



Islamabad POST

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China willing to work with the US for global peace, stability

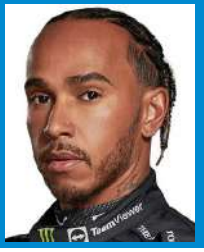
Detailed News On Page-07

Joint efforts must to save democracy

Detailed News On Page-08

Too early to talk of era of Verstappen

Detailed News On Page-06



Arshad Sharif's killing ISI chief, ISPR brush aside fake narrative

Not possible that you meet COAS at night and call him traitor in day: DG ISI



RAWALPINDI: DG ISI Lt. Gen Nadim Anjum and DG ISPR Lt. Gen Babar Iftikhar addressing a press conference. – DNA

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, Director General (DG), Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lt. General Babar Iftikhar and Director General (DG), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Lt. General Nadeem Ahmed Anjum on Thursday brushed aside fake and orchestrated narrative

on Arshad Sharif's killing while seeking a full-fledged probe to bring out facts before the nation. Taking the lead during the joint presser flanked by DG ISI, Lt Gen Babar said rather Pakistan Army and Arshad Sharif had cordial relations. Arshad used to cover ISPR media-related activities and he even conducted numerous programmes on Shuhada (mar-

tyrs) and the institution. General Babar said his institution held no grudge against senior journalist Arshad Sharif despite the fact that he carried an extreme narrative on cipher controversy. Arshad Sharif made strong comments regarding the army during this time, but "We did not have any negative sentiments about him and we don't have such feelings now." DG ISPR while shedding light on the killing of journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya and the circumstances surrounding it, said this press conference is being held in the context of presenting facts so that "facts, fiction and opinion can be differentiated." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had been "specially informed" about the sensitivity of the press conference as well, he said, adding, it is quite imperative to determine the factors due to which a particular narrative is being built and people are being misled. Terming the death of Arshad Sharif as a "very tragic incident," Lt Gen Iftikhar said Sharif was an icon of

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt H.E Tarek Mohamed Dahroug calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. – DNA

Pak army to secure Islamabad's Red Zone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to deal with the PTI's 'Haqueqi Azadi March' and maintain the law and order situation in the federal capital, the PML-N-led government has decided to deploy the army in Islamabad's Red Zone. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that no one would be allowed to enter Red Zone under any circumstances. "No compromise will be made on the security and protection of important buildings in the Red Zone," he said while issuing a warning to PTI marchers.

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Arshad Sharif laid to rest



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Slain journalist Arshad Sharif – who was shot dead amid mysterious circumstances in Kenya on Sunday last week – was laid to rest at the

H-11 graveyard in Islamabad on Thursday with hundreds of people in attendance. A large contingent of police was deployed at the graveyard where journalists and members of the civil society

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Constitutional right to criticise armed forces, PTI says

PTI leaders say that party chief never made any unconstitutional demands

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PTI leader Asad Umar on Thursday, in response to a press conference by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum and Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) DG Lt Gen Babar Iftikhar about former premier Imran Khan's confrontational narrative against the military, said that his party chief never made any unconstitutional demands in "back door talks". In a media talk flanked by fellow party leaders Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry, Shireen Mazari and Hammad Azhar, Umar said that the matters discussed behind closed doors were no "secret". "Imran Khan has discussed them in rallies and press conferences. The demands have been in front of the public since forever." Umar passed these comments in an apparent response to Lt Gen Anjum. In the press conference earlier today, the DG ISI – seemingly talking about Imran – had said that while citizens had the right to

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'Govt wanted to kill Arshad in jail'

DNA

LAHORE: Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry has claimed that the incumbent government wanted to kill senior journalist Arshad Sharif in jail. Fawad Chaudhry made these remarks while addressing a joint press conference along with senior TPI leadership Asad Umar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Shireen Mazari and other party members. "The media talk came hours after Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum and Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) DG Lt Gen Babar Iftikhar held a press conference in which they spoke about Arshad Sharif's killing. Speaking to the journalist, Fawad said his party was

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US envoy announces additional \$30m aid

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador Donald Blome announced on Thursday an additional \$30 million in humanitarian assistance to support flood-affected populations in Pakistan. The new funding brings the US total assistance to Pakistan for flood response, food security and disaster preparedness and capacity-building efforts to \$97 million this year, a statement issued by the public affairs department said. According to the release, Ambassador Blome made the announcement during a visit with USAID's implementing partner,

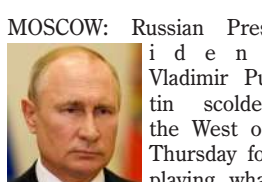
acted in the Shikarpur district of Sindh, where he helped to distribute emergency shelter, latrine, and hygiene kits to flood-affected people. Ambassador Blome also travelled to Makhno village where USG emergency shelter kits are being used as temporary housing by the flood-affected community. While there, he spoke with flood victims to learn about impact of the flooding and understand their needs.

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Briefs

West plays dangerous game

DNA



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin scolded the West on Thursday for playing what he cast as a "dangerous, bloody and dirty" geopolitical game, but said the United States and its allies would ultimately have to talk to Russia. "Power over the world is what the so-called West has put on the line in its game - but the game is dangerous, bloody and I would say dirty," Putin said. "The sower of the wind, as they say, will reap the storm." "I have always believed and believe in common sense so I am convinced that sooner or later the new centres of the multipolar world order and the West will have to start an equal conversation about the future we share." Putin said.

Bilawal lauds ISI, ISPR chiefs' presser

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has described the rare but explosive joint presser of ISI Director General Lt-General Nadeem Anjum and ISPR chief Lt-General Babar Iftikhar as unprecedented and historic. In a tweet uploaded on Thursday, Bilawal Bhutto said "The transition of establishment from controversial to constitutional role is vital for Pakistan's progress and prosperity." He further said "The PPP has struggled for this purpose for three generations." Bilawal maintained "Institutional desire to transition must be encouraged."

Long march not to enter Red Zone: Rana

An ugly and brutal face of Imran Khan has come to the fore," he castigated PTI all set for long march today March is for freedom, says Imran Khan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said Thursday that the long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would not be allowed to enter the Red Zone in Islamabad at any cost. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, Rana Sanaullah said that a more disgusting face of Imran Niazi had come to the fore, adding that he concocted the cipher play to defeat the no-trust motion against him. "On the apolitical role of the institution, Imran Khan hurled the jibes of Mir Jafar, Mir Sadiq, neutral and animal," he deplored. "Imran Khan has taken the form of an ulcer. The treatment of this ulcer is crucial for the country and the nation," he emphasised. "Imran Khan played a farce on the issue of the cipher. He took a stance which did not have a solid ground. An ugly and brutal face of Imran Khan has come to the fore," he castigated. "Imran Khan did not think how much the country would lose [due to his cipher narrative]. His party leaders are saying

Continued on Page 06

LAHORE: All arrangements for PTI's long march on Islamabad, scheduled to begin from Lahore's Liberty Chowk today (Friday) are complete as the container on which the former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan will travel has reached Lahore. The party's caravan will make stopovers at different towns and cities on its way to the federal capital. In the first phase, PTI workers and supporters will travel from Lahore to Shahdara, in the second phase from Shahdara to Gujranwala, and in the third from Gujranwala to Gujrat via Sialkot. On the other hand, participants of the march from Quetta and Karachi will leave for Islamabad tomorrow (Friday), while those from Multan, other parts of southern Punjab and

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Malaysian envoy given a warm send-off

Abdul Mubdi Osman, Acting High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam hosted the reception

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A reception was held in Islamabad Serena Hotel on 26 October 2022 to bid farewell to the Malaysian envoy, Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh. It was hosted by HE Abdul Mubdi Osman, Acting High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam. Mr Deddy Faisal is leaving on Friday, 28 October 2022 at the end of his diplomatic posting. He arrived in Islamabad on 19 August 2019 and has served as Minister Counsellor at the Malaysian High Commission in Islamabad for 3 years 2 months and 10 days. The reception was attended by the who's who of the Islamabad community including High Commissioners of the Commonwealth countries, Ambassadors, Senators, Parliamentarians, prominent businessmen and members of the Chambers of Commerce. Those who attended the reception expressed their appreciation and admiration for the friendship and great cooperation extended by Deddy Faisal during his posting to enhance and strengthen the relation between Malaysia, Pakistan and also countries around the region. They also commended that the Malaysian envoy is an exemplary diplomat who is always proactive and maintains a close network with all layers of the Pakistani society.

Reminiscing about his good time spent in Pakistan, Deddy Faisal said one good thing about being a diplomat was that you make friends and establish networking wherever you go. The job was made easier with Pakistan being Malaysia's good friend especially

in both bilateral and multilateral platforms. Pakistan and Malaysia he said enjoyed deep, cordial, friendly bilateral relations and the people here have always been generous, hospitable and friendly. He remarked that he looked forward to an enhanced

and more intense economic activities between the two countries as Pakistan has been taken out of the list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring or often externally referred to as the "grey list" of FATF in which Malaysia has often provided valuable support to Pakistan. Malaysia and Pakistan will further strengthen and expand the bilateral economic, trade and investment ties in the traditional and non-traditional sectors, including by leveraging on the strategic location of both countries to serve as a trade gateway to the vast market in the Southeast Asian, East Asian and the South Pacific regions, and the South Asian, West Asian, Central Asian and Southern Chinese regions, respectively, he added. Throughout his posting in Islamabad, Mr Deddy Faisal said that his country's bilateral relations with Pakistan have witnessed an upward trend which was reflected in exchange of visits at the highest political level and signing of important agreements. Mr Deddy Faisal reaffirmed the strong and enduring bonds between the two fraternal countries marked by warmth, cordiality and mutual trust. It must also be noted that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Malaysia saw remarkable uptick as the country's exports increased to US\$460 million - the highest figure ever in 2021-22 taking total trade volume to US\$ 1,723 million.



CDA conducts operations against illegal constructions

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of the Capital Development Authority Chairman Capitan (R) Muhammad Usman Younis the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday, with the assistance of the ICT administration and Islamabad Police, conducted massive operations against illegal constructions and encroachments. During these operation several encroachments and illegal constructions were demolished with the help of heavy machinery while 10 trucks encroachment material was also confiscated.

According to the details, these operations were started from Sector H-8 near Al-Shifa Hospital, where dozens of illegal stalls established on the green belt were removed and 5 illegal stalls were

also demolished using heavy machinery and 5 trucks of encroachment material were also confiscated.

Further, on IJP Road near Turbo CNG, shopkeepers had occupied the road by setting up mixing machines, which was affecting the flow of traffic. One 01 truck of encroachment material were also confiscated. After operation, digging was carried out at the area cleared from encroachments so that the shopkeepers could not park the machines again. Apart from this, several operations were also conducted by the enforcement department against the showroom owners in G-8 Markaz of Islamabad and all the vehicles parked on the public areas including on the footpath were removed. Similarly, in the G-8 Markaz, strong actions were also taken against the hotel owners and encroachments established in the sit-out

area / Estate land were removed and 4 trucks encroachment material was also confiscated.

Later, operation against the land mafia was also carried out in Sector I-10/3 auto market, as a result of which, one illegal junkyard, including one chemical materials selling point was also demolished with the help of heavy machinery and state land was retrieved.

It should be noted that the work of horticulture has been started immediately by the Environment Wing on the government land vacated from illegal occupants.

CDA administration has reiterated that protection of state land is our top priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard. These operations are being carried out to keep Islamabad free from illegal constructions and encroachments.

NUST hosts book donation ceremony Read Japan initiative



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: NUST Placement Office (NPO) hosted a Book Donation Ceremony on Thursday at the university's main office under the Nippon Foundation initiative "Read Japan" aiming at promoting understanding of Japan through donation of Japan-related books written in English. At the occasion, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada presented a Book Donation Certificate to Rector National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari. NPO held the ceremony in collaboration with the Em-

bassy of Japan (Pakistan) and the Nippon Foundation. The Foundation initiated the project in 2008 to promote Japanese culture in friendly countries through donation of books. The books cover topics such as Politics, International Relations, Economics, Business, Society, Culture, Literature, Arts and History. The ambassador appreciated NUST for having developed a knowledge ecosystem that had earned it a respectable niche in the global academia. Hoping that the newly formed collaboration between NUST and Nippon would go a long way, the ambassador said that the

Embassy of Japan would facilitate NUST in all initiatives towards familiarising NUST students and faculty with Japanese culture and industry. It is pertinent to mention that the first-ever Pak-Japan Center was established at the National Science and Technology Park (NSTP-NUST) in May 2022. The Center primarily focuses on promoting exchanges between Pakistan and Japan to foster cooperation in the fields of human resource development and joint research, especially in the IT sector. The Centre also has the mandate to facilitate Japanese and Pakistani compa-

nies in setting up businesses in each other's country by familiarising individuals with respective cultures, business principles and basics of language. In his concluding remarks, Dr Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector RIC-NUST, thanked the Ambassador for his presence at the event and appreciated Nippon for the initiative that would help promote cultural exchange and people-to-people ties between the two friendly countries. He further said that availing the platform of Pak-Japan Centre at NSTP, NUST has its focus on equipping students with the skills required excelling in the Japanese IT industry.



