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Army to stay away from politics: COAS

Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa confirms retirement plans

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The armed forces have distanced itself from the politics and want to stay out of it in the future as well, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said. The statement came during the army chief's address at a luncheon at Pakistani embassy in Washington. Gen Bajwa also reiterated his resolve to leave after the completion of his term as the army chief this November. "There could be no diplomacy without a strong economy," said the army chief. He further stated that the nation cannot achieve its targets without a strong economy. "Restoring the ailing economy of the country should be the priority of every stakeholder of the society," Gen Bajwa said. The COAS is currently on a visit to the United States, where he called on US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, National Security Adviser Jacob Sullivan, and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. Matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed during the meetings, the ISPR said. General Bajwa also told the US officials that assistance from Pakistan's global partners was vital for the "rescue and rehabilitation" of flood victims. He also thanked the US officials for their support for the flood relief in Pakistan. Both sides agreed that Pakistan and the US had a long history of bilateral cooperation and both countries shall continue to improve their economic and trade ties apart from looking for investment avenues. General Bajwa also offered heartfelt condolence on the deaths and devastation in the US state of Florida due to Hurricane Ian, the statement said. Pakistan fully understands the loss and pain of families as the country itself is facing drastic effects of climate change, added the statement. "Both sides had convergence on ma-

'Army chief's appointment from among five names'

KHAYAM ABABASI

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said Wednesday that anyone from among the five nominated names could be appointed as the next chief of army staff. In a press conference, Asif announced that the process would either start by the end of this month or the beginning of the next and that it will be done in line with the law and Constitution. Asif added that it is the discretion of the sitting prime minister to pick any name forwarded by the Ministry of Defence. The defence minister said that in the past, names other than the five suggested have also been chosen for the military chief's position. Speaking on the appointment of the army chief on the basis of seniority, the defence minister said: "All three-star generals are eligible for this." The minister also commented on the probability of the next general elections and said that polls will be held as per schedule.

for international issues including Afghanistan and need for cooperation to avoid humanitarian crisis and improving peace and stability in the region," the statement said.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDONESIA

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood, Mushahid Hussain Syed, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio and others cutting cake to mark the 77TH Independence Day of Indonesia - DNA

ADB announces \$2.3-2.5bn for flood relief

Ye congratulates the Ishaq Dar on assuming office

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday announced it would provide aid of around \$2.3-2.5 billion for relief operations in the wake of devastating floods that have caused catastrophic damage in Pakistan. According to a press release issued by the Finance Division, the announcement was made during a meeting between Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye. During the meeting, Ye congratulated the Dar on assuming office and expressed sympathy for the loss of lives and properties due to the floods. The ADB country director said that \$1.5bn from the announced aid will be allotted to the Balochistan Rural Development and Community Empowerment Programme and the proposal will be put before the bank's board this month. "He also apprised the meeting about ongoing and future projects of ADB in different sectors including social protection, food security and energy sectors. "Regarding the Country Partnership Strategy for Pakistan 2021-25, it was shared that this strategy is in line with the vision of the government of Pakistan," the press release reads. It added that the finance minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated ADB's role and support in promoting sustainable development in the country.

Imran directs party to gather thousands for 'Azadi March'

'Local leadership will be responsible to bear the expenses of the workers reaching Islamabad'

YOUSAF BHUTTA

GUJRANWALA: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday directed his organisation's office holders to ensure that thousands of the party's workers gather in Islamabad during the "Azadi March". The PTI chairman - who became the first prime minister to be voted out of office in April - has held a series of protests against the incumbent government and he plans on staging a long march in the near future. There has been no reconciliation between the PTI and the government so far despite the passage of more than six months as the party continues to demand fresh elections and refuses to return to the National Assembly. Sources said Khan's directions came during a meeting with several district heads of Punjab - including Gujranwala, Narowal, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, and Gujrat.

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Imran could have raised voice in NA: SC

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah on Wednesday said that former prime minister Imran Khan could have raised objections on the amendments in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law if he had stayed in the National Assembly. The judge remarked this while questioning Imran Khan's decision to abandon National Assembly, as the apex court's three-member bench resumed the hearing on PTI chairman's plea against the recent

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Putin okays annexation of occupied territories

KYIV: President Vladimir Putin formally incorporated four partially-occupied Ukrainian regions into Russia on Wednesday, a move Kyiv condemned as a meaningless land grab dreamt up by "a collective madhouse". Pushing ahead with Europe's biggest annexation since World War Two, Putin signed off on a law annexing up to 18% of Ukraine, some of which Moscow's forces do not control. Including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, Moscow is laying claim to almost a quarter of Ukraine, though it has yet to spell out where all of the borders will

be located and its own troops have been forced to retreat on two fronts. The Russian leader's signature was the final stage in the legal process to annex Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine and Zaporizhzhia and Kherson in the south. He later said Russia would stabilise the situation there, an indirect acknowledgment of the challenges it faces to assert its control. Kyiv says it will never accept an illegal imperial-style land grab and has recaptured hundreds of square miles of its own territory in recent weeks. - DNA

Briefs

President to address joint session

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in Joint Sitting has been summoned to meet on October 6, 2022 which would formally convene the last parliamentary year of the incumbent NA after the address of the President. The 15th NA would witness the fifth and last Presidential address to the Parliament under clause (3) of Article 56 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The first Presidential address to the incumbent Assembly was made on September 17, 2018, second on September 12, 2019, third on August 20, 2020 and fourth on September 13, 2021.

PM thanks UN chief for support

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the United Nations launched a revised flash appeal of \$816 million for flood-hit Pakistan a day earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday thanked the UN chief for effectively highlighting the country's needs in the wake of disaster. "Thank you Antonio Guterres for your leadership in articulating needs of people affected by disastrous floods," he said in a tweet. The prime minister, however, stressed that the revised UN appeal of \$816 million for flood victims underscored the need for "continued global engagement". "With food and health crisis becoming graver, we need to ramp up action," he said, emphasizing the need for persistent efforts for rehabilitation of flood-stricken people.

