 2-1 win at Real Betis.

Pegula beats Sakkari to
claim Guadalajara title

WEB DESK

GUADALAJARA: American Jessica Pegula captured her first WTA 1000 crown with a 6-2 6-3 win over Maria Sakkari in the Guadalajara Open final on Sunday. The third seed, who will be making her first appearance at the season-ending WTA Finals in Texas this month, beat four Grand Slam champions en route to the final, where she needed only 70 minutes to beat Sakkari. "All the people I beat, my draw to get here in my opinion was honestly the toughest out of everybody," said Pegula, who beat major winners Victoria Azarenka, Sloane Stephens, Bianca Andreescu and Elena Rybakina in the earlier rounds. "So I was a little annoyed when I saw the draw come out. But the way I've been able to manage it throughout the whole week, today handle my nerves and emotions, I'm super proud of myself." Pegula switched gears at 2-2 and went on to take the opening set. She broke twice to race ahead 5-2 in the next before closing out the win as fourth seed Sakkari struggled with unforced errors. Pegula converted five out of eight break points against Sakkari, who was playing her second match of the day having earlier wrapped up her rain-delayed semi-final against Marie Bouzkova. It was



Pegula's 41st match victory in WTA main draws this year, with only world number one Iga Swiatek (62) and the second-ranked Ons Jabeur (46) winning more. She will rise to number three in the rankings. Earlier on Sunday, Sakkari beat Bouzkova 7-5 6-4 to set up the meeting with Pegula. She had won the first set on Saturday when the match

was halted due to rain. Returning to the court, the Greek looked to make quick work of her Czech opponent, racing out to a 4-1 lead, before Bouzkova rallied and swept the next three games to level the set at 4-4. Sakkari struggled to hold serve at 5-4 before breaking Bouzkova to secure her place in her second WTA 1000 event final of the year.

Iran arrests
Mossad-affiliated
terrorist network

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian security forces have arrested 10 members of an espionage and terrorist network affiliated with the Israeli spy agency Mossad. The agents' main task was to identify the Islamic Republic's intelligence forces involved in subtle operations against the Tel Aviv regime and gun them down. According to Fars news agency, all ten members of the network were identified and arrested in Iran's northwestern province of West Azarbaijan. The agency noted that the terrorist network had been in contact with several Mossad intelligence officers. The members of the terror outfit, motivated by Mossad spy agency's numerous pledges like financial gains, received rigorous training from Israeli intelligence officers and were collecting information about individuals cooperating with the Iranian security and intelligence apparatus.

They tried to extract information from their victims through abduction, various threats and violent assault and battery. The report went on to note that the terrorists were in direct contact with Mossad officers by establishing video communications with them. They were primarily active in the northwestern Iranian province of West Azarbaijan, the capital Tehran and the southern coastal province of Hormozgan. Members of the group also set fire to the private cars and houses of some Iranian security forces and were paid sums of money for taking pictures and sending them to Mossad officers. They had even unsuccessfully tried to assassinate Iranian security and intelligence forces. Back in July, Iran's Intelligence Ministry arrested a network of Mossad agents at the western borders, confiscating a large cache of weapons and ammunition that they were planning to use to provoke riots and terror inside the country.

Hungary: Thousands
stage anti-govt rally

FOREIGN DESK

BUDAPEST: Tens of thousands of Hungarians, including teachers and students, have once more staged a protest rally against the government's economic policy, demanding higher wages and a curb on soaring inflation. Protesters marched through the capital city of Budapest on Sunday, chanting slogans against Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government. It was the largest demonstration since the 2014 march in the city against a short-lived Internet tax. "I am here...for my children, there should be change," said Gyongyi Bereczky, a mail carrier, who joined the protests for the first time. "This runaway inflation...we cannot save up at all anymore, simply we cannot make ends meet as prices are soaring." Since the start of the school year, teachers and high school students have staged several demonstrations in Budapest and cities nationwide, backing teachers dismissed for taking part in earlier protests. "Everyone in my school is exhausted at having to fight for basics like enough teachers and equipment," said 17-year-old student Anett Bodi at the demonstration. "We totally back our teachers in their struggle for their rights," she told AFP. Organizers of the march pledged to keep up the pressure on the government in the coming weeks. Although the government acknowledges that pay is too low, it has linked a planned pay raise to long-awaited EU funding. Orban's government says raising teacher wages depends on gaining access to billions of euros in European Union funds, which are currently blocked by Brussels over Budapest's sub-standard government. The EU accuses Orban's government of corruption, demanding it improves its transparency.



KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistani High Commissioner to Malaysia, Amna Baloch inaugurated a photo exhibition at the High Commission in build-up to Kashmir Black Day (27th Oct), which will mark 75 years of India's illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir. – DNA

Arsenal held as Armstrong rescues draw for Saints

Arsenal were in complete control and Khaka delivered the goal their pressure merited in 11th minute. It was smooth move as Saka's backheel sent White away down the right flank

AGENCIES

SOUTHAMPTON: Arsenal dropped points for only the second time this season as Stuart Armstrong's equaliser forced the Premier League leaders to settle for a 1-1 draw against Southampton on Sunday. Mikel Arteta's side went in front through Granit Khaka's first-half strike at St Mary's. But Armstrong levelled after the interval as Arsenal paid the price for failing to convert several chances to increase their advantage. It was a rare slip from the Gunners, who had won nine of their 10 previous league games this

season, with their only defeat coming at Manchester United. The end of Arsenal's eight-game winning run in all competitions leaves them two points clear of second-placed Manchester City with both having played 11 games. While Arteta will be frustrated that Arsenal squandered the lead given to them by Swiss midfielder Khaka, it is a tribute to his team's unexpected rise this season that failing to take maximum points ranks as a disappointment. Arsenal have already proved they are a force to be reckoned with as they chase a first title since 2004 and they started in vibrant mood on the

south coast. Bukayo Saka's cross was inches away from Gabriel Magalhaes before Gabriel Martinelli caused havoc in the Southampton defence with a direct run that ended with Khaka's powerful drive repelled by Gavin Bazunu. Khaka turned provider moments later when he teed up Martin Odegaard for a low strike that whistled wide from the edge of the area. Arsenal were in complete control and Khaka delivered the goal their pressure merited in the 11th minute. It was a smooth move as Saka's backheel sent Ben White away down the right flank and his cross reached Khaka, who crashed a

blistering strike into the roof of the net from 12 yards. Arsenal had never lost when Khaka scored, a sequence stretching to 17 games. Gabriel Jesus was inches away from doubling Arsenal's lead when he shot into the side-netting from Odegaard's pass. Bazunu left Jesus frustrated again just before half-time as the Brazilian reached Odegaard's lofted pass for a volley that the Saints keeper blocked at point-blank range. Mohamed Elyounoussi's last-ditch tackle stopped Jesus in his tracks after the Arsenal striker sprinted clear on goal. But, for all their territorial dom-

inance, Arteta's team couldn't land the knockout blow as they were hit with a sucker punch in the 65th minute. Elyounoussi slipped a clever reverse pass through the heart of the Arsenal defence and Armstrong timed his run perfectly to slot a composed finish past Aaron Ramsdale. With Southampton suddenly in the ascendancy, Joe Aribo tested Ramsdale with a low shot and Romain Perraud swivelled to drill wide. Odegaard thought he had won it in the 79th minute when the Dane smashed home from Kieran Tierney's cross but the goal was disallowed because the ball had run out of play.

ECP issues
detailed...

FROM PAGE 01

The 36-page order noted that the petitioners submitted that the respondent did not disclose gifts and precious items which he acquired from foreign dignitaries in the statement of assets and liabilities filed before the ECP from the year 2017-2021. "The amount allegedly received in his bank account does not commensurate with the assessed value of the gift items. Hence, the respondent has filed false statement and incorrect declaration in material particular for the financial year 2018-19," reads the detailed judgment. The list attached with the reference clearly shows the nature of gift items which included flower vases, watches, cufflinks, and decoration pieces. According to the rules 6(i) the gift items can be retained if the price of the item is less than Rs30,000/- and where the valued amount is more than Rs30,000 can be retained subject to deposit of 50% of the value amount of gift received.

Rishi to
become next
British PM

FROM PAGE 01

the race just minutes before the winner was due to be announced. The pound and British government bond prices jumped briefly on news of Mordaunt's withdrawal but soon returned to their previous levels. Sunak, the 42-year-old former finance minister, becomes Britain's third prime minister in less than two months, tasked with restoring stability to a country reeling from years of political and economic turmoil. The multi-millionaire former hedge fund boss would be expected to launch deep spending cuts to try to rebuild Britain's fiscal reputation, just as the country slides into a recession, dragged down by the surging cost of energy and food. Britain has been locked in a state of perma-crisis ever since it voted in 2016 to leave the European Union, unleashing a battle at Westminster over the future of the country that remains unresolved to this day.

Istanbul
Declaration
calls for...