LAHORE: Chairman PTI Imran Khan along with other leadership offering the funeral prayer in absence of, slain journalist Arshad Sharif. - DNA

Pak wants Japan to invest in housing sector

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Ministry of Housing and Works Iftikhar Ali Shallwani on Thursday expressed his country's desire for Japanese investment in the housing sector of Pakistan. Japanese companies are always welcome to invest in Pakistan for which every support and cooperation will be extended, said Shallwani in a meeting with the Ambassador of Japan WADA Mitsuhiro. He said Pakistan attaches high importance to its relation with Japan and is keen to further enhance its relations in all fields of mutual interests. -APP

Farrukh blasts Rana for threatening march participants

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary Information Farrukh Habib lambasted Rana Sanaullah and said that a murderer and a fascist person sitting in the position of the Minister of Interior threatened the people; however, he would not stop the tsunami of people come what may. In a strong-worded reaction to Rana Sanaullah's diatribe, Farrukh Habib said that Rana and other coterie's hands and feet started shivering after listening to the long march, because of fear. He said: "No matter what Rana does, he will not be able to stop the sea of people coming to the federal capital because they are fed

up of these thieves." Farrukh Habib stated that millions of people were reaching Islamabad under the leadership of Imran Khan to rid the country of imported government to make it independent in real sense. He vowed that the whole nation stood with PTI Chairman, which was evident from his rising popularity. Farrukh Habib went on to say that the PDM has shaken the very foundations of the country and compounded the miseries of the people manifold. Talking about cipher, he stated that the imported government itself admitted the cipher in the National Security Committee meeting and now they were stag-

ing a drama. He said that it was a tragedy, as those who abused and defamed the institutions have become their protectors now. Farrukh Habib said that Maryam Safdar's tweet on the death of journalist Arshad Sharif Shaheed showed her disgusting mentality. He stated that a complete probe into the murder of Arshad Sharif Shaheed would expose those who forced him to leave Pakistan. PDM's nefarious ambitions have come to the fore by politicizing the death of Arshad Sharif, Farrukh Habib added. He said that Rana Sanaullah tried to give another color to Arshad Sharif's brutal murder, which was shameful and condemnable. -APP

Today's world is of knowledge and its application, Prof. Iqbal Choudhary

Main mission of the Nobel Fest is to make world education and science accessible in every corner of the world

ISLAMABAD: Inclusive Development Foundation (IDF) in partnership with COMSTECH among others organized V Nobel Fest in Astana during 26-28 October, 2022 in hybrid format. IDF is an independent non-profit organization that aimed to foster open dialogue on inclusive policies related to the most pressing public issues. Nobel Fest is a unique online platform for discussing and sharing innovative ideas with Nobel prize laureates, distinguished scientists and experts. The main mission of the Nobel Fest is to make world education and science accessible in every corner of the world. This year's Nobel Fest held in Astana, Kazakhstan, students and young scientists from all parts of the world have been granted an unlimited access to the platform, and allowed to connect and communicate with Nobel Prize laureates and distinguished scientists. The Coordinator General COM-

TECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary addressed the Nobel Fest and said that on behalf of the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee (COMSTECH), I express my greetings to the organizers of V Nobel Fest for putting together another excellent festival of knowledge for future leaders. He extended gratitude to the organizers for extending invitation to COMSTECH as the co-organizer of the VI Nobel Fest, to be held in early 2023 in Islamabad. Prof. Choudhary said that we live in a world which is defined by knowledge and its application. He quoted Pakistani Nobel Laureate Prof. Abdus Salam who said "developing countries differ from developed countries not only because they have less wealth and capital but because they have less knowledge". Prof. Choudhary appreciated the focus of V Nobel Fest on education and knowledge and said that it is timely and important. He stressed

that we need to act and act promptly at all levels. Prof. Choudhary said the major challenges which Muslim world face in the field of education are: low access to education as among the 780 million illiterate people, half live in OIC region; female literacy is well below the world average; exclusion of children of minorities and children with disabilities; armed conflicts leading to large scale migration; and lack of investment in schools, trained teachers, and educational material. Prof. Choudhary said that we must work on war footing to ensure every child must get the basic right to education. He said I am pleased to report here that as per vision of the former President of Kazakhstan, we are in the process of developing an institutional mechanism for inter Islamic cooperation, called OIC-15, comprise of 15 most developed OIC member states.

Black Day observed against Indian occupation

MUZAFFARABAD: The Black Day was observed throughout AJK against illegal Indian occupation on Thursday. Protest rallies were organised by different political parties and organisations to highlight Indian atrocities in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas also attended a protest rally organised by Kashmir liberation commission. Another protest was organized under the aegis of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir in which a large number of citizens participated and the atmosphere of the city echoed with anti-India and pro-freedom slogans. The protestors marched on the main highway and presented a resolution to the United Nations Military Observer Group of Indian and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Kashmiri citizens wore chains in their hands, black bands on their heads, and carried banners and placards inscribed with phrases against the military occupation of October 27, 1947. While addressing the Black Day rally, the speakers said that they observed Black Day against Indian military occupation in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, adding that every single citizen of the state was protesting and expressing hatred against the Indian military occupation. -APP

Kashmir dispute can ignite a cataclysm of global proportions

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, stressing the need for early resolution of Kashmir dispute Thursday said that the unsettled dispute posed a threat to peace and stability in South Asia. While addressing a seminar organized by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, DC on Thursday, he said that India had illegally occupied the territory Jammu and Kashmir by landing its troops in Srinagar soon after foundation of the Azad Kashmir government was laid on October 24, 1947 under the

leadership of Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, AJK President office said here Thursday evening. Terming Indian invasion of Kashmir as illegal, he said that Kashmiris had never accepted Indian control over the territory. Terming unresolved Kashmir as the biggest threat to peace and stability in the region, the president urged the international community to play its role to settle the lingering dispute that had now assumed dangerous proportions. Referring to the highly volatile situation in the region,

he said, "Any misadventure no matter how big or big or small can lead to nuclear confrontation between Pakistan and India". "It is imperative that the world community, particularly the influential world governments should play their role to settle the Kashmir dispute that could ignite a cataclysm of global proportions". Barrister Sultan said that the Kashmiri people had been fighting for their rights since 1837 when during the reign of Maharaja Sabz Ali Khan and Milli Khan were skinned alive for raising the revolt against the despot. -APP

Alvi calls for adapting climate-smart farming

FAISALABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for adapting modern and "climate-smart" farming techniques, besides conserving and effectively managing the country's water resources, adding that innovative farming methods were essential for increasing the per-acre yield and agricultural productivity of the country and would also help fulfill Pakistan's food requirements. The President expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of an Agri-Innovation Center "Natural Farms", in Faisalabad, today. Natural Farms is a private-run commercial innovative agricultural centre based in Faisalabad, which utilizes technology to control the climate inside its farms, besides using drip and spray irrigation systems as well as "ferti-gation", a combination of irrigation and providing controlled fertilizer to fulfill the plants' micronutrient requirements. During his visit, the President also inaugurated the Agri-Innovation Center and planted a sapling within the farm's premises.

Addressing the ceremony, the President urged the need to establish linkages among farmers, innovators, academia, agri-tech companies, governments and banking sectors for bridging the knowledge gap between agriculturists and innovators and promoting modern technology-based farming methods in the country. This, he said, would help boost the productivity of Pakistan's agricultural sector besides helping promote Artificial Intelligence and IT-based farming in Pakistan at a mass level. The President said that innovative farming techniques, coupled with intelligent business practices and market regulation, could help eliminate food shortages, ensure food availability, besides helping keep the prices of essential food items in check in Pakistan. He said that provincial governments should encourage the farmers to replicate the innovative farming models in the rest of the country and involve the banking sector to provide agricultural loans as the return on equity in modern farms was excellent. The President highlighted that if

Pakistan adapted modern technology-based farming techniques, including vertical farming, hydroponics and climate controlled farming, and managed to spread it to the rest of the country, Pakistan would be able to meet its own food requirements as well as export food items to rest of world within a short span of time. He said that one unit of vertical farming could be established on one Kanal of land with an estimated initial investment of Rs. 2.5 million, which was quite affordable and made good business model and economic sense as return on investment was higher. The President said this was an era of ideas, knowledge and intellect, adding that the private sector, government, academia and banking sectors should join hands to create an information database to bring prosperity in farming through the application of technology. He called for increasing the number of modern and innovative farms in the country by setting up doable Key Performance Indicators for ensuring fast track implementation and adoption of modern commercial farming.

The President said that Pakistan was a source of inspiration for rest of the world in agriculture productivity and innovation but now this status had been reversed as we were dependent upon agriculture technology from developed world to increase our productivity. He said that Pakistan had been adversely affected by the impacts of climate change, adding that initiatives like the Billion Tree Tsunami, in addition to other projects, were needed to enhance the country's forest cover. He said that Pakistan needed to adapt drip and spray irrigation techniques in the farming sector, in addition to better management and conservation of water, adding that even water-abundant countries were forced to adapt water conservation methods due to global warming and climate change. He said that Netherlands, a country 19 times smaller than Pakistan, had become the second biggest exporter of agricultural products in the world through research and adoption of innovative and technology-based farming. -APP



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

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
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Rana Sana to ensure ICCI representation in CDA Board

He stressed that the government should ensure protection of interests of business community and the residents of Islamabad during the possible long march

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) along with a delegation called on Rana Sanaullah, Federal Minister for Interior and thanked him for his cooperation and support in de-sealing the Centaurus Mall. Hanif Abbasi, former SAPM was also present at the occasion. Addressing the delegation, Rana Sanaullah said that the private sector is playing a vital role in the economic development of the country and the government is determined to facilitate it in promoting business activities. He assured his cooperation for ICCI's representation in the CDA Board to resolve the CDA related issues of the business community. He said that the economy of Pakistan is facing many challenges and the business community should accelerate efforts to promote exports that would help revive the health of the economy. He shared the government's strategy to save the businesses from any problems during the possible long march. He reaffirmed that ICT Administration, CDA and Islamabad Police would cooperate with ICCI in facilitating the growth of business activities.



Hanif Abbasi, former SAPM said that the government is serious in resolving the issues of the business community to facilitate them. He said that Rana Sanaullah has played a very positive role in resolving the Centaurus Mall issue and added that he would play a similar role for resolving the other key issues of the business community.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the business community is thankful to the government for de-sealing the Centaurus Mall as its sealing had created concerns in the private sector and the potential investors. He also lauded the very supportive role of

Malik, Zafar Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Ch. Waheed ud Din, Ajmal Baloch, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Sheikh Waheed, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Ajmal Baloch, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

Journalist Arshad Sharif laid to rest at Islamabad graveyard

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Late journalist and Anchorperson Arshad Sharif, who was martyred by police firing in Kenya, was laid to rest at Islamabad's graveyard amid sobs and tears on Thursday. Earlier, thousands of people, belonging to all walks of life, attended his funeral prayers at Islamabad's iconic Shah Faisal Mosque amid tight security. The funeral prayer was led by the khatib of Faisal Masjid Professor Dr. Qari Muhammad Ilyas, in which thousands of people including political, social leaders and journalist community participated. Leaders of various political parties including PTI leader Shibli Faraz, Azam Khan Swati and Murad Saeed offered the funeral prayer of the slain journalist. PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi were also present. Foolproof strict security arrangements had been put

in place in and around the mosque to avoid any untoward incident during the funeral prayers of senior investigative journalist, who remained associated with several media organisations where his stay lasted eight years. Earlier, the flight carrying mortal remains of senior journalist Arshad Sharif reached Islamabad from Doha in the wee hours of Wednesday. Postmortem was conducted on late Arshad's body by an eight-member medical board of the Pakistan Institute Medical Sciences (PIMS). As many as 3,792 security personnel have been deployed to provide security to the funeral of late journalist Arshad Sharif that will be offered at Faisal Masjid in Islamabad at 2pm today. Journalists, politicians and people from all walks of life will attend the funeral in large numbers. Citizens have started reaching Faisal Masjid for the fu-

neral while the security of the mosque has been tightened too. The personnel of Islamabad police have been deployed, and they will be assisted by the contingents of Sindh police and the FC. Three superintendents of police (SPs) and five assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) and deputy superintendents of police (DSPs) will supervise the security arrangements. Moreover, six inspectors and 1010 constables will be deployed for security around Faisal Masjid. They will be assisted by 204 officials of Sindh police and 2,500 officials of the FC. The medical board of radiology has been extended from seven to 15 members of specialists from PIMS hospital Islamabad to conduct autopsy and determine the medical report of slain journalist Arshad Sharif. The final report is likely to be released today. The board is headed by Prof Ayesha Isani. Other seven

members included Associate Professor Dr Mujahid Raza, Associate Professor Dr Alia Ahmed, Assistant Professor Dr Zakia Shah, Assistant Professor Radiology Dr Samina Akhtar, Consultant Radiologist Dr Ghazala, and MO of PIMS Radiology Dr Sara Shahid. The investigative team set up to probe the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif left for Kenya on Thursday. FIA Director Athar Waheed and Intelligence Bureau (IB) Deputy Director left for Kenya where they will analyse the brutal murder from different angles. Yesterday, Arshad's mother, in her message, had urged everyone to visit her residence before going to the mosque for funeral prayers. She had said that she wanted to say goodbye to her son in a befitting manner. His mother also said that she could not explain in words, the support she had received from members of the journalistic fraternity following her son's death.

Students performances portraying Kashmir cause earns appreciation

ISLAMABAD: The extraordinary performance of the artists and students in a variety of activities including the puppet show, stage play, mime show, photographic exhibitions, speech and debate competitions arranged at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) on Thursday to mark Kashmir Black day received huge appreciation from the audience. The activities were arranged by PNCA in collaboration with Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan to mark Black Day when Indian security forces illegally entered in and Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) 75 years ago when the Muslim majority living in IIOJK was ready to affiliate with Pakistan. The program included puppet show, stage play, violin performance on Kashmiri song, mime show, speeches and tableaux by school children. On the occasion, National Puppet Theatre and Children Art Workshop for the first time presented a special theme

Puppet show with reference to Black Day in which brief story of the day was highlighted through dialogues of the puppet characters. The skit performance presented a story of a child who is keen to get education with firm determination to get freedom from oppression and tyranny of Indian security forces, lost his eyesight after pellet guns fired by Indian security forces hits his eyes but still he retreats his determination to win over tyrannies and barbarism. The puppet show was highly applauded by the audience. A stage play was presented based on the themes of regular curfew in IIOJK, urge of Kashmiri young generation to promote peace in the world and get freedom from tyranny of Indian security forces and ban on media in IIOJK. The stage play directed by Waqar Azeem was highly acclaimed and big round of applause were earned by the performers of the stage play who portrayed miserable lives of Kashmiri brothers and sisters in IIOJK.—APP

Hina Khar urges Int'l community to solve outstanding Kashmir dispute

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has urged the international community not to look away but solve the outstanding Kashmir dispute.