Mariyum asks Imran to answer questions

The minister said that Imran, who ruined national economy with record loans worth over Rs 20 thousand billion, was threatening to march towards the federal capital

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb Wednesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan should fully explain the real motives of the long march, prior to a long march to federal capital. She put up a formal challenge to the PTI leader to first answer her pertinent questions, and then give a date for the long march. In a statement, the minister asked why 'the foreign agent', playing with national security, was bent upon destabilizing the democratic system in the country. She said it was unfortunate that the PTI chairman was busy in making preparations for the long march, but alas he had no time to help the flood victims. The minister said that Imran Khan, who ruined national economy with record loans worth over Rs 20 thousand billion, was threatening to march towards the federal capital. She questioned why "the foreign agent to bankrupt Pakistan's economy" was coming to Islamabad. Mariyum Aurangzeb said that the foreign agent had rendered

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No cipher presented in NSC meeting, says Rana

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has revealed that the cipher - which former prime minister Imran Khan claims contains details of a foreign conspiracy to oust him from power - was not presented in the National Security Committee meeting held soon after the incumbent government took over, insisting that the then ambassador to the US had instead only briefed the meeting. Sanaullah made this statement while speaking in a TV show. A few days after the PTI government was toppled through a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly, an NSC meeting was held under the

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Pak needs support to combat climate change

Ashraf outlined that in the backdrop of recent climate fallout in the country, the Assembly had proposed an emergency item in the forthcoming IPU Assembly

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf said on Wednesday that the developed nations should lend immediate and judicious financial support to help climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan to better cope with the impacts of climate change. "The Climate catastrophe in Pakistan is a reminder for the global community to take immediate climate action", he added. The National Assembly Speaker expressed these views in his meeting with the Twelve Plus group of the Inter-parliamentary Union



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in group photo with Ambassadors / High Commissioners of Group 12+ countries. - DNA

(IPU), at Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was organized to seek the support of developed countries for the Assembly's proposal of a global climate fund through a passage of a resolution in the forthcoming 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda from October 15, 2022. Speaker emphasized that the climate catastrophe in Pakistan was so big and unimaginable that no words could do justice to what were witnessing. Cruel waves of flood waters swept away millions of men, women, and children; damaged buildings, and roads; washed away crops and livestock within a few days. The human eye did not witness such a colossal calamity in the history of Pakistan, said a news release. He also remarked that climate change was an existential threat, particularly to developing nations susceptible to rampant climate change. It kept coming back to haunt us in the form of floods, drought, heat waves, glaciers meltdowns and hurricanes. One cannot undo natural actions but could make efforts to limit human-induced destructions.

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Launching ceremony of upgrading Sukkur Barrage organized

NAZIR SIYAL

SUKKUR: World Bank S-1 package under Sindh Barrages Improvement Project of Irrigation department launching ceremony of restoration and upgrading of 90 years old Sukkur Barrage was held here on Wednesday. Task team leader World Bank Francois Onimus, and Project Director of (SBIP) Irrigation department Ghulam Mohiuddin Mughal performed the launching ceremony of the S-1 package for restoration and Upgradation of Sukkur Barrage. On

the occasion, others WB team members Thiruni Liyanaga Co-Task Team leader, Shafiq Hussain, Chief Engineer Sukkur Barrage Syed Sardar Ali Shah were also attended the event. Speaking to the launching ceremony, WB TTL Francois Onimus said that Sukkur Barrage was about century old Barrage in Pakistan and regarding climate change, the modernization and rehabilitation of Sukkur Barrage is also vital, it would bear more flow and capacity of water and upcoming floods years ahead, adding that its all components will

be rehabilitated through Sindh Barrages Improvement Project of Sindh government. He said that with the span of four years, this modernization and rehabilitation of Sukkur barrage will be completed. Francois said that its all 66 gates would be replaced and its civil and mechanical components will be rehabilitated. He said that this is about century old Sukkur Barrage has positive aspects through its rehabilitation and modernization of the Sukkur barrage. He said that Pakistan but specially Sindh province was facing climate change and floods

happening in Sindh hence Sukkur barrage and Indus River System will be remain more strong. He said the farmers of Sindh will be benefited through this rehabilitation and modernization of Sukkur barrage. The S-1 package Project Director Ghulam Mohiuddin Mughal said that with a total cost of 34 billion dollars World Bank funded revised PC-1, the rehabilitation and modernization of Sukkur barrage was started.

He said that with a cost of 16.6 billion rupees the S-1 package was started in which the restoration and upgradation work would be completed. He also said that it was historic event to launch a ceremony to launch a ceremony to rehabilitate and modernize the Sukkur Barrage. He said that through modernization and rehabilitation of Sukkur Barrage, all the issues and problems will be end at its taking canals and main barrage. He said that Sukkur barrage has seven off taking canals and it has 9.2 million acres of cultivable command areas.



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of CDA Mazdoor Union led by its Secretary General Ch. Muhammad Yasin visited ICCI and congratulate the new office bearers of ICCI. – DNA

CDA Union to cooperate in resolving key issues of business community

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that most of the issues of business community were related to CDA and CDA Union should help in addressing them to facilitate the growth of business activities. He said that for better protection of the interests of the business community, sitting President ICCI should be made a member of CDA Board. He said that till the nomination in CDA Board, President ICCI should be invited as an Observer to the meetings of CDA Board to take care of the issues of trade and industry, said a press release issued here. He assured that ICCI would support the protection of genuine rights of CDA employees. He said this while addressing a del-

egation of CDA Mazdoor Union that visited ICCI led by its Secretary General Ch. Muhammad Yasin to congratulate the new Office Bearers of ICCI. President, CDA Mazdoor Union Aurangzeb Khan and others were in the delegation. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI stressed for the need of close liaison between ICCI and CDA Union to achieve their common goals. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader hoped that CDA employees would work more diligently to address the major issues of business community and the citizens. He said that the role of CDA employees was also important in making Islamabad one of the most beautiful capitals of the world. Speaking at the occasion, Ch. Muhammad Yasin, Secretary General, CDA Mazdoor Union said that the business commu-

nity was the backbone of the economy and CDA Mazdoor Union would cooperate in resolving its burning issues. He said that ICCI members were playing an important role in developing the city and creating jobs and it was the duty of CDA employees to facilitate them in business promotion. He said that the CDA Union was supportive of the inclusion of sitting President ICCI in the CDA Board. It was agreed that both sides should join hands and work together for the development of the city and growth of business activities. Zafar Bakhtari, Mian Akram Farid, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former Presidents ICCI and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that CDA in consultation with ICCI should accelerate efforts for the better development of markets, industrial areas and the overall city.