FROM PAGE 01

the need for checking news content, media literacy and digital media literacy in the long term. The conference took into consideration the final report of the 12th Islamic Conference of Information Ministers. The report was aimed to promote OIC member states' contributions and cooperation in the area of media and information. The Istanbul Declaration underscored the need to combat Islamophobia in all its manifestations by presenting the "truth about the magnanimous religion of Islam in an effective manner, utilising new and emerging platforms and technological innovations". The document underscored the perils of disinformation as a destructive weapon.

JCP
proposes 3...

FROM PAGE 01

chaired by the Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial was held here in Islamabad on Monday. In the meeting, the name of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice (CJ) Athar Minalah, Lahore High Court's judge Justice Shahid Waheed, and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi were unanimously approved. While the JCP sitting did not make any consensus on the name of Justice Shafi Siddiqui of the Sindh High Court so his recommendation has been postponed. The Commission has sent the recommendations to the Parliamentary Committee for final approval. The report said that the names of three judges were recommended in the ratio of five to four. As per the report, the names of Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi were approved by a majority vote and the name of Justice Athar Minalah was unanimously approved. The meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) was held today (Monday) to elevate the high court judges to the Supreme Court under the shadows of the strike call given by the Pakistan Bar Council and Sindh Bar Council.

Briefs

Italy's new prime minister meets with French president

ROME: Italy's new Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni met Sunday with French President Emmanuel Macron for the first time.

The informal meeting between Meloni, the country's first female premier, and Macron was part of his visit to Rome.

The meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, was "sincere and productive," the Italian Prime Ministry said in a statement.

The two leaders discussed the need for a rapid and shared response to high energy costs, support for Ukraine, the difficult economic situation and irregular migration.

They agreed on the willingness to continue to cooperate on common challenges in Europe and in terms of mutual national interests. Macron said on Twitter that the two countries had to continue to work together "with dialogue and ambition."

On Sunday, Italy's new government was officially sworn in. Along with Meloni, 24 Cabinet ministers, including six women, took their oaths of office before President Sergio Mattarella in Rome. Meloni, 45, vowed during the ceremony to serve her country with pride.

After officially succeeding former Prime Minister Mario Draghi, she is expected to lead the first meeting of her new Cabinet on Sunday afternoon.

Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party won a plurality of the vote in the Sept. 25 general elections, and she formed a right-wing coalition government on Friday.—APP

Lebanon fails again to elect president

BEIRUT: Lebanon's parliament on Monday failed for the fourth time to elect a successor to incumbent President Michel Aoun.

Aoun's six-year term is set to end on Oct. 31. Candidate Michel Mouawad, backed by the Lebanese Forces Party, got only 39 votes in Monday's session, which was attended by 110 members of the 128-seat assembly.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri set the next session for October 27. In Lebanon, the president is limited to a single six-year term.

To win in the first round of voting, two-thirds of lawmakers in the 128-member assembly are needed, after which a simple majority suffices.

Lebanese MPs have not yet agreed on a successor to Aoun, raising concerns of a political and institutional deadlock in Lebanon, which has been going through a deep economic crisis since 2019. Lebanon has already been without a fully functioning government since May.—APP

Strikes continue at 2 French refineries

PARIS: Strikes at two refineries of the French energy company TotalEnergies continued on Monday.

Affected are the sites in Feyzin (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region) and in Gonfreville-l'Orcher (Normandy region).

The strikes led to difficulties in the supply of one or more types of fuel at some service stations. Workers at the Feyzin depot will vote on whether to extend the strike on Monday.

At the Gonfreville-l'Orcher site, the strike has already been extended until Oct. 27 "unless management contacts us before then," the CGT union said.

Meanwhile, French Transport Minister Clément Beaune said the situation at many service stations in France is easing.

According to him, only 10% of gas stations continued to face supply difficulties. In the days and weeks before, it was over 30% in some cases.—APP

Private sector, govt must work together: Ahsan Iqbal

FPCCI shall also be taken on board for the improvement of Pakistan's economy and positive results of economic policies and better results

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said that no country can be developed without local and foreign investment. It is our misfortune that we could not be able to make Pakistan an export-oriented economy in the last 75 years, and unable to earn foreign exchange. To make the country an economic power the private sector and the government must work together as a team and make Made in Pakistan a global brand.

It was stated yesterday during his visit to the capital office of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). The President of FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Shaikh speaking on the occasion said that in the current situation it is imperative to involve Chinese and other foreign companies with local firms to ensure the transfer of knowledge and technology in industrial and agricultural processing sectors. He said the role of the ministry of Planning is very important in this regard. The government should help the business community of Pakistan to go global and promote Pakistani brands in the international market. Otherwise, we will not be able to break the vicious cycle of trade imbalance and current account deficits. He further said that FPCCI is going to hold conferences on Pakistan as a Land of opportunities and international tourism conferences in the next few weeks to highlight business opportunities in various sectors including industrial, agricultural and tourism in Pakistan. He added that the time has come for the business community to adopt a market-driven approach to gain a foothold in the global market, but there is a need for the government to hold the hands



of the business community. Speaking on the occasion, the Senior Vice President FPCCI Muhammad Sulaiman Chawla, Vice President Eng. M.A. Jabbar, Umar Masood ur Rehman, Former Vice President Khurram Saeed, Group Leader Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sahil Altaf, former President RCCI Asad Mashhaddi, EC Members FPCCI Liaquat Ali, Parvez Khattak, Chairman Pakistan Mining Association Muhammad Farrukh Alvi and others said that our biggest problem is that we have not adopted long-term planning and Industrial policies. They said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan should visit FPCCI to increase the relationship with the business community. The FPCCI shall also be taken on board for the improvement of Pakistan's economy and positive results of economic policies and better results. The business commu-

nity of Pakistan believes that the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry should be given the status of Federal Minister to promote investment in Pakistan, increase exports and bridge the gap between the government and the business community. They were of the view that the legislative process have been done in the joint session of the Parliament to extend the tenure of the officials of FPCCI from one to two years. In this regard, the government should co-operate and take immediate steps for the implementation of this law. The President suggested that wind power should be given a priority, as the efficiency of solar power is 20% while the efficiency of wind power is 40%. He further said that attention should be paid to the mining sector; we have many resources but a lack of policy. On this occasion, Federal Minister Ahsan

Iqbal while talking to the participants said that the economic future of the country, we have to work beyond politics, no one can be able to improve economic situation alone. He said that an emergency strategy is needed to curb the demand for dollars, new markets have to be found to increase exports, and Pakistan's exporters have to promote the Medan Pakistan brand in the international market. We have only one way forward for the future, by encouraging the private sector to maximize investment in the private sector. We have not been able to produce the products that we can sell at high prices in the global markets or through which we can run our export engine, despite having potential within every sector. We have not tied ourselves to international markets to be a part of the global supply chain. It is the duty of the government not to allow any obstacles in the way of the business community and to remove these obstacles.

Pakistan Gandhara to be showcased at Beijing's Palace Museum

DNA

BEIJING "Hopefully we will kick start this year a very important exhibition on Pakistan's Gandhara in the Beijing's Palace Museum."

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview.

Stressing the great potential of China-Pakistan cooperation in the tourism and cultural industries, the envoy informed CEN that a list of activities has been shared between the two countries, adding that the events will "include [cultural] exhibitions and ... visits from China [to Pakistan] by tour operators." The Gandhara art exhibition is also mentioned in a February joint statement between China and



Pakistan. As per the statement, the two sides will "further expand cooperation for the conservation and presentation of heritage and artefacts of the two countries." In recent years, China

and Pakistan have beefed up cooperation in the tourism and cultural industries.

Two Pakistan animated films, for example, hit Chinese theatres last year, with The Don-

key King becoming the best-performing Pakistan film in China.

The same year, an MoU on tourism cooperation was signed to further boost bilateral tourism exchanges.

Russia has frequent contacts with Türkiye

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin's frequent contacts with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan are linked to Ankara's desire to continue mediation efforts on Ukraine and extensive trade and economic relations between Russia and Türkiye, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday. Meanwhile, contacts with German and French leaders have been reduced due to their unwillingness to take into account Russia's position, Peskov told a press briefing in Moscow. "Ankara takes a position different from that of Paris and Berlin, declares its readiness to continue mediation efforts, and we know that President Putin has repeatedly praised these mediation efforts of Türkiye." "In addition, we have very extensive trade and economic relations with Türkiye, and various major projects are being implemented. And this is all of course a reason for the heads of state to communicate with each other often," the spokesman said. Referring to the Russian Defense Ministry statement warning about the possible use of "a dirty bomb" – a bomb with radioactive components, not provoking a nuclear explosion – by Ukraine, Peskov said the positions of the US, France, and Great Britain denying the concern does not mean that the threat of the possible use of the bomb disappears. "The information was brought to the attention of the (US, French, and British defense) ministers. It's up to them whether to believe it or not.—Agencies

North, South Korea exchange warning shots

SEOUL: The militaries of North Korea and South Korea exchanged warning shots, accusing each other of violating the western maritime border on Monday. In a statement, South's joint chiefs of staff said a North Korean ship crossed the northern limit line in the Yellow Sea, the de facto maritime border between the two Koreas, and its military fired warning shots. North Korea's merchant ship violated the border at midnight near the front-line island of Baengnyeong and retreated northwards after the South Korean Navy issued warning messages and fired some 20 rounds of warning shots, Yonhap News Agency reported citing the South Korean military. Meanwhile, a North Korean military spokesman, in a statement, also accused the South Korean navy ship of intruding into the maritime military demarcation line at pre-dawn some 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of Paekryong Island. "The General Staff of the Korean People's Army gave an instruction to the coastal defense units on the western front to strictly watch and cope with it and took early countermeasures to drive out the enemy warship by firing 10 shells of multiple launch rocket system around the waters where the enemy situation occurred," said the North military in its statement published by state-run Korean Central News Agency.—APP

Iran seeks to designate UK-based Persian media as 'terrorists'

TEHRAN: Iran has called for the designation of UK-based Persian-language news outlets as "terrorist organizations", accusing them of stoking unrest amid ongoing protests over the death of a young Iranian woman in police custody.

Kazem Garibabadi, the deputy judiciary chief for international affairs and head of the country's top human rights body, said Iran International and BBC Persian must be added to the list of terrorist organizations. He said Tehran will be initiating legal

measures against these Persian-language news outlets for "directing and inciting riots in Iran through the promotion of terrorist acts and encouraging people to destroy public and private property." His call came amid countryside protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, who died following her detention by the country's morality police last month for allegedly wearing "inappropriate dress".

The tragic incident sparked unprecedented protests that spread across the country, in-

cluding the capital Tehran. It also drew strongly-worded statements of condemnation from Western governments, including the United States and the European Union, who imposed sanctions on Iranian individuals and entities over the incident.

Iranian authorities have denied any foul play in Amini's death, despite her family insisting that she was killed in police custody, blaming "foreign forces" for "instigating riots" in the aftermath of the incident, which resulted in more than 100 fatalities.—APP

ICCI urges govt to address Panadol shortage issue

Malik Ashfaq, Qaiser Masood and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that government should address issues of chemists and druggists to facilitate growth of their business activities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the people are facing great problems and the business of pharmacies is also suffering due to the shortage of Panadol in the market and urged that the government should address this issue on priority basis to save the consumers from further troubles. He said this while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association, Islamabad Chapter that visited ICCI led by its Chairman Mian Tariq Saeed. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that there is a great demand for Panadol in the market due to rising cases of dengue virus and malaria, across the country, especially in flood-hit areas,

but it's shortage has exposed the patients to serious health problems. He said that the manufacturer has suspended the production of Panadol due to twofold increase in the prices of its raw material and emphasized that the government should take urgent measures to rationalize the prices of raw material to ensure re-start of its production and easy availability in the market. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with the Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association, Islamabad Chapter to resolve key issues of their sector. Speaking at the occasion, Mian Tariq Saeed, Chairman, Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association, Islamabad Chapter highlighted the various issues being faced by their sector. He said that the price of raw materials used to produce the Panadol has

witnessed a twofold increase which affected the availability of this product in the market and pharmacies were also losing business on this ac-

count and stressed that the government should address the issue causing its shortage in the market. He said that the online buying and selling

of medicines is illegal under the Drug Act and stressed that the regulator should ensure strict implementation of this law as this practice

is affecting the business of license holder chemists and druggists. He also showed concerns over the issues being faced by them from EOBI and Social Security Institution and said that ICCI should cooperate in their redress. Nasir M. Qureshi, Executive Member ICCI said that high energy cost and tight drug regulations were the major hurdles for the growth of pharma sector in Pakistan and stressed that the government should consider deregulating this sector that would bring competition and reduce prices of medicines in Pakistan. Malik Ashfaq, Qaiser Masood and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that the government should address the issues of chemists and druggists to facilitate the growth of their business activities.



Ukraine a future EU member: Scholz

BERLIN: Germany sees Ukraine as a future EU member, and will do everything to support the recovery and the reconstruction efforts, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Monday.

Addressing a group of German and Ukrainian businessmen in Berlin, Scholz underlined that the EU member states will continue their political, economic and military support for Ukraine.

"Ukraine is part of the European family," he stressed, and called on German companies to invest in Ukraine, to support recovery and the reconstruction efforts there. "One who invests in Ukraine today, will be investing in a future EU member state, which will be part of our legal framework, our single market," he said.

"When we are rebuilding Ukraine, we are doing this with the goal of EU membership in our mind," Scholz added.—APP

Ukraine calls on govts to ban Russia's RT

KIEV: Ukraine's foreign minister urged a global ban on the Russian RT news channel following a statement from presenter Anton Krasovsky saying that Ukrainian children should have been drowned.

"Governments which still have not banned RT must watch this excerpt. This is what you side with if you allow RT to operate in your countries. Aggressive genocide incitement, which has nothing to do with freedom of speech. Ban RT worldwide," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on his Twitter account.

Kuleba said that Krasovsky should be taken to court over his statements. Editor-in-Chief of RT Margarita Simonyan said they had terminated the channel's contract with Krasovsky.

"Anton Krasovsky's statement is wild and disgusting... It is hard to believe that Krasovsky sincerely believed that children should be drowned. For now, I'm stopping our collaboration, as neither I nor the rest of the RT team can afford to even think that any of us are capable of sharing such a game," Simonyan said on her Telegram account.

Krasovsky apologized for his remarks saying he got "carried away."

"Look, I'm really embarrassed that somehow I didn't see that line about children. Well, it happens like this: you sit on air, you get carried away and you can't stop. I apologize to everyone who was stunned by this," Krasovsky said on his Telegram account.—APP

Australian states hit by heavy rain, flooding

SYDNEY: Australian states New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania were hit by heavy rains that caused flash floods in several areas, local authorities said on Monday.

New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet said his state is facing flood threats on multiple fronts and many of its areas have already been impacted by recent flood events.

"With further heavy rain, gusty winds, and severe thunderstorms forecast from today until mid-week, we urge residents to remain vigilant, and stay up-to-date with the latest forecast and warnings via the SES and BOM websites and follow the advice of emergency services," Perrottet tweeted. The emergency service also issued a warning for local residents living in Winterton Parade between Pitt Street and the Wilsons River Pitt Lane to evacuate as Lower North Lismore is flooding.

Local authorities also found the body of a woman who was missing after a heavy flood in Gulgong.

Australian Bureau of Meteorology also issued a warning of a severe thunderstorm on the east and northeast coasts.

"A low in Northwest Victoria is extending a trough up into Southwest Queensland. Thunderstorms are developing in the moist air mass to the east of this trough today. Thunderstorms are also developing near the northeast coast," said the bureau in a statement.—APP

Briefs

Pakistan, Iran to enhance people-to-people contacts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture and people-to-people contacts. This understanding came during a meeting between Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb and Iranian Culture Minister Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili in Istanbul. Speaking on the occasion, Marriyum Aurangzeb said Pakistan desires to promote its relations with Iran in the fields of film and drama. She said Iranian filmmakers can take benefit from incentives given by the government for the film industry in Pakistan. The Minister said government has abolished taxes on the film industry, culture and tourism sector in this year's budget. The Iranian Minister for Culture expressed commitment to further strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of information, art and culture.

Russian spy chief blames West for nuclear tension

MONITORING DESK

MOSCOW: Western leaders have expressed concern about the scale of nuclear sabre-rattling over Ukraine by senior Russian officials, including President Putin, especially after February's invasion. How does Moscow react to charges it is engaging in such rhetoric and threats? I asked one of Russia's most powerful officials, Sergei Naryshkin, head of the SVR Foreign Intelligence Service, to respond to international criticism. He denied any Russian nuclear rhetoric, even though there's been plenty. Mr Naryshkin pointed the finger back at the West. "Will you state categorically that Russia will not use nuclear weapons in Ukraine or engage in other provocative actions, such as exploding a dirty bomb, or blowing up a dam?" I asked Mr Naryshkin. Russia's spy chief didn't answer the question directly. "We are, of course, very concerned about Western rhetoric about the possibility of using nuclear weapons," Sergei Naryshkin responded. "Yesterday Russia's defence minister talked by phone with his colleagues from Turkey, the US and France. He told them about the possible plans of the Ukrainian leadership to use a so-called 'dirty nuclear bomb'," Mr Naryshkin continued. "But there is no evidence to back up that claim," I pointed out. On Sunday the UK, US and French governments issued a joint statement on the Russian government's claims.

Russia claims Ukraine in 'final stage' of creating 'dirty bomb'

MOSCOW: Moscow said Monday that Ukraine had nearly completed developing a "dirty bomb," after Russia's defence minister in calls with NATO counterparts claimed Kyiv's forces were planning to deploy the weapon. "According to the information we have, two organisations in Ukraine have specific instructions to create a so-called 'dirty bomb'. This work is in its final stage," Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov said in a statement on Monday. He said Kyiv was planning to accuse Russia of "using weapons of mass destruction in Ukraine and thus launch a powerful anti-Russian campaign in the world". The weapon would be composed of radioactive elements "creating radioactive contamination over large areas, and potentially also leading to radiation diseases" after detonation. The United Kingdom, the United States and France issued a joint statement dismissing the claim earlier on Monday. — APP

REPUBLIC DAY OF KA-



ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Energy Mussadaq Malik, Federal Minister for Hajj, Ambassador of Kazakhstan and others cutting cake to celebrate Republic Day of Kazakhstan. — DNA

Myanmar military air raid kills 60 in Kachin state

The South East Asian nation has been in political turmoil since the February 1, 2021, military takeover, which was met with peaceful nationwide protests

NEWS DESK

NAYPYIDAW: At least 60 people have been killed, including well-known artists and musicians, in an aerial attack on a concert in Kachin state by Myanmar's military, sources have told Al Jazeera. "Three Myanmar jets are reported to have been involved in the attack in Kansai village," Al Jazeera's Tony Cheng, reporting from neighbouring Thailand, said on Monday. "The aftermath of the attack shows an awful lot of destruction. There is a lot of debris ... vehicles strewn across the open ground," he said from the Thai capital Bangkok, adding that there are "still 100 seriously injured people". Cheng said the attacks took place while artists were performing on stage as part of the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), a powerful separatist group based in the coun-

try's north. "Some very celebrated Kachin singers are also believed to be amongst the fatalities," he said. KIO has been fighting Myanmar's military for decades and supports the resistance against last February's military coup. The organisation did not comment immediately on the attack. Cheng said that, according to sources, the injured were not being allowed to leave the area by the military who closed off the area with checkpoints around the village. "Many of them in urgent need of medical attention," he said. The National Unity Government (NUG) in exile — established by the democratically-elected politicians removed from office in last year's military coup — condemned the attack. One NUG minister told Al Jazeera this was just another example of Myanmar's military attacking civilians. Cheng said the attack appeared to be part of a pattern that has emerged in recent months. Myanmar military, he said, has used its air superi-

ority to conduct air raids, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes. The South East Asian nation has been in political turmoil since the February 1, 2021, military takeover, which was met with peaceful nationwide protests. However, after the army and police killed demonstrators opposing military rule, civilians throughout the country formed armed units as part of a People's Defence Force (PDF) to fight the military rule. According to the rights group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which documents killings and human rights violations in Myanmar, at least 2,370 people have been killed and more than 15,900 arrested since the coup. Responding to the news that Myanmar military air strikes reportedly killed dozens of people including civilians at a concert in Kachin State on Sunday night, Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director Hana Young said: "Singers,

artists and other civilians are among those reported killed in last night's air strikes. We fear this attack is part of a pattern of unlawful aerial attacks by the military which have killed and injured civilians in areas controlled by armed groups. "The military has shown ruthless disregard for civilian lives in its escalating campaign against opponents. It is difficult to believe the military did not know of a significant civilian presence at the site of this attack. The military must immediately grant access to medics and humanitarian assistance to those affected by these air strikes and other civilians in need. "Myanmar's military has been committing widespread atrocities since the 2021 coup, including unlawfully killing, arbitrarily detaining, torturing and forcibly displacing civilians. It has been able to carry out these crimes in the face of an ineffective international response to a human rights crisis that is only worsening.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessing the signing ceremony of \$1.5 Billion Loan Agreement under BRACE Program of ADB. — DNA

Pakistan condemns Houthis for UN resolution violations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reaffirmed its strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia as well as its efforts for achieving a peaceful settlement in Yemen. In a statement on Monday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar condemned Houthis' violations of the UN Security Council Resolutions and terrorist activities perpetrated against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The spokesperson said Pakistan has consistently urged all parties to the conflict in Yemen to engage in peaceful and meaningful talks to end the hostilities in line with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. He noted that the truce reached earlier this year had yielded dividends by bringing about relative peace. It is however deplorable that the truce has not been renewed by the Houthis. This would cause mounting hardship for the ordinary Yemenis and potentially derail the entire effort for attainment of durable peace. — DNA

Eighteen PML-N MPAs face suspension

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi on Monday suspended the membership of 18 PML-N MPAs who created ruckus in the assembly when the ruling PTI tabled a resolution against the verdict of the Toshakhana reference. The speaker has suspended the membership of 18 lawmakers belonging to the opposition party PML-N. The action was taken as the PML-N members staged a protest in the legislature when the PTI lawmaker tabled a resolution against the verdict of the Toshakhana reference resulting in disqualification of ex-PM Imran Khan. The members who have been subjected to action include Azma Zahid Bokhari, Rahila Khadim, Mian Abdul Rauf, Samiullah Khan and others. — DNA

Bangladesh evacuates thousands ahead of cyclone

BARISAL: Hundreds of thousands of people were being evacuated Monday from the path of a cyclone careening towards densely populated, low-lying Bangladesh, according to officials. About 33,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, controversially relocated to a storm-prone island in the Bay of Bengal, were also advised to remain indoors. Cyclones — the equivalent of hurricanes in the North Atlantic or typhoons in the Northwest Pacific — are a regular and deadly menace on the coast of the northern Indian Ocean where tens of millions of people live. But scientists say climate change is likely making them more intense and frequent, and Bangladesh is already rated by the UN as one of the countries most affected by extreme weather events since the turn of the century. Cyclone Sirang, packing gusts of 88 kilometres (55 miles) per hour, was forecast to make landfall near the southern Bangladeshi town of Khepupara by Tuesday morning, the weather office said. Most worrying for authorities was the predicted storm surge of up to three metres (10 feet) above normal tide levels, which could inundate areas home to millions of people. — APP

Iran's Raisi congratulates Xi Jinping on re-election

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said Monday that cooperation with China protects "international stability", as he congratulated Xi Jinping for securing a third term as the country's leader. Iran and China have strong economic relations especially in the fields of oil and energy, transit, agriculture, trade and investment. Raisi and Xi met for the first time last month during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Uzbekistan where the Iranian president called for expansion of ties. "Cooperation within the framework of multilateral institutions and organisations, in addition to securing the interests of both countries, helps to protect international stability and peace," Raisi said, according to a presidency statement. China's ruling Communist Party's Central Committee elected Xi as its general secretary for another five-year period on Sunday, cementing the 69-year-old's position as the most powerful leader since the party's founder Mao Zedong. Both countries signed in 2021 a 25-year "strategic cooperation pact" said to include "political, strategic and economic" components. Raisi said the partnership provides a "model of all-round expansion of relations based on interests and mutual respect". — APP

Imran visits residence of Arshad, offers condolences

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Monday visited the residence of senior journalist Arshad Sharif, who was shot dead by Kenyan police in a case of 'mistaken identity'. Imran Khan offered his condolence to the mother of the martyr and other family members. The former prime minister also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. Senior journalist and anchorperson Arshad Sharif, was reportedly shot to death by Kenyan Police along the Nairobi-Magadi highway on Sunday in "mistaken identity case". According to Kenyan media, the journalist was fatally shot in the head by cops after allegedly violating a roadblock established to keep an eye on motor vehicles using the route. The media, while quoting local police officials, said that they were directed to intercept a car involved in a carjacking in Nairobi in which a child was taken hostage, which was similar to the one Arshad Sharif and his driver were driving. — APP

Consultative approach vital to fortify democracy: Kaira

The advisor said that in case of misdeclaration and concealment of assets, a member had to lose his seat as per law. He further said that gifts which Asif Ali Zardari and Mian Nawaz Sharif took from Toshakhana were in their personal use, they had not concealed those gifts

LAHORE: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that adopting consultative approach is vital to strengthen democracy in the country. Addressing a press conference at Governor's House on Monday, he said that when Imran Khan was in power, the opposition faced political victimization. He said, "In view of the challenges the country is facing, we talked about signing a charter of economy." He said that decisions made with a proper consultation in the light of the Islamic guidelines were best solution to all problems. Regarding Imran Khan's long march, he said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman was making tall claims about holding a long march. He said if Imran Khan wanted to create chaotic situation in Islamabad, he must rest assured that those days had gone when there was a practice to lay siege to any area. He said, "Now it is a time to make democr-

ic struggle." He said that the government was duty bound to stop unlawful actions as per law to maintain law and order situation. About Toshakhana case, Kaira said in Elec-

tion Commission every elected representative had to declare assets. "If any member does not declare his asset, then his membership gets suspended and it continues till



filling of assets declaring forms," he said. The advisor said that in case of misdeclaration and concealment of assets, a member had to lose his seat as per law. He further said that gifts which Asif Ali Zardari and Mian Nawaz Sharif took from Toshakhana were in their personal use, and they had not concealed those gifts. He said that Imran Khan had also given wrong affidavit in Election Commission of Pakistan. Selling any gift was not good morally, he said adding that Imran Khan made money amounting to almost 100 million by selling gifts and he did not pay tax on it as well. Kaira said that the country could not run as per the wishes of Imran Khan. To a question, the advisor said that dialogue with Imran Khan could be held but without any pre-conditions. He said the government would take up the matter of killing of journalist Arshad Sharif with Kenyan government at the highest level for an inquiry into the incident. He strongly condemned the incident. — APP