

Briefs **Ayaz Sadiq** appointed minister of law

STAFF REPORT



Sharif on Monday ap-pointed Pakistan Mus lim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ayaz Sadiq as Minster of Law and Justice, ARY News report-

ed. Former Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar resigned some days back citing personal reasons. According to details, the former National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq has been assigned the responsibility of the Minister of Law and Justice.

Deputy speaker PA granted bail

ABID RAZA



Ameer Bhatti, granted protective bail to Punjab Assembly's deputy speaker Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi in a case registered by Islamabad police under anti-terrorism charges amongst others The petitioner's counsel informed the court that his client is presently residing in Punjab assembly lodges and on gaining knowledge regarding the FIR, the petitioner tried to approach the concerned court for seeking bail before arrest to join the investigation.

PM unveils incentives for farmers PM said this package also includes loans

worth 50bl rupees for youth of rural areas that wants to invest in agriculture sector

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced a mega Kissan Package under which farmers will be provided subsidized loans worth 1800 billion rupees. Announcing the package in Islamabad on Monday evening, he said as compared to previous year the in-

crease in these loans is 400 billion rupees. The Prime Minister said to facilitate the farmers, the coalition government will provide a subsidy of over ten billion rupees to waive off mark-up fee on the loans availed by farmers of flood affected areas. The Prime Minister said this mega package also includes loans worth 50 billion rupees for the youth of rural areas that wants to invest in agriculture sector. For this purpose, the government will provide 6.4 billion rupees as a subsidy on mark-up of loans. The Prime Minister said after successful negotiations with the fertilizers producers, the new price of DAP has been fixed to 11,250 rupees per bag. For this purpose, the government negotiated a subsidy of

Continued on Page 06

Khattak rubbishes claims of backdoor talks with govt **OUR CORRESPONDENT**

PESHAWAR: PTI's senior leader Pervez Khattak Monday denied holding backdoor talks and meetings with the government after senior members of the ruling alliance claimed that the party and its leaders reached out for talks. Last week, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the PTI Chairman Imran Khan and party leaders, including Khattak and Fawad Chaudhry, approached the government to hold talks regarding two specific matters - election dates and the army chief's appointment. Speaking with journalists in Pe-

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shawar, and the former chief minister of Imran march won't bring revolution'



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif announcing Kisaan Package in a Press Conference. – DNA

Imran's request rejected

News Desk ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday rejected the request of PTI's Chairman Imran Khan to suspend the decision of ECP regarding his dis-qualification and, however, stopped the by-polls in Mianwali. Justice Aamer Farooq of IHC heard the case filed by Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s Chief and disposed prime minister Imran Khan challenging the verdict of Election Commission

Hearing in apex court Not aware of undertaking about long march: Imran The former prime minister also requested

the court to allow him to submit a detailed response by November 3

SAIFULLAH

Imran to send Rs10 ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan billion notice CEC

Reference rejected against Gilani

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman

enate Sadiq Sanjrani on Mon day rejected reference submitted

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking disqualification of former prime minister Senator Yousuf Raza Gilani. The Chairman, in his ruling, said that the reference is being rejected as Article 63-A does not apply on this particular reference. The reference was filed in the Senate secretariat by PTI's Senator Azam Khan Swati, along with other party leaders

Inside.

DC ICT to form committees for removal

of encroachments

NPO submits proposal to become

certification body

New technology, skills crucial to

benefit from CPEC

Putin's plan to

crack Germany

RCCI and PCBF

ink MoU for B2B

cooperation

President for

enhancing the

quantum of trade

with Ireland

Somalia appeals

for world help

after deadly blasts

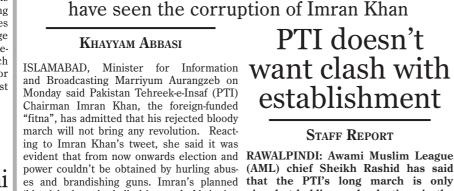
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Marriyum Aurangzeb says there has been no

PTI doesn't establishment

STAFF REPORT

power couldn't be obtained by hurling abus- (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid has said es and brandishing guns. Imran's planned that the PTI's long march is only 'bloodshed on the ballot' is proof of bringing aimed at holding early elections in the revolution through guns. She said there has country and the opposition does not

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Continued on Page 06

hakhana case. At the outset of hearing, Justice Aamer revolution over the last six months, but the people Farooq inquired that if the petitioner had submitted an application to file some extra documents. Imran's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar said that they had requested the permission for submission of ECP's notification regarding de-seating of his client.

of Pakistan (ECP) in Tos-

French envoy, Mandviwalla discuss trade

DNA ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador Nicolas Galey on Monday called on Chief Whip Senator Saleem Mandviwalla here and exchanged views on trade, investment and other issues of mutual interest. Mandviwalla said improving inter-parliamentary relations between the two countries would help enhance business and trade ties, adding that he looked forward to see more interaction among the members of the Pak-France Friendship Group. The chief whip also hoped to see the Pakistan-France Business Alliance play a more active role in promoting trade activities

Continued on Page 06

between the two countries.

Brazil election: Lula makes stunning comeback

Lula spent 580 days in jail before his conviction was annulled – Page 03 and he returned to the political fray. "They tried to bury me alive and here I am," he said, kicking off his victory speech - Page 04

AGENCIES

BRASILIA: Brazil has taken a turn to the left as former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva beat far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in the presidential election. After a divisive campaign which saw two bitter rivals on opposite sides of the political spectrum go head to head, Lula won 50.9% of the votes. It was enough to beat Jair Bolsonaro, whose supporters had been confident of victory. But the division which this election has highlighted is unlikely to vanish. It is a stunning comeback for a politician who could not run

in the last presidential election in 2018 because he was in jail and banned from standing for office. He had been found guilty of receiving a bribe from a Brazilian construction firm in return for contracts with Brazil's state oil company Petrobras. Lula spent 580 days in jail before his conviction was annulled and he returned to the political fray. "They tried to

PM felicitates new Brazilian president on election

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday extended felicitations to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on his election as the President of Brazil. "I wish him great success and look forward to working with him to enhance bilateral relations between our two countries," the prime minister, posted on his Twitter handle. Shehbaz Sharif mentioned that he and the new Brazilian president shared a "consensus on the dangers of climate change". - APP

bury me alive and here I am," he said, kicking off his victory speech. Since the announcement, congratulations have been coming in from leaders around the world, including

Continued on Page 06

told the Supreme Court on Monday that he was unaware of any "statement or undertaking" given by his party leadership on his behalf regarding the May 25 march.

"The answering respondent respectfully submits that he was not aware of any statement or undertaking having been made before this honourable court on behalf of the 'senior leadership of the PTI' or on his behalf during the course of 25.05.2022 nor of the details, including as regards the D Chowk area, of the order passed by this Honourable Court around 06:00 p.m. on 25.05 2022," said the PTI chair in his written response. The PTI chair assured the court that he holds it in the highest

Continued on Page 06

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan, while addressing the protestors at Kamoke, announced that he will be sending a Rs10 billion to Chief **Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan** Raja for taking his name in the Toshkhana reference. "Sikandar Sultan I will get the money for the damages from you," said the PTI chief. He added that he will be filing a case against the ECP chief in court. "I will pay the damages that I win to the [Shaukat Khanum] Hospital. Sikander Sultan, you raised a question on my integrity," said the PTI chief.



ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas calling on Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. - DNA

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Tuesday, November 1 , 2022

'Dastan Kisa Kahani' concludes

ISLAMABAD : A solo exhibition of paintings titled 'Dastan Kisa Kahani' by prominent artist Hassnain Awais will conclude on November 1, Tuesday, here at Satrang art gallery.

The show was dedicated to support and promote artists as well as artisans of Pakistan. The exhibition explored the practice of preserving paper records in order to create archives that hold layers of memories within them.

"In an increasingly digital era this method of recording history and culture is in danger of becoming obsolete, said Zahra Khan", Curator of the gallery about the show.

Hassnain creates beautiful, intricate works, representing the delicacy of historical archives. Watercolor washes, oil paints, digital print, lithography and color pencils bring to life Dastan, or life lessons told through stories.

The artist has several solo and group shows to his credit at home and abroad.

Dastan Kisa Kahani is based on archives comprising records that have been selected for permanent or long-term

preservation on grounds of their enduring cultural, historical value.

Such records are normally unpublished and almost always unique, unlike books or magazines of which many identical copies may exist. "My work revolves around a feeling or an affection that one develops with such personalized paper, letters, envelopes. We have a strange bond with these archival papers and the fact that we are slowly moving away from them. Elements in my work represent different aspects of our society and its norms.-APP

Muqam announces awards for scholars

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs and National Heritage and Culture, Engr Amir Muqam Monday announced special awards for scholars working on chil-

DC ICT to form committees for removal of encroachments



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon said that for the removal of encroachments in Islamabad, committees comprising representatives of ICCI and market associations will be formed to try to solve this long-standing issue with joint efforts. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry who met him led by President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. The meeting was arranged by former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister business community. He said the Hanif Abbasi so that the issues be-

tween the ICT Administration and the business community could be resolved through mutual understanding.

Talking about the delegation's demand for dealing with natural disasters, Irfan Nawaz Memon said that Syed Kashif Bukhari, Director, National Disaster Management Authority will visit ICCI to address the concerns of the business community on this issue. Former SAPM Hanif Abbasi said that he wished to improve the relations between the ICT Administration and the business community to remove misunderstandings and resolve the problems of the

purpose is to promote a business

friendly environment in the Capital to further improve the business and investment activities in order to advance the mission of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif.

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that efforts would be made to solve the problems of the business community in cooperation with the ICT Administration. He said that the practice of registering cases against businessmen and sending them to jail should be stopped and the honor and dignity of the business community should be respected. He thanked former SAPM Hanif Abbasi and Deputy

Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon for holding meeting in a pleasant atmosphere. He said that the close liaison between the ICT Administration and the business community is important to move forward for the betterment of the city as the measures taken without consulting the stakeholders usually prove futile. He expressed his determination that he will work with the ICT Administration to resolve the key issues of the business community including the removal of encroachments.

Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik said that former SAPM Hanif Abbasi has played the role of a bridge between the ICT Administration and the business community which is laudable. He also paid tribute to the services of Hanif Abbasi for solving the problems of the business community. President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran Ajmal Baloch and President All Pakistan Tanzeem-e-Tajiran Kashif Chaudhry also expressed their views on this occasion and offered their services to move forward together. ICCI Senior Vice President Faad Waheed, former Presidents Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi as well as Mohammad Yahya, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rehman Khan and Ali Malik were also

Chairman **CDA** visits Barakahu **bypass**



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA capt (r)Muhammad Usman Younis visited Barakahu bypass project along with Member Engg, Member planning & member Enviroment. PD north NLC & SPM NLC presented the progress of different components of project. It was apprised that 27 piles out of 32 have been poured at trumpet interchange, 7 piles have been casted at nullah bridge. Casting of girders have been started Earth work is also in progress at various locations. Work on elevated portion regarding casting of piles will also be taken up in full swing by tomorrow.

No work is being carried out within QAU boundaries i.e. 1323 meters in compliance with IHC orders.

PTI not spending public money on long march

MULTAN: PTI's president of South Punjab Senator Aon Abbas Buppi said they weren't using even a penny from the public exchequer to proceed for the long march in Islamabad. Addressing a press conference on Monday, the Senator stressed people from 11 districts of three divisions of the southern belt of Punjab were taking part in the long march. "Our planning to participate in the march is complete. The first caravan will be set off from Rahim Yar Khan followed by the next from Rajanpur to reach Islamabad. The third one would move from Bahawalnagar, fourth from Layyah, Fifth from DG Khan and the last one will depart from Bahawalpur to the federal capital," he informed. He said more than 350 buses were kept ready to take participants of the long march to Islamabad. All caravans were bound to reach Zero Point until Friday. However, he said the dates of departure could be altered on the direction of Imran Khan, said Buppi. He expressed sympathy with journalists for sacrificing their lives "for the just cause of democracy". Replying to a query, he said they didn't have an estimated cost for participation in the event. He said holding demonstration for free and fair elections was their constitutional right. He also claimed that they had completed arrangements to stay in Islamabad for three days. "We are bringing quilts, blankets, and dry food along for our stay in the capital."-APP

PML-N to expose propaganda of PTI chairman: Javed Latif LAHORE: Federal Minister

Mian Javed Latif on Monday expressed his deepest condolence on the tragic death of journalist Sadaf Naeem who died during Pakistan Teheek-e-Insaf (PTI) long march and prayed for the departed soul. Addressing a press conference at Model Town, here he said that march of PTI started with the death of a journalist, saying that Sadaf Naeem, a reporter of private TV channel lost her life in the line of duty.



service' was made during their tenure of government. He said that due to incompetency and weak policies of the PTI government people were suffering hard and were forced to live under open sky. He alleged that the PTI long march was planned to create unrest in the country. He said most of the march was taking place within the boundaries of Punjab, and added that if any untoward incident occurred then the provincial government was to be be

Shirakat launches 'shattered dreams'

in the delegation.

LAHORE: Shirakat-Partnership for Development in collaboration with Amplify Change launched a report titled "Shattered Dreams" on a nationwide survey of the victims of early and forced child marriage (CEFM). Shirakat - Partnership for Development, a women-led national organization has been working on gender justice, women and child rights, economic justice and climate justice in Pakistan for the past 17 years. The launch was attended by government functionaries. National Commission on the Status of Women, Social Welfare, CSO representatives, child rights activists, mothers, and young women and men. Early and forced child marriage continues to be a pressing issue in the country. With key drivers such as poverty, inequality, lack of access to quality education, limited life choices, social norms and beliefs that marriage can be legalized as soon as both the girl and boy hit puberty and that this law cannot be amended, the reduction in early child marriage requires effort and collaboration from multiple sectors. The research report highlighted the adverse economic, marriage satisfaction, mental health and maternal and child health outcomes as a direct consequence of early and forced child marriage. Not only were the victims' underage at the time of marriage but it was also found that when it comes to consent of child bride or groom, the supremacy of parents' or guardians' decision took priority and consent of the child bride or groom was hardly ever sought in true sense. The research concluded that the biggest problem was the implementation of the law. Lack of awareness of this issue as well as the Child Marriage Restraint Act in the public was highlighted as one of the key challenges to implementation of child marriage laws. In addition, marriage being a private affair further impeded the progress in timely reporting of CEFM. For provinces where the child marriage law was 16 years, stakeholders highlighted the legislation was contradictory to the requirement of the child bride having an ID card since CNIC is issued at the age of 18. - DNA

iren literature. He was speaking during the inaugural ceremony of a three-day International Conference titled "Children's Literature: Past, Present and Future" held at the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL). Addressing the opening ceremony, Engr Amir Muqam said that children's literature and storytelling could be helpful in promoting students' development and well-being.

The Adviser to the Prime Minister said that children's literature is playing a crucial part in education as it provides knowledge and entertainment.

Engr Amir Muqam said that the PAL's main objective is to work for the promotion of Pakistani literature and the welfare of writers in the country. "It is our understanding that through the promotion of literature and the welfare of the writers, other sections of people and Pakistani society can also be improved", Engr Amir Mugam added.-

The minister said that due to the language used by Chairman PTI against our institutions, the Indian media was giving full coverage to him. He said that the

PTI chief's narrative showed that he was not sincere with the public. He said the so-called long march was getting smaller each passing day,adding that at it's outset there were about 10 to 12 thousand

people, but now the number got reduced to 3500 to 4000 only,he added. The minister criticised that the PTI chairman made fake claims to give employment to 10 million people, adding that in reality not even a single work or project of public welfare was completed and only 'lip

blamed and held responsible Javed Latif said that millions of rupees were being spent on the long march and people wanted

to know the source of that funding. "If KP and Punjab government were bearing the expenses of long march as well as more than 60 public gatherings of PTI then they should be held answerable before the public".--APP

Most of deaths caused by breast cancer due to lack of awareness

rapidly.

KARACHI :First Lady Samina Arif Alvi on Monday said most of the deaths caused by the breast cancer in Pakistan were due to the lack of awareness among the victims.

Addressing as a chief guest at a breast cancer awareness seminar organized by Memon Professional Forum at Karachi Gymkhana, the first lady emphasized upon awareness among masses and not to limit the awareness campaigns to the month of October only.

She said since the start of this awareness campaign, doctors informed that cases of diagnosis at third or fourth stage had receded to a some extent. Samina Alvi said 50 percent

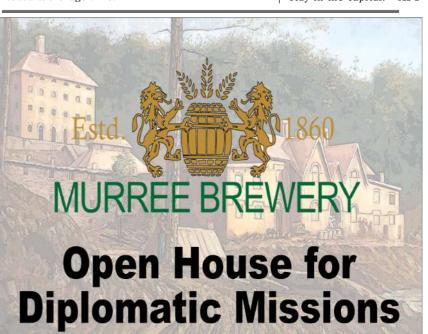
of the deaths caused by the breast cancer in Pakistan were due to the late diagnosis while in the West recovshe said. ery ratio was 98 percent. She said fortunately after the commencement of the awareness campaign stigma doctors and civil society attached to the disease had also minimized and it was was encouraging.

being discussed openly at She also emphasized upon numerous forums. sensitizing men to partici-

A seminar regarding breast pate in the campaign. cancer held in a seminary in Samina Alvi appreciated Wana, Waziristan, which inthe Memon Professional dicate that stigma attached Forum for organizing the to the disease was declining seminar and expressed the hope that the forum mem-"Our awareness campaign bers would carry forward was taking momentum", this awareness message.

The first lady also urged The first lady said the parupon the participants of ticipation of survivors of seminar to support her efbreast cancer in the awareforts for creation of an inness campaigns besides the

clusive society to bring the differently-abled to mainstream.-APP



Iran's unrest to have fallout for region

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Though there are a few genuine problems with the Iranian regime, the fault-lines are being systematically targeted through media-framing and threat-perception building in an orchestrated manner which, in turn, fuels unrest by mobilizing the populace, both domestically and internationally.

This was observed during a session, titled 'The Current Unrest in Iran and its Impact on Pakistan and the Region', held at the Insti-

tute of Policy Studies (IPS). The session was addressed by Iran affairs experts Ambassador (r) Asif Durrani and Dr. Nazir Hussain, dean faculty of social sciences and humanities, University of Wah, besides Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS. The speakers were of the view that continuity of such political instability and unrest in Iran would have implications for Pakistan and the region. Moreover, the Western world, by making Iran's unrest a pivotal debate, may produce a fallout in Pa-

kistan and exploit its fault-lines revolving around internal issues. The speakers emphasized that in order to preempt these implications, exploitation, and media framing, it is crucial that there is unity and less polarization between all religious and political elements of Pakistan. The speakers were of the view that incidents that caused unrest are not new for Iran but, at times, an increased level of turmoil provides an opportunity for entities to exploit it to fulfill their ulterior agendas and corner elements which are a bigger threat or problem. The current unrest in Iran follows the same trend and is of interest to many global players for varied reasons entailing domestic or international agendas. Considering this, a prominent role in forming public political opinion on Iran's situation is being played by the Western media, they highlighted. Though there are problems in Iran, the depiction by the media, through employing media framing and building threat perception, is inaccurate in its meaning. It is not only intensifying the disturbance but also mobilizing the demand to bring a political change in Iran.

The speakers pointed out that this is a part of non-traditional warfare in which faultlines are exploited to fulfill an agenda. These fault-lines can be internal conflicts in a system and disagreements among the public.

In the case of Iran, they further noted that so far it has been managing well its political fault-lines, such as the extreme disagreement of people and governmental flaws, in order to avoid greater unrest by maintaining continuity in the political system. However, greater challenges regarding the continuity of the supreme religio-political leadership, another fault-line that is being eved by hostile entities, may emerge in the future.

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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**

November

Nov 01/Algeria National Day Nov 04/Italy

Armed Forces Day

Nov 07/Russian

Federation Socialist Revolution

Nov 09/Cambodia

National Day Nov 11/Poland

Independence Day

Nov 14/Jordan

Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15/Belgium Kings Day

Nov 15/Brazil Republic Day

Nov 15/Turkish

Republic of Northern Cyprus National Day

Nov 18/Oman

National Day

Nov 18/Morocco

Independence Day

Nov 21/Bangladesh Armed Forces Day

Nov 22/Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 25/Suriname

National Day

Nov 28/Mauritania National Day

Nov 28/Albania Flags Day Hotels &

Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133 Marriott.....051-2826121

NPO submits proposal to become certification body

The process for accreditation of the NPO Certification Body by APO is underway and expected to be completed by end of this year

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) - having the mandate of enhancing competitiveness for sustainable socio-economic development - has submitted a proposal to APO-Japan to become a Certification Body (CB) under its umbrella which would eventually help improve the development of Pakistan over the years. The organization would contribute to the development of productivity experts for a sustainable productivity drive in the country in a more systematic way while NPO Pakistan will become an APO Certification Body to offer Certification Schemes for Certified Productivity Specialists. The process for accreditation of the NPO Certification Body by APO is underway and expected to be completed by end of this year. In this context, an international conference

on productivity accreditation and certification has also been arranged in Pakistan while APO is conducting its 60th Anniversary celebrations in eight founding member countries including Pakistan. As per details provided by NPO, the organization made some key activities and achievements following its mandate of strengthening the national capacity in productivity and enhancing competitiveness through various initiatives such as human capital development, system development, energy efficiency, benchmarking, etc. The first initiative was National Productivity Master Plan as Pakistan runs low on productivity and has Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) in order to improve its competitive position.

Pakistan needs to examine its productivity indicators across the value chains of its key industrial sectors to make these competitive to achieve sustainable productivity and economic growth. Therefore, at the request of the National Productivity Organization (NPO) Pakistan, the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) acquired services of the Korean Development Institute (KDI) to develop the first-ever comprehensive National Productivity Master Plan (NPMP) for Pakistan, aimed at providing strategic framework required to enhance productivity.

According to NPO, KDI has shared a draft NPMP document suggesting a vision & strategy for doubling up the National Productivity of Pakistan, and to achieve this vision they have proposed three strategies i.e. Vibrant Industrial Innovation, Up-gradation of Infrastructure, and Better Public Governance.

In this regard, the NPO also arranged an Interim Review Workshop to solicit feedback on a wider scale. The KDI experts will consolidate feedback to update the NPMP document and are expected to present the final version of the Master Plan tentatively in November this year. Similarly, Pakistan also runs low on productivity and its export is minimal

to perform well in all the components of the due to higher production cost. If Pakistan is to improve competitiveness in a sustainable manner, it is imperative to launch Productivity Movement in a structured manner as was done by Singapore, Korea, Malaysia, etc. Realizing the situation, it was proposed to launch the productivity movement through a PSDP-funded project. NPO is developing awareness in the country through seminars, conferences, etc.

Moreover, the APO provides Technical Expert Services (TES) to NPOs and related organizations to strengthen their institutional capacities and upgrade their technical competencies in line with individual APO members' needs for productivity improvement. In this regard, programs have been implemented in Pakistan over the last three years. Under the Development of Demo Companies, APO in collaboration with NPO has developed model organizations that showcased good practices of productivity improvement with support of technical experts and the commitment of target organizations. The recent Demo Projects being implemented by NPO Pakistan included ISO 14000 and Chemical Management by Canadian Expert and Micro Hydro Power Turbine Manufacturing by a Japanese Expert. The NPO through a competitive bidding process has got the Project of Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC). The organization will work

for productivity improvement in four selected clusters i.e. auto parts, readymade garments, leather footwear, and surgical cluster. The project will focus on Labour Productivity and the implementation of a Lean manufacturing system to reduce wastage. Moreover, the other initiatives included a Special Account for Business Recovery & Resilience in wake of Covid-19 under which APO allocated a special budget for each country.

The NPO has also developed a project on the Establishment of a Center of Excellence on Digital Learning for Enhancing Productivity in Higher Education and some individual study mission have been implemented including Best Practices of Vietnam in Master Plan Development and implementation and Smart and Sustaina ble cities by Korean Expert.

Another initiative was the PSDP project on Promoting and Developing the Cottage Industry of Gilgit-Baltistan under which the Planning Commission had developed a five-year plan in collaboration with the government of GB. The major sectors in the program included infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, health, education, higher education, energy, gems, and precious stones. NPO has developed PC-I on directions of the Planning Commission which was approved. Implementation will start after the release of funds.-APP

societies

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Co-operative

Co-operative

Cooperative

Cooperative

Housing