PTI amended NAB laws for political victimization: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Narcotics Control Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said it was the past regime of PTI that started amending National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws for political engineering and victimization of opponents. "It is clarified that all amendments in the NAB laws have not been initiated during the tenures of PML-N and PPP. These (NAB law amendments) had been carried out during the tenure of Imran Khan Niazi with certain purpose and background," he said while responding to PTI leader Chaudhry Fawad Hussain's objections over the recent amendments in NAB laws at a news conference here. He said the height of political victimi-

zation and the NAB-Niazi nexus could be gauged from the fact that all opposition members of the first two rows in the National Assembly were behind the bar, due to the accountability laws which he called 'black laws.' He said it was unfortunate that Shehbaz Sharif was arrested by the NAB officials when he had already passed six-month imprisonment in a bogus case, while Maryam Nawaz Sharif was arrested in front of her father Nawaz Sharif. All the unlawful things were done by the NAB just because Imran Niazi wanted to see happening this, he added.

The SAPM said the PPP and PML-N did not bring amendments to the NAB law during their past tenure (2008-2013 & 2013-2018) because

they never wanted to use it as a tool against political opponents. It was the past regime of PTI that felt the need of amending the NAB law for the arm-twisting of opposition leaders, he added. Now, he said, the incumbent coalition government had just rectified the NAB laws for the smooth working of routine official matters as government officials and contractors were avoiding taking any initiative, in the presence of black laws. Tarar made it clear that the recent amendments in the NAB laws were not meant to benefit any members of the cabinet or partners of the coalition government. He said the courts had cleared all the leadership of PML-N and PPP under old NAB laws. – APP

Shah reviews K-IV Project

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah visited project office of Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, commonly known as K-IV Project, and reviewed progress on the project. The minister was accompanied by Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd), said a press release here. Speaking on the occasion, the federal minister said K-IV is an important project to help address the issue of water shortage in the cosmopolitan city of Karachi. Therefore, the federal government is keen to complete this project in the shortest possible time, he added. Expressing satisfaction over the measures taken by the project management, he said that the Ministry of Water Resources will fully support WAPDA for completion of the project. – APP

Uplift of SMEs sector is imperative: SCCI

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Muhammad Ishaq on Wednesday said that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector has enormously contributed toward economic viability, sustainability and growth, which should be strengthened and uplift at optimal level. Talking to the chambers' former presidents, business delegations and government high officials here Muhammad Ishaq noted the business community has played a pivotal role in the economic development of the country through paying various taxes. He, there-

fore, urged the government to facilitate and provide special incentives to traders. He said SCCI is a representative forum of traders' community, which has already made efforts toward amicable resolution of their issues. Members of these delegations include former presidents Faud Ishaq, Faiz Muhammad Faizi, Sherbaz Bilour, former senior vice president Engr Manzoor Elahi, executive member Abdul Hakim Shinwari, Afghan Commercial Attache in Peshawar Hamidullah Himat, SMEEDA provincial chief Rashid Aman, SMEEDA finance manager Sohail Jan, former president Haripur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Attaur Rehman, Central Tanzeem e Tajaraan

provincial president Mian Sharafat Ali Mubarak, traders, friends and others. The chamber's senior vice president Shahid Hussain and vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi were also present during the meeting. Ishaq said traders have played an important role in sustainable economic growth. He said that SCCI will not left no stone unturned to provide relief to flood and terrorism-hit business community of KP. He went on to say that taxpayers are ready to cooperate with relevant government departments to stabilize the current fragile country's economy. Ishaq demanded of the government to frame economic policies with consultation of chamber.

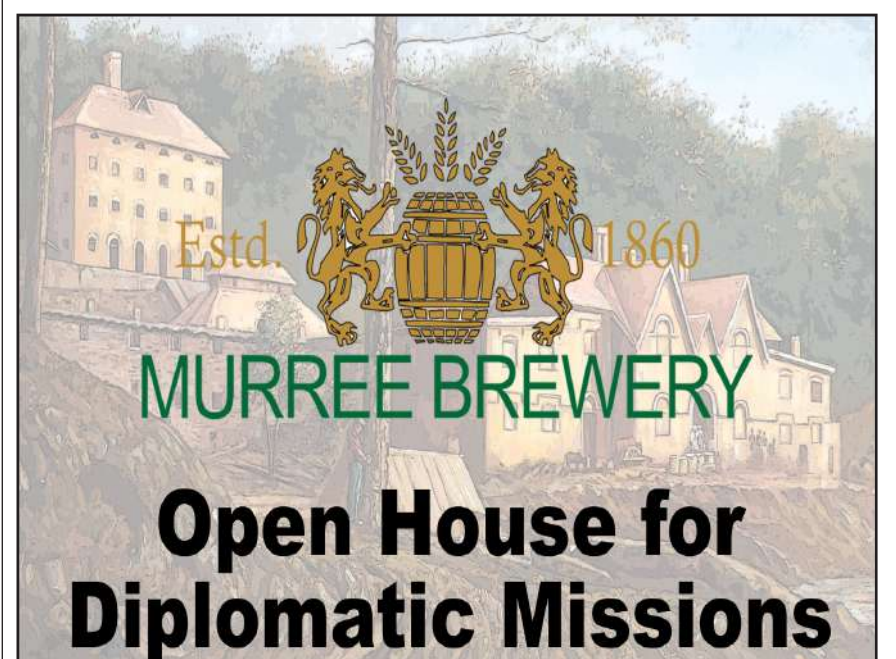
Teachers Day celebrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR: World Teachers' Day titled "The transformation of education begins with teachers" was marked in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to highlight significance of teachers in imparting quality education at all levels. Major event in this connection was held at Usama Zafar Higher Secondary School No.2 Peshawar with Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Mohtasim Billah Shah as a chief guest. Director Education Hafiz Ibrahim and other education experts were present on this occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Mohtasim Billah Shah said that teachers are the backbone of a society and they give orientation to society. He said that the provincial government is taking measures to facilitate teachers and provide all kinds of facilities to them. He urged teachers to treat students like their own kids because today's students are the future of tomorrow. In some schools posters are displayed and people are encouraged to send e-cards or letters of appreciation to teachers who made a special or memorable contribution to their education. "Tanzeem Asatizka Pakistan" Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also paid tribute to teachers to celebrate Ashra Takreem Mualam' in Government Higher Secondary School No.1 Jamrud. – APP

Speakers highlights importance of Uswa Hasna

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a Seminar stressed the need of character building in the light of teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH), stating that Allah Almighty has declared the life of the Holy Prophet as an example for Muslims. They were addressing a seminar held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) on the theme of "Building personality in the light of Prophet Muhammad SAWW". Seerat-ul-Nabi Chair, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has decided to hold seminars on various topics on account of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the month of blessings. Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik presided over the event while the Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology, Dr. Qibla Ayaz was the special guest. Sahibzada Sajdul Rehman Head, Seerat Chair, and senior advisor PMU, Mohammad Rafiq Tahir, hosted the event. Apart from faculty members, scholars of Islamic University and students of Kahuta

Law College also attended the ceremony. In his address, Dr. Qibla Ayaz said that the Prophet Muhammad PBUH continued to work for the welfare of humanity, and this is still needed today. He brought the young people with him and taught them to establish justice. He said that the trend of these kinds of events is emerging in Allama Iqbal Open University through Sirat-ul-Nabi Chair, which is commendable. Allama Sahibzada Syed Arshad Saeed Kazmi, while giving a lecture on the topic of character building in the light of Prophet Muhammad SAWW, said that Allah Almighty has declared the life of the Holy Prophet as an example for Muslims. He said that the religion of Islam revolves around the Holy Prophet and his life is a practical interpretation of the Holy Quran. Saeed Kazmi narrated in detail various incidents of justice and fairness, trustworthiness, honesty, and good behavior of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). – DNA



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For further information please contact the following.

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ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif presenting a shield to Jamal Beker Abdula, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. – DNA

Ethiopian envoy calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Jamal Beker Abdula called on the Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif here on Wednesday while acknowledging the present scale of cooperation between the two countries. During the meeting Khawaja Muhammad Asif stated that Pakistan considered Ethiopia a close friend and an important country in the region, a news release said. He said that Pakistan intended to establish a meaningful defence ties with Ethiopia and was focused on enhanced defence, military and intelligence cooperation. He mentioned Pakistan's recent contribution when Islamabad voted against EU-Sponsored Resolution at UNHRC related to Human Rights Violations by Ethiopia. – APP

China and Russia-Ukraine conflict

The situation on the battlefield of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has taken a complicated turn in recent weeks. The Ukrainian army has recaptured dozens of kilometers of territory since the "counteroffensive" was launched in early September. However, Russia publicly explained that its troops withdrew on its own initiative to regroup "to liberate Donbass." The actual situation is still unclear, but the US and Western media couldn't wait to celebrate Ukraine's "big victory in the counteroffensive." While aiming their guns at Russia, some have fired hidden arrows at China. Hal Brands, a professor of political science at the Johns Hopkins University in the US, recently tweeted that "if Russia's battlefield situation in Ukraine is as bad as it seems, it will create serious dilemmas for China." Some US and Western media also claimed that Ukraine's rapid advances have "certainly left China in an uncomfortable position," and even called for China to "draw lessons from Russia." These arguments are both absurd and vicious. They first demoralize Russia by magnifying its "defeat" on the battlefield and then convert it into a "defeat" of China in a far-fetched way. According to the logic of the West, they either "bind" China and Russia tightly or attempt to create a rift between the two countries.

On this matter, China has never added fuel to the fire, nor did it take advantage of the opportunity to seek geopolitical self-interests, unlike the US and the West, which have continued to make provocations and want to use Ukraine to bring down Russia. Not only that, the outbreak of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is regrettable, and we are worried about the protracted conflict and the development of a war of attrition. No matter how the situation on the battlefield changes, it is a definite and hazardous fact that the factors that led to the outbreak of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine have not been resolved, but have become more serious. Except for those with geopolitical ambitions, who else would see such an outcome as a victory?

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has lasted for more than 200 days. It has had a significant impact not only on the people of Russia and Ukraine. In addition, the ordinary people in Europe and many developing countries are suffering from the disastrous geopolitical consequence. Recently, a former British MP pointed out that "this is the US being willing to fight to the last drop of Ukrainian blood and being ready to fight to the last European." Now Washington wants to further drain Ukraine's geopolitical value, trying to forcibly drag China into the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in every possible way. Such greed is really ugly. Washington's bottom line is lower than the world can imagine.



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The West must deter disaster

Twice recently, Russian President Vladimir Putin has raised the prospect of using nuclear weapons in the war he launched to destroy Ukraine. With Russian forces retreating in Ukraine's Donbas region, Mr. Putin's threats amount to desperate saber-rattling intended to frighten all. But his threats must not be brushed off completely, given Mr. Putin's record of folly and recklessness. What weapons are we talking about? Not the nuclear warheads carried by continent-spanning intercontinental ballistic missiles, capable of city-busting strikes with limited warning, which defined the Cold War. Rather, according to the authoritative Nuclear Notebook in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, by Hans M. Kristensen and Matt Korda, Russia possesses 1,912 nonstrategic or tactical nuclear weapons, designed to be launched from ground-based missiles, airplanes or naval vessels. This total might include warheads that are retired or awaiting dismantlement, so the actual deployable force might be smaller. No treaty has ever limited these weapons, although in 1991, President George H.W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to voluntarily pull many of them back to warehouses.

The Russian warheads are kept in storage under the custody of the defense ministry's 12th Main Directorate. If Mr. Putin were to deploy them, his order would be transmitted to units. Then the weapons would be released from storage onto transport by trucks or helicopters. Once deployed on delivery vehicles — say, missiles or airplanes — Mr. Putin would have to issue a direct order to use them. Each step might be detected and provide the United States and its allies time to react. Early warning would — and should — trigger intense diplomatic and other pressure on Mr. Putin to stop before setting off a nuclear catastrophe. Preparing to exploit this warning is the best defense against disaster. No doubt, Mr. Putin might want to play out such a deployment to ratchet up the pressure. But in so doing, he would escalate the risk of error or miscalculation. Nuclear gamesmanship toys with existential danger. A nuclear blast in Ukraine, even low-yield, would kill civilians as well as soldiers and contaminate Russia, Ukraine and beyond. President Biden has properly warned of severe consequences, and Mr. Putin would be wise to listen. Former CIA director and retired Gen. David H. Petraeus suggested incautiously on Sunday that NATO should launch a massive conventional — that is, nonnuclear — military response, including sinking Russia's Black Sea fleet, if the Kremlin used a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine. This appears to be a recipe for wider war with Russia. Far better to stop Mr. Putin before the cataclysm. In 1962, the world stood at the brink when the Soviet Union deployed nuclear warheads on missiles in Cuba, then stood down and took them home. Mr. Putin is getting closer to the peril of those momentous days. He flirts with a dance of death. The only sane thing to do is stand down and end this needless war.

A new turn in Russia-Ukraine war

Munir Ahmed

The Washington Post experts estimate that Russia will get more than US\$12 trillion worth of minerals just in Donbass (DNR and LNR). That's more than 60 percent of Ukraine's coal deposits, 20 percent of its gas reserves and more than 40 percent its metal deposits. Just a glimpse why the US and NATO are interested in and struggling to capture Ukrainian membership for a decade.

Last Friday (30 September 2022), President Vladimir Putin announced Russia's 'reunification' of four Ukrainian parts with Russia while both countries have been fighting since late February this year. The US and the West have shown their anger over the "annexation" of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson with Russia, a region that makes up 15 percent of Ukraine's territory. Annexation or Reunification, whatever you call in terms of your interpretation or vested interest, Russia took control over the four parts after a "referendum" followed by the "rulers" of these parts signed the documents of reunification/annexation of their land with Russia, telecast live on the screens. Good enough. What next? Several weeks back I wrote on these pages showing my apprehensions that Ukraine will be divided. Some Kremlin-leaning parts would be annexed with Russia. Other parts would go to the NATO Bloc. The US and West is only interested in a piece of land where their military might could sit over Russia's neck to control its ever-strengthening economy and wide-spreading geopolitical and geo-economic bilateral and multilateral ties since after the end of

cold war. Russia has taken control of the four Ukrainian parts. The US and NATO are shouting against the step declaring it illegal, calling the "referendum" fake, and promising to undo the move. Russia is all out to defend its "reunification". Russia is also claiming to liberate other parts of Ukraine or the entire country from the occupation of the West that was done in 2014 through a "revolution", and seems determined to "reunify" with Russia. The rising conflict is a serious concern for the entire world, especially for the region. Fueling the feud is a constant threat for regional and global peace and prosperity. Ignoring all the noise in the Western and the US media against Russian annexation of Ukrainian parts, Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, unanimously approved President Vladimir Putin's bills on Monday, according to Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin, formalizing the seizure of four regions of Ukraine in a vote that was never in doubt.

The upper house, Russia's Federation Council, voted yesterday (October 4) to formalize the annexations, which the West claims has "violated international law". The moves signal to Ukraine and its supporters that Moscow sees the seizures as irreversible. Fine, but what about the Ukrainian video showing their forces "planting" their flag in Myrlyubivka, a settlement in the Kherson region. Ukraine claimed to have gained more ground overnight in counter offensives while Russia was preparing to vote on the seized Ukrainian parts in the State Duma. Chaotic and strange situation is merging in Ukraine but not unexpectedly. A decade back geopolitical wisdom has reflected upon the consequences of increasing US and NATO interest and influence in Ukraine. They knew well that it would disrupt the peace and prosperity of the country, region and global too. Now, we are seeing it happening. Ultimately, we need to do something about Kiev too. The destruction of Ukraine is now underway while the US and NATO are supporting Kiev against Russia to grab the entire Ukraine. Poland claims five regions, Romania claims one, and Hungary claims Transcarpathia. The three recent interests play no small part in fomenting the conflict. Therefore we can say that by special operation we are saving the Ukrainian statehood. Because there is no hope that

the current leaders of Ukraine will save it. After all, it is no coincidence that a fictitious person was put in the president's chair. A comedian-actor with no skills rules over 40 million people in the centre of Europe.

A Russian diplomacy expert believes, "It should not be forgotten that Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are historical Slavic states, which can only live in cooperation with each other. And it is not a secret for the West. First they tried to shake up the situation in Belarus, but didn't succeed, and then they confronted Ukraine and Russia. These are not random processes. That is why nobody but our country is concerned about the destiny of Ukrainian statehood. We understand very well that if it disappears, it will be unnatural for us. We can say that Russia is solving a serious strategic task today.

The historical and ideological effect is the return of territories. These lands were acquired by the Russian Empire during the development of the Wild Field in the second half of the 18th century. Under Catherine II, they were named Novorossiya. Zaporozhye (Aleksandrovska) was founded in 1770, Kherson in 1778 and Lugansk in 1795. Donetsk emerged later, in 1869. In 1922 these regions were included by the Soviet authorities into the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. There was a demographic effect. Together with the four regions, Russia will gain 5 to 6 million new citizens. The population of the country will grow considerably. These people will integrate into the Russian socio-cultural space, become taxpayers." The Russian Foreign Office believes that the referendum fixed the annexation of the regions within their old administrative borders. The Russian state border will now run along the administrative boundaries of the four former Ukrainian regions. And they will have to be defended, protected and rebuilt as Russian territory. All of the country's resources will have to be devoted to it.

The Washington Post experts estimate that Russia will get more than US\$12 trillion worth of minerals just in Donbass (DNR and LNR). That's more than 60 percent of Ukraine's coal deposits, 20 percent of its gas reserves and more than 40 percent its metal deposits. Just a glimpse why the US and NATO are interested in and struggling to capture Ukrainian membership for a decade.

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Familyism

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

It was a striking invitation to join a book launching

ceremony in one of the leading hotels of Lahore with the title of Familyism (khandaniyyet) on September 04, 2022. Some prominent names were among the speakers, but most important aspect of the session was that the organizers converted the occasion into fundraising for flood relief activities which resulted into more than 10 million rupees of donations by the participants. Familyism is a topic of global concern due to the tarnishing social fabric around the globe. We here in the subcontinent are relatively less affected by this global phenomenon which diluted the structure of the family due to extensive modernization, urbanization and commercialization where everyone is running to attain as much luxury as possible for enhanced experience of life. But we forgot that eventual pleasure exists in collectiveness, togetherness and cooperativeness. Familyism puts priority to family advocating a societal system where families take responsibility for the care of their members rather than leaving all responsibilities to the government. It is both symbolic and ideological contrast to the materialism where self-interest takes precedence over all other obligations. It was 1992, my first year of professional life, when I was listening to our then CEO late Mr. HaiderKarrareduating us to remain vigilant on two fronts, first the family and the second financial management. He emphasized to limit expenses according to the pocket for peaceful life and make sure to look after the family, because if you don't have a sound family 'tuaapkababajai' means 'you will have a terrible life', for harmony in life you need to have a dependable wife, he added. The publisher in his opening remarks mentioned that when disciples of Eblis present their progress he embraces the one who managed to create friction between a husband and a wife because it is the starting point to weaken the institution of a family. He also showed his concerns over significant increase of khula cases than divorce in recent years indicating a trend that more women are now trying to escape from the challenges and responsibilities of a family life. Being in the family is indeed demanding, needs compromises, asks for sacrifices and requires patience to accommodate multidimensional demands of all members of the family but it has several long-term benefits e.g. most of our prosperity indices avoid looking at the miseries of old age parents in the developed countries, if we can gauge their difficulties being without their families at the mercy of old age homes this single indicator will put all prosperity surveys upside down. The author of the book, Dr. SamiaRaheelQazi, in her address was appreciative of her entire family for their support to facilitate her achievements in the life from her parents to her children and even grand children who are source of happiness in her life. She recognized support of every member of her family with their names explaining their contributions in her attainments. Some

leading journalists, academicians, researchers, representatives of NGOs and women organizations were present on the occasion. The focus of speeches remained tacitly criticizing to the western family culture which I think is visible to us only through the glamorous metropolitan popular cities. The connectivity of family members in cities and towns little away from the mainstream is relatively better. But the question is why we aspire for familyism? Is it just a long-term self-protection strategy? Is it seeking spiritual satisfaction? Is it complying traditions? Is it to strengthen national/ societal prosperity? Or is it irritability to the Western culture? Because apparently the facilitations which Western culture extends to their people to assist in their responsibilities linked with the families is paying them off in terms of prosperity and growth. Western progress despite weakening family structures is awe-inspiring in terms of development and financial affluence. Does it worth to sacrifice the affection, the warmth, the love and the care which human relations extend to each other? Life on this planet revolves around the human being, what if the living soul remains engaged in material gains and ignores the value of family bonding to attain short-lived material happiness at the cost of lasting satisfaction of enduring family relationships. I was bit rattled looking at a report that suggests, "In nursing homes throughout Japan, an interactive, therapeutic robot is helping provide care to elderly residents. The robot's name is Paro, and it looks like a baby harp seal, complete with fur, soulful eyes, and even whiskers. The idea of getting health-care from a robot may seem to be the stuff of science fiction, but Paro is effective in calming elderly people with dementia and other cognitive disorders. A recent study found that loneliness rates decreased in a test group that socialized with the robot. Worldwide, about 5,000 Paros are in use, but Japan is the single biggest market for the device, with 3,000."

Japan is a country with increasingly aging population, launching of robots for the care of elderly people is indeed alarming from social perspective in spite of given advantages of reducing loneliness and reduction in the cost of healthcare. Because, despite their exceptional expected efficiency and accuracy still robots can never extend kindness, sympathy, attachment, tenderness and feelings of relationships.

Family is a part of divine design to enrich experience of human life in this world. Let's not spoil this institution, let's not culminate to Paro, let's not perish the feelings of being from our society, let's sacrifice for existence, let's compromise for compassion, and let's contribute to warmth of life by strengthening and promoting familyism in our societies for strong, prosperous and happy future of the mankind.

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Psychological empowerment at workplace

Zahra Ali



A positive, gratifying, fulfilling, work-related state-of-mind cultivates dedication and commitment, and prevents energy depletion, emotional exhaustion and health impairments.

Email: zahra.ali.khan@outlook.com Psychological empowerment is a concept originating from industrial-organizational psychology. An increased interest in empowerment has

been seen in diverse subject areas within psychology and management practices. Empowerment is giving an individual the opportunity for autonomy, to be able to make a choice, to take responsibility, and participate in decision making at workplace.

Empowering work conditions magnify active work engagement/involvement by stimulating employees' intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Namely, Development opportunities, Career Advancement, Job Security, Social Support, Social Structure, Feedback, Help, and Guidance at workplace directly fosters learning and devotion, as a result mounting proficiency, competence, relatedness, and wellbeing of the employees, and effectiveness of the organizational goals. Psychological Empowerment is the underlying mechanism of improved and active work engagement. Research databases suggest when employees who have access to pertinent knowledge about performance, both at the individual level and organizational level, about the values and policies; they are able to perceive work as more meaningful, rewarding, and substantial. A positive, gratifying,

fulfilling, work-related state-of-mind cultivates dedication and commitment, and prevents energy depletion, emotional exhaustion and health impairments. This is important not only for health and wellbeing, but also for retaining top performing employees.

These emotions widen thought-action repertoires. Research on active work engagement has burgeoned because actively engaged employees report better health and higher well-being, while they contribute to organizational effectiveness, goals, productivity, performance, sales, and customer satisfaction etc. This piece of writing can provide worthy and useful insights for education sector as well. In other words, this can assist educational institutions to maintain high levels of psychological empowerment among faculty members, in turn, enhancing their employees' commitment and effectiveness and students' academic achievement. Education is a social institution that requires continued learning opportunities, workforce development, collaboration and partnerships, school-to-work transitions, including coaching and mentoring, to respond to contemporary global challenges and achieving sustainable development goals. —The writer is a regular contributor towards SDGs, and at present an M. phil Scholar.

Briefs

Children injured as Israeli troops storm school

DNA

OCCUPIED WEST BANK: Many Palestinian children suffered injuries and breathing difficulties after Israeli troops stormed an elementary school in southern West Bank and fired tear gas, amid heightened tensions in the occupied territories over relentless Israeli military aggression. The Palestinian official news agency Wafa, citing Qussai Ja'bari, Principal of al-Khalil Elementary School, reported that dozens of Israeli regime soldiers stormed the educational center, which is situated near the Ibrahim Mosque, on Wednesday morning. The troops then lobbed several teargas canisters and chased children as they were leaving the school for home. Ja'bari added that many children suffered teargas inhalation, while others fell and suffered cuts and bruises while running away for the fear of getting hurt. The development comes less than a week after Israeli forces raided another elementary school in the same occupied West Bank city, and launched an unprovoked attack on teachers and students there.

Iran summons British envoy over Amini comments

TEHRAN: Iran said Wednesday it had summoned British ambassador Simon Shercliff to hear a protest over "meddlesome statements" on the unrest sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini. A wave of unrest has rocked Iran since the 22-year-old Kurd died on September 16 after her arrest by the morality police in Tehran for allegedly failing to observe the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women. The street violence has led to the deaths of dozens of people - mostly protesters but also members of the security forces. Tehran "rejects and strongly condemns the interference of the British foreign ministry in Iran's internal affairs by resorting to fake and provocative interpretations," the foreign ministry said in a statement. "Unfortunately, by issuing unilateral and selective statements, the British side shows that it has a share in the scenarios of the enemies who are active in Britain and are acting against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran will consider possible options for a reciprocal response to any unconventional actions by the British side," the ministry said, adding that it had made its protest on Tuesday. - APP

Tehran, Moscow, Beijing to create great power: Raisi

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: Cooperation between Iran, Russia and China will help create a new power that will oppose the unipolar world order, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said in an interview with China's CGTN broadcaster on Wednesday. "People around the world have bad memories of the era which has come to an end. It was a time of hegemony, unipolar world order and violations of the legitimate rights of many nations," the Iranian president pointed out. According to him, "a new era will be marked by the establishment of a multipolar world order." Cooperation between Iran, Russia, China, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) "may lead to the creation of a new power," Raisi noted. He emphasized that SCO member states accounted for a large part of the global economy's potential. SCO membership creates good opportunities for the development of ties between Iran and other members of the organization," Raisi added.

Hungarian aid shipment for flood affectees arrives

Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Satti thanks the Hungarian support

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz Satti, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan received Hungarian Ambassador Mr. Béla Fazekas and Mr. Péter Zelei, Project Manager of the Hungary Helps Agency. The Hungarian Ambassador informed the Chairman of the Hungarian Government's decision to send a medicine aid shipment to Pakistan to save lives in the flood affected areas. As the donation has reached Karachi Airport, the Ambassador handed over the donation letter of the medicines with a value of 5 million PKR. He informed Lt Gen Satti that besides the medicine aid, Hungary had also offered financial support in the value of 2.5 million PKR to different Pakistani charity organizations to purchase food and hygiene products to ease the pain of the families who lost everything in the disaster. Ambassador Béla Fazekas highlighted that Hungary helps on a local level as well. In early September Honorary Consul of Hungary in Karachi Mr. Makhdom Omar Shehryar also donated several truckloads of food, tents and medicines to the affectees of the floods in Pakistan's Sindh province in the value of 6 million PKR. Mr. Béla Fazekas assured the NDMA Chairman that Hungary will continue to monitor the situation to



secure basic needs for survival and early recovery. Chairman Satti thanked the Hungarian support and he said the monsoon

rains were heavier this year than expected and this linked with the melting glaciers

the disastrous flood. All of these are the effects of the climate change to be dealt with only through global cooperation.

US, Korea fire missiles in response to North Korea

CENTRELINE REPORT

SEOUL: The US and South Korea fired a total of four ground-to-ground missiles into the East Sea in joint drills a day after North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile, Seoul's military said Wednesday. "The two sides each launched two Army Tactical Missile System (AT-ACMS) missiles, which precisely hit mock targets and demonstrated the allies' capability to deter further provocations," Seoul-based news agency Yonhap reported, citing a statement from South Korea's Joint Chief of Staff. On Tuesday, the US Department of Defense said the country conducted separate military exercises with Japan and South Korea in response to North Korea's long-range ballistic missile launch. "The United States condemns these actions and calls on the DPRK to refrain from further unlawful and destabilizing acts," said Patrick Ryder, a Pentagon spokesman, referring to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name. On Tuesday, the Japanese Defense Ministry said North Korea launched what appeared to be a ballistic missile which could fly in the direction of Aomori and

Hokkaido prefectures in northern Japan and warned people to seek shelter. The ministry later said that the missile had already fallen. It marked the first time that North Korea had fired a ballistic missile over the Japanese archipelago in five years. Japan's Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the missile flew 4,600 kilometers (2,858 miles), the longest distance ever for an intermediate-range or longer missile fired by North Korea, reaching at an altitude of 1,000 kilometers (621 miles). "The missile flew over Japan for around one minute and landed outside the country's exclusive economic zone some 3,200 km east of the nation in the Pacific Ocean," Hamada said. Last Saturday, North Korea also fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea. North Korea's escalation of tensions is thought to be in response to a joint military drill by South Korea, the US and Japan in the East Sea. Tensions on the peninsula rose in 2020 when North Korea attacked and blew up the inter-Korean liaison office along the border. Seoul has threatened a strong response if Pyongyang "further worsens the situation." However, tensions soared further last year when both Seoul and Pyongyang ramped up military drills to show off their might.

Pak, Kazakhstan mull co-op in energy sector

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Wednesday agreed an agreement to focus cooperation in the energy sector. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin, said a news release. Dr. Musadik appreciated the brotherly relations and long-standing people-to-people affinity. He further remarked that Pakistan can benefit greatly from the huge energy reserves of Kazakhstan. "Not only the immediate energy demands of Pakistan can be met but also Pakistan can serve as a gateway via Gwadar to the energy products of Kazakhstan and be a partner in the global energy trade" he added. Ambassador agreed with the idea of the minister and said that it would be mutually beneficial for both countries. Kazakhstan and Pakistan have huge trade potential, he said and add that last year the bilateral trade amounted to \$ 200 million. The envoy said, "Kazakhstan is very close to signing the transit trade agreement with Pakistan. Kazakhstan has huge oil, gas and coal reserves that provide a great opportunity to enhance energy partnership." Minister assured complete assistance on energy cooperation and stressed that Pakistan is open to new energy corridors. - APP



'Former DG FIA was locked in PM House's washroom'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former director general Federal Investigations Agency (FIA) Bashir Memon has confirmed the claims made by a hacker that he was locked in a washroom on then-prime minister Imran Khan's order. In an interview with a private news channel, the former cop confirmed the allegations made by a hacker on Twitter. The hacker, in a series of tweets which have now been deleted, shared inside details of the meeting between Memon and the former PM. It was claimed that the former DG FIA was locked in a washroom in the PM House and pressurised to follow Imran Khan's orders. Memon, responding to the claims, confirmed the details, saying the former premier used abusive language towards PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz which infuriated him and he responded harshly. At this, Memon added, the then-principle secretary of PM Azam Khan grabbed his hand, took him out of the room and locked him in the washroom. "Azam Khan then scolded me over my conduct with the prime minister" said Memon. It is pertinent to mention that the government has formed a high-powered committee to probe into audio leaks from the PM House that have raised questions over its cyber security.

Rupee's uptrend continues unabated against dollar

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee on Wednesday maintained its uptrend for the ninth successive working day against the US dollar in the interbank market. According to the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) data, the local currency gained Rs1.7, or 0.76% against the dollar to settle at Rs223.94 in the interbank market. Rupee gained Rs1.65, or 0.73%, managing to settle at Rs225.64 against the greenback on Tuesday. Earlier this week, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar assured the masses that he would bring the dollar value below 200 with the help of his policies. "The actual value of the Pakistani rupee is less than 200 against the greenback and it will be brought down as it is currently undervalued," he said during Geo News' programme "Capital Talk." He mentioned that the dollar value is strong internationally, but the government "will bring it down below 200" soon. The finance czar of the country has strongly favoured intervention in currency markets in three previous stunts in the job to strengthen the currency. A currency trader had told The News that "rupee's correction reflects bullish sentiments of market players" in the backdrop of the finance minister's statement.

PTI MNAs approach IHC over acceptance of resignations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the latest political move, PTI approached on Wednesday the Islamabad High Court (IHC) through a petition filed for the approval of the resignations tendered by the party law makers following Imran Khan's ouster as prime minister. All the PTI MNAs resigned en masse on April 11, two days after PTI Chairman Imran Khan was ousted as the prime minister through a no-confidence motion moved by the then-opposition. Former deputy speaker Qasim Suri - who was performing his duties as acting NA speaker after Asad Qaiser resignation - had accepted all the resignations on April 15. However, once Raja Pervez Ashraf was elected as the speaker, he decided to verify the resignations by interviewing lawmakers individually.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong calls on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar. DNA

US national debt exceeds \$31T for 1st time

WEB DESK

ANKARA: The US national debt exceeded \$31 trillion for the first time amid rising interest rates to tame the record-high inflation, and growing economic uncertainty, according to Treasury Department data. The total public debt outstanding amounted to just over \$31.1 trillion, the data showed on Tuesday. In July, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected the US federal debt held by the public to equal 98% of GDP by the end of this year. Debt that is high and rising as a percentage of GDP could slow economic growth, push up interest payments to foreign holders of US debt, and heighten the risk of a fiscal crisis, CBO warned in the 2022 Long-Term Budget Outlook report. This could also make the US fiscal position more vulnerable to an increase in interest rates, and cause lawmakers to feel more constrained in their policy choices, the office added.

Tribesmen assure Corps Cdr. of help in peace

Ironic to mention that banned TTP is not only claiming responsibilities for almost of terror and violent acts taking place in the area but claiming it in "self defense"

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Corps Commander Peshawar Lt Gen Hassan Azhar Hayat has assured tribesmen of North Waziristan of help in return of peace and security. According to ISPR, he made the assurance while meeting elders of Gran Uthmanzai Jirga in Miranshah, headquarter of North Waziristan. "Corps Commander lauded the sacrifices rendered by tribesmen in achieving peace in the area and assured that Pakistan Army will provide all possible assistance to the locals. The Malaks & Mashrans thanked Pakistan Army for restoration of peace in the area and ongoing efforts for socio-economic development. They also assured Corps Commander for their unflin-

ing support to security forces." Senior journalist from North Waziristan Safdar Dawar when contacted said that in fact Corps Commander visit and meeting with Jirga was continuation and endorsement of Parliamentary team headed by ex-Chief Minister Akram Khan's commitments. Somewhere in previous July, Uthmanzai tribesmen went on a sit in protest against violent acts. The parliamentary team made some assurances and the Corps Commander has announced endorsement to all such commitments, Safdar added. However, Safdar said that continuous violent acts included re-activating of banned TTP in the area also came under debate during meeting between Corps Commander and Jirga members. He said that Corps Commander made it clear that they wouldn't al-

low militants to harm lives and properties of innocent human beings in the area. Prior to visit and meeting of Corps commander Peshawar to North Waziristan, the security forces claimed killing of killing of at least 12 alleged militants during clashes at three different areas. While in one incident while foiling an attempt of attack against a convoy at Hasankhel in outskirts of Peshawar, the ISPR confirmed killing of two personnel. In one incident, the security forces killed four militants who were making attempt of breaking fenced wires on Pak Afghan border in North Waziristan. On the other hand, security forces in its internal documentation issued at least four security alerts for different areas, mostly along with Pak Afghan border, Swat, Tank and Dera Ismael Khan

as well in the wake of militants meeting held across the border in Afghanistan. Advisor to Chief Minister Barrister Saif is saying, "ceasefire with banned TTP is intact as either side didn't announced its termination." However, he said that TTP is divided into several groups and some of the elements from splinted groups are involved in continuous violent acts. He said, "Police and other forces are firm on taking stern action against the militants involved in attacks and violent acts. Ironic to mention that banned TTP is not only claiming responsibilities for almost of terror and violent acts taking place in the area but claiming it in "self defense." Barrister Saif endorsing such claims on the part of TTP as according to him, "ceasefire allows both sides to go reaction in self defense."