Addressing an event in connection with Black Day at the foreign office in Islamabad on Thursday, she said we must not allow the next generation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir live under subjugation. She reminded that the United Nations had accepted the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people seventy five years back. The Minister of State said Kashmir runs in our blood and Pakistan will always stand by the Kashmiri people. She said our support and solidarity to Kashmiri people is abiding and we will not rest until we help the Kashmiri people secure their legitimate right to self-determination. She said Pakistan will continue to raise voice for their rights at the international forums.

Hina Rabbani Khar highlighted in detail the Indian atrocities in the illegally occupied Kashmir saying that there has been at least six hundred and ninety extra judicial killings there since 5th August 2019's illegal and unilateral steps. She said India's settler colonial agenda is evident by the manner in which it is bringing illegal demographic changes in the occupied territory in complete contravention of international laws.

IRSA releases 90,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 90,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 61,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1533.89 feet and was 135.89 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,600 cusecs while outflow was 40,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1165.50 feet, which was 115.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 10,000 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively.—APP

Nayyar Sultana remembered on her 30th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani well-known film actress Nayyar Sultana, known as the 'Queen of Sentiments' was remembered on her 30th death anniversary.

People from all walks of life through media platforms had paid rich tributes for her lifetime services in the entertainment industry.

Sultana worked in at least 225 films within a period of 37 years after she started her career with Anwar Kamal Pasha's movie "Qatil" in 1955 as a supporting cast, electronic channels reported.

The entertainment celebrity, who contributed to the golden age of Lollywood, as declared by many, was born in Aligarh of then British India in 1937.

After completing her education at a women's college in Aligarh, she migrated to Karachi along with her family following the Indo-Pak separation.

She married one of the most adored lead male actors and quit the film industry. Later Sultana came back through her films but failed to leave an impression at the box office. After the demise of her husband in 1981, she managed his recruiting agency for as long as she could. She died on 27th October 1992.—APP

#BlackDay27Oct

75 YEARS AGO ON THIS DAY

Indian Army occupied Kashmir to suppress the voices of Kashmiris for the right to self-determination

Pakistan will always stand by our Kashmiri brethren

We will continue to raise our voices against India's illegal occupation of Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

GovtofPakistan www.moib.gov.pk

Briefs

Two arrested;
cash,
weapons
recovered

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police on Thursday arrested two involved in various street crimes, and recovered Rs 30,000, six mobile phones, weapons and other items from their possession. According to the police spokesman, the Dhamial police arrested two members of a gang, wanted in various cases. He said that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Dhamial Police Station conducted a raid and arrested Hamza and Rohullah. As per the preliminary police record, the criminals had also been involved in motorcycle snatching and other crimes, he added.—APP

PM for
enhanced
Pak-Egypt
cooperation
in economy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday stressed enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt in the field of economy and emphasized greater engagement at the leadership level, people-to-people contacts, and increased institutional linkages. According to the PM Office, the prime minister expressed these views in a meeting with the Ambassador of Egypt Tarek Mohamed Dahroug that focused on further strengthening of Pakistan-Egypt relations and the upcoming COP-27 in Egypt. Recalling his telephonic talk with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the prime minister appreciated the support and solidarity of Egypt in the wake of climate-induced floods which caused devastation in Pakistan.—APP

CTP
accelerates
smog
awareness
campaign

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) under its ongoing smog awareness campaign is visiting different areas and trying to sensitize people to avoid any health or safety hazards during smog season. According to a spokesman, the CTP had launched a campaign on the special directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Naveed Irshad with an aim to raise awareness about best practices to keep oneself safe and healthy during smog season. Therefore, the citizens should bring the vehicles on the roads while keeping them in good condition, he said adding, in this regard, the teams were visiting different city roads, and bus terminals and distributing pamphlets and face masks among motorcyclists, motorists, and pedestrians. The citizens were also being urged to avoid waste burning to control the smog formation to protect themselves from breathing problems, and eye, nose, and throat infections, he added.—APP

EU to
organize
"Euro Village
on Saturday

ISLAMABAD: The European Union and its member states will organize the popular, family-focused "Euro Village" festival on October 29 at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) Islamabad. The doors will open at 3 pm to welcome the Pakistani public to get a taste of European food, culture, heritage and music, said a press release issued here by EU Mission on Thursday. After a gap of three years, the EU and the member states resumed the Euro Village tradition that offers a window into their rich culture and celebrates "unity in diversity," a strong connection between the EU and Pakistan. This year's Euro Village will be special as the European Union celebrates 60 years of diplomatic relations with Pakistan. It added that the six decades of partnership in development, trade and political engagement show.—APP

Gwadar will transform
the lives of all Pakistanis

Briefing the participants about the recent and upcoming developments in Gwadar, Qambrani shared that water supply to Gwadar had been increased from various dams in the vicinity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Director General of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Mr Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Qambrani said that Gwadar had the potential to transform the lives not only of the people of Balochistan but the whole country. He was speaking at a roundtable discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Thursday. Briefing the participants about the recent and upcoming developments in Gwadar, Qambrani shared that water supply to Gwadar had been increased from various dams in the vicinity and the pipeline network had been upgraded to meet the needs of the growing city. He further informed that a desalination plant for making use of the sea water in time of low availability of water in the dams was also scheduled to be completed by March 2023. Qambrani shared that to meet the

growing energy needs of the city, the government had signed a new agreement with the Iranian government for power supply to Gwadar. He added that a coal-based power plant with a capacity of producing 300 MW of electricity was also in the pipeline along with establishment of solar parks to generate energy from renewable sources. The DG GDA shared that the New Gwadar International Airport was scheduled to be operational by September 2023 but the 1st test flight from the airport was scheduled for March 2023. He further shared that the New Gwadar International Airport was one of the largest airports of the region that could handle the largest aircraft like the Airbus A-380.



He also briefed the audience about all the planned health, educational, sports, cultural, and tourist facilities that had been recently established or were in the pipeline for Gwadar. He added that the government had recently approved a tourism policy for Gwadar. The DG GDA was of the view that Gwa-

dar had the potential to become one of the most attractive tourist destinations of the world. He said that road access from Karachi to Gwadar and Quetta to Gwadar had been considerably improved and added that the latter route was instrumental in connectivity through the western corridor of

CPEC passing through the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Qambrani also shed light on the master plan of the city and the role of the GDA in the city's development as per the master plan. He shared that the master plan of Gwadar was inspired from the master plan of the Chinese port city of Shenzhen. Qambrani shared that instead of opting for relocating the local population of the city, the GDA had launched a Rs 3.3 billion project for the rehabilitation of the old town. He urged the think-tanks to play their role in creating awareness about Gwadar and counter public misperceptions. Other speakers at the roundtable were Pakistan's former ambassador to China Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, CEO of the KP Board of Investment and Trade Mr Hassan Daoud Butt, and President IRS Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz.

Using WeBOC, 1st
shipment sets out from
Gwadar Free Zone

ISLAMABAD: By using Web-Based One Custom Clearance System (WeBOC), a truck loaded with containerized export items has finally made its maiden voyage from Gwadar Free Zone, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Earlier, with the help of WeBOC, the truck was supposed to leave on Saturday, but was postponed. Its successful departure marks a new era of e-custom for the Gwadar Free Zone. "The shipment contains

23 tons of pharmaceutical raw material belonging to a Chinese enterprise called Hangeng Trade Company. The truck made a smooth debut from Gwadar Free Zone," Abdul Razaq, project manager at Hangeng Trade Company told Gwadar Pro. "WeBOC will greatly contribute to the electronic processing of all incoming goods in the Gwadar Free Zone. WeBOC offers a completely transparent and traceable paperless system.

It will always work on the fastest track and is able to avoid mistakes caused by the old 'one-custom mechanism,'" he added. Custom clearance on all shipments in the Gwadar Free Zone will be done by WeBOC, the new digitalized e-custom clearance system. Jamsheed Baloch, trader at Gwadar chamber of commerce and industry, said that the implementation and operationalization of WeBOC at Gwadar Free Zone has plugged up miss-

ing link between automation and digitalization. "WeBOC will help the Free Zone atomize and standardize trade procedures and logistic services," he added.

"Now, all foreign and local companies already registered or to be registered in Gwadar Free Zone, will enjoy paperless, ultra-fast, cost-effective and transparent custom processes and procedures," another businessman Fahad Khan said.—APP

Industrial transfer
a win-win solution
for Pakistan, China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Industrial transfer is a win-win solution for Pakistan, China, said Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Federal Minister for Industries and Production in an interview with China Economic Net. Taking CPEC and FTA as chances, Pakistan can utilize Chinese capital and technology to upgrade its industry and achieve sustainable production, and it can also produce more Made-in-Pakistan goods to cater for the needs from the Chinese market, he said adding that "our ministry is looking into it very closely." Many jobs are currently being moved from China to countries where cheap labor is available, including Pakistan. The minister told CEN, "If you compare it with other countries, labor in Pakistan is very cheap and skilled. Pakistan has a lot of potential to attract foreign investment." "You may have seen that there has been a lot of industrialization in Vietnam in recent years. One of the reasons for this is their cheap labor. Thus, we have to take Pakistan's potential to an optimum level. For this we have to make the right policies and long-term policies," Syed Murtaza Mahmud said. As the minister put it, both Pakistan and China have comparative advantages and through industrial transfer both sides can achieve a win-win solution. Since CPEC enters into the second phase and Pakistan's investment environment becomes much better, more high-quality investment projects were attracted to Pakistan, injecting strong development impetus to its economy. "But the important thing is that we people improve our policies. The function of the government is to incentivize and facilitate. We need to reevaluate our policies," he pinpointed. For example, "Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) were created in Pakistan but it is important that our policies evolve with time," Syed Murtaza Mahmud told the reporter. "We are comparing our policies with those of other countries, especially China, which has given their own EPZs and SEZs policies. If we create the environment and give right policies, there is a lot of potential in Pakistan, and I believe a lot of industry from outside will shift to Pakistan," the minister further said.

Shah for educating farmers
to control water wastage

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah while underlining the importance of water on Thursday stressed the need for educating farmers to control the wastage of water during the irrigation process. "There is a dire need to educate and train the farmers so unnecessary water wastage can be saved," the minister said while talking to media persons here after inaugurating the technology showcasing exhibition in the pretext of ongoing Pakistan Water Week here. He said water was more expensive than petrol and diesel in the rest of the world, but unfortunately, "We did not give so much importance and value to it in our country." "Pakistan has around 150 million acre-feet (MAF) water, but can only store around 13 MAF and the rest goes to waste every year," he added. He was of the view, "Our farmers were mostly not educated and they did not know how to conserve and store water. Our current food basket was indebted to water," he added. He said Sukkur Barrage was built by the British government for irrigating system. K-IV and K-V projects have been approved to meet the water requirement of Karachi, he said. He was of the view that if rationing of water was in place, 650 million gallon of water would be sufficient for Karachi. "Our population has been rapidly increasing which would ultimately also affect our food basket," he said. Khurshid said around 700 RO plants were set up in Thar for water treatment, but now nearly 100 were functioning. He advised all the quarters concerned to showcase exhibitions in all agri universities of the country and educate the people about climate change and water issues.—APP

Walk held in
Islamabad to express
solidarity with IIOJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A walk was organized in Islamabad, today, to express solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar led the walk while people belonging to different segments of the society, including the parliamentarians, attended it. The walk began from the Foreign Office, Islamabad and culminated at D-Chowk, Islamabad. The participants were carrying banners inscribed with slogans against Indian oppression. In her address on the occasion, Hina Rabbani Khar said Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory. She said Pakistan believes in a full diplomatic peaceful pressure for resolution of the Kashmiri dispute. She added that Pakistan was fighting the case of Kashmiris on the basis of international laws and the UN Security Council resolutions. The Minister of State expressed satisfaction that awareness is being seen regarding the rights of Kashmiri people at the world stage. Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said this walk sends a message that Pakistan fully stands by their Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

Paying glowing tributes to the sacrifices of Kashmiri people, he said that all sorts of Indian oppression had failed to weaken their resolve for right to self-determination. APHC-AJK chapter Muhammad Ashraf Dar, Muhammad Sultan Butt and Adeel Mushtaq Wani were also present on the occasion. Meanwhile, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter also staged protest demonstrations across Pakistan and Azad Kashmir including outside the UN offices in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad on the completion of 75 years of India's illegal occupation over Jammu and Kashmir. The APHC-AJK leaders Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Syed Yousuf Naseem, Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Zahid Ashraf, Gulshan Iqbal, Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Shahzad Wani, Engineer Mehmood Mushtaq and Dawood Yousuf Zai during protests in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur and Kotli said that the massacre of Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir was the worst example of Indian state terrorism. They said the rising bloodshed in the territory was the result of unbridled powers granted to the Indian forces. They said that India was conspiring to turn the Muslim majority Kashmir into a minority through changing its demography. They maintained that New Delhi was imposing colonial laws and issuing domiciles to non-Kashmiris to advance its nefarious agenda within a short span of time. The APHC-AJK leaders expressed grave concern over the extrajudicial killing of Kashmiri youth by Indian troops, saying that India was committing genocide in the occupied territory. They appealed to the international community to play its role in the withdrawal of Indian troops from IIOJK, repeal of all black laws and release of all innocent Kashmiri detainees.

Muhammad Ashraf Dar, Muhammad Sultan Butt and Adeel Mushtaq Wani were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter also staged protest demonstrations across Pakistan and Azad Kashmir including outside the UN offices in Islamabad and Muzaffarabad on the completion of 75 years of India's illegal occupation over Jammu and Kashmir.

The APHC-AJK leaders Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Syed Yousuf Naseem, Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Zahid Ashraf, Gulshan Iqbal, Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Shahzad Wani, Engineer Mehmood Mushtaq and Dawood Yousuf Zai during protests in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore, Muzaffarabad, Mirpur and Kotli said that the massacre of Kashmiris in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir was the worst example of Indian state terrorism. They said the rising bloodshed in the territory was the result of unbridled powers granted to the Indian forces. They said that India was conspiring to turn the Muslim majority Kashmir into a minority through changing its demography. They maintained that New Delhi was imposing colonial laws and issuing domiciles to non-Kashmiris to advance its nefarious agenda within a short span of time. The APHC-AJK leaders expressed grave concern over the extrajudicial killing of Kashmiri youth by Indian troops, saying that India was committing genocide in the occupied territory. They appealed to the international community to play its role in the withdrawal of Indian troops from IIOJK, repeal of all black laws and release of all innocent Kashmiri detainees.

Long march
will be
peaceful,
constitutional

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AML) leader Sheikh Rashid on Thursday said that the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) has also rejected government's appeal to stop the long march. Taking to Twitter, he wrote that that long march has not yet been started and the government has lost it senses. He said that if power will be used against the march then the leaders will not be allowed to escape Islamabad. He said that the long march will be peaceful, according to law and constitutional, government will dig its grave if it will try to craft any chaos. In another tweet, he said that the picture of him circulating on social media is from the days when he was infected with Covid-19, he is well and not like former President Asif Ali Zardari and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who run away from the country.

CPEC to boost Pakistan's agri modernization

The company also plans to build two pepper processing plants in Lahore and Multan and is currently in the process of locating them

ISLAMABAD: CPEC will boost Pakistan's agricultural modernization and food industrialization, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

The main process of raising seedlings is to distribute the seeds evenly on the seeding bed, spray water to make the seeds stick to the soil, cover them with plastic film, and then build a small arch shed to increase temperature and humidity," said Zhang Jishu, a Chinese pepper technician who is busy training Pakistani employees on how to grow pepper seedlings in a greenhouse in preparation for transplanting them into the fields next month. Zhang is an expert from Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. Talking to Gwadar Pro, he said that the company would implement a 1,000-acre pepper cultivation demonstration garden in Multan during the 2022-2023 growing season. In partnership with local agribusinesses and farmers in Pakistan, it intends to take over 15,000 acres of pepper orders



in South Punjab, with a planned harvest of 30,000 tonnes of dried pepper.

The company also plans to build two pepper processing plants in Lahore and Multan and is currently in the process of locating them. Litong completed cultivar selection and trial planting in 2019, experimental planting in 2020, and small-scale planting in 2021. Last month, the project organized and implemented by the company entered the first batch of

agricultural projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pepper is an essential vegetable and condiment in China, with many processed products, a lengthy industrial chain, and high added value. The Chinese market has a huge demand for bulk crops such as peppers and broad beans. Meanwhile, poor seed quality, lack of modern farming techniques, low yields and lack of skilled agricultural labor are among the major factors holding back agricultural development in Pakistan.

To harvest high-quality peppers, Litong is providing technology and training to local farmers. It has carried out cooperation with Pakistani colleges and universities to cultivate talents with both agricultural knowledge and management ability, recruit local professional managers and top-notch technical talents.

In China, it cooperates with Sichuan Agricultural University and other institutions to set up demonstration bases for industry-university-research projects. Seeds are the "chips" of agriculture. Chen Changwei, Chairman of Litong claimed that the company would bring China's advanced breeding technology to Pakistan next year, work with Pakistan's outstanding agricultural enterprises to carry out a variety of technology researches, production, industrial development researches, technical training, the establishment of R&D and testing platform, marketing and human resources platform, giving full play to the leading role of agricultural technology under CPEC. According to Chen, there is a huge demand in the global market, strong complementarity in the food sector between China and Pakistan, and bright prospects for food processing. Currently, there is an urgent need for Pakistan to address the insufficient foreign exchange reserves through exports.—APP

Photography,
painting
exhibition
held at ISA

ISLAMABAD: Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications on Thursday organized a digital photography and painting exhibition in connection with Kashmir Black Day to raise awareness about the plight of Kashmiris and condemn Indian unilateral action of forcibly occupying Kashmir.

Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid was the chief guest. The exhibition was held at Information Service Academy (ISA). The images depicted human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and highlighted the brutalities of the occupation forces against innocent Kashmiris. The Secretary took a round of the exhibition which was showcasing the history of Kashmir. The Directorate also presented a documentary on Kashmir highlighting the background and history of Kashmir.

The Information Secretary also distributed certificates among the winners of the painting and photography competition. First prize was conferred to Rabia Zafar of Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), second went to Afaq Ahmed of Institute of Space Technology, while Muhammad Fahim of Quaid-e-Azam University won the third prize and fourth prize was given to Hamna, a student of Islamabad College for Girls.—APP

Islamabad
police hold
road safety
workshop

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police arranged a workshop for students of Women Development Center G-7/2 Islamabad to acquaint them with road safety tips and better awareness about traffic rules. More than 200 students attended the workshop and the efforts of the force in ensuring a safe road environment in the city were highlighted. The staff of the Education Wing of Islamabad Capital Police (Traffic Division) informed the students about the special measures that are being taken to curb various traffic violations in the city and also informed about traffic rules and regulations. He said that educational teams of ITP visited various organizations as this exercise was helpful in providing a disciplined traffic system to the masses.

About the performance of Islamabad Capital Police, it was told that personnel have not only helped to establish a disciplined traffic system in the Capital but also reduced the ratio of accidents.—APP

Mehmood,
Dr. Natapon
discuss mutual
business
cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mehmood met with the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand, Dr. Natapon Nathasamboon, and discussed policy exchange and mutual business cooperation between Pakistan-Thailand postal network.

Director General Pakistan Post Rana Hassan Akhtar was also present in the meeting, said a press release.

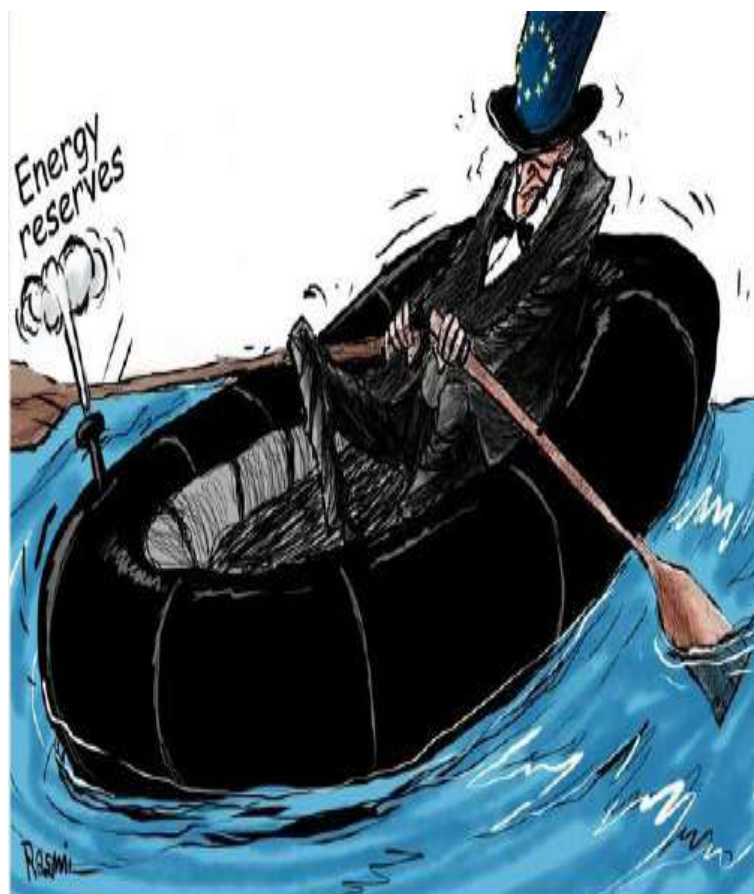
Both countries agreed to continue close coordination at regional and international forums.

Dr. Natapon also appreciated Pakistan Post's efforts to digitize postal operations. He would also support Pakistan in developing modern and efficient postal services as per international standards.

However, the Deputy Secretary expressed concern over the disasters caused by floods in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Mehmood emphasized bringing innovation to Pakistan Post with the support of the Thai Ministry. He agreed to continue the training of postal officers at the Asian Pacific Postal College in Bangkok. "Will use Thai Post's transit services to deliver mail to Islands and Pacific countries," he said.—APP

Russia's war machine

V LADIMIR Putin is losing the war in Ukraine, but this does not make him any less dangerous. A despot whose authority at home depends on projecting strength abroad cannot afford the humiliation of defeat. So far, the Russian president has responded to every setback with more aggression. That involves more indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civil infrastructure. But Mr Putin also makes more demands of Russians. When the war began, civilian support for what censorship laws insisted on calling a "special military operation" was high, but mostly passive. Plenty have signed up willingly, following what they believe is their patriotic duty, or for want of better employment. But many are not so keen on spilling their own blood for a cause that was more appealing when confined to fictionalised news bulletins. The scale of the mobilisation has made it harder to conceal the abject condition of Russian soldiers in the field. Conscripts are being sent to Ukraine without training, warm clothes, functioning weapons or any sense of what they are supposed to be achieving. Their dismay registers with anxious families back home. Opinion polls that show massive support for the war are unreliable, since opponents of Mr Putin are wariest of sharing their views with strangers. Independent analysts say that there probably is still a majority in favour, but that it is not monolithic. There are hardline nationalists who see the conflict as a crusade against the west, but also a less ideological segment that backs the country's armed forces as a matter of cultural habit. The former group is committed to total war without limits. The latter camp would gladly see the whole thing brought to a swift conclusion. That division is increasingly reflected in debates on state propaganda channels, where it is no longer taboo to suggest that things have not gone to plan. He badly underestimated the capacity of Ukraine to resist invasion in February, and he has overestimated the readiness of Russians to martyr themselves for his vanity. Independent Russian media in exile report that senior government figures have lost faith in Mr Putin, but have no way of replacing him. The image of totalitarian control shown to the west is a facade, concealing a weak structure held together by fear, corruption and inertia. Mr Putin's authority cannot withstand unlimited military setbacks and his regime might be more brittle than it looks. His method of responding to failure with escalation is leading to yet more failure. His defeat in Ukraine would be the just outcome for the people of that country. It is also a necessary step on the long road to a better future for Russia.



Opening-up is moving on

I N a sign that China will continue to attract foreign investors with improved investment environment and better services, the central authorities have pledged to further facilitate the border entry and exit of executives and technicians of multinationals and foreign-invested companies and their families, under the premise of sound COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control. This is one of the 15 measures the National Development and Reform Commission and five other central government departments laid out in a notice issued on Tuesday to facilitate foreign investment in the country with a focus on the manufacturing sector. The notice also vows to deepen the implementation of the negative lists for foreign investors, and encourage foreign investment in high-end equipment, basic components and key parts for advanced manufacturing as well as high-tech industries. The encouraging news comes after several Chinese airlines, including China Eastern and China Southern, recently announced that they will soon increase the number of scheduled international flights, indicating that the country is now positioning itself to gradually restore trade and economic activities as well as other international exchanges to pre-pandemic levels. The almost three-year COVID-19 pandemic has had substantial negative impacts on world trade and global industrial and supply chains, causing many countries to face possible recession. China has responded to the challenge, by trying to strike a delicate balance between growth and a pandemic control and prevention approach that puts people's lives first. The fact that China, the world's largest trading and manufacturing nation, has managed to basically keep its economic activities on a normal track thanks to its dynamic clearing policy, has enabled it to keep playing its pivotal role as the ballast for world economic growth. The latest easing of border restrictions implies the country will build on the progress it has made in pandemic prevention and control to further normalize its business and trade activities with other countries, injecting new confidence that it will continue to promote the benefits of globalization and integrate more closely with the world economy. Despite the pressure it faces to prevent the pandemic rebounding within the country and keep imported cases at bay, China has maintained its position as the world's major destination for foreign investment. Its actual use of foreign direct investment surged 16.4 percent year-on-year to 892.7 billion yuan (\$122 billion) in the first eight months of this year. In particular, FDI in high-tech manufacturing rose 43.1 percent from the same period a year ago. All this paves the way for the country to continue to push ahead with high-quality development and high-level opening-up.

National challenges workshop

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

UNICEF's Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding Nutrition (MIYCN) campaign aims to promote new norms around feeding practices among mothers and families, cultivate greater understanding about good nutrition-related behavior and improve nutrition outcomes for children in the first 1000 days. Malnutrition remains a key development challenge that can have a lasting impact on children and prevent them from achieving their full potential in life leading to a "triple burden" of chronic malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies ("hidden hunger"), and an emerging trend of overweight and obesity. To prevent malnutrition in young children it is critical that we understand the determinants of nutrition-related behavior and feeding practices...

I T was a learning experience to participate in National Challenges Workshop (NCW) on October 21, 2022 with the tagline of 'A road to knowledge-based solutions'. Participants from eight universities of Lahore along with industry representatives spent exceptionally productive day with thought provoking presentations in the first half of the day followed by focus groups after lunch to present key findings in the last session. There were some exciting presentations on environmental issues highlighting conflicting views of different countries, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, youth engagement, potential of IT industry, economic difficulties, land utilization, unemployment, contribution of different sectors in creating jobs, role of agriculture sector as a whole to eliminate existing problems and role of social media in today's age. A learned presenter unfolded mysteries surrounding global campaign on environmental challenges and conflicting positions of European Union (EU) and the United States of America (USA). His argument was based on some astonishing but convincing evidences such as: first, there is a bit of exaggeration about the impact of greenhouse emissions because in the history some volcanic eruptions have contributed exceptional greenhouse gasses probably more than accumulated impact of entire industrialization; second, EU is ambitious only because the region lacks sources of fossil fuel therefore extensively campaigning to exploit green and renewable energy sources to develop entirely new market to create employment opportunities; third, he categorized environmental challenges as a normal natural cycle for several millennia linking his argument to the story of a messenger who interpreted the dream of the king and later managed as seven green and most productive years followed by a spell of drought. He was also cynical about a campaign against HFCs to protect ozone depletion. A sentence of another presenter served as an eye-opener for all participants stating "One in every nine people in the world is hungry and one in every three is obese or overweight - a double burden." Liusen Wang and colleagues from National Institute for Nutrition and Health, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing China argue, "With the continuous development of the economy and agricultural modernization in the past three decades, nutritional deficiency issues have been gradually improving. However, new nutritional and health challenges have emerged. Overweight and obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and other

chronic diseases have increasingly become major disease burden. At present, one in every nine people in the world is hungry, and one in every three is overweight or obese. More and more countries experience the double burden of malnutrition, where undernutrition coexists with overweight, obesity, and other diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs)." According to Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) these NCDs include cardiovascular diseases which account for most NCD deaths of around 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.0 million), respiratory diseases (3.9 million), and diabetes (1.6 million), globally. These 4 groups of diseases account for over 80% of all premature NCD deaths. UNICEF's Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding Nutrition (MIYCN) campaign aims to promote new norms around feeding practices among mothers and families, cultivate greater understanding about good nutrition-related behavior and improve nutrition outcomes for children in the first 1000 days. Malnutrition remains a key development challenge that can have a lasting impact on children and prevent them from achieving their full potential in life leading to a "triple burden" of chronic malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies ("hidden hunger"), and an emerging trend of overweight and obesity. To prevent malnutrition in young children it is critical that we understand the determinants of nutrition-related behavior and feeding practices and promote new norms around feeding practices among mothers and families, cultivate greater understanding among communities about good nutrition-related behavior and contribute towards improving nutrition outcomes for children in the first 1000 days of their life. Our efforts to ensure the availability of cheaper food have driven the expansion of agricultural land and intensive farming. Failure to account for the environmental cost of food production has led to habitat destruction and pollution compounding to the overall biodiversity loss of the planet. According to the last year's report of Chatham House, "Despite increasing recognition of the crucial role of biodiversity in maintaining human and planetary health, biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history, and perhaps as fast as during any mass extinction. Especially over the past 50 years, biodiversity has been severely compromised and altered at an unprecedented rate. The global rate of species extinction is at least tens and possibly hundreds of times higher than the average rate over the past 10 million years. Around a quarter of species in most animal and plant groups are al-

ready under threat from extinction, and around 1 million more species face extinction within decades. In total, the extent and condition of natural ecosystems have declined on average by around 50 per cent relative to their earliest estimated states. Since 1970, the population sizes of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles have declined by an estimated average of 68 per cent. Despite the increasingly urgent needs to reduce biodiversity loss, recent attempts to arrest the decline have been unsuccessful." One quarter of children less than 5 years of age are stunted in Pakistan, was a claim of a presenter. World Health Organization (WHO) suggests, "Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. Children are defined as stunted if their height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median. Stunting in early life - particularly in the first 1000 days from conception until the age of two - resulting in impaired growth has adverse functional consequences on the child. Some of those consequences include poor cognition and educational performance, low adult wages, lost productivity and, when accompanied by excessive weight gain later in childhood, an increased risk of nutrition-related chronic diseases in adult life." World comparison for yield of different crops was a real disclosure for everyone in the hall. Wheat's yield is less than 3 tons per hectare in Pakistan while it is 9 tons per hectare in New Zealand. Rice is little more than 2 tons per hectare while in Australia it is around 10 tons per hectare. Cotton is little less than 0.8 ton per hectare while in Australia it is almost 1.8 ton per hectare. We are far behind than Peru in sugarcane and again New Zealand is far ahead in maize. This suggests serious attention of our scientists, and growers to improve yield of our major crops to meet global trends to contribute even further to the economy of Pakistan. Workshops such as this should be a regular feature of our society in every major city of Pakistan to deliberate on pressing issues of the Country and find solutions thereof. Policy makers, academicians and other important stakeholders should find time out of their schedules to join such events to modify their interventions according to ground realities and global benchmarks for efficient utilization of resources and addressing challenges in an appropriate manner. - The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CU) Lahore Campus. Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk, Tweets@drabdussattar

NATO, Russia war games are making nuclear risks worse

Kate Hudson

Guterres warned that we are at a time of nuclear danger "not seen since height of the Cold War". He cautioned against countries seeking "false security" by spending vast sums on "doomsday weapons". He said that world had been lucky that nuclear weapons have not been used since 1945. But as he rightly stated: "Luck is not a strategy. Nor is it a shield from geopolitical tensions boiling over into nuclear conflict." Indeed, we cannot rely on luck. And we must remember what nuclear use means and understand what nuclear war would look like today

T HIS month, United States President Joe Biden warned that the world could face armageddon if his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, were to use a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine. You would imagine that such a prognosis would lead to urgent action to dial down the confrontation. Yet no effort is being made to move us back from that risk. On the contrary, governments on all sides are piling on more threats, more militarisation and more actions that are not just making nuclear war possible, but are increasing its probability. Last week, NATO began a round of nuclear exercises simulating the dropping of 'tactical' B61 nuclear bombs over Europe. Although these drills are presented as routine, they are occurring alongside parallel Russian exercises. It's hard to imagine worse timing. Surely with concerns about armageddon expressed at the very highest levels of power, these exercises should have been called off as a message that the West won't contribute to escalating nuclear tensions? Instead, our leaders are systematically failing to reduce the risk. Still, there are powerful messages that should be listened to and acted upon. In August - even before Putin's latest, thinly veiled nuclear threats - United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the world is "one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation". His words must serve as a wake-up call to leaders who pursue policies inexorably driving us towards nuclear war and to populations that are not yet taking action to stop these terrible dangers. Guterres warned that we are at a time of nuclear danger "not seen since the height of the Cold War". He cautioned against countries seeking "false security" by spending vast sums on "doomsday weapons". He said that the world had been lucky that nuclear weapons have not been used since 1945. But as he rightly stated: "Luck is not a strategy. Nor is it a shield from geopolitical tensions boiling over into nuclear con-

flict." Indeed, we cannot rely on luck. And we must remember what nuclear use means and understand what nuclear war would look like today. An estimated 340,000 people died after the US dropped atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in 1945. That included many who survived the immediate blast but died shortly afterwards from fatal burns. Others died because of the complete breakdown of rescue and medical services that had also been destroyed. And many more died when the impact of radiation kicked in, poisoning people and causing cancers and birth deformities. If that isn't bad enough, consider this: The Hiroshima bomb was actually a small nuclear bomb in today's terms. Current nuclear weapons - even the supposedly limited-range, battlefield-oriented 'tactical' nuclear weapons now routinely discussed in the context of the Ukraine war - are many, many times more powerful. The ones that the current exercises over Europe are designed for have variable yields of up to 20 times greater strength than the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945. Equally worrying are the recent policies of nuclear weapons states. We had seen gradual reductions in nuclear weapons for a few decades. Now we are seeing modernisation programmes on all sides, with the US planning an upgrade of missiles that can deliver nuclear weapons, France launching a project to build a new generation of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, and Britain, India and Pakistan preparing to increase their nuclear arsenals. But worst of all is the sanitising of the idea of nuclear use. It seems that the mutually assured destruction theory that prevailed during the Cold War - that these weapons will never actually be used - has been abandoned. Today's policies specifically include nuclear use, including in conventional wars, even against countries that don't have nuclear weapons. The taboo

on nuclear use is over, and the global community has to face up to that reality because the impacts of nuclear war cannot be confined to a single country or even to a region. Such a war presents an existential threat to all humanity and to all forms of life. Nuclear disarmament is a prerequisite for our survival. It's not just the peace movement that makes this case. In fact, the global majority actively works for a nuclear weapons-free world and is very aware that it is the activities of a tiny minority of states - just nine with nuclear weapons - that hold us all at risk of annihilation. That's why virtually the entire Global South is already self-organised into nuclear weapons-free zones. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons are initiatives from the Global South. That is where the good sense lies, and it is to this championing of nuclear disarmament that we must turn, for security based on humanity and peace, not on destruction and death. In the 1980s, the former Swedish prime minister, the great Olof Palme, pioneered the principle of common security - that no state or community can be secure without others experiencing that same level of security. It's a concept whose time has come. Europe and the world badly need a common security framework, not massively increasing militarisation. The idea that might makes right or that thousands of people can be sent to slaughter and be slaughtered must never be acceptable. In January, the leaders of the US, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom issued a statement affirming "that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". As we enter UN Disarmament Week on Monday, we must all urge those leaders to act on that commitment. Nuclear disarmament, backed by the global majority of states and a new approach to common security, can yet save our world. But time is running out: We must take action to secure our future. - Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Long march
not to enter...

FROM PAGE 01 that there will be a bloody march [in Islamabad],” he abhorred. “Imran Khan is plotting to divide the nation. He is misleading the young generation. He can only spread sedition and corruption in the country,” he stated. “The facts that have come up are being investigated. The matter of Arshad Sharif’s murder leads to two people. Imran Khan wants dead bodies before every long march,” he added.

PTI all set
for long...

FROM PAGE 01 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) will leave on Wednesday (November 2, 2022). All PTI caravans will reach the federal capital next Friday (November 4, 2022). Imran will today visit different party camps in Lahore today, and will address the nation on social media at 10:00 PM tonight. CCPO Lahore chairs meeting on long march’s security: On the other hand, CCPO Lahore Ghulam Mehmood Dogar has chaired a high-level meeting to provide security to the people of the city during the PTI’s long march.

Lawful right
to criticise...

FROM PAGE 01 their opinion, why did “you praise him [the army chief] so much in the past if he was a traitor?” In the media talk in Lahore later in the day, Umar said that Imran owned both the army and the country. “But will Imran Khan agree with every decision taken by the army? Are there actions or decisions that he criticises on? Absolutely. This is his constitutional right.”

‘Govt
wanted...

FROM PAGE 01 shocked by military leaders’ press conference. “The press conference held by the ISPR today, I was shocked,” he said. “If Rana Sanaullah or Khawaja Asif hold press conference, we can respond to them. But press conference held by institutions there is a certain level of respect. We can’t respond to them,” he added.

US envoy
announces...

FROM PAGE 01 The new funding will expand efforts to address immediate needs, scaling up assistance to the most affected communities and enabling USAID to reach more than 4 million people. With the additional funding, the US government, through USAID, will provide life-saving food, nutrition, and health assistance to mitigate increased food insecurity and malnutrition resulting from the impact of the floods, as well as curb the rise of diseases resulting from stagnant flood waters.

Pak army to
secure...

FROM PAGE 01 “The government will also mobilise the army under Article 245 of the Constitution,” he said, adding that the government will allow PTI to march towards the federal capital only if it fulfilled the requirements. He said that the PTI had submitted an application to hold rally/sit-in in H-9 and G-9 sectors of Islamabad and the administration was reviewing the request.

Arshad
Sharif laid...

FROM PAGE 01 reached in huge numbers. During Sharif’s burial, slogans of “Allahu Akbar” were chanted. Afterwards, personnel of the Pakistan Army paid tribute to the journalist and a garland from Chief of Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa was laid at his grave. Earlier, Sharif’s funeral prayers were offered at Shah Faisal Mosque. A large number of journalists, politicians and civil society members including Azam Swati, Shibli Faraz, Murad Saeed, Faisal Karim Kudhi, Kashif Abbasi, Waseem Badami and Sami Ibrahim attended the funeral prayers in the capital.

Zimbabwe pull off stunning
win against Pakistan

Pakistan had made a measured start to the chase of 131 to win, but two huge Powerplay wickets gave Zimbabwe a sniff as big-name opening pair both went cheaply

SPORTS DESK

PERTH: Zimbabwe produced one of the all-time World Cup upsets with a brilliant performance in Perth to beat Pakistan by one run in a match that went down to the very last delivery. Pakistan needed 11 to win off the final over of a pulsating evening, and that equation came down to three from three with the well-set Mohammad Nawaz at the crease. But 25-year-old Brad Evans produced three stunning deliveries right when it mattered. First, he fizzed through a pacy bouncer that Nawaz failed to connect with. And a miscue off the penultimate ball had Nawaz caught at mid-off by captain Craig Ervine, a wicket that saw both batters sink to their knees, with heart-break again for Nawaz in the second successive match. Shaheen Shah Afridi punted the final ball down the ground, tearing back in a desperate attempt for a second run to tie the match. Wicket-keeper Regis Chakabva fumbled the throw at first, but recovered to whip off the bails with Afridi still short of his ground, sparking jubilant scenes among the Zimbabwe players and supporters. Pakistan had made a measured start to the chase of 131 to win, but two huge Powerplay wickets gave Zimbabwe a sniff



as the big-name opening pair both went cheaply. Babar Azam was squared up by a lovely piece of bowling from Brad Evans to be sent back for just four runs off nine balls. And the outstanding Blessing Muzarabani cleaned up Mohammad Rizwan via an inside edge for 14 (16). After Iftikhar Ahmed was also removed cheaply, Pakistan seemingly got the match under

control with a solid partnership between Shan Masood and Shadab Khan to reach 88/3 with six and a half overs still remaining. But the inspired Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza took two wickets in two balls to remove Shadab and Haider Ali, before having Masood stumped in his very next over to give Zimbabwe hope and set up a big finish.

After opting to bat first, Zimbabwe got off to a flier as a daring Wessley Madhever and skipper Craig Ervine played some eye-catching shots inside the first two overs. With five boundaries inside the first three overs, Zimbabwe had a fabulous start, racing away at 10 runs per over. Some of that early momentum toned down when Ervine was sent back by Haris Rauf and his partner got trapped in front by Wasim in the following over. Shadab Khan prized out Milton Shumba before Sean Williams and Sikandar Raza went about the resurrection work. Things turned south pretty quickly when Shadab sent back Williams and Chakabva off successive deliveries, the latter dismissed off a spectacular grab at first slip by Babar Azam. Shadab completed a brilliant spell of 4-0-23-3 but there was more in store for Zimbabwe from the other end. In the very next over after losing two wickets off back-to-back balls to Shadab, Zimbabwe lost a further two as Mohammad Wasim dismissed Raza and Luke Jongwe off successive balls. 95/3, and what appeared to be a solid start, quickly turned into 95/7 as Pakistan’s bowlers went on a rampage in Perth. Eventually, they put up 130/8 on board with some help from Brad Evans down the order. It seemed unlikely to be enough, but a superb bowling display from Zimbabwe ensured otherwise.

Iran’s Raisi links ‘riots’
to Shiraz shrine attack

TEHRAN: Iran’s President Ebrahim Raisi has said that “riots” pave the way for “terror” attacks, a day after a deadly assault on a shrine in the southern city of Shiraz was claimed by ISIL (ISIS). “The intention of the enemy is to disrupt the country’s progress, and then these riots pave the ground for terrorist acts,” he said in televised remarks on Thursday, in an apparent attempt to link the shrine attack to ongoing anti-government protests in the country. At least 15 people were killed on Wednesday in an attack on an important Shia Muslim shrine in Shiraz, according to official media. State television said it was carried out by an armed attacker during evening prayers at the Shah Cheragh shrine, and left at least 19 people wounded. The assailant was a man “in his 30s” who had been detained by the security forces, officials said. ISIL, which once controlled vast swaths of territory across Syria and Iraq, has claimed previous violence in Iran, including deadly twin attacks in 2017 that targeted parliament and the tomb of the Islamic Republic’s founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The commander of the country’s elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said Iran will retaliate. “We firmly declare: The fire of revenge of the people of Iran will finally catch up with them and punish them for their shameful deeds,” Hossein Salami was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency on Wednesday. Raisi had also promised “a severe response”, and condemned “the enemies

of Iran” who attempt to “divide the united ranks of the nation... through violence and terror”. The sentiment was shared by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, who has called for unity after the shrine attack, saying those behind it “will surely be punished”, state television reported. “We all have a duty to deal with the enemy and its traitorous or ignorant agents. Security bodies, the judiciary, activists in the field of thought ... and the people must be united against ... disregard for people’s lives, security, and sanctities,” Khamenei said in a statement read on state TV. The shrine attack came as thousands of people paid tribute to Mahsa Amini, 40 days after her death in police custody. Dozens of people, mainly protesters but also members of the security forces, have been killed during the unrest that was triggered by the 22-year-old’s death on September 16 after her arrest by the morality police in Tehran for allegedly violating the country’s strict dress code for women. Hundreds of people, including women, have been arrested. Iran’s judiciary has charged more than 1,000 people arrested in connection with the protests. At least four were charged with an offence that can carry the death penalty, while others have been accused of “acting against the country’s security”, “propaganda” against the government and “assaulting security forces”. Officials had said that hundreds of those who were not involved in the “riots” had been released. — DNA

Syria reports Israeli
air attack on targets
in Damascus area

The attack follows similar air strikes and a rare daytime air attack which wounded a soldier, according to Syrian army

DAMASCUS: Israeli air strikes have hit targets in the vicinity of the Syrian capital Damascus, marking the third such attack in a week, Syrian state media reported. The Syrian military said Israeli missiles were fired in the early hours of Thursday morning at sites near Damascus and that air defences had “confronted the missile aggression and downed most of them”. There were no casualties reported. “At around 00:30 AM (21:30 GMT), the Israeli enemy carried out an aerial aggression from the direction of the occupied Palestinian territories targeting several positions in the vicinity of Damascus,” the Syrian defence ministry said in a statement. The attack follows similar air strikes on Friday and a rare daytime air attack on Monday which wounded a soldier, according to the Syrian army. The attack on Friday was the first such reported raid since September 17, when Syria’s defence ministry said missile strikes on Damascus International Airport and nearby military posts south of the capital killed five soldiers. Israel, which does not comment on such attacks, has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years, but rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations. Israel claims it has targeted bases of Iran-aligned fighters in Syrian groups. Tehran has sent thousands of fighters to support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s forces. — DNA

Too early to talk of
a Verstappen era,
says Hamilton

MEXICO CITY: Lewis Hamilton believes it is too early to refer to a ‘Max Verstappen era’ following the Dutchman’s success in clinching a second consecutive drivers world title with Red Bull Mercedes’ seven-time champion, who was controversially beaten by Verstappen on the final lap of last year’s final race in Abu Dhabi, suggested it remained possible Ferrari can overhaul Red Bull and change the narrative. And his view was supported by Charles Leclerc who said he is working towards preventing a Verstappen and Red Bull era of dominance. “It is too early to say,” said Hamilton, who is without a win this season for the first time since he entered Formula One in 2007. “If we get into next year and they’re dominating again, then yes, but the Ferraris have been quicker than them throughout qualifying... “I think they’ve probably had better performance for the majority of the season. Now, all they need to do is pick up their race pace and they’ll be right with them. “I think we’ve got a much, much bigger step and steeper hill to climb, but hopefully not impossible.” Verstappen goes into this weekend’s Mexico Grand Prix chasing a record for most wins in a single season after drawing level with seven-time champion Michael Schumacher and four-time champion Sebastian Vettel on 13. — APP

Protests in SL over economic
crisis and police brutality

COLOMBO: Thousands of Sri Lankans protested in the capital, Colombo, on Thursday with civil rights groups, trade unions and students expressing their discontent over the economic situation and the brutal suppression of previous demonstrations. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis in decades, pushing many into poverty. Annual food price inflation is at 85.8 percent, and prices of non-food items are at 62.8 percent. Sri Lanka’s gross domestic product (GDP) is forecast to contract by 8.7 percent. Protesters are frustrated as there seems to be “no let-up” in the ongoing economic crisis. “The cost of living is soaring, food inflation is topping 90 percent, and people are really, really struggling,” she said. The Trade Union Coordination Centre initiated the rally. The combined people’s movement brings together trade unions and prominent figures who led the earlier protests to remove former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. This year’s uprising against Rajapaksa began on March 31 and ended with the storming of his residence on July 9. Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected president by a vote in Parliament on July 21. Wickremesinghe immediately declared a state of emergency, which granted sweeping powers to the military and resulted in a series of crackdowns on protesters, with several protest leaders arrested. After a brief wait-and-watch period following the crackdowns, “people are now coming out once again, and the reason for that is there seems to be no let-up,” said Fernandez. “A few months ago it was just beginning to

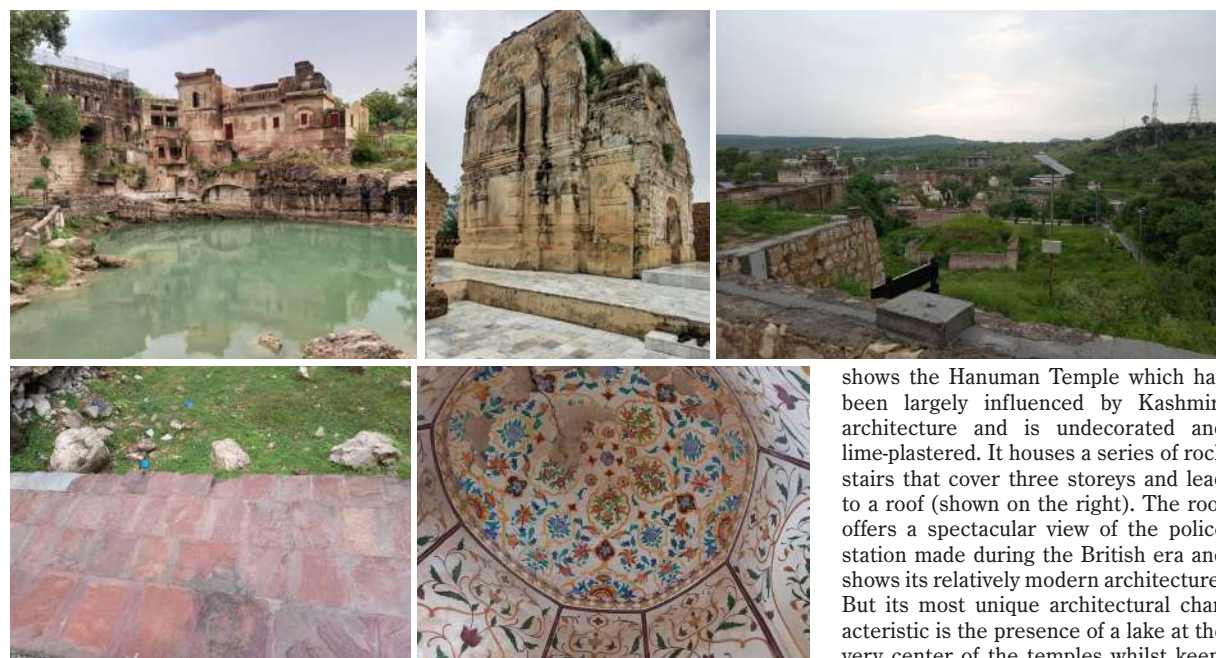
make itself felt at the household table but now most households are really struggling.” In August, the United Nations urged Wickremesinghe to end the crackdowns, describing them as a “misuse of emergency measures”. However, with the cost of living rising and a series of tax increases set to be introduced, discontent in the island nation of 22 million people looks set to grow. Sri Lanka is also suffering from a dollar shortage caused by economic mismanagement and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country’s tourism market. This has left the nation struggling to pay for essential imports, including food, fuel and medicine. Sri Lanka is set to receive a bailout after reaching a preliminary deal with the International Monetary Fund for a loan of about \$2.9bn. — DNA

Along this river, we are all one

AIMA NADEEM CHAUDHARY

About 5,000 years ago, a civilization budded along the coast of the River Indus - also known as the Indus Valley Civilization. Over the course of thousands of years, this civilization expanded and grew; however, it stands true even today that before matters like caste and creed came into existence, there was only one thing uniting everyone:

A river and a sense of belonging to it. As the prodigy of a civilization that lived harmoniously under one united name, preserving monuments that exhibit this harmony is essential. One prime example is that of the Katas Raj temples near Chakwal; a manifesto of cultures from the 7th century that is now in ruin. Apart from the Hindu temples and Buddhist stupas present there, the site is best known for the lake that exists at its heart. I had the opportunity to not only see this lake - which according to a fascinating myth was formed when Shiva, the God of Destruction wept over the death of his wife Sati - but also research its chemical composition to check its impurity. To this day, the lake acts as a religious and cultural nexus for the Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh communities. Even after thousands of years, the temples are a sustainable architectural masterpiece with a flux of cultures and influences incorporated into their con-



struction. All the temples at the site can be divided into two categories. Firstly, the ones that have been directly influenced by the Gandhara tradition. Secondly, those that have been inspired by the Kashmiri temples whose chief characteristics were dentils, trefoil arches, fluted pillars, and pointed roofs. Most of these temples were in a very ruined condition, built of soft friable sandstone

which was crumbling away. The remains of the temples also form an important link in the history of this region and South Asian temple architecture. The temples have plain masonry walls and cantoned corner pilasters, and the sub-shrines are elevated to form a series of cornices with tiny intermediate rows of pillars and a crowning ribbed dome. The picture on the left below

shows the Hanuman Temple which has been largely influenced by Kashmiri architecture and is undecorated and lime-plastered. It houses a series of rock stairs that cover three storeys and lead to a roof (shown on the right). The roof offers a spectacular view of the police station made during the British era and shows its relatively modern architecture. But its most unique architectural characteristic is the presence of a lake at the very center of the temples whilst keeping the construction safe from damage due to water. This was made possible because the mandirs and balconies, as well as the pillars made to support them, were made purely from pile-up stone. This, along with the limestone domed roofs that prevented the accumulation of rainwater, shows the sustainable design of the complex. The site is also famous for the Sat Ghara - meaning the seven

temples that have been dedicated to different Hindu deities. These include the Ramchandra Temple, Hanuman Temple, Shiva Temple, etc which have been used as worship places by pilgrims over the years. These temples can be approached via a set of limestone stairs that have been recently added. Out of the seven temples comprising the Sat Ghara, only four are left and are open to tourists now. The remarkable architectural design calls for a further approach to sustainable restoration to utilize the vast potential the site has for tourism. Restoration projects for the temples have been initiated twice now, once in 2006 when the Deputy Prime Minister of India, Advani, visited the temple complex, and secondly in 2017 under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The picture below on the left shows the limestone stairs that were recently added. On the left, colorful designs on the roof of the Ramchandra temple are shown. The Katas Raj Temples showcase the shared culture and heritage of a variety of groups. However, the distortion of the understanding of shared cultural monuments due to biases has caused a step back from the very river that links us. And I wonder, if we had abandoned the River Indus all those 5,000 years ago and focused on our individual differences, where would we be today?

— The writer is the A-Level student at International School Lahore, Former science president and sustainable architecture researcher.

ISI chief,
ISPR brush...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistani journalism, a martyr’s son and a martyr’s brother. His programmes will be seen as a role model for other journalists, he added. “Former government offered army chief an extension for an indefinite period in his term in order to fail the no-trust motion but he turned down the offer,” said Lt Gen Anjum. He also wondered if the commander-in-chief was a traitor then “why was he praised endlessly in the recent past”. “If the army chief is a traitor in your eyes, why did you want to give an extension in his term, why do you still meet him secretly,” asked the DG ISI. “The leaders of the institutions debated on the matter for several days and the institution decided after deliberating on every aspect that we will remain restricted to the constitution,” said the DG ISI. He said that the people who were part of this decision included those who will be leading the army for the next 15 to 20 years. On his appearance in the press conference, DG ISI said that he was forced to come in public after he saw the lies that are being spread conveniently and are becoming acceptable. “I broke the silence when I saw that there was a risk of ‘fitna, fasad’ in country and institution just because lies were not being declared lies,” he said. DG ISI said that when Sharif was in Pakistan, he was in contact with the institution and maintained contact even when he travelled abroad. He also shared that he is in contact with his Kenyan counterpart on the matter of his death. “We are not satisfied that is why the government has formed the inquiry team,” said the DG ISI. He added that the members of his agency were deliberately removed from the inquiry committee. On the same point, Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar that the military had decided not to include ISI and Military Intelligence officials in the probe as unnecessary fingers were being raised at the institution. The DG ISPR made the comments during an unprecedented press briefing with DG ISI on the death of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya. Lt Gen Anjum was invited by the military spokesperson considering “sensitivity of the matter”. “The purpose of this press conference is to inform you about the death of prominent senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya and the circumstances surrounding it,” DG ISPR had said at the start of the press conference. Lt Gen Iftikhar said that the press conference is being done at a time when it is “important to present the facts correctly” so “fact, fiction and opinion” can be differentiated. He also shared that the military’s media wing has informed PM Shehbaz Sharif about the press conference. The head of the military’s media wing said that there is a need to examine the “under which a false narrative has been made and people have been misled”. “Institutions, leadership and even the chief of army staff has been accused without a reason to create an extraordinary chaotic situation,” said the DG ISPR.

Briefs

US uses Ukraine as bargaining chip, former Russian president

MOSCOW: The US uses the lives of Ukrainians as a bargaining chip, Russia's former president said on Thursday.

The representatives of both US political parties explain their fails and victories by the events in Ukraine, said Dmitry Medvedev, currently serving as the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, on Telegram.

He said the US arms deliveries to Ukraine are paid with lives of the Russian and Ukrainian people because the continuation of the war means more deaths, and the war will not stop as long as arms deliveries continue. "Ukrainians pay with their lives for the endless supply of American weapons, and for the 'labors' of instructors and mercenaries. They are ready to pay off in the case of the use of a 'dirty bomb'," Medvedev said.

However, Medvedev said the lives of the Russians will be revenge on the battlefield or "in other ways," while Ukrainians will be forgotten.

"Our people are also suffering. But the only difference is that our people will be avenged. All. And on the battlefield, and in other countries far from the battlefields. And certainly not in the framework of untenable lawsuits. In other ways. "But no one will remember about Ukrainians. The main thing for the American establishment is something else - who will control the House of Representatives and the Senate.--APP

Menendez under federal criminal investigation again

WASHINGTON: US Sen. Bob Menendez is the subject of a second federal criminal investigation, though details remain murky, according to multiple reports published Wednesday. Nascent online news outlet Semafor broke the story, citing anonymous sources familiar with the investigation, though several other US media outlets have corroborated the ongoing probe. Michael Soliman, an adviser for the New Jersey senator, told multiple news outlets that Menendez is aware of the probe, but added "he does not know the scope of the investigation." "As always, should any official inquiries be made, the Senator is available to provide any assistance that is requested of him or his office," said Soliman. Menendez is the chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has served in the federal legislature for three decades, first in the House of Representatives before taking office in the Senate. He was indicted in 2015 on federal corruption charges tied to allegations that he illegally accepted favors from a Florida doctor.--APP

China willing to work with US for global peace, stability

This is his first statement regarding relations with the US after being elected for the third historic term as president this weekend

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said his country is willing to work with the US for bringing peace and stability to the world.

In a congratulatory message to the annual gala dinner of the National Committee on US-China Relations, Xi added China and the US should respect each other, coexist peacefully, achieve win-win cooperation, and find the right way for both countries to get along in the new era, which will not only benefit both countries, but also the world, state-run Global Times reported.

"The world today is not peaceful. As major powers, China and the US strengthening communication and cooperation will help increase the stability and certainty of the world and help promote



world peace and development," the daily quoted Xi as saying. This is his first statement regarding relations with the US after being elected for the third historic term as president this weekend. Xi hoped that China's National Committee on US-China Relations will continue to play its active role, helping the bilateral relations return to the track of healthy and

stable development. Tension between Beijing and Washington escalated following China launched unprecedented military operations around Taiwan in August when US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid an unannounced trip to the self-ruled island nation. Beijing sees it as a violation of its sovereignty and held massive military activities, including firing missiles, some over the island nation, home to over 24 million people. Besides military operations, China also suspended high-level military dialogue with Pentagon and cooperation on climate change. Taiwan has maintained its independence since 1949 while Beijing has pursued a policy of reunifying the island with the mainland, including by force if necessary.--APP

Saudis' aid to Ukraine don't compensate for OPEC decision

WASHINGTON: Saudi Arabia's support of a UN resolution condemning Russia and providing aid to Ukraine were positive but do not compensate for a decision by OPEC+ to cut oil production, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday. Speaking in an interview with Bloomberg, Blinken said the decision by OPEC+ had not advanced US interests but further lined Russian President Vladimir Putin's pockets amid his war in Ukraine. He said that since the decision, the Saudis supported the important resolutions at the United Nations condemning Russia's aggression and committed \$400 million in humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. "So these are positive developments. They don't compensate (for) the decision made by OPEC+ on production, but we take note of that," he added. The top diplo-

mat said the United States' relationship with the kingdom has been built over many decades, over many administrations and different leaderships in Saudi Arabia.

"And as we're looking at where we're going, we're going to do it in a very deliberative fashion in consultation with members of Congress, as the President has said, to make sure of this: that the relationship better reflects our own interests. So we're looking at how to most effectively do that," he said.

On Oct. 5, Saudi Arabia, which chairs the OPEC+ cartel, voted to reduce oil output by about 2 million barrels per day. US President Joe Biden has vocally criticized the decision and the kingdom, warning of impending consequences but without specifying the nature of his response.--APP

NI land set for fresh elections over post-Brexit impasse

DUBLIN: Northern Ireland on Wednesday appeared headed for a second election this year, after UK government efforts to resolve months of political stalemate over its post-Brexit status failed to secure a breakthrough. Chris Heaton-Harris, Britain's Northern Ireland minister, has been holding talks with the political parties in a fresh bid to get them to form a new executive. If no agreement is reached by Friday, London will be

legally required to call early elections for the devolved assembly in the volatile province. It has been without a functioning government since February, after the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) collapsed the executive over its staunch opposition to post-Brexit trade rules there. It wants the so-called Northern Ireland Protocol agreed by London and Brussels as part of Britain's 2019 Brexit deal overhauled or scrapped entirely. They

say it weakens the province's place within the UK. Many unionists also argue the pact is threatening the delicate balance of peace between the pro-Irish nationalist community and those in favour of continued union with the UK. The measures, which effectively keep Northern Ireland in the European Union's single market and customs union, were agreed to avoid the return of a hard land border with the neighbouring Republic of

Ireland which remains an EU member. Eliminating that hard border was a key strand of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which ended three decades of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. Pro-Irish party Sinn Fein scored a historic first electoral victory in May, further complicating efforts to restore powersharing. DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson said Wednesday he had reiterated to Heaton-Harris the need "to clear away the debris of the protocol".--APP

Italy's new far-right government wins 2nd confidence vote

ROME: Italy's new far-right government led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Wednesday won the second of two required confidence votes in parliament, confirming its solid majority in both chambers. The vote in the Senate was 115 in favor of Meloni's coalition government and 79 against it, with five abstentions. Earlier on Wednesday, during the parliamentary debate, the new Italian premier responded to critics who accused her policy guidelines - outlined in her first speech to the Lower House on Tuesday - of being too vague and missing key points.

Meloni confirmed a campaign pledge of her rightist coalition, announcing that one of the first moves on the economic front will be lifting the existing limit on cash payments - a measure introduced by previous governments as a deterrent for money laundering and fiscal evasion. Amid the opposition's complaints that the move would only benefit illicit payments and fiscal frauds, Meloni insisted she saw "no correlation" between cash payments and the expansion of the underground economy.

The new premier also rejected criticism by the center-left opposition that in her previous speeches in support of Ukraine she failed to make any clear reference to peace. Meloni insisted that the only way to reach a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine is to continue to support Kyiv in defending itself militarily. "Peace can be achieved by supporting Ukraine. It is the only chance we have for the two sides to negotiate," she told Senators. Meloni leads Italy's most right-wing government since World War II and former ties between Moscow and her key allies - Forza Italia's Silvio Berlusconi and the League's leader Matteo Salvini - have raised concerns over possible changes in Rome's foreign policy. After an open clash with Meloni ahead of the formation of the new government, Berlusconi - who made his comeback to the Senate after nine years - sought to reassure Italian and international observers that his party will provide a solid support to Meloni's Cabinet, sticking to a firm pro-Ukraine and pro-NATO stance. "In this situation we naturally stand with the West," the media mogul and former premier told Senators in his speech ahead of the confidence vote. "We must work for peace and we will do it in full accord with our Western allies".--APP

2 more Rohingya shot dead in Bangladeshi refugee camp

DHAKA: Two more Rohingya men were shot dead early Thursday inside a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, just a day after a Rohingya activist was gunned down in the camp. A group of armed and masked men barged into refugee camp-17 and opened fire at Rohingya men, killing one of them on the spot and injuring the other critically who died in the hospital, S.M. Ishtiaque Shahriar, a local official, told Anadolu Agency. The victims were identified as Ayat Ullah, 40, and Yasin, 30. The motive of the killings could not be known immediately. "Security has been beefed up and police have started an operation to arrest the killers," he added.

In the last 13 days, six Rohingya men have been killed, including a Rohingya youth leader who was shot dead inside a camp on Wednesday. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) was allegedly behind these killings, according to police and Rohingya refugees. The ARSA, formerly known as Harakah al-Yaqin, is a Rohingya insurgent group active in northern Rakhine State, Myanmar.--APP

Ankara monitoring Sweden's compliance on deal

ANKARA: Ankara is monitoring Sweden's commitment to a deal they signed on the Nordic country's bid to join NATO, Türkiye's president told the Swedish prime minister in a phone call Wednesday.

The trilateral agreement Türkiye signed in June with Sweden and Finland will guide the process of those two countries' potential NATO accession, with Ankara following statements coming out of Stockholm, Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Ulf Kristersson, according to a statement by the Turkish Communications Directorate.

In a phone call, Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Ulf Kristersson that Ankara was monitoring statements coming out of Stockholm on Sweden's commitment to the agreement.

Erdogan said it was in both Türkiye and Sweden's common interest to prevent terror groups from taking the Nordic country's bid to enter NATO, as well as its bilateral ties with Türkiye, hostage.

They discussed Türkiye-Sweden relations during the call, with Erdogan congratulating Kristersson on his new role as premier.

In response to a letter from Kristersson on Oct. 19, Erdogan declared that he would welcome a visit to Türkiye by the new Swedish prime minister. The Turkish leader said they were ready to advance bilateral ties with the Swedish government in every field.--APP

Lebanese president signs maritime border deal

BEIRUT: Lebanese President Michel Aoun on Thursday signed a maritime border demarcation deal with Israel as mediated by the United States.

Deputy Speaker and chief Lebanese negotiator Elias Bou Saab told a press conference that Aoun signed a letter relating to the demarcation of Lebanon's southern maritime boundary. He added that a Lebanese delegation will hand US mediator Amos Hochstein the letter signed by Aoun at UN headquarters in southern Lebanon.

He also said another letter will be sent to the UN by the Foreign Ministry.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, for his part, hailed the deal as a "political achievement" for his country. "The maritime deal is a political achievement for Israel as we don't see an enemy state like Lebanon recognizing Israel in a written agreement every day," he said on his official Twitter account.

He said the deal strengthens Tel Aviv's "security and freedom to take action against Hezbollah."

The Israeli government also ratified the deal, according to an official statement by the Prime Minister's Office. On Oct. 13, Aoun and Lapid announced they were accepting the US-mediated proposal for the maritime border demarcation.--APP

Kashmir Black Day 27 October 2022

AHMAD FAROOQ



The people of Pakistan and Kashmiris all over the world are observing "Black Day" today as 75 years have passed when India without any legal justification, forcibly took control of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, the history of the people of Kashmir is a story written in blood of the people of Kashmir. The United Nations and Security Council adopted several resolutions that mandated that the matter would be decided through a plebiscite in which the people of Jammu & Kashmir would decide whether they would join Pakistan or India. While continuing its tale of brutality and inhumanity, on 05 August 2019, India, under Modi's fascist regime repealed the special status of IIOJK and put it under military siege to implement its own version of settler colonialism in gross violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law. It must be remembered that Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) is a disputed territory and the issue largely involves hu-

man rights violations. The Indian Army has been implicated in massive human rights violations in IIOJ&K for the previous 75 years, and international human rights groups have condemned such widespread violations, but India has consistently been unapologetic. The Kashmiris reaffirm on this day that they will tear apart this veil of Indian cruelty and barbarism and they will soon get their just right to self-determination in accordance with the UNSC resolutions. To downplay Kashmiris' struggle for independence and their right to self-determination, India is exploiting the language of terrorism to draw attention away from the terrible reality of IIOJ&K. To affect demographic changes in Kashmir, since 05 August 2019 India also passed new domicile rules in IIOJ&K after Articles 370 and 35A were repealed. A person who has lived in Jammu and Kashmir for 15 years or has studied there for seven years is qualified for the Domicile under the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Act. These regulations represent the Indian government's attempts to alter the demographics of the disputed territory which is in violation of international law and UNSC resolutions. Mass killings, enforced disappearances, torture, rape,

sexual assault, repression, and suppression of freedom of expression are the heinous crimes committed by the Indian army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRP) and Border Security Forces (BSF). It is estimated that Indian Security personnel have killed thousands of innocent Kashmiris in custody, carried out numerous extra judicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, rape and extra judicial killings. Such human rights violations have had a devastating impact on the life of indigenous people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The National Investigating Agency (NIA), India's primary counter-terrorism agency, specifically targets human rights activists and organizations that reveals abuses and violence on the part of the Indian army and security services. India fears that the advocacy and publication of abuses conducted by the Indian authorities may reach the UN, its special rapporteurs or indeed Europe or the United States. Thus, a counter dissent strategy has been employed to threaten human rights advocacy work done by Muslims in the region. According to Human Rights Watch, 882 Kashmiri women were gang-raped by Indian forces in 1992 alone, committing war crimes. 11,170 rape instances have

been documented in the area since the start of the conflict, according to a local newspaper. The data released by Jammu and Kashmir police has reported a 10% increase in sexual assault cases against women, with 1754 cases reported in 2020 compared to 1452 in 2019. The suicide attempt cases of women have also increased from 123 in 2019 to 172 in 2020. The 2019 updated report on Kashmir by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) urged the Human Rights Council to establish a commission of inquiry to conduct a comprehensive independent international investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir. Three successive generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world and the United Nations to deliver. Pakistan calls upon the international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable and Indian Government must reverse the unilateral and illegal actions of 5th August 2019; stop its egregious human rights violations in IIOJK; repeal the draconian laws and implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

—The writer is Pakistan ambassador to Denmark

Serbia forms govt 7 months after election

The new Cabinet has 28 ministers and consists of 25 ministries, with three ministers without portfolios

BELGRADE: The Serbian parliament on Wednesday elected a new government some seven months after its general elections.

The Balkan nation held elections on April 3 to choose a new president, members for its 250-seat parliament, and local authorities.

The new government was elected with 157 votes in favor and 68 against in 250-seat parliament.

Prime Minister Ana Brnabic will serve as premier for the third time in the new government, which will consist of 28 ministries, including the newly formed Science, Innovation and Technological Development Ministry, Tourism and Youth Ministry, and Public Investment Ministry.

Following the voting, Brnabic and the new ministers took oath of office.

The oath includes preserving Kosovo and Metohija within the Republic of Serbia. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, with most UN member states, including the US, UK, France,

Germany, and Türkiye, recognizing it as a separate autonomous country from its neighbor.

Serbia continues to see Kosovo as its territory, while Russia and China are among the countries that have yet to recognize Kosovo's independence.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, diplomats and representatives of religious communities also attended the ceremony.

The new Cabinet has 28 ministers and consists of 25 ministries, with three ministers without portfolios.

Before the vote, Brnabic, in her final address, said that it is very important for her that Serbia, in particularly difficult and challenging times, has "only and exclusively a pro-Serbian government," which will be a government of continuity.

"That's why the word Serbian, pro-Serbian government is important for us, because we are all together on an important task in the national interest," said Brnabic.--APP

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Briefs

Attack on Taliban vehicle kills 5

WEB DESK

KABUL: An attack on a vehicle in western Afghanistan killed five medical personnel employed by Taliban security forces on Thursday, a defence ministry spokesman said. "This morning, unknown armed men attacked a ... vehicle carrying medical personnel of the 207th Al-Farooq Army Corps," said Ministry of Defence spokesperson Enayatullah Khwazami, referring to a Taliban military unit headquartered in the western province of Herat. Several employees were also injured in the attack, he added. Since taking over the country in 2021, the Taliban say they have focussed on restoring security to the war-torn nation. However, in recent months a number of attacks have taken place and the United Nations has said security is deteriorating. In the western city of Herat, a large blast hit near a mosque in September, killing 18 people including a pro-Taliban cleric and in July, an attack on a Al-Farooq 207 Corps vehicle killed two security force members.

Pakistan condoles over loss of lives in Shiraz

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed deep condolence over the loss of precious lives and injuries sustained in the dastardly terrorist attack at a religious shrine in Iranian city of Shiraz. In a statement, the Foreign Office Spokesperson expressed solidarity with the Iranian people in this hour of grief and express profound sympathies to the families of deceased. The Foreign Office said the Government and people of Pakistan were deeply saddened at the precious loss of lives and injuries sustained in the dastardly terrorist attack at the religious shrine. The spokesperson prayed for the swift recovery of those injured saying Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with the Iranian people in this hour of grief and express profound sympathies to the families of the deceased, and pray for the swift recovery of those injured, the statement said, adding Pakistan strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. At least 15 people were killed in an attack on a key Shiite Muslim shrine in southern Iran, Iran state media said, with the Islamic State group claiming the assault.

India killed over four lakh in IIOJK in past 75 years

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian forces killed over four hundred thousand Kashmiris including more than 250,000 in Jammu region as the occupied territory completed 75 years of invasion by Indian Army on this day in 1947. A report released by Kashmir Media Service on 27th of October, Thursday, which is being observed as Black Day in IIOJK, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and wherever Kashmiris live in the world said that more than 3.5 million Kashmiris were forced to migrate to Azad Kashmir, Pakistan and other parts of the world since October 27, 1947. Here is the data released by Research Section of Kashmir Media Service from January 1989 till October 27, 2022: From January 1989 till October 2022; Total Killings - 96,140; Custodial /Fake encounter Killings - 7,265; Civilian Arrested -165,293; Structures/houses destroyed/damaged -110,495; Women widowed -22,951; Children orphaned -107,883; and Women gang-raped / Molested -11,256. The report as per research cell based in Srinagar said, the number of actual Indian troops present in IIOJK is 1,501,000.

World urged to take notice of HR violations in IIOJK

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will always stand by the people of Kashmir, no matter, what the cost is and it will not rest till Kashmiris secure their legitimate right to self-determination

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in their messages on Kashmir Black Day have reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support to the Kashmiris' just struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. In his message, the President Dr Arif Alvi reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate reversal of Indian government's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019. Dr Arif Alvi urged international community to take practical steps to hold India accountable for its egregious human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The President also called upon the world community to play its part in facilitating a peaceful and just resolution of the long-standing dispute of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant Security Council Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will always stand by the people of Kashmir, no matter, what the cost is and it will not rest till Kashmiris secure their legitimate right to self-determination. He said Pakistan's rock-solid support to the Kashmir cause remains as steadfast as ever. The Prime Minister said Kashmir dispute has been on the United Nations' agenda for over seven and a half decades. He called upon international community to voice

OIC reaffirms "full solidarity" with Kashmiri people

ISLAMABAD: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Thursday reiterated its "full solidarity" with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their quest for the right to self-determination, as they observed Black Day to mark the completion of 75 years of the Indian occupation of the IIOJK. On the occasion, the OIC general secretariat, pursuant to the decisions and resolutions of the Islamic Summit and OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, urged India to halt and reverse the illegal and unilateral actions taken on August 5, 2019, according to a statement issued by the OIC secretariat in Jeddah. The Muslim world body also called for the reversal of the subsequent Indian steps to change the internationally recognized disputed status of the territory and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory. The OIC demanded India to respect the basic human rights of the inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir. The Organization also reiterated its call on the international community to step up its efforts to resolve the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. - DNA

against the ongoing Indian atrocities in the occupied territory. He also demanded an immediate reversal of the Indian government's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019. Shehbaz Sharif said the only solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute lies in ensuring that the Kashmiris are allowed to exercise their right of self-determination, through the democratic process of holding a UN-mandated free and impartial plebiscite. Meanwhile, in his message, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, paying rich tribute to the Kashmiris for rendering sacrifices in the struggle for the right to self-determination, has reiterated the coun-

community to fulfil its promise of holding a referendum to resolve long standing Kashmir dispute. Bilawal Bhutto reiterated Pakistan's continued political, diplomatic and moral support Kashmiris' right to self-determination. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said no world power can suppress the Kashmir cause. In her message on Black Day, she said the valiant people of Kashmir have proved India cannot weaken their resolve for right to self-determination through oppression campaign. She said the Kashmiri people have rendered unprecedented sacrifices in their struggle for right to self-determination. The Information Minister urged the international community to take notice of blatant human rights violations in the occupied territory. Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has said no oppressive tactic on the part of Indian occupying forces can stop the Kashmiri people from pursuing the path of right to self-determination. In a video message on the occasion of black day, he was confident that the brave Kashmiri people will soon get independence from the cruel clutches. Alluding to the immense sacrifices rendered by Kashmiri people, the Adviser said Pakistan will continue to extend its moral, political and diplomatic support to them. He said present government has forcefully raised the Kashmir dispute at all international forums.

Kh Asif castigates Khan for targeting army

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Thursday that Imran Khan had targeted the Armed Forces of Pakistan, adding that the axis of Imran Khan's thought was his self. While addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said that Imran Khan had turned the word 'neutral' into a swear. "What Imran Khan has been doing is in front of everyone," he abhorred. "Imran Khan wants to subjugate all institutions. He had been stopped from forgery and waving the cipher in the public rally," he claimed. "Imran Khan carried out his enterprise through the cipher. He made fun of the martyrs. He fraudulently used the cipher for personal interests," he castigated. "Imran Khan attacked the Judiciary. He subjected the opposition to political revenge," he added. He also asked Imran Khan to record his statement if there was any threat to his life.

China calls for resolving Kashmir dispute

DNA

BEIJING: China has called for resolving the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and relevant bilateral agreements between Pakistan and India. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning, was replying to a question on the Kashmir dispute during a media briefing in Beijing Thursday. She said that China's position on the dispute over Kashmir has been consistent and clear. "This is an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan and should be properly managed in a peaceful way in accordance with the UN charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and relevant bilateral agreements," she said. Mao Ning maintained that the relevant parties should avoid taking unilateral actions that could further complicate the situation but rather engage in dialogue and consultations to resolve the dispute and maintain peace and stability in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira participating in a Solidarity Walk starting at Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaching D-Chowk to mark Kashmir Black Day. - APP

Three Pakistani firemen die in Doha accident

DNA

DOHA: Three Pakistani firemen died in a training accident in the Qatari capital weeks before the start of the World Cup, officials said Thursday. Authorities said the three were taking part in a multi-national World Cup security exercise currently being held around Doha that includes simulations of "chemical incidents" and demonstrations. Officials did not give details of the accident late Wednesday, but accounts given by friends of the three and posted on social media said they were on a crane that collapsed in Doha's Hamad port, a private television channel reported. Fifteen foreign governments including the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the Palestinian territories have sent security forces and experts for the Watan exercise that ends Thursday. Exercises have included fighter jet drills, chemical attack on a stadium and handling demonstrations. Turkey has sent about 3,000 police to reinforce Qatar's domestic force during the World Cup that starts November 20 and ends December 18. Morocco and Pakistan will also reportedly send police reinforcements. - DNA

October 27 a darkest day in Kashmir's history

The APHC leaders, including Firdous Ahmed Shah, Zamrooda Habib, Yasmeen Raja, Dr Musab, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League in their separate statements said that the people of Kashmir would never surrender their legitimate struggle for freedom

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders and organizations have said October 27 is a darkest day in the history of Kashmir. The APHC leaders, including Firdous Ahmed Shah, Zamrooda Habib, Yasmeen Raja, Dr Musab, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League in their separate statements said that the people of Kashmir would never surrender their legitimate struggle for freedom. They said due to the rigidity and stubbornness of New Delhi, IIOJK apart from being the highly militarised part of the world has become a bone of contention between three nuclear powers and a nuclear flashpoint which is not only a threat to the peace and stability of South Asia but of the whole world. The Hurriyat leaders maintained that no amount of Indian atrocities could deter the people of Kashmir from pursuing their struggle for right to self-determination. They pledged to honor the unmatched sacrifices of Kashmiri people by continuing the struggle for freedom with full determination and honesty. The APHC AJK leaders Syed Faiz Naqashbandi, Aijaz Rehmani, Sheikh Yaqoob, Altaf Ahmed Butt, Shameem Shawl and Manzoor Ahmed Shah in their statements said that the Kashmiri people had been rendering unparalleled sacrifices for their freedom from Indian yoke since 1947 and were determined to continue their struggle till settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with people's aspirations. - DNA

Israel, Lebanon sign maritime border deal

NEWS DESK

BEIRUT: Israel and Lebanon have officially approved a historic United States-brokered agreement laying out their maritime boundary for the first time, which opens up the possibility for both countries to conduct offshore energy exploration. Lebanon's President Michel Aoun signed a letter at the presidential palace on Thursday morning that will be submitted to US officials at Lebanon's southernmost border point of Naqoura later in the day. Top Lebanese negotiator Elias Bou Saab said the deal, which ends a long-running maritime border dispute in the gas-rich Mediterranean Sea, marked the beginning of a "new era". Israel's government also ratified the agreement on Thursday, a statement from Prime Minister Yair Lapid's office said. Lapid said the deal was a "political achievement" for Tel Aviv as "it is not every day that an enemy state recognises the State of Israel, in

a written agreement, in front of the entire international community". The agreement comes after months of indirect talks mediated by Amos Hochstein, the US envoy for energy affairs, and the deal was welcomed by US President Joe Biden. "[The agreement] will secure the interests of both Israel and Lebanon, and it sets the stage for a more stable and prosperous region," Biden said in a statement, before adding that the Middle East was "one step closer" to being more "integrated". The two countries have no diplomatic relations and have formally been at war since Israel's creation in 1948. Beirut has sought to avoid framing the agreement as normalisation with Israel, insisting that another annex scheduled to be signed by both sides at the UNIFIL headquarters in Naqoura later on Thursday be signed in separate rooms. Aoun countered the Israeli claim that the deal meant that Lebanon had implicitly recognised Israel. "Demarcating the southern maritime border is technical work that has no political implications," Aoun said.

JI raises objection over PTI long march route

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) has raised an objection over the route of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) long march, scheduled to start from the Liberty Chowk Lahore on Friday. JI would hold a rally for the promotion of their youth convention on Friday, whose route collides with the PTI long march route. On October 30, JI has a youth convention scheduled in the Minar-e-Pakistan ground, which will be addressed by JI Chief Siraj-ul-Haq and other leaders. The JI leadership has urged the administration to change the long march route to avoid any kind of conflict. The party would turn to the court if the administration does not respond to their request. A JI spokesperson said that removing their convention's promotional banners, on the provincial government's orders is condemnable. On October 25, former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said that he decided to start a long march on Friday. Imran Khan, while addressing a press conference in Lahore today, said that he has decided to start the anti-government long march on Friday at 11:00 am. "The long march will be started from Liberty Chowk of Lahore," he announced.

Collective efforts must for strengthening democracy

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ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Thursday collective efforts were needed for the strengthening of democratic system in the country. Addressing a press conference, he said it was the need of time that all stakeholders should come forward on same page for the sake of country as already the state was facing serious challenges. Kaira said no single party could resolve the longstanding issue of the country, so the incumbent regime was taking various steps for the betterment of the state and expressed the hope that all problems would be addressed with unity among the ranks of political powers. He underlined that Bhutto family had sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation and supremacy of the democratic system in the country. Referring to the press talk of DG ISPR, he said that the armed forces had draw the line today

that the parliament, judiciary, law enforcement agencies and media should work in their domain to strengthen the country and national economy. He blamed that some elements wanted to weaken the national economy as country's political environment was very tense. The institutions of the country were functioning within the domain of the Constitution. Kaira said that Imran Khan had misguided and launched the drama of cipher and added that the political parties had learned from their mistakes in the past and appreciated that forces had declared that they had stepped out from the politics. "We will not give the permission to Chairman PTI to play with the fate of country as he has tried to divide the institutions of the country," he said. Kaira strongly criticized the narrative of Chairman PTI about the Election Commission of Pakistan. "PTI top brass is using derogatory language against the opponents and

head of institutions which is very condemnable, and it does not depict political maturity." He was of the view that the foreign policy of the incumbent regime was going very smooth and in a productive way. Chairman PTI Imran Khan should follow the given guideline from the court, law and Constitution to stage the protest otherwise in any violation the state have right to take action against them, he said. The PPP leader blamed that now ex-Prime minister was seeking for National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) but the incumbent regime would not give him any relief because all his corruption narrative against opponent had reverted to him. - APP

