



Islamabad POST

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Qatar being hit by unprecedented criticism campaign

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No regional equation sans Iran's role: Raisi

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Marcus Stoinis leads Australia to victory

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Briefs

Alvi visits Arshad's family

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi visited the residence of slain journalist Arshad Sharif and condoled with the bereaved family. The president, who was accompanied by First Lady Begum Samina Alvi, expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of Arshad Sharif. He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family members and offered Fateha for the departed soul. According to a press statement issued here by the President's Media Wing said, the president described as 'unforgettable' the services of late Arshad Sharif for freedom of press.

Politics filled with power greedy people

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan leader Sheikh Rashid on Tuesday called out Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for speaking against the state institutions. Taking to Twitter, he said that speaking against state institutions in presence of ministers is questionable. He said that politics is filled with people who are just greedy for power. Former Interior Minister Rashid went on to say that justice has been ignored when criminal laws are made. He said that no help will be given on these requested foreign visits.

China lauds FATF decision

DNA

BEIJING: China has welcomed the decision of the Financial Action Task Force to remove Pakistan from its grey list. During his regular briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said this shows international support and recognition of Pakistan's effort to firmly follow its political commitment to improve its Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terror Financing system over the past five years despite difficulties.

Long March to start from Friday: Khan

PTI chief says it will commence from Lahore's Liberty Chowk, claims Pakistan will see the "biggest sea of people"

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday announced that his party's "haqeeqi azadi" would commence from Lahore's Liberty Chowk on October 28, Friday. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, the former prime minister said the march will begin from the Liberty Chowk at 11am and he will lead it himself. "This is our march for haqeeqi azadi and it has no timeframe. We will reach Islamabad from the GT Road and the nation will come from across Pakistan to Islamabad. "I am predicting this will be the biggest sea of people in the history of the country," Imran claimed. Going on, he clarified that long march was "not politics" but a "war for future of Pakistan. "This is something way beyond politics, it is a war for freedom from these thieves that have been imposed over us. This jihad will decide where the country will go." Elaborating on the demands of the march, the former premier said that he only wanted one thing: "The decision of who will head the country belongs to the public."

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Arshad Sharif victim of target killing: Khan

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday claimed that slain journalist Arshad Sharif was a victim of targeted killing. Sharif was shot dead in Kenya allegedly by the local police on Sunday night, with an official police statement later expressing "regrets on the unfortunate incident" and saying an investigation was underway. Imran addressed the journalist's killing during his speech at a lawyers' convention in Peshawar, saying that Sharif was a "martyr". "He (Sharif) knew his life was in danger.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Fiaz Hussain Shah of Pakistan Army, Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia and others cutting cake on the occasion of Romanian Armed Forces Day. - DNA

Pak ready to reach out to investors: PM

DNA

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan was "ripe for market innovation" and the country was ready to reach out to potential investors for the future of its upcoming generations. In an address at the Future Investment Initiative Summit in Riyadh - an annual feature since 2017 - the premier said Pakistan was uniquely placed to leverage dynamic technological changes. "We have one of the youngest populations in the world. Most of these youngsters are equipped with the tools of the new digital world. They are hungry for more skills and more opportunities. "Pakistan is the fourth most popular country for freelancing," he said. Today, a family in urban and rural Pakistan has access to mobile phones and the internet, they aspire for high education standards, they want to buy consumer products, and need everything from insurance to healthcare, PM Shehbaz pointed out.

"Hence, the significance of this consolidated demand could be well appreciated and recognised by investors and entrepreneurs. "Pakistan is ripe for market innovation. A new generation of Pakistani entrepreneurs are shying away from traditional businesses and turning their focus and energies to disruptive innovations," he stressed. During his address, the prime minister also underlined the need for combined efforts to explore the true potential of clean energy resources, coupled with the utilisation of modern tools and technical gadgets to fully harness the talents of young generations.

Defence Day of Romania celebrated

Romania, Pakistan cooperation in defence expanding

Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia acknowledged the excellent professionalism of the Pakistani army

ASNAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia has said Romanian Armed Forces, completely reformed and modernized up to the NATO and European Union standards are assigned to foreign missions, contributing alongside of the allied and partner countries to the common effort of keeping peace and stability worldwide. In compliance with the commitments deriving from the international treaties, agreements and memoranda whose signing party is, Romania had contingents of different sizes from all services - Army, Air and Naval Forces - available to multinational coalitions authorized to carry on peace support, humanitarian assistance, collective or individual operations in the framework of UN, NATO, OSCE and EU-led Observing, Monitoring, Liaison and Training teams. Ambassador Goia expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the

Armed Forces Day of Romania. He along with Defence Attache Col Cristian Raducu hosted a reception. Mal Gen Fiaz Hussain Shah was the chief guest. The ambassador further said Romania celebrates each year, on October 25th, the Day of the Romanian Army. October 25, 1944, the Romanian Army Day, signifies the date of complete liberation of north-western Transylvania from foreign ruling and administration. "The liberation of the entire national territory of Romania was achieved by the heroic fights in the World War II of over 525,000 fully employed troops between August 23 and October 25, 1944. Nearly 58,000 of them were killed or injured. Losses incurred on the enemy stood at 89,934 troops, 76,275 of whom were taken prisoners. It is worth mentioning that after 25th of October the Romanian army had continued to fight until the end of the war contributing substantially to the liberation of Hungary and Czechoslovakia'.

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RIYADH: Saudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman greets Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Pakistan highly values ties with Germany: COAS

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas on Tuesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. The media wing of armed forces, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said during the meeting, matters of mutual interest, overall regional situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed between the ambassador and Qamar Bajwa.

The army chief said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Germany. The COAS congratulated the dignitary on assuming the office of ambassador and expressed hope that relations between the two countries would further prosper. The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. He also appreciated Pakistan's continuous efforts for regional stability and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Arshad Sharif killing Army asks govt to form judicial commission

DG ISPR says it is unfortunate that people engage in allegations without any evidence

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar on Tuesday said the military had asked the government to carry out a high-level investigation into the tragic killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif by Kenyan law enforcement officials. The Kenyan police fatally wounded Sharif on the night of Sunday, October 23, in what the Kenyan authorities said was a "mistaken identity" shooting on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital Nairobi. "We have requested the government to hold a high-level

Judicial commission to probe Arshad's death

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The prime minister, in a video message from Saudi Arabia where he is visiting to attend Future Investment Initiative Summit, said the government would request the Islamabad High Court to designate a judge for the purpose. The matter for the formation of a judicial commission would also be tabled before the federal cabinet for endorsement, he added. The prime minister calling the murder of

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SAY NO TO INVISIBLE CORRUPTION.

Increasing wealth gap deteriorating Western social setup

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) organized round table on "China's 20th National Congress: To Prosperity and Beyond". The roundtable was in continuation of IICR's Round table discussion based on Chinese National Congress. The eminent speakers included Prof. Dr. Zhou Rong, Prof. Engr. Zameer Ahmed Awan, Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan, Dr. George I.H. Cooke, Mr Shakeel Ahmad Ramay. The session was moderated by Ms. Sabah Aslam, Founder IICR. Speaking to the audience from China, Prof. Zhou Rong said that western social setup is deteriorating with ever increasing wealth gap in the society. Whereas the Chinese model of development based on socialist system encourages cooperation, mutual learning and peaceful development. Furthermore, Prof. Rong added that Chinese development model is indigestible for the west due to which it is engaged in

massive propaganda against China and its leadership. Adding further he said that west is leading an organized campaign against China in order to hinder the progress it is making. The next speaker on the panel was Prof. Engr. Zameer Ahmed Awan who highlighted the effectiveness of the CPC for Chinese development. Prof. Ahmed said that China is contributing in world economy with its shared progress ideology. It silently worked on organizing its internal dynamics and then aspire to lead the world. Adding further he said that world is acknowledging the Chinese progress whereas west feel threatened by it. The key of Chinese socio-economic miracle lies in the trust of people towards its leadership. People trust president Xi and supports his ideology. Speaking next, Dr. Tahir Mumtaz described the Chinese socialist model which is the backbone of Chinese progress and its global footprint. Dr. Mumtaz said that China is pursuing socialist modernization through in-

tegrating Chinese characteristics to the country. Adding further he said that China is comprehensively working on human development at home and abroad and there is a lesson for countries in it. Discussing lessons for Pakistan Dr. Mumtaz said that Pakistan should learn and implement Chinese development model and Pakistan needs to move ahead from subsidiary issues it is facing. Joining from Sri-Lanka Dr. George I.H. Cooke who discussed China's foreign policy and multilateralism. Dr. Cooke said that China's role in all international organization is significant. Adding further he said that China has positively contributed to global organization either politically or financially. Dr. Cooke further highlighted the importance of regional organization and Chinese role in it. The last speaker on the panel was Mr. Shakeel Ramay who talked about Challenges to China and CPC. Speaking to the audience Mr. Ramay said that the biggest challenge to China is to counter Xi-Phobia of the west. West is propagating an organized campaign against President Xi to paint him in every negative way possible. Furthermore, he said that China would also have to counter propaganda against China as a whole. While talking about CPC, Mr. Ramay said that there is a need of reforms in CPC in coming years because China has to play major and complicated role in coming years. It already is changing a lot with the inclusion of more professionals in the central committee and CPC. The session was ended with concluding remarks by Dr. Tahir Mumtaz Awan.



25 OCTOBER 2022

DC reviews polio teams' performance

LAHORE: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Muhammad Ali has said that more than two million children up to age of five years would be administered polio drops during week-long campaign in the provincial capital, from October 24 to 30, 2022. Chairing a meeting to review the performance of polio teams and anti dengue measures at DC's office here on Tuesday, he said that 6,360 teams would perform duty for total success of the campaign. The deputy commissioner said that the anti-polio campaign required deep attention and utmost responsibility for complete eradication of the virus. He directed that each and every child of up to five years age should be vaccinated. - APP

Round table discussion on Pakistan-US relations held

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), organized a Round Table Discussion here on Tuesday. The theme of the discussion was "Pakistan-US Relations: Building a Sustainable Partnership." The round table discussion was moderated by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry Director General ISSI, said a press release. The guest speaker at the event was Donald Blome, US Ambassador to Pakistan. Other participants included, Javed Jabbar, former senator and federal minister, Ambassador Tariq Osman Hyder former diplomat, Ambassador Shafiq Kakakhel, Member Chairman SDPI BoG, Mohammad Mudassir Tipu, Additional Secretary Americas, MoFA, Dr. Nazir Mehmood, Dr. Tariq Banuri, former chairman, HEC, Naima Ansari, President, IWCCI - DNA

Global North urged to fulfil its commitment of carbon reduction

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Dean Emeritus at Boston University, USA Dr. Adil Najam said the richer countries in the Global North should fulfill their commitment to carbon reduction, and poor countries like Pakistan needed to adapt to climate change and develop resilience to natural disasters. He was delivering a lecture titled, 'From Indus to Sharm El Sheikh: A Desi Perspective on Climate Change' here at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). He said the climate was no longer a future issue, and using the future tense for climate implied that we still had more time however extreme climate events had proven otherwise. He said the context of climate change for Pakistan was different from the rest of the world, particularly the global north. For Pakistan, he maintained, the real barometer was the Indus basin. How climate change interacts with us is different from the rest of the world, therefore, we must be the providers of agenda on climate change and not receivers. He said it's time to go for adaptation, as the onset of climate change has fundamentally changed the climate policy and climate politics. Dr. Najam recalled that Paris Agreement had promised very low emissions, as it made cli-

mate action and commitments a voluntary action rather than a legal compulsion like Kyoto Protocol. Since the first COP held 27 years ago, financing commitments have been pledged but not made available. No country ever demonstrated commitment to 1.50C temperature and there was no scientific way to achieve those commitments, he said and added that now even 20C was no longer achievable for climate change mitigation. He said Pakistan was essentially the Indus Basin that sustained a thriving civilization from its source. "Indus tells us that we are facing a civilizational challenge," he said, adding that the Indus had sustained the civilization and might not do so for the next 100 years. He further said 90% of the country's population lived in Indus Basin; every 9 out of 10 cities were within 50 kilometers range of Indus which was causing changes in Indus and its demography. He suggested improving the efficiency of the use of water for enhanced crop per drop. Dr. Adil said the notion of the lack of finances is a blatant lie; there is a lack of belief in climate change being an existential threat. "Cost of US war on Afghanistan was 2.6 trillion, cost of US financial crisis bailout was 4. trillion and the cost of US fight against COVID-19 was 6.2 trillion, these finances were mobilized in 8 days and spent in 5 days."

Police Vision Faisalabad" unique project: IGP Punjab

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Faisal Shahkar has said that "Police Vision Faisalabad" is a unique project in terms of modern policing and crime control, which will provide special help in crime control, monitoring of sensitive places and eradication of anti-social elements in Faisalabad city. He expressed these views, while inaugurating the modern policing project "Police Vision" at Police Lines Faisalabad here on Tuesday. He said that 400 CCTV cameras had been installed in the city under "Police Vision" to monitor the central and important places of the city. The IG Punjab said that

"Police Vision" included mobile tracking unit, vehicle tracking unit, Pukar 15 and other wings to support the investigating officers, while the monitoring desk of all mobile applications made in relation to modern policing had also been built in the same project, he added. He appreciated the special gallery in "Police Vision" where photographs of martyrs and Ghazis were displayed to pay tribute to the sacrifices of martyrs and veterans (Ghazis) of Faisalabad Police. The IGP directed that the crackdown should be expedited to eliminate organised crime from all districts of Faisalabad region and the

accused involved in street & serious crimes should be arrested and punished. IGP Faisal said that operations should be carried out on a daily basis to eradicate the narcotics, while there should be no delay in strict measures under zero-tolerance to eradicate gender-based crimes, he added. He also presided over the crime meeting at the RPO office and issued instructions to all officers of region. On arrival at the police line, the armed police contingent paid salutations to IG Punjab. The IGP Punjab laid flowers at the martyrs memorial in Tariq Mujahid Shaheed Police Line Faisalabad. - APP



RAWALPINDI: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas on Tuesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters (GHQ). - DNA

EU overjoyed with Pak exclusion from Grey List

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Ambassador of European Union Dr. Rina Kionka has said that they are overjoyed with the announcement that Pakistan is out of the FATF Grey List. It has added to overall positive narrative which they want to see much more of Pakistan. She was speaking at a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion. The Ambassador said that the successive Pakistani governments have put in lot of efforts in this achievement. She said that EU-Pakistan relations have a strategic engagement which covers all the areas including counter terrorism, trade, climate change, GSP Plus Status (Generalized System of Preferences) and various others. She said that 10-year period of GSP Plus is going to end and a mission is preparing 4th and final report of the last 10-year which will be discussed in Brussels and EU Parlia-

ment. These two bodies will decide that which country is eligible and which is not for GSP Plus Status. The Ambassador said that Pakistan will have to re-apply for the GSP Plus Status and EU will inform within next four to five months. She said that during this period of application, Pakistan will be enjoying all facilities under GSP Plus Status. She added that Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar is in Brussels and doing a good lobbying work which will be useful for Pakistan. Talking about the areas identified by the LCCI, she said that the scope under GSP Plus Status to Pakistan has not been utilized. It is confined to textile sector which should be spread to the other sectors as well. "The floods played a havoc and it is a difficult time for Pakistan," she said, adding that EU members countries have extended assistance in this regard. She said that EU commissioners are distributing aid in Sindh and other flood-affected areas. "The assistance will be upgraded with the passage of time", she added. She said that Pakistan needs to develop infrastructure in order to curtail the loss if catastrophe-like situa-

tion born in future. LCCI President Kashif Anwar extended deepest gratitude to the European Union for expressing solidarity with the people of Pakistan affected by the worst floods and extending financial assistance of 123 Million Euros as well as in-kind assistance for flood relief efforts. He also appreciated the EU's commitment to address the climate change related challenges jointly. He appreciated the fact that European Union has been welcoming the progress made by Pakistan in the implementation of FATF Action Plans and now, when Pakistan has been excluded from the grey list, "we thank EU for all the support extended during the process." Kashif Anwar said that GSP Plus status holds paramount importance for Pakistan's Economy as it has played an important role in expansion of multilateral trade. According to the trade statistics from ITC World Trade map, Pakistan's exports to EU, which were around 6.2 billion dollars in 2013, have increased over the time to 9.7 billion dollars in 2021, primarily due to the deeper markets access provided by European Union under GSP plus.

Oct 27 a tragic day in history of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: Former Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJK chapter, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani has said that October 27, 1947 was indeed a tragic day when in utter violation and negation of the Partition Plan and the sovereignty of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian army invaded the territory on the pretext of a fake accession instrument. According to Kashmir Media Service, Farooq said that October 27 would be observed as Black Day across Jammu and Kashmir in the backdrop of upsurge against India's August 5, 2019 unilateral action, terminating Kashmir's special status and India's own constitutional guarantees. Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, in a statement issued here, said that India created hurdles in the implementation of the plebiscite plan of the United Nations by refusing to withdraw its forces from the occupied territory. "During the past three years the Hindutva regime of the BJP has extended major Indian laws to Kashmir to change the Muslim majority status of the region." "All types of freedoms and rights including press, internet, assembly and communication have been scrapped. Thousands have been put behind bars and leaders have been martyred in custody.

'Proactive approach to achieve targets'

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi has emphasized on achieving targets of schemes being run under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) timely through playing a proactive role. He said that salient features of all programmes including those under BISP need to be projected in the media for education and awareness of the beneficiaries. He gave these directions while at-

tending briefings by the project heads of Ministry after assumption of the charge of the Ministry as SAPM. On this occasion, Additional Secretary, Senior Joint Secretary, Joint Secretary (Admin) were also present. The SAPM was informed that Sehat Tahafuz Programme, a PSDP project under the Ministry, was aimed at social protection by extending health facilities to people falling into extreme poverty, the programme covers catastrophic health expenditure. He was informed that there were 14 public sector hospitals throughout Pakistan on panel. The programme operates in a fully automated environment supported by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Under this initiative 15 thousand requests for

health financing have been approved across Pakistan so far. The team leader Social Protection Delivery Unit (SPDU) also briefed the SAPM about the unit's overall mandate. "The specific objectives of SPDU include providing strategic roll-out support, monitoring and supervision of progress, advisory support to the ministry for social protection programmes, providing communication support and ensuring that all the ancillary agencies under the ministries' umbrella abide by the social protection governance and integrity policy. The SAPM was also briefed on the National Poverty Graduation Programme (NPGP) and was apprised that the programs' goal is to assist the ultra-poor. - APP



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

Court Notice

In the court of Naem Ali Civil Judge Rawalpindi

Humna Basit vs. Haseeb Naveed

Nature: Making a claim, expenses for Iddah, etc. In the above case, the defendant Haseeb Naveed son of Naveed Islam resident of House No. E-14 Mahalla DAV College Road Rawalpindi. Business Address Chaudhry Zakaria Traders Shop No. 503/V Namak Mandi Rawalpindi is not possible to comply with the usual method, so the defendant is directed to present court next date 07 November 2022 at 8 am otherwise the action will be taken according to the rules.

DNA

KARACHI: In continuation to efforts of Pakistan Navy for uplifting to provide standard health facilities along the Coastal/ Creek areas especially under COVID-19 and Dengue Fever scenario, Pakistan Navy established free eye camp at Gwadar and Ormara, Balochistan Free eye camp was established in collaboration with philanthropic organization. Hundreds of patients including women and children were provided free medical & eye; eye treatment at the eye camps. A dedicated team of eye specialists from Pakistan Navy and Haji Razzak Janoo Memorial Trust examined the patients and provided them with free consultation. The patients were provided free of cost medicines and minor surgical procedures were carried out at the camps. Additionally, the local populace were enlightened on common eye diseases, infections, hygiene, child healthcare and sanitation of living areas. Pakistan Navy is committed to provide continued quality medical facility for the people settled along the Coastal belt in Balochistan. The establishment of medical camps at Gwadar and Ormara are practical manifestation of Pakistan Navy's resolve for socio-economic uplift of coastal community.



National Days and Armed Forces Days

OCTOBER

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

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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
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Hospitals

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



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Met Office.....	9205360-6
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TMA.....	5770886
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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: Women taking interest in paintings displayed on the occasion of Republic Day of Kazakhstan.-DNA

Pak support to Kashmir will never cease: Kaira

He added that Pakistan's main dispute with India was Kashmir and will keep providing moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "The efforts of the Government of Pakistan for the people of Kashmir will never cease," said Qamar Zaman Kaira, the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. He was speaking at an event titled 'A Retrospective Analysis of Kashmir's Accession to India' organised by the Institute of Regional Studies here on Tuesday. He said that all governments irrespective of their political affiliations had voiced the plight of Kashmiris at home and internationally and that they will continue to do so. While there was some semblance of support from the Muslim countries on Kashmir issue, there was a need to bring all the countries together in discrediting the abuse of power in the valley at the hands of a fascist government. The Hindutva-driven regime had left behind all the extremes of barbarity and there was no denying the fact that the biggest role in keeping the struggle alive was that of the

Kashmiri blood and sweat, he said. Kaira called for keeping the youth aware of the government's efforts for Kashmir and the importance of Kashmir as the unfinished agenda of partition to keep them motivated and save them from hopelessness. He termed Kashmir a human rights issue. Kaira said that no people could be subdued through the use of brute force in the twenty-first century. He added that Pakistan's main dispute with India was Kashmir and will keep providing moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle. He said that Pakistan was never the aggressor and that it would never choose to be one in the times that follow,



however, Kashmir was one issue that commanded absolute resolve and commitment for Pakistan. Dr Mujahid Gilani, President Kashmir Youth Alliance said in his remarks that while it was appreciable that the current government was paying special attention to

Kashmir issue, it was important to realise that a significant part of delivering to the Kashmir cause was to deliver on the promises made by previous governments. He said that it was time to move beyond rhetoric and to enable the Kashmiris to tell their stories,

their way. Dr Gilani further added that the new generation needed to be sensitized about the cultural nuances of Kashmir and the significance that it held for Pakistan. Ms Farzana Yaqoob, CEO Man-taq, said in her remarks that it was high time that Kashmir was seen not as a responsibility but as a major asset. She said that in the present circumstances, there was a need to establish a bare minimum threshold to retain peace in the valley and then stick to it. A formal policy document detailing various aspects of Pakistan's Kashmir Policy needed to be developed without any apprehensions, she said. Ms Yaqoob further suggested that it was now time that the Government of Pakistan must consider expanding the administrative control and scope of the AJK government for it to effectively carry out tasks that could facilitate the Kashmir cause. Other notable speakers at the event included Mr Zafar Ahmed, Ms Maryam Mastoor and Ms Humera Iqbal.

ICCI for addressing issue of Panadol shortage in market

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Monday urged the government to address the shortage of Panadol tablets on priority basis and protect consumers from further trouble. He said that consumers are facing difficulty in finding a common medicine while the business of pharmacies is also suffering due to unavailability of Panadol in the market. He said this while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association, Islamabad Chapter that visited ICCI. The delegation was led by the Chairman PCDA Mian Tariq Saeed. President ICCI 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 the shortage has exposed 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 urged the government to take urgent measures to rationalize the prices of raw material to ensure re-start of its production and easy availability in the market. Speaking at the occasion, Mian Tariq Saeed, Chairman, PCDA, Islamabad Chapter highlighted various issues being faced by pharmacy sector and said that the price of raw materials used in production of Panadol has witnessed a twofold increase which affected the availability of the product and pharmacies were losing business

on this account. 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 the law as this practice is affecting the business of authorized chemists and druggists. Nasir M. Qureshi, Executive Member ICCI, on the occasion said that high energy cost and tight drug regulations were the major hurdles for the growth of pharma industry in Pakistan. He urged the government to consider deregulating the sector that would bring competition and reduce prices of medicines. Malik Ashfaq, Qaiser Masood and others also spoke at the occasion and urged the need to address the issues of chemists and druggists to facilitate the growth of their business activities.—APP

Police arrest accused wanted in attempt to murder case

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police here on Tuesday arrested an accused wanted in an attempt to murder case registered in Saddar Wah Police Station. According to a police spokesman, Saddar Wah police managed to arrest an accused namely Anwar, who had allegedly opened fire at a citizen namely Tamoor. A case was registered in Saddar Wah police station nearly 10 days ago. He informed that police working on human intelligence and scientific lines managed to net the accused. Superintendent of Police, Potohar Tariq Mehboob said that Rawalpindi district police were taking stern action in accordance with the law against the lawbreakers. He said the operations would continue and all the accused and POs would be sent behind the bars.

K Electric consumers likely to get Rs 4.70 per unit decrease

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday concluded a public hearing on fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for K-Electric for the month of September under the monthly fuel adjustment mechanism. The hearing was presided over by NEPRA Chairman Tauseef H Farooqi while member Sindh Rafique Ahmed Sheikh and member Khyber Pakhunkhwa Maqsood Anwar Khan were also present on the occasion. K-Electric in the petition sought a decrease of Rs 4.62 per unit in tariff under FCA for September. However, as per NEPRA calculation, the decrease was Rs 4.70 per unit for the said period. The consumers would get relief of Rs 7.8 billion owing to the decrease in tariff. However, the decision would not be applicable to the lifeline, agricultural, industrial, and consumers using up to 300 units. Officials of KE told that RLNG consumption decreased in September besides a 30 percent decrease in its price during the said period. However, furnace oil prices increased while its consumption witnessed a 4 percent decrease during the said period. They said that the supply of local gas to KE in September had also a positive impact on electricity prices. NEPRA Chairman observed that KE generated three times more costly electricity from its own resources which stood at Rs 37.74 per unit while the cost of electricity purchased from other resources was mere Rs 13.12 per unit. The KE officials said that cheaper electricity could be generated through the supply of local gas. They have taken up the provision of local gas to KE on priority at both the legal forum and PM Task Force level. The authority would announce its decisions after reviewing the statistics.

Conservation of natural resources urged

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a conference on Tuesday called for expediting efforts to conserve rapidly deteriorating natural resources including soil and water in order to maintain national food safety and security as well as avoid serious climate threats, which impact the local ecology and biodiversity. The huge bulge of youth should be engaged and provided a platform by creating linkages among academia, industry and national research institutions to find out innovative solutions to emerging challenges like water scarcity, soil infertility and climate resilience, they said while addressing a five-day International conference on the role of water-energy-food system for a climate resilient Pakistan. The conference is being organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in collaboration with ministries of planning and development and water resources in connection with Pakistan Water Week 2022. The event is aimed at focusing on improving water governance and strengthening water, food security and nature-based solutions in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and development in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali stressed the need for establishing small and mini dams to conserve water and bring more area under crop production to tackle with increasing local requirements as well as enhance exports. He said that due to lack of awareness and mismanagement huge quantity of water is wasted daily, adding that with capacity building and enhancing resilience, the water wasted in floods could be used for irrigation for many years.—APP

Rupee extends gains against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 67 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading to close at Rs 219.73 against the previous day's closing of Rs 220.40. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of US dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 220.8 and Rs 223 respectively. The price of Euro against Rupee increased by 12 Paise to close at Rs 216.89 against the previous close of Rs 216.77. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.47, whereas a decrease of 90 Paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 248.66 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 249.56. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 18 Paise and 16 Paise to close at Rs 59.82 60.00 and Rs 58.47 58.63 respectively.—APP

ANF recovers over 84 kg narcotics

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Tuesday managed to recover over 84 kg of narcotics and arrested three accused. According to an ANF spokesman, ANF in an operation at Lahore International Airport recovered 780 grams Ice drug from the bag of a passenger namely Saifullah, a resident of Sialkot, going to Jeddah on flight no PA-472. In another operation, ANF Balochistan conducted a raid near Lasbela on Gaddani Highway and recovered over 84 kg charras besides netting two accused namely Khair Muhammad, resident of Jhang and Imran, resident of Quetta. Separate cases have been registered against the accused, he said and informed that raids were being conducted to net the accomplices of the accused.—APP

Islamabad police to set up emergency unit

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police (Traffic Division) have been directed to take immediate steps for establishing an emergency unit to ensure prompt response in case of any accident on the roads. These directions were made by DG Safe City Romail Akram who visited the Traffic Police Office in sector F-8 and reviewed measures to further improve the performance of the Traffic Division. Following special directions of IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, DG Safe City Romail Akram conducted a visit

to Islamabad Traffic Police Office and made directions to further improve the performance of the Traffic Division. Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, SP Traffic Muhammad Abid, DSPs and Inspectors were also present. Chief Traffic Officer Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer gave a detailed briefing to DG Safe City Romail Akram on the functioning of the Traffic Division. DG Safe City listened to the problems of the staff and directed to train newly appointed officers and jawans in the force. He also directed to es-

tablish an emergency unit in ITP and ensure strict action against those who violate traffic rules. It was observed that traffic problems on the Islamabad Expressway have been reduced and further improvements would be made through better monitoring. It was directed to take strict action against PSV vehicles violating law traffic rules and extend road safety awareness campaigns. He also directed personnel to perform well and take departmental action against officers involved in the dereliction of duties.—APP

ANF arrests three drug peddlers

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Tuesday recovered 780 grams of Ice and 84 kg of hashish after arresting three drug peddlers in two different operations. According to an ANF spokesperson, ice was recovered from Saifullah, a resident of Sialkot, at Lahore International Airport. He was proceeding to Jeddah by flight number PA-472. In another operation, he said the force arrested two suspects namely Khair Muhammad from Jhang and Imran from Quetta, near Highway Gadani and Lasbela, and recovered hashish from their car.—APP

Briefs

AIUO
commences
final exams
from
November 9

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) is commencing final examinations of different programs offered in semester spring 2022 including MA/M.Sc, M.Com, MBA/MPA, M.Ed, and Postgraduate diplomas from November 9, 2022. According to controller examinations, Mian Muhammad Riaz, roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS accounts and the date sheet is available on the university website (www.aiuo.edu.pk) for the programs. Roll number slips are also being dispatched to the postal addresses of the students and they are also being informed about the exams through mobile SMS. Moreover, the results of different master's degree programs for autumn semester 2021 including M.Ed (Special Education), M.Sc (Pakistan Studies), MA (Islamic Studies), MA (Quran and Tafseer), MA (Hadith and Seerah), MA (Islamic Law and Fiqh), and MA (Islamic Thought, History, and Culture) have been announced on CMS portal.—APP

Korean
hydro power
company
extends
donation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water), which is a Korean governmental agency working on comprehensive water resource development has donated one hundred thousand dollars to the Government of Pakistan to support the ongoing Flood Relief Efforts that have claimed more than 1700 lives across the country, making the total contribution of Korea's private sector 800,000 USD.

A handing over ceremony for this donation was held yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) with the participation of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Suh Sang-woo, the Representative/Chief Executive Officer of Star Hydro K-Water Pakistan, Mr. Bong Rok Oh, the Director General (EAP) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Aamer Ahmed Atozai, and senior officials of the concerned authorities. Speaking at the occasion, the Ambassador stated that the Government, companies, and the People of Korea have always stood by the People of Pakistan. He added that the donations from the Korean government have exceeded two million dollars and the donations from Private Sector and NGOs were also exceeding eight hundred thousand dollars, bringing the total contributions by Korea to over 2.8 million dollars at present.—APP

Kashmir
solution must
for regional
peace

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a Grand National Dialogue meeting urged on Tuesday that without a solution to the long-standing Kashmir dispute there will be no peace and development in the region. The discussion was organised by the India Study Center (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

The keynote speaker for the discussion was Ambassador Aziz Ahmed Khan. Following his remarks, a lively discussion was held regarding the topic. Participating discussants included Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, and Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director of Centre for International Strategic Studies, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, the President of IPRI, Amb. Dr. Major General Raza Muhammad (Retd.) and the ISC research faculty also provided valuable insights. The key takeaways from this discussion will be

Need stressed to improve
Nepal, Pakistan relations

Ambassador called upon the business communities as well as people of all walks of life to visit Nepal and in Inviting the business communities to invest in Nepal the Ambassador underscored major facilities according to the investors in Nepal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to Pakistan H.E Tapas Adhikari visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry FPCCI, Capital Office, Islamabad, and interacted with President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Vice President Umar Masood Ur Rehman and other members of the FPCCI. They had a detailed discussion on trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Nepal. During the interactions, the ambassador highlighted the need to improve bilateral economic relations between Nepal and Pakistan since both countries have great potential to cooperate. He further said that the bilateral relations between our countries have always been excellent. Both Nepal and Pakistan are members of SAARC and have similar cultural and social backgrounds. President Hunza Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr. Raziq Khan, President Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr. Shokat Hayat and other were also present on this occasion. H.E Tapas

Adhikari said that "Pakistan is one of the most important countries for Nepal to promote regional trade, especially in the perspective of the SAARC regime but the logistics issues, lack of communication, and proper marketing were some hurdles in giving a boost to the bilateral trade," stressed the need for exchanging business delegations to enhance trade and promotion of investment opportunities between the two sides. The Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan shed light on Nepal's provisions and policies relating to industry, trade, tourism, and investment and thanked the FPCCI for its willingness to increase engagement with Nepal. He expressed commitment to facilitating Pakistani business communities for increasing business relations with Nepal. HE the Ambassador called upon the business communities as well as people of all walks of life to visit Nepal and



keep emphasizing a well-devised strategy for ensuring regional peace through maintaining trade and economic relations among SAARC countries. Nepal, being a land-locked country between China and India, can understand the importance of regional trade better than others," the FPCCI President added. They said that Nepal is an import-oriented economy

whose imports are far greater than exports. In the year 2021, Pakistan exports to Nepal were US\$ 4.7 million while the imports from Nepal were US\$ 2.6 million. The President & Vice President of FPCCI further said that despite huge trade potential, the trade volume between the two countries is very low which is just US\$ 7.3 million. He said the connection and connectivity problem is one of the basic hurdles in trade promotion. They discussed various opportunities of joint ventures and said agriculture and tourism are the key sectors where both countries could collaborate with each other. They said that Pakistani products, particularly rice, leather and leather goods, carpets, pharmaceuticals, textiles, pashmina lawn, textile made-ups and allied products have great potential in Nepal which needs to be marketed properly. They said a number of Pakistani investors are interested to enter into joint ventures with Nepalese investors.

US, UK, China top three
destinations of exports

ISLAMABAD: United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and China. Total exports to the US during July-September (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 1657.359 million against the exports of US\$ 1565.321 million during July-September (2021-22), showing growth of 5.87 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 519.870 million against the exports of US\$ 549.825 million last year, showing a decrease of 5.44 percent. China was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 501.0007 million during the quarter under review against the exports of US\$ 559.179 million during last year, showing a nominal decline of

10.40 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 455.778 million against US\$ 406.294 million last year, showing an increase of 12.17 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 369.918 million against US\$ 407.151 million last year. During July-September (2022-23), the exports to the Netherlands were recorded at US\$ 377.282 million against US\$ 328.654 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 127.157 million against US\$ 127.647 million. Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at US\$ 308.178 million against the exports of US\$ 252.776 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US\$ 324.583 million against US\$ 225.080 million last year. Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at US\$ 234.504 million against

US\$ 175.388 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US\$ 153.504 million against US\$ 119.046 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US\$ 115.114 million against US\$ 92.817 million. Pakistan's exports to Türkiye were recorded at US\$ 94.998 million during the current year compared to US\$ 78.106 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US\$ 125.720 million against US\$ 91.520 million, and exports to Poland were US\$ 93.711 million against US\$ 87.265 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at US\$ 76.371 million during the current year against US\$ 71.079 million during last year. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed a growth of 11.34 percent in two months, from US\$ 4574.040 million to US\$ 5092.977 million, the SBP data showed.—APP

Conservation
of natural
resources urged

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a conference on Tuesday called for expediting efforts to conserve rapidly deteriorating natural resources including soil and water in order to maintain national food safety and security as well as avoid serious climate threats, which impact the local ecology and biodiversity. The huge bulge of youth should be engaged and provided a platform by creating linkages among academia, industry and national research institutions to find out innovative solutions to emerging challenges like water scarcity, soil infertility and climate resilience, they said while addressing a five-day International conference on the role of water-energy-food system for a climate resilient Pakistan. The conference is being organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in collaboration with ministries of planning and development and water resources in connection with Pakistan Water Week 2022. The event is aimed at focusing on improving water governance and strengthening water, food security and nature-based solutions in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and development in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali stressed the need for establishing small and mini dams to conserve water and bringing more area under crop production to tackle with increasing local requirements as well as enhance exports. He said that due to lack of awareness and mismanagement huge quantity of water is wasted daily, adding that with capacity building and enhancing resilience, the water wasted in floods could be used for irrigation for many years. With construction of small and medium dams, over 8 million hectares of land could be brought under crop production, he said adding that building of small and medium dams in Balochistan Province would help bring waste areas under different crop production.—APP

Rana for early completion
of ongoing projects

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the completion of ongoing projects under the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU). The direction was given during a briefing given to the minister by senior officials of the education ministry on the working of PNCU, said a press release issued here. He was informed about the on-going projects that include UNESCO emergency funding program - finalized with Government of GB in October 2022 for rehabilitation of damaged schools in Diamer district, Malala Funds - Trust for Girls' Right to Education Program in Pakistan, "Rehabilitation of Street Children through Football" ICESCO, Training of non-formal basic ed-

ucation community schools teachers, ICESCO and WASH Program awareness of cleanliness in school children, health hygiene, ICESCO. The senior officials of the ministry also attended the meeting. Rana Tanveer was told that Pakistan joined UNESCO in 1949 and the country had been a member of the executive board since 1951. The minister was informed that PNCU coordinated with UNESCO, ICESCO, provincial governments, federal departments, INGOs and NGOs in order to fulfill its mandate. He was apprised of the working and accomplishments of the organization. Rana Tanveer was informed that PNCU was leading numerous projects which included UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network and Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Paki-

stan on UNESCO World Heritage list and ICESCO list etc. Rana Tanveer was informed of successful projects undertaken by PNCU which include Capacity Building Workshop for School Teachers on Climate Change Education through Inquiry based science Education (IBSE), pedagogy at Sukkur IBA, University, Poverty Alleviation through Health Improvement of Rural Female Involved in Cotton Picking at Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Promoting Adult Literacy through ICT and Distance Learning at National Commission for Human Development, Strengthening of PNCU by developing e-office and Capacity Building of PNCU staff through NITB, PNCU, and Capacity Building in Science & Technology COMSAT, Islamabad COMSATS.—APP

Lok Virsa
to mark
Kashmir
Black day

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), in connection with Kashmir Black Day, will arrange a series of activities on October 27 to highlight Indian atrocities against innocent Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The programme to be held in collaboration with the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan at Pakistan National Heritage Museum will feature screening of video documentaries, display of banners, photo exhibition and display of Kashmiri folk crafts. The video documentaries on Kashmir will be screened on a large multimedia projector for the public all day while the banners highlighting Kashmir cause will also feature the event. The exclusive photo exhibition will be mounted in the Hall of Changing Exhibitions.—APP

Musical night
held at PAC

RAWALPINDI: A musical night was organized at the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) to entrain the residents of the twin cities here on Monday. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed and Drama Writer Naheed Manzoor were the chief guests at the event. Speaking on the occasion, Naheed said that Pakistani singers have given Pakistan a cultural identity abroad through their classical music. Ahmed said PAC always provided a platform for new talent, adding, students of the arts council were promoting the name of the institution across the country. Mubashera Hafeez, Mohsin Pasha, Leila Jatti, Hikmat Awan, Samina Khan, and Mohammad Hamza performed on the musical night. Cash prizes were also distributed among the singers and musicians.—APP

PBM
supports
314
children get
cochlear
implants

ISLAMABAD: A total of 314 deserving deaf and mute children have successfully been provided cochlear implants, under public private partnership, enabling them to have happy and independent lives in time to come, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Managing Director Amir Fida Paracha said on Tuesday. Talking to APP, he said nearly 5,000 deaf children of poor families in Pakistan under age of 5 year were unable to get the treatment due to financial constraints. The PBM has registered 2,393 children for providing cochlear implant surgeries, but due to insufficient fiscal resources, PBM can not en-

tain the entire children sans public private partnership. The managing director emphasized that philanthropists and other donor agencies should make as many contributions as possible towards social welfare activities.

Paracha is in Vienna on a special invitation by a cochlear implant manufacturing company, to persuade the company to provide cochlear implant to PBM on cheaper rates for the children of destitute families in Pakistan. He said a single cochlear implant ranges from Rs 1.6 million to 2.3 million and so far, the PBM had successfully managed to finance the 314 children through public private partnership. The Public-private partnership has a life-changing impact on the lives of deaf and mute children. The PBM bears Rs 1 million for each cochlear implant while the rest of the expenses were being met by the hospitals concerned, he said.—APP

Kashmiris
to observe
Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Uzair Ahmad Ghazali has said that Black Day will be observed across the state on October 27 and protests will be held in all districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued here Tuesday, he said that India occupied Jammu and Kashmir by force in 1947 against the will and intention of the Kashmiri people on the same date. Ghazali said that India was committing atrocities and violence against the Kashmiri people who are demanding freedom and the right to self-determination according to UN resolutions. "Kashmiri people have not recognized the Indian occupation even for a moment and have never been afraid of Indian colonial tactics for the last 75 years," he added. People of Jammu and Kashmir will observe 27th October as Black Day with the determination that the issue of Kashmir is settled as per UNSC resolutions. He further added that the protests will be held at all district headquarters of Azad Kashmir. The rally will commence from Burhan Wani Shaheed Chowk to the United Nations Observer Office at 10 am in the capital. He appealed to the people to join on October 27 and reject the Indian military occupation by expressing solidarity in the protest.—APP

PNCA
to mark
Kashmir
Black day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will arrange a series of activities to mark Kashmir Black Day on October 27. According to an official of PNCA, the speech and tableau contests will be arranged among the students of schools and colleges, aged between 13-18 years to educate them about the significance of Kashmir Black Day and the struggle of Kashmiri people to acquire the right of self-determination. The topic of the speech contest is the "Role of United Nations and international community on Kashmir issue" while the language will be only Urdu. The participants can send their 35 minutes videos of speeches at what's App number 0303-5504897 till the deadline of October 24 (morning). The speech content should be based on research and logical reasoning while it should not exceed 400 to 600 hundred words. The ten contestants will be selected and invited for the final round of competition at PNCA on October 27 after initial auditions through scrutiny of videos for the speech competition. Each contestant selected for the final round will submit content/ script of speech in typed format to jury members one hour before the speech competition. The official informed that the participants can send a video of 10-15 minutes tableau in CD/DVD Format to Deputy Director PNCA, Shabana Ashraf, Plot 5, F-5/1, Islamabad for selection by October 24 (morning). The tableaux should be based on the theme of current scenario of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoJK) while the content of the tableau should not be based on an anti-state statement.—APP



ISLAMABAD: PML leader Siddiqul farooq addressing condolence reference held in memory of Senior Journalist Khawaja Farruk Saeed organized by pakiatan federal union of journalist (Dastoor) at national press club.—DNA

Clock ticking on the three tasks of Sunak

Rishi Sunak, who will be the United Kingdom's new prime minister later this week, tweeted on Monday "I want to fix our economy, unite our Party and deliver for our country". But none of the three tasks will be easy to accomplish. The Brexit eggs have started to hatch and the UK economy was suffering even before Sunak's predecessor Liz Truss detonated her tax bomb. The Conservative Party members opted for Truss in their head-to-head bid for the party's leadership three months ago, and the factions within the party will not be easily reconciled.

Sunak's efforts in 2020 to bail out the UK economy during the coronavirus pandemic have become his greatest political capital. But these practices were emergency measures in times of crisis, and to restore economic stability and fix "Broken Britain" are formidable challenges.

With the UK suffering from massive debt accumulation, high inflation and weak growth, Sunak will be looking to preserve the pound's credibility, promote economic growth and lower inflation.

The two previous UK prime ministers, Boris Johnson and Truss, failed the test, because they were not prepared to bite the bullet and stop letting the United States lead the country by the nose. Their betting of the country's future on being party to Washington's geopolitical games was shortsighted and self-serving.

As a result, Johnson and Truss were effectively ejected from the post of prime minister because they proved to be unfit for the office. It is to be hoped that Sunak will quickly demonstrate that he has the credentials and capacity to be an effective leader.

That Johnson and Truss were evicted from No 10 Downing Street has highlighted the self-serving rapaciousness that has been festering in the Conservative Party under the guise of ideology. That has only been prevented from throwing the UK into anarchy because of the resilience of its institutions. Sunak will need to keep a tight rein on that extortionary tendency within the party if he is to win favor with the public. And only by reviving his party's standing in the polls will he be able to stop the party from ousting him. That will mean restoring confidence among the public that the government knows what it is doing, as double-digit inflation, rising interest rates and the political chaos have shown the promised envy-of-all "Global Britain" riding high on the waves to be nothing but snake oil for ship that is desperately foundering.

Proving Truss was wrong does not necessarily make Sunak right. And he will need to avoid stumbling where she fell on the slippery deck. That calls for practical measures to mend the holes and a clearly charted course, as well as capable helmsmanship to navigate the difficult waters the country has foolishly allowed itself to be blown into.

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222 lost children

The revelation that 222 children have gone missing from hotels in which they were placed under a scheme for unaccompanied young asylum seekers should shame the government and, above all, the Home Office. The risks to young people who are invisible to the authorities are well-known, and include exploitation by criminal gangs. Even if some of these teenagers find a way to get by in the short term, perhaps with the aid of friends or relatives, they run the risk of being ejected from the UK in future if they disappear underground before their asylum claims are processed. Ministers have provided information on just over half of the missing children. Thirty-nine have been missing for at least 100 days, and 17 were lost within a day of the Home Office taking responsibility for them. Disgracefully, there is little sign that police or local authorities are even looking for them. The figures were only made public in response to a question from the shadow children's minister, Helen Hayes. Almost all are boys and many are aged 16 or 17. Some younger children have also gone. The shocking failure to keep track of young people in the system is not the only thing wrong with the hotel arrangements. An inspection report earlier this month revealed that some employees had undergone no criminal record checks. In one case, three unvetted members of staff with access to master keys were living in a hotel's basement. While the Home Office has accepted a recommendation that this should not be allowed, the fact that it happened at all casts doubt on the government's commitment to child protection. No one doubts that unaccompanied minors arriving in the UK for the first time are vulnerable – and those placed in hotels include younger teenagers. In the year to September, 899 children aged 14 or 15 were placed in hotels rather than foster homes or other local authority care settings.

There is no point pretending that suitable homes for newly arrived adolescents are easy to find. The rising number of teenagers arriving on small boats is challenging for councils already struggling with high demand for children's services – and chronic workforce instability and shortages. But combined with whistleblowers' recent descriptions of chaos and squalor at Kent's Manston airbase, where new arrivals are processed, the disappearance of more than 200 young people gives an impression of incompetence and neglect.

At least Suella Braverman's short reign at the Home Office is over. The new prime minister, Rishi Sunak, should reconsider his support for the government's plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda – and put a lid on relentlessly hostile rhetoric. If Rwanda was meant to function as a deterrent, the evidence of recent months is that it has failed. The UK needs a completely new approach to asylum and immigration, which recognises the contribution made by migrants – both in the past and the future – and communicates with the public about this. If ministers want to deter Channel crossings they should develop alternatives, working closely with France, the EU and other governments.

They must also admit that the worst of all worlds is one in which newly arrived children go missing, because the system they have built is incapable of holding on to them. It is scandalous that the UK Home Office has lost 222 young people and there can be no excuse or justification.

Protests could weaken Iranian society

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Consequently, women's rights and civil rights activists called on citizens, including men, to resist the compulsory wearing of the headscarf. The call received a positive response on the morning of July 12, and many videos and photos were posted on the electronic and print media. The New York-based International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (ICHRI) expressed fears about "possible violence and arrests on July 12."

The tragic death of Mehsa Amini, an Iranian girl on September 17, 2022 sparked nationwide protests. Similar to previous incidents that have sparked popular protests, including in 2020 after Iran shot down a Ukrainian airliner, the authorities initially rejected responsibility for triggering this crisis. Instead, the state's propaganda machine launched a massive disinformation campaign and blamed Mehsa's underlying medical condition for his death.

But when the protests refused to lower the protest temperature, the Islamic Republic resorted to its classic approach "maximum pressure", using all means of authority and imprisonment to stop the rallies. Discontent has been growing in the Islamic Republic for at least a decade. But a year into Ibrahim Raisi's presidency, his government, which represents the most conservative elements of the 1979 revolution, has pushed through a controversial set of social policies that have helped fuel the latest round of protests, that is, amid Iran's ongoing international isolation. The failure of the regime's economic policies as well as its uncompromising stance on the nuclear negotiations, the government accelerated the implementation of a social engineering plan that included a "National Internet," "Rehabilitation," and second, "Hijab" became top priorities recorded. These ideas have long been debated among Iran's hardliners and conservatives, the Center for the

Islamic Iranian Model of Progress and the Office of Supreme Leader. Anti-Hijab protests in Iran have already been successful. The Islamic hijab rule has been enforced in Iran since the Islamic Revolution in 1979. According to the law, women and girls over the age of nine must cover their heads in public. However, their intensity varies from administration to administration, depending on the political background of the incumbent president. Backed by the country's ultra-conservative religious elite, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi called the recent backlash against the hijab law "a systematic encouragement of moral corruption in Islamic society." Similarly, earlier this month the deputy prosecutor of Mashhad in north-eastern Iran wrote a decree banning women without headscarves from entering offices and banks or using the subway. While the mayor initially opposed the decision, he eventually allowed the order.

Consequently, women's rights and civil rights activists called on citizens, including men, to resist the compulsory wearing of the headscarf. The call received a positive response on the morning of July 12, and many videos and photos were posted on the electronic and print media. The New York-based International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran (ICHRI) expressed fears about "possible violence and arrests on July 12." The anti-hijab social media campaign is being led by Masih Elenjad, a US-based activist who has been behind several online campaigns over the

past decade. During the 2017-2019 protests, several protesting women were arrested and many were seriously injured in the police action. Iranian activist Saba Kord Afshari was jailed for 24 years for promoting "corruption and prostitution" by removing her hijab.

The current protest has spread beyond the usual suspects. In addition to women and students, traders and shoppers are also protesting in Tehran's market. In past, they already have protested against the deteriorating economic situation and the devaluation of the Iranian currency. But this may be the first time in decades that they have not only protested for their own immediate economic interests but have shown solidarity with the girls and women who killed by security forces during the 1979 revolution. The protests transcended common racial lines and brought together groups that are often divided. Last summer, the region's two ethnic groups, the Bakhtiari Lurs and the Arabs, joined forces in protests against polluted water and air in the southwestern province of Khuzestan. However, this was limited to the province.

But what makes these policies so crucial to the current situation is their clear rejection of the values held by the majority of Iranians outside the conservative camp. Instead of acknowledging the divisions in Iranian society, the authorities have emphasized uniting the entire population around a single state ideology and way of life. Social freedoms in Iran have therefore been further

restricted since the beginning of Raisi's presidency. As a result, the Islamic Republic is now facing an unprecedented split between state and society, with the state's influence over the population rapidly diminishing. Discontent has spread, hope for change is fading, and the Islamic Republic's support is shrinking. Street protests are now widespread. In particular, the new Generation Z (researchers and popular media use the mid-to-late 1990s as birth years and the early 2010s as birth years. Most members of Generation Z are children of X.) is an only viable way to achieve change. Nonetheless, Iran's security elites continue to tout their traditional techniques as effective in suppression. They follow a simple argument: Regardless of the context, whether faced with international condemnation of the nuclear program or a domestic political crisis, the leaders of the Islamic Republic are more inclined to escalate than to step back and reconsider their policies, which they believe is the maintenance of pressure will increase the cost to their opponents to the point where it becomes irrational to continue opposing Tehran. As a result of this persistence in the streets of Iranian cities, dozens of Iranians have been killed and thousands of security forces have violently attacked the demonstrations. Meanwhile, prospects for change within Iran's leadership will remain limited as long as its members continue to see their current strategy as important to consolidating and securing their power.

Strange death of the UK Conservative Party

Chris Doyle

This was the 60-meter sprint election as opposed to the marathon summer vote that landed Liz Truss the premiership. It took a mere couple of days to determine who will run a country in economic crisis and a party that is near ungovernable. In an extraordinarily easy transition to power, Sunak was chosen without having to reveal a single policy or position, or enter into any debate. What we know is that he will stick to a tighter fiscal policy and previously voted to leave the EU, though he never appears as a devout Brexiteer. On foreign affairs, it is assumed he will pretty much stick to existing position.

The soap opera surrounding the UK Conservative Party has a great scriptwriter now. The Westminster village is a never-ending production line of scandal and intrigue emanating from the heart of a "governing" party that has been in power for the past 12 years. Now Britain is to get its third prime minister in less than two months and its fifth in six years. Meanwhile, it barely has a functioning government.

The former finance minister Rishi Sunak, who will take the helm, is the country's first non-white prime minister; the first, as a Hindu, to practice a non-Christian faith; and, at 42, the youngest leader in modern British history.

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However, the past few days of campaigning have shown just how close the Conservative Party is to the precipice. Sunak will face a party with many MPs blaming him for having plotted to bring down Boris Johnson in the summer. There is plenty of bad blood around.

Amazingly, Johnson was under serious consideration for the leadership. It was only in July that he was booted out of office after scandal upon scandal beset his leadership. Yet the "Bring back Boris" bandwagon led to Johnson hauling himself off a Caribbean beach, dusting off the sand and hot-footing it back to London. His loyal support base was cheering from the rafters, but most of the country watched on in horror.

One MP was quoted as saying that Johnson was up for it, and was "surprised to see he had his shirt tucked in." But Johnson was hamstrung as he faces

a parliamentary inquiry that may find him guilty of misleading the House of Commons.

It could recommend his suspension be confirmed by a parliamentary vote, possibly leading to a by-election. Imagine. If Johnson had returned as a freshly reinstated prime minister, he may have become the first ever to be suspended from the Commons. If the soap opera scriptwriter had the power, this is what would have happened. That Johnson was even considered a credible candidate shows where Conservative Party is.

In July, he had a favorability rating of minus 53. Truss went even lower with a minus 70 rating. In the polls, the Tory party is a jaw-dropping 30-35 percent behind Labour.

Memories are short in modern-day politics. It was only in July that more than 50 of Johnson's ministers and parliamentary aides resigned within 50 hours. They argued that he was not fit for office. Even the loyal media tore into Johnson over his failings. Yet, only a few months later, some of that number argue that Johnson can save the party.

Sunak has to handle a situation where Britain has just had a prime minister who lasted 44 days before resigning. Truss was the shortest-serving leader in the country's history, and arguably the least popular. She tanked the British economy, and oversaw the collapse of the pound and a surge in interest rates. Britain's international standing is at risk.

All of this is happening to the traditional party of government, a party that has received more votes than any other in the combined elections of the past 100 years. Many are asking why the Tory talent locker is so bare that the party almost reverted to a known failure.

It was meant to be the Labour Party in irreversible decline. At the 2019 elections, Labour won 202 seats, its lowest number since 1935. Most observers believed this made the Tories almost certain to win the next election as well. Go back 20 years and British politics was pretty dull and achingly predictable. In that era, everyone knew who was going to be prime min-

ister; elections were easy to predict; and, by and large, the parties all fought for the center ground. If you left the country for six months, you would return to familiar faces in Westminster. Britain was a beacon of reliability and known, rightly or wrongly, for its sensible approach to politics. Think of it. Margaret Thatcher lasted 11 years, Tony Blair 10, and even John Major did six. Every election result in that period was predicted and only in the Major premiership was there not a massive majority.

Yet in little over a decade that sense of stability and calm has all but evaporated. Britain had a coalition government for five years – unheard of. But even that was reassuringly calm compared with the Brexit era.

The 2016 referendum to leave the EU still scars British politics. Politicians are still defined by whether they were Remainers or Brexiteers. How long will these epithets last? The divisions are deeper than ever. The Brexiteers who dominate the Conservative Party are unlikely to ever concede that leaving the world's largest trading bloc has hit British economic interests.

Can Sunak bring this psychodrama to an end? The new leader has to work for the country, and ignore the fireworks and mayhem inside this party. The economy has to be set on a painful course correction. Markets and allies have to be reassured with a competent governing order that reverts to proper policy-making processes that are less concerned with the next day's headlines and focused more on the longer-term national interest. What will happen to one of the most successful party-political machines in Europe – who knows? The party is so split that it is hard to see it surviving as a single entity. It needs a revamp, triggered by a deep soul-search as to how it landed up with moral failure from Johnson and fiscal failure from Truss.

Sunak will have to exude reassurance and calm if the soap opera is to end. If it does not, it is hard to see how the party of Churchill and Thatcher can survive.

Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Long March to start from Friday: Khan

FROM PAGE 01

"We want that the people make the decision. Today, I am appealing to the entire nation that you will have to decide [...] do we want to go on this way of becoming a free country or serve these thieves." At the outset of the press conference, the PTI chief said he had planned the march earlier. "We held a peaceful protest on May 25 but they inflicted violence on us. And if I had not called it off then the next day there really would've been discord and blood in the country," he said. "Hence, to save my country and prevent chaos, I called it off," he added. Imran went on to say that he wanted to clarify the purpose of the march because he was told that he was being irresponsible as the country was going through a tough time.

Arshad Sharif victim...

FROM PAGE 01

He knew he was repeatedly getting warnings. He didn't step back. I told him [to back down but] he wasn't scared and then lastly, this targeted killing. No matter what people say, I know this was targeted killing." Imran paid tribute to Sharif, calling him "a brave patriot who never compromised his conscience". He also spoke about his immense respect and admiration for the journalist. Imran said Sharif stood for "justice, truth and Pakistan's interests", adding that he himself had been on the receiving end of criticism from the journalist on numerous occasions. "He never spared any mafia. He exposed these two families (Sharif and Zardari families) in every programme with proof but no one could scare or buy him... then he started getting threats from unknown numbers to 'not say this or speak the truth' when he started exposing this regime. "Then I received information that they were about to kill him.

Army asks govt to form judicial...

FROM PAGE 01

investigation so that all these speculations can be put to rest," he while talking to a private news channel. "All the aspects of this terrible incident need to be looked into." To a question regarding the accusations being hurled at the institutions' alleged involvement in Sharif's killing in Kenya, the DG ISPR said: "It is very unfortunate that people engage in allegations without any evidence to back them up... and I think an exhaustive investigation should be carried out to deal with these things". He said it was critical to watch out for the elements trying to exploit this tragic incident to their advantage. "I believe it should also be investigated as to why Arshad Sharif had to leave Pakistan in the first place," the DG ISPR said. "Though Kenyan police have confessed to their mistake, a number of questions need to be answered."

Judicial commission to probe...

FROM PAGE 01

Arshad Sharif "highly condemnable" assured that the facts of the probe would be brought to the nation. He said prior to his departure to Saudi Arabia, he had telephoned Kenyan President William Roti and had urged him to hold a fair investigation besides playing his role for the swift repatriation of the deceased journalist's body. Earlier, Info Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb had said that the head of the commission would also be able to appoint members from civil society and the media fraternity in order to ascertain the facts. Separately, the IHC directed the government to keep journalist bodies on board while it investigates. During the hearing, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah said he made it to the court today for this particular case. "Did anyone visit the aggrieved family? Do they need any [legal] assistance," Justice Minallah asked while reminding govt of the court's previous orders wherein directions were issued to govt officials to visit the heirs of slain journalist.

No regional equation possible without Iran's role, says Raisi

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi highlighted the need for the formation of a media coalition in the region and the world to protect countries against the influence of the West's culture

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says the Islamic Republic is in its strongest ever position and no equation in the region will be viable without its decisive role. Raisi made the remarks while addressing a meeting with the participants of the 18th General Assembly of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) in Tehran on Tuesday. "Despite all sanctions and threats, we are stronger than ever and we are in a position of power," he said. He maintained that the era of unilateralism has come to an end, adding, "After the era of unilateralism, a new chapter is emerging now and new powers are being established in the world."

"Today, the power of the Americans in the region is declining," the president asserted. Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi highlighted the need for the formation of a media coalition in the region and the world to protect



countries against the influence of the West's culture. Further expounding on the massive campaign against the culture of independent nations in the current world of communications, he said

media outlets play a very important role in fending off a "ruthless attack on independence, freedom, culture and identity of independent nations." Raisi emphasized that media outlets

have a very important mission to protect the civilizational identity and assets of people, particularly in the very rich Asia and Pacific regions, as well as the independence of countries and nations.

He warned that arrogant powers seek to impose their own perceptions on countries, adding that independent media are responsible for helping nations get a correct understanding of the events.

The Iranian chief executive said journalists should play a role to prevent violence, organized crime, ethnic and religious conflicts and drug trafficking as well as other issues through their media.

"The enemies seek to sow discord among nations. Today's war is the war of narratives, that is, several different narratives are presented about one incident and one must look for the facts to determine which one is correct," Raisi added. Formed in 1961 on UNESCO's initiative, the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies is an association of news agencies from UNESCO member states in the Asia-Pacific region. OANA provides a news wire service containing articles provided by its members. OANA currently has 43 members from 35 countries, covering two-thirds of the world's population.

MPR Speakers reminisce about Asian-African Conference

ANTARA

JAKARTA: Delegates of the international conference of People's Consultative Assemblies (MPR) reminisced about the 1955 Asian-African Conference by walking together on the Asia Afrika Road, Bandung, West Java on Tuesday. The delegates walked for 100 meters from Savoy Homann Hotel to the Merdeka Building that hosts the international conference. Upon arrival at Merdeka Building, the delegates were entertained by Indonesian traditional dances. Coordinating Minister of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Mahfud MD joined the delegates at the event. Speaker of the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly (MPR RI) Bambang Soesatyo commended the choice of Merdeka Building to host the event while spotlighting the building's high historical value for Indonesia and Asian and African countries. "Representing MPR RI speakers, I express my utmost appreciation and gratitude for your excellencies' presence upon MPR RI invitations to reinvigorate the spirit of the Asian-African Conference in Bandung," Soesatyo stated. Earlier, the MPR RI speaker remarked that the Asian-African Conference



BANDUNG: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, along with Head of Indonesian Parliament, Governor West Java Province & State officials took part in History Walk event commemorating the historic 1955 Asia-Africa Conference. - DNA

was a major factor in selecting Bandung as the host of the parliamentary speakers' conference. "Since the 1955 Asian-African Conference, no other global-scale political output was produced in Bandung, as almost all of the international conferences (of Indonesia) are now hosted

in Bali," he remarked on Monday (October 24). He expressed optimism that the conference would produce a declaration of support for the development of global democracy by enhancing the function of parliaments. Indonesia is hosting the international conference of parlia-

ments among members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to initiate the world parliamentary speakers forum in Bandung, West Java, on October 24-26, 2022. The 15 countries whose parliamentary speakers attended the event are Indonesia as the host, and Algeria,

Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Yemen. Moreover, representatives of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States and the World Muslim League attended the conference.

Lukaku set for Inter return

MILAN: Romelu Lukaku should be available for Inter's Milan's Champions League clash with Viktoria Plzen which could seal the Italians' place in the last 16, coach Simone Inzaghi said on Tuesday. Lukaku has been out with a thigh injury for two months but Inzaghi said the Belgium forward should be on the bench at the San Siro, where a win will guarantee Inter's passage to the knockout stages. "If Lukaku confirms what we have seen in training yesterday and recent days he will be in the squad, he has been working with a lot of enthusiasm and desire," Inzaghi told reporters. "We still have today's training to go, but he is clearly on his way back, he's an hugely important player for us who has been out for two months. He's been a big loss." Lukaku's return is also good news for Belgium coach Roberto Martinez with the Red Devils' opening World Cup fixture against Canada just under a month away. Inter can qualify from Group C on Wednesday evening thanks in large part to the four points they took from their two previous matches against Barcelona. Inzaghi's team sit second in the group and lead the Catalans by three points with two games remaining after beating them at the San Siro and then drawing a thrilling encounter 3-3 at the Camp Nou a fortnight ago. - APP

Marcus Stoinis leads Australia to victory against Sri Lanka

MELBOURNE: Marcus Stoinis hit second-fastest half-century in the Men's T20 World Cup as Australia bounced back from their opening defeat with a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka. Stoinis smashed 59 from 18 balls as Australia reached their target with 21 balls to spare in Perth. Charith Asalanka earlier hit 40 from 45 balls as Sri Lanka scraped to 157-6. The win eases the pressure on holders Australia, who went into the game bottom of Group One in the Super 12s. It moves them up to fourth before their crucial meeting with England in Melbourne on Friday (09:00 BST). Sri Lanka face Afghanistan at the same venue earlier on the same day (05:00). Australia went into this match under pressure after their 89-run defeat by New Zealand left them with little room



for error, even at this early stage of the tournament. They not only needed to win but do so convincingly to improve their poor net run rate, while

a second defeat would have made it extremely difficult for them to qualify for the semi-finals. The match was in the balance when Stoinis strolled to the crease in the 13th over, with Australia 97-3 and just eight runs ahead of Sri Lanka's score at the same stage.

But a brutal display of power hitting hauled the hosts over the line, with his knock featuring four fours and six sixes in just 22 minutes. "It was a pretty special innings," said Australia captain Aaron Finch. "To come out with that intent is the main thing, when you come out with that presence it is one of main things in T20 cricket and with his power, that makes him pretty hard to stop." Finch had earlier won the toss and opted to chase for the sixth game in a row - despite failing to win any of their previous five. - DNA

Romania, Pakistan cooperation..

FROM PAGE 01

Ambassador Goia said, the years of contribution to foreign missions meant for the Romanian Armed Forces the maintenance, almost continuously, of a military force of variable sizes, integrated into UN, OSCE, NATO and EU missions carried out in Africa and Asia, in the theatres of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Western Balkans. Almost 40,000 Romanian troops took part in different operations and missions out of national borders, gathering a valuable professional experience extremely useful in the transformation, operationalization and interoperability enhancement process of the Romanian Armed Forces with their NATO and EU counterparts.

Romanian Armed forces wisely and skilfully planned their combat forces to fight the war on terror far away from the national borders, proving their capability and determination to fully carry out their missions. Romania remained consistent with its commitments to support the international community in the fight against terror.

The contribution of the Romanian troops to the collective defence, peace keeping and restoration missions to enforce the stipulations of the UN Security Council Resolutions, of the international legislation and law reveals that the Romanian state complies consequently and in full faith with the commitments agreed with the allies and partners, according to the international legislation and treaties whose signing party is Romania. By performance and professionalism, dedication and determination, the Romanian Armed Forces are a true ambassador for Romania's image worldwide! He said, unfortunately, we are living in a very complicated security environment. The world of today, the security challenges we have to deal with every day, along with the war going on at NATO and EU borders, as well as Romania's border with Ukraine - all these prove that we need to be ready to defend our common values and freedoms and grant security and stability. Moreover, Ukraine's security means European and Euro-Atlantic security.

In line with the NATO and European Union's policy, Romania stands in full solidarity with the people and government of Ukraine in the heroic defence of their country, helping Ukraine to uphold its fundamental right to self-defence with unprecedented levels of support as a response of Russia's full-scale, brutal, unprovoked and unlawful invasion of Ukraine. "I am very pleased to underline the excellent cooperation existing between Romanian and Pakistani armies which have developed over the years into a true and mutual beneficial partnership. Since there is not time to elaborate on the multifaceted and complex character of the cooperation, I will only mention that on October 12th this year, during his official visit in Romania, the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi performed symbolically the initial welding work on the keel of the third vessel built for Pakistani Navy at Damen Shipyard Galati and cut the first plates of steel for the construction of the second batch two Damen OPV 2600 multi mission patrol vessels".

Ambassador Goia said those vessels will provide the Pakistan Navy with a highly effective search and rescue capability, and allow it to play an important role in safeguarding international trade routes from piracy and other threats like drugs and human trafficking and terrorism. "Also, between 10-12 November, the 3rd session of Joint Military Committee will take place in Bucharest and I am sure that during this activity new domains of cooperation will be identified". He acknowledged the excellent professionalism of the Pakistani army, the deep patriotism of its men and women in uniforms, the sacrifices they made in fighting terrorism, their presence in multiple international coalitions authorized to participate in maintaining peace, humanitarian assistance and other operations meant to ease the sufferings of the people in different regions of the world, he added.

West Ham wins amid VAR controversy

LONDON: West Ham United defender Kurt Zouma's headed goal and a Said Benrahma penalty in stoppage time sealed a 2-0 win over Bournemouth in a scrappy Premier League tussle that was marked by VAR controversy at London Stadium on Monday. Frenchman Zouma glanced the ball in from close range on the stroke of halftime after a goal-mouth scramble with the effort being allowed after a VAR check despite a suspicion of handball by his defensive partner Thilo Kehrer in the melee.

There was precious little else for either set of fans to get excited about as West Ham held onto their lead despite some nervy moments as Bournemouth finished strongly. The Hammers could breathe more easily when Jordan Zembra was harshly penalised for handball after another VAR check went against the visitors and Benrahma thumped in his first goal of the season past substitute goalkeeper Mark Travers. Bournemouth could feel justifiably frustrated that decisions went against them but West Ham took advantage to claim a fifth home win in succession in all competitions to move up seven places in the congested table from 17th to 10th with 14 points. - APP

16 dead as cyclone hits Bangladesh

The authorities also announced that power and telephone links have been largely cut and coastal areas have plunged into darkness

AGENCIES

DHAKA: At least 16 people have died after a cyclone struck Bangladesh's southern coast on Tuesday, razing down properties, snapping communications and power links, and forcing the evacuation of about a million people, officials said. Jebun Nahar, a government official, said 14 people died after being hit by falling trees, and two others died after a boat sank in squally weather in the Jamuna river in the north of the South Asian country. "We still have not got all the reports of damages,"

Nahar was quoted as saying by AFP. She had earlier put the death toll at nine. Around 10 million people are reported without power in 15 coastal districts, while schools have been shut across southern and southwestern regions. The cyclone - the equivalent of hurricanes in the Atlantic or typhoons in the west Pacific - made landfall in southern Bangladesh late on Monday but authorities managed to get about a million people to safety before the monster weather system hit. Heavy rains hit most of the country, flooding cities such as the capital, Dhaka, Khul-

na, and Barisal - which witnessed 324 millimeters (13 inches) of rainfall on Monday. The cyclone moved in from the Bay of Bengal early on Monday with winds gusting up to 88 kilometers per hour (55mph) and a storm surge of about three meters (10ft) that inundated low-lying coastal areas. People evacuated from low-lying regions such as remote islands and river banks and were moved to thousands of multi-story cyclone shelters. Bangladesh's disaster management ministry secretary Kamrul Hsan said. "They spent the night in cyclone

shelters. And this morning many are heading back to their homes," he was quoted as saying by AFP. The authorities also announced that power and telephone links have been largely cut and coastal areas have plunged into darkness. No major damage was, however, reported in refugee camps in southeast Bangladesh, where more than a million Rohingya Muslim refugees from neighboring Myanmar are living in crowded shelters. About 33,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, controversially relocated from the mainland to a storm-prone island in the Bay

of Bengal, were ordered to stay indoors. Rights groups have urged Bangladesh to bring the refugees to the mainland, but authorities say the storm shelters are safe. In the neighboring eastern Indian state of West Bengal, thousands of people were evacuated on Monday to more than 100 relief centers, officials said, but there were no reports of damage and people were returning home on Tuesday. Cyclone Amphan, the second "super cyclone" ever recorded over the Bay of Bengal, which hit in 2020, killed more than 100 people in Bangladesh and India and

affected millions. Last year, more than a million people were evacuated along India's east coast before Cyclone Yaas battered the area with winds gusting up to 155 kilometers (96 miles) an hour - equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane. The worst recorded, in 1970, killed hundreds of thousands of people. In recent years, better forecasting and more effective evacuation planning have dramatically reduced the number of casualties from these storms. A World Bank Institute study in 2015 estimated that some 3.5 million people in Bangladesh were at risk of river flooding every year.

Briefs

Ukraine liberating its land step by step: President

KYIV: Ukraine's president, noting that eight months have passed since Russia launched its war on Feb. 24, said Monday that they continue to liberate Ukrainian land step by step.

"Donbas, Kharkiv and Kherson (are being liberated). But Zaporizhzhia and Crimea will be as well. The time will come and all of Ukraine will be free," Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video on Telegram.

He noted that they have defended the country's independence and Russia can no longer do anything about it. "Ukraine is destroying the so-called 'second army of the world,' and from now on, Russia will only be a beggar...Russia's potential is being wasted now on this madness, on a war against our state and the entire free world," he added. Zelenskyy went on to say that Russia had influence in terms of natural gas, military power and political weight, but not anymore. He added that it is very important to change the configuration of power in Eurasia. "The more of its potential Russia loses now, the more real freedom all peoples both next to Russia and within its borders will get. Ukraine first of all." —Agencies

Brazil's Lula hopes Bolsonaro will accept defeat

WEB DESK

BUENOS AIRES: Brazil's presidential front-runner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Monday that he hopes far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro can accept defeat if he loses in the election.

The two contenders will face off in a second-round runoff vote on Oct. 30 amid a highly charged political environment.

"I hope that if I win the election, he has one minute of common sense, (that) he phones me, accepting the results of the election," Lula told journalists in the country's financial capital, Sao Paulo.

"This is how people have acted in Brazil since I was a candidate for the first time in 1989, he added.

Lula, who served as president from 2003 to 2010, also hit out at the former army captain's behavior.

"And if Bolsonaro loses and gets angry, he wants to cry...I lost three elections. Every election I lost, I went home," he said.

The former union leader went on to say that Bolsonaro needs "discord" and "friction" to operate at a time when Brazilians need peace.

In recent weeks, the polarization has increased between the candidates, with both having political ads banned.

In the first-round vote, many polls had predicted a clear first-round win for Lula, who garnered 48% of the vote to Bolsonaro's 43%.

But with neither candidate securing more than 50% of the vote, a second round automatically kicked in, underscoring how tight the race remained.

Russia accuses West of stealing its reserves

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia has accused Western countries of using sanctions to steal the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves amid the raging war in Ukraine.

Asked about a proposal by the European Union to transfer frozen Russian assets to Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that "a large part" of the country's assets were being stolen by "specific Western countries".

Last week, the president of the European Council Charles Michel said the bloc should consider transferring frozen Russian reserves to Ukraine.

"These are absolutely illegal actions, they are contrary to international law. This is an attack on public and private property," said Peskov.

Europe strives to manage energy crisis ahead of winter

According to study, companies are dissatisfied with crisis management of politics, calling for subsidies for private investment in energy efficiency or renewable energies

NEWS DESK

PARIS: Europe's agenda continues to be dominated by an energy crisis brought about by Russia's war on Ukraine, with no immediate solutions on the horizon.

Strikes at two refineries of French oil company TotalEnergies continued Monday.

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

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

At the Gonfreville-l'Orcher site, the strike has already been extended until Oct. 27 "unless management con-

tacts us before then," the CGT union said.

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

According to Beaune, only 10% of gas stations continue to face supply difficulties. In the days and weeks before, it was more than 30% in some cases.

The consequences of the energy crisis for German businesses could be severe, with 25% of the companies in a survey saying they may react to rising energy costs by cutting staff and 90% saying they are likely to respond by raising prices, with some already implementing such decisions.

The findings of the survey by the Foundation for Family Businesses, which was carried out in September by the Munich-based

Ifo Institute for Economic Research, were based on a total of 1,060 companies, the majority of them family businesses.

In a previous survey conducted by the foundation in April, only 14% of the companies polled said they were planning layoffs.

According to the latest survey, 13% of the companies now also expect to halt production. In April, the figure was 6%.

Production relocations abroad are currently being tackled by 9% of the companies, up from 6%.

According to the study, the companies are dissatisfied with the crisis management of politics, calling for subsidies for private investment in energy efficiency or renewable energies.

Meanwhile, targeted aid for companies or industries is also frequently mentioned in the survey.

Family businesses are the most widespread type of company in Germany. More than 90% of all companies are family-owned, accounting for 58% of all jobs - a stabilizing factor for the job market in times of economic downturns.

Meanwhile, the leader of Germany's Social Democrats on Monday warned against resuming Russian gas supplies after the end of the war in Ukraine.

"Even after the war, we will clearly not build up our dependence on Russian energy supplies again. We're glad that we have now taken the most important steps to get out of there," Saskia Esken told the RTL/ntv broadcast network.

It was a big mistake to make Germany dependent on one state for its energy supplies, she said, adding: "We shouldn't think about

doing it again." Esken's statements followed calls by the premier of the east German state of Saxony, Michael Kretschmer, who spoke out in favor of resuming Russian gas supplies after the war.

"We need long-term contracts for liquid gas supplies from the US, Qatar and other Arab countries. In addition, we must finally develop our own natural gas in the North Sea. And when the war is over, we should use gas from Russia again," he told the Bild am Sonntag weekly.

But Green Party parliamentarian Anton Hofreiter called the demand for a return to Russian gas "populist and irresponsible." Anyone who demands this must then also say that they "would like to give Russia money so that it can buy more drones from Iran in

order to destroy even more in Ukraine," Hofreiter told Berlin-based Phoenix TV.

Cheap gas from Russian pipelines was a boon to industrial companies in Germany until the start of the Ukraine war on Feb. 24, as they were able to operate at lower costs and gain competitiveness.

Natural gas accounted for about 27% of Germany's total energy consumption in the first half of 2022, mainly for heating and industrial purposes and to a much lesser extent (around 15%) for electricity production.

Germany managed to quickly lower Russia's share in its gas supply since the war began, from around 55% in February to around 35% in May. However, it is still grappling with the major challenge of replacing the remaining share with alternative sources.



ISLAMABAD: US ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome calls on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto. - DNA

US charges Chinese officers, officials in 3 cases

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: The US charged two Chinese intelligence officers on Monday with trying to obstruct the prosecution of a Chinese-based telecommunications firm as it rolled out three separate cases against Beijing.

The two alleged Chinese spies were identified as Guochun He and Zheng Wang. They have been charged with seeking to carry out a scheme that involved stealing information from the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York to stymie the prosecution of the Chinese telecommunications company. "This was an egregious attempt by PRC intelligence officers to shield a PRC based company from accountability and to undermine the integrity of our judicial system," Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a press conference alongside senior Justice Department officials.

The Justice Department did not identify the firm, but Huawei was charged in 2019 with bank fraud, and faced racketeering charges in 2020. The Justice Department said He and Wang tried to bribe a US government employee they believed had been recruited to secretly work for China. In all, they paid the individual \$61,000 in Bitcoin, but that person had been working as a double agent for the FBI, according to the department. The defendants attempted "to steal the prosecutor's playbook, including who the prosecutors were meeting with, and what they would argue in court all so that the company could unlawfully gain an edge and undermine the government's case," Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said.

He and Wang were charged with obstruction of justice while He was separately charged with two counts of money laundering related to the Bitcoin payments. Both men remain at large. Separately, the Justice Department announced two other cases against Chinese-based individuals with charges against 13 people, 10 of whom FBI Director Christopher Wray identified as Chinese intelligence officers and government officials. "They're charged in three different cases that might seem at first glance to be about unrelated issues," Wray said. "Each of these cases lays bare the Chinese government's flagrant violation of international laws as they work to project their authoritarian view around the world, including within our own borders."

Ethiopia peace talks open in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG: Peace talks between the warring sides in the brutal two-year-old conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region opened in Pretoria on Tuesday, the South African presidency announced.

The negotiations, led by the African Union (AU), follow a fierce surge in fighting in recent weeks that has alarmed the international community and triggered fears for civilians caught in

the crossfire.

"South Africa is hosting peace talks to end the conflict in the Tigray region," Vincent Magwenya, spokesman for President Cyril Ramaphosa, told reporters. The talks "have been convened to find a peaceful and sustainable solution to the devastating conflict," he said, adding that they would run until October 30. South Africa hopes "the talks will proceed constructively and result in

a successful outcome that leads to peace for all the people of our dear sister country," he said. The talks between negotiators from the Ethiopian government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the regional authorities in war-stricken Tigray have been launched almost two months to the day since fighting resumed in August, shattering a five-month truce. They are being facilitated by AU Horn of Africa envoy and

Nigeria's former president Olusegun Obasanjo, supported by Kenya's former leader Uhuru Kenyatta and South Africa's ex-vice president Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said Magwenya.

Diplomatic pressure has been mounting in recent weeks to silence the guns in a war which has left millions in need of humanitarian aid and, according to a US estimate, as many as half a million dead.—APP

Finland, Sweden need to keep their word for NATO bids

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Finland and Sweden have to keep their promises to extradite terrorists if they want to join NATO, said Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag. "If they want to join NATO right now, they have to keep their word. Our statements are very clear: 'Fulfill your promises, and we will complete your NATO entry process,'" Bozdag told reporters Monday after a Cabinet meeting in the capital Ankara. His remarks came ahead of a Finnish delegation's visit to Ankara to hold technical talks on the extradition of terrorists under a NATO

memorandum. Türkiye, Sweden and Finland signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding at NATO's June summit in Madrid which stipulates that Finland and Sweden will not provide support to the YPG/PYD - the PKK terrorist group's Syrian offshoot, or the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), the group behind the 2016 defeated coup in Türkiye. On Tuesday, Finnish Justice Ministry officials will meet with a delegation headed by Kasim Cicek, the director general of foreign relations and European Union affairs at the Turkish Justice Ministry. During the meeting, Turkish officials

will reiterate their request to the Finnish delegation to extradite members of the terrorist groups. Evidence of the accused terrorists' guilt will also be laid out in documents. "The process (for NATO membership) was started but not completed. Completion will be with the approval of the (Turkish) parliament. Therefore, the start of the process does not mean that the process is over unless it is approved by the parliament. Parliament will make the final decision," Bozdag said. The Nordic countries agreed to address Ankara's pending deportation or extradition requests for terrorist suspects.



TORONTO: High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada Zaheer Janjua calls on Canadian minister of housing Ahmed Hussien—DNA

Danish politics in crisis ahead of election

COPENHAGEN: Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has called for early general elections on Nov. 1 in the wake of a scandal concerning the slaughter of 17 million minks in 2020.

Frederiksen's announcement has been expected for months after opposition parties accused her of breaking the law when a decision was made to kill the minks due to fears that the coronavirus would spread in farms.

Traditionally, 10 political parties will compete but 14 parties will be running this year in hopes of securing 179 seats in the Danish parliament, or the Riksdag. It is a result of some parties facing dramatic confrontations and deep crises that have led to a complete disintegration within the Danish People's Party, Left Party, Alternative Party and Liberal Party.

The ground was fertilized for new parties to emerge which can become crucial when it comes to elections.

According to Kasper Moller Hansen, a political science professor at Copenhagen University, Danish politics are no longer reduced to simply a "Red

and Blue block." The race is currently "really tight," he told Anadolu Agency, as recent polls show Social Democrats, together with other left parties, have 50% support.

Equally, right-wing parties have around 50%, hence he said: "It's very difficult to tell who's going to be prime minister at the moment because it's so close and the polls tend to switch back and forth."

New parties "play a big role" when it comes to elections, he said.

Former Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, with his new Moderates party, "could be deciding the election result" depending on which block he decides to join, said Elisabet Svane, political analyst at Politiken, the country's largest newspaper.

A TV2 poll suggests that Rasmussen's party is currently polling at 6.5% while 11% of Danes would like to see him serve a third term.

Essentially, he could become prime minister if Frederiksen is unable to form a majority and if "he (Rasmussen) joins the Blue block," said

Hansen. But again, "it will be up to negotiations" as "we don't vote directly for the prime minister. We vote for the parliament" and lawmakers will decide who should be prime minister, he added. The election stands out as a "record high number of voters" have changed positions about who to vote for and immigration does not seem to be dominating campaigns this time around, according to Hansen.

The focus seems to have shifted toward the energy crisis, inflation and food crisis that has "risen drastically in Denmark," he said.

Hansen argued that the only reason immigration is not playing a big role is that most parties "agree" on a hard-line approach when it comes to immigrants. This was evident in the first televised debate when all parties on the left and the right backed a controversial plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. Denmark approved legislation that would make that possible last year and this summer the Danish and Rwandan governments decided to explore the possibility of asylum seekers

who arrive in Denmark being sent to Rwanda. The far-right anti-immigrant Danish People's Party currently has just 2% - 3% support, according to Hansen. That is a drastic drop from the 2015 election when it won second place with 21.08% of the national vote, securing 37 seats in parliament.

This time, the anti-immigrant rhetoric from the party did not convince voters, according to Hansen.

Svane agrees that immigration will not be "on the top of mind of most voters" as the economy is not doing very well, and this election "we are talking about money," she said.

The left-wing Red Block, headed by Frederiksen, is sticking to its traditional arguments for a stronger welfare state, especially when it comes to "the nurses' salary, that has been a big deal in the campaign so far," pledging to give "more salary" to nurses and hospital workers in general, said Hansen. He said there is "little" focus on climate change within the block.

When it comes to the Liberals and the Conservatives, the Conservatives are

promising to "lower taxes," while the Liberals have tried to play "more kind of in the middle where they are trying to move votes across the middle," said Hansen. He said parties do not seem to have a clear agenda and that they keep changing it, hence "many voters" are changing parties or are unsure who to support.

Svane argued that the election is about "trust" and "you can say half of the population, they trust the current prime minister, Mrs. Frederiksen, while the right-wing people, they distrust her."

Frederiksen is trying to convince voters by reminding them that she successfully navigated the coronavirus pandemic and is in a position to properly manage inflation, the energy crisis and the "Ukrainian crisis and security situation with Russia," added Hansen. Hansen predicts if the Blue block wins, the Moderates, Conservatives and Liberals are likely to form a traditional Liberal-Conservative Blue bloc that is likely to include Rasmussen who will have "some important ministry to take care of." —Agencies

SINGAPORE: Singapore announced Tuesday it aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, giving a firm date for the first time, and will look at using hydrogen as a major power source.

The city-state targets for carbon emissions to peak in 2030 at 60 million tonnes, a reduction of five million tonnes from the previous goal, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said.

The Southeast Asian nation also has plans to look at developing low carbon hydrogen as a major power supply in the long term. "If technology continues to advance, we foresee that hydrogen can supply up to half of our power needs by 2050, alongside domestic renewable energy sources and electricity imports," Wong said at an industry conference.

He added that Singapore would experiment with key hydrogen technologies to see how it can be implemented on a large scale.—Agencies

Qatar hit by 'unusual campaign' says Emir

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Qatar has been hit by an "unprecedented campaign" of criticism over the football World Cup, its ruler said Tuesday, lashing out at "double standards" in a fierce rebuttal just weeks before the tournament starts.

The energy-rich and conservative Islamic Gulf state has spent tens of billions of dollars on hosting the first World Cup on Arab soil, but has faced mounting attacks over its human rights record.

In a rare public airing of frustration, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said Qatar was the victim of "fabrications", hinting at hidden motives behind the criticism.

"Since we won the honour of hosting the World Cup, Qatar has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has faced," he said in a speech to the country's legislative council, 26 days from the November 20 kick-off.

FIFA awarded the World Cup to an Arab country for the first time after a contentious bidding process in 2010. Qatar has since faced constant scrutiny over its treatment of foreign workers as well as LGBTQ and women's rights.

This week, the government angrily rejected a report by the Human Rights Watch group which said police have arbitrarily detained and abused members of the LGBTQ community ahead of the World Cup.

The emir said Qatar had initially accepted negative commentary "in good faith" and "even considered that some criticism was positive and useful, helping us to develop aspects that need to be developed."

Sudan protesters defy crackdown to mark coup anniversary

FOREIGN DESK

KHARTOUM: Sudan on Tuesday blocked internet access nationwide as pro-democracy activists marked the first anniversary of a coup that derailed the transition to civilian rule, with hunger and inflation throttling the country.

Waving Sudanese flags, protesters defied authorities who have launched repeated deadly crackdowns on past rallies, chanting "power to the people" and demanding that "soldiers go back to the barracks".

A year ago to the day, army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan seized power and arrested the civilian leaders with whom he had agreed to share power in 2019, when mass protests compelled the army to depose one of its own, long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

As demonstrations gathered across the northeast African country on Tuesday, authorities launched an "nation-scale internet disruption," online monitor Net-Blocks said, a regular tactic when mass protests are planned. In Atbara, north of the capital Khartoum, hundreds of students on Tuesday took to the streets, resident Adel Mohamed said.

Singapore targets net zero by 2050

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Briefs

IHC adjourns appeal against Imran's acquittal

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned the hearing in the appeal challenging the acquittal of PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the PTV and parliament building attack case. The court adjourned the further hearing at the request of the state counsel. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the appeal of the federation against the acquittal of deposed prime minister Imran Khan. At the outset of the hearing, Justice Kayani noted that the appeals were filed after the expiry of the time. The court asked whether the advocate general didn't know as he filed the appeals after two years of the acquittal decision. The state counsel adopted the stance that the case prosecutor didn't inform the department timely regarding the termination of the case. The court asked whether this stance was enough for delaying the appeal filing. The state counsel requested the court to adjourn the further hearing in the case, adding that more arguments would be given at the next hearing. The further hearing was adjourned till November 9. - APP

Nobel Peace Prize 2022 goes to Russian HR Activist

OSLO: The Nobel Peace Prize 2022 awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organization Memorial and the Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties, shines a light on individuals and organizations working for human rights. The Nobel Peace Center is now engaging with universities students all over the world through the Ignitor Community to take part in the Nobel Peace Prize challenge 2022. The annual essay competition aims to include students globally in the topic of the Peace Prize, and to invite them to contextualize the challenges of the most recent Peace Prize to their own communities. The winners of the challenge will be invited to Oslo in December to take part in the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. Petter Sorum, Project Manager for the Ignitor Initiative says; "Through this essay competition we are inviting students and youth to write an open letter to their leaders, asking for an opportunity for dialogue on important issues related to human rights violations in their home countries." - APP

WhatsApp back online after global outage hits users

ISLAMABAD: Messaging app WhatsApp was back online at 2pm Pakistan time (0900 GMT) and the company said the issue has been fixed after users across the world reported problems earlier on Tuesday. At around 12:50pm (0750 GMT), outage reporting site Downtoaster had shown over 68,000 users had reported problems with the app in the United Kingdom. Problems were reported by 19,000 people in Singapore and 15,000 people in South Africa, Pakistan and other countries as well. "We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We have fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience," a spokesperson for WhatsApp parent company Meta Platforms said. The company did not disclose the reason for the outage. WhatsApp has become a critical means of communication for households and businesses. When WhatsApp had an hours-long outage last October, it hit trading of assets from cryptocurrencies to oil, before traders switched to alternative platforms such as Telegram.

Turkiye eyes US\$ 5 bn bilateral trade with Pak

The envoy appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing an Int'l Housing Expo in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works and assured that Turkish companies in Pakistan shall participate in the Expo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye wants to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan to at least US\$ 5 billion in the next 2-3 years as both countries have good potential to further enhance two-way trade volume in many items. This was said by Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on him in his office led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President. Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye Embassy was also present at the occasion. The envoy appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing an International Housing Expo in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works and assured that Turkish companies in Pakistan shall participate in the Expo whereas the companies and dignitaries from Turkiye would also be encouraged to join the Expo. Talking about trade through roads and railways, he said that Pakistan should upgrade its railways system to make it compatible with the railways system of Turkiye in order to promote bilateral trade through railways cargo. He said that trade through the road network can be cheaper due to low oil prices in Iran. He proposed to form a Committee comprising representatives of all stakeholders from both sides to discuss options and modalities for trade promotion through railways and roads links. He said that Turkiye is manufacturing electric vehicles and it can cooperate with Pakistan in this sector. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that despite very cordial relations, Pak-Turkiye bilateral



trade is less than US\$ 1 billion, which is not encouraging and both countries should facilitate their private sectors to improve it. He said that cargo shipment takes more than 30 days between Pakistan and Turkey and stressed the development of efficient road and railway links to reduce the transportation time. He said that ICCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works would organize an international level Housing Expo in Islamabad in December this year and the Embassy should cooperate in inviting investors of the low cost housing sector from Turkiye to participate in the Expo. He said that ICCI intends to organize a Pak-Turk Business Forum in Islamabad to bring Pakistani and Turkish companies at one platform for B2B meetings in order to develop business links in the areas of interest and said that Turkiye embassy should cooperate in inviting Head of MUSAID as a Chief

Guest for the event. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Turkiye has good expertise in construction field and it should cooperate with Pakistan in this sector. Zafar Bakhtawari, Shakeel Munir, Rana Qaiser Shehzad, Rizwan Chheena, Zia Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions for further improving business and investment relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

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Berlin-Paris ties under strain as EU faces harsh tests

PARIS: Signs are growing that the crucial partnership between Germany and France is stumbling, experts say, just as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and soaring energy costs place extreme stress on the EU. Amid disagreements over energy, foreign policy, arms procurement and more, a joint cabinet meeting has been pushed back to January, while a parliamentary gathering of French, German and Polish MPs was cancelled at the weekend. There have always been "difficult moments" in the relationship, said France's former ambassador to China, Britain and Russia, Sylvie Bermann. "But we're clearly in a period of crisis, and the Franco-German relationship seems more strained than ever," she said. It did not help that the Ukraine war erupted when German Chancellor Olaf Scholz had barely taken office, with insiders saying French President Emmanuel Macron's relationship with him is nothing like as warm as with former chancellor Angela Merkel, with whom he exchanged text messages daily. Scholz and Macron are set to meet one-on-one in Paris on Wednesday following last week's gathering of European leaders. "There's a necessary learning process" as Germany's three-party governing coalition finds its feet, said Alexandre Robinet-Borgomano, a German politics expert at French think-tank Institut Montaigne. - APP

Rupee strengthens against dollar

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee continued to strengthen against the US dollar falling below the psychological barrier of Rs220 in hopes of early disposal of Asian Development Bank (ADB) loans to assist Pakistan in devastating floods. The local currency closed at 219.73 against the US dollar after gaining Rs0. 68, or 0.31%, compared to Monday's close of 220.41. The market is anticipating inflows of \$1.5 billion from the Manila-based lender this week and \$2 billion in the first week of November. This boosted sentiment on the rupee. Dealers are hopeful that support from multilateral creditors would help boost foreign exchange reserves and the value of the local currency. The rupee is expected to trade at 216 to the dollar in the next 10 days and 210 to the dollar in the following 30 days, according to Tresmark, a terminal that monitors live prices of financial markets. "This is because of ADB-related inflows of \$1.5 billion in the coming week and \$2 billion of inflows in the first week of November."

2 suicide bombers killed

D.I.KHAN: Two suspected suicide bombers were killed on Tuesday when they tried to attack the office of peace committee head here near Sheikh Yousaf Adda in the limits of Sadar Police Station. The two suspects wearing explosive jackets came on a 'Qingqi Rickshaw' and tried to attack the office of Peace Committee head Noor Alam Mehsud here in Irfan Colony near Nizam Petrol pump on Bannu road. Spokesman for district police Intiaz Baloch, while talking to APP, informed that the police along with Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) traced the attackers and killed both of them during exchange of fire. The police also recovered 2 Kalashnikov, 2 SMGs, 7 magazines, 7 hand grenades and 70 cartridges. The police also took the 'Qingqi Rickshaw' into custody. A team of Bomb Disposal Squad cleared the area while a heavy contingent of police and CTD reached the site and cordoned off the area. The identity of the attackers was not ascertained yet while the samples of their bodies were being sent to NADRA for the identification. - APP

5 Palestinians killed, dozens injured in Israeli raids

NEWS DESK

OCCUPIED WEST BANK: Israeli forces have carried out a series of raids across the occupied West Bank, killing at least five Palestinians and injuring over 20 others. The new fatalities took place early Tuesday when Israeli forces attacked several neighborhoods in the Old City of Nablus as well as a town north of Ramallah, the official Palestinian Wafa news agency reported. The raid on Nablus led to four fatalities among Palestinians while a fifth one was killed during an attack by Israeli forces on Nabi Saleh town north of Ramallah. The Palestinian killed in Nabi Saleh was a teenager shot in the chest by Israeli forces' live fire, Wafa reported. According to Palestinian Shehab news agency, the fourth Palestinian killed during the Nablus raid was one of the leaders of the Lions' Den resistance group, identified as Wadih al-Houh, who succumbed to his wounds sustained during the attack by the occupation forces on the Old City of Nablus. A total of 21 Palestinians have been injured in the raids, four in critical condition. Zaher Jabareen, a member of the Political Bureau of the Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement issued a statement, lamenting the death of Palestinians in Israeli forces' raid on Nablus.

EU Ambassador discusses cooperation with CM Elahi

LAHORE: Ambassador of the European Union (EU) Dr Riina Kionka called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at his office on Tuesday and discussed the promotion of cooperation in various fields, especially the construction of new water reservoirs and small dams. They discussed measures taken for workers' and minorities' welfare, elimination of child labor and human rights situation. The CM thanked the EU for its support during the corona pandemic and termed it a major trade partner of Pakistan. He said that the Punjab government had planned to build two dams on the river Chenab. Similarly, small dams would be built for the hill torrents of Koh-e-Sulaiman to save the rainwater for agricultural purposes. The EU's technical support for these projects would be appreciated, he maintained. The Punjab government had also planned to build houses for the flood victims through Akhuwat Foundation and the EU can also support this project. Meanwhile, road repair work had been started in the flood-affected areas, the CM added and pointed out that laws were enacted to eradicate child

labour. The government was making laws more stringent to curb this menace. Alongside this, the implementation of labor laws had also been ensured while taking steps to protect workers' rights and the welfare of their children. Social security hospitals have been built for the workers and their families, where the treatment was free, he noted. The children of the workers were given a marriage

grant and the amount of the grant had also been increased, the CM said. The government was working to provide necessary facilities to the detainees in the jails, he said adding that the food menu for the prisoners had been improved. Schools have been built to educate children confined with their mothers in jails and a free legal aid system had been introduced for hapless inmates, the CM added. - DNA



US considers HAWK air defense equipment for Ukraine

The United States would likely initially send interceptor missiles for the HAWK system to Ukraine because it was unclear if enough US launchers were in good repair, one US official told media. US systems have been in storage for decades

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The United States is considering sending older HAWK air defense equipment from storage to Ukraine to help it defend against Russian drone and cruise missile attacks, two U.S. officials told Reuters. The HAWK interceptor missiles would be an upgrade to the Stinger missile systems - a smaller, shorter range air defense system - that the United States has already sent to blunt Russia's invasion. The Biden administration would use the Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) to transfer the HAWK equipment which is based on Vietnam-era technology, but has been upgraded several times. The PDA allows the United States to transfer defense articles and services from stocks quickly without congressional approval in response to an emergency. Reuters was unable to determine how many

Griner's sentence upheld in Russia

KRASNOGORSK: A Russian court on Tuesday dismissed U.S. WNBA basketball star Brittney Griner's appeal against a nine-year sentence for possessing and smuggling vape cartridges containing cannabis oil. Griner and her lawyers had asked for acquittal or at least a reduction in her sentence, which they said was disproportionate to the offence and at odds with Russian judicial practice. After retiring for no more than 30 minutes to consider the appeal, the presiding judge said the original verdict was upheld "without changes" except for the counting of time served in pre-trial detention as part of the sentence. Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, was arrested on Feb. 17 at a Moscow airport, a week before Russia sent troops into Ukraine, and her case has inevitably been viewed in the context of the ensuing crisis in U.S.-Russian relations. Washington was quick to respond to the verdict. "We are aware of the news out of Russia that Brittney Griner will continue to be wrongfully detained under intolerable circumstances after having to undergo another sham judicial proceeding today," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a statement. - DNA

HAWK systems and missiles the United States has available to transfer. The White House declined to comment. The HAWK system is the predecessor to PATRIOT missile defense system made by Raytheon Technologies (RTX.N) which remains off the table for Ukraine, U.S. officials have told Reuters. U.S. President Joe Biden pledged to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Washington would provide Ukraine with advanced air systems after a

devastating missile barrage from Russia earlier this month. read more NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said that Spain intends to send four HAWK launchers. The United States would likely initially send interceptor missiles for the HAWK system to Ukraine because it was unclear if enough U.S. launchers were in good repair, one U.S. official told Reuters. The U.S. systems have been in storage for decades. A PDA is being considered for later this week, U.S. officials have said. One U.S. official said it would likely be about half the size of the recent security assistance packages which have been around \$700 million. It was not immediately clear if HAWK interceptor missiles would be included, but U.S. officials have previously cautioned that size and composition of military aid packages can change rapidly. Since the Feb. 24 Russian invasion of neighboring Ukraine, which Moscow calls a "special military operation", the US has sent around \$17.6b worth of security assistance to Kyiv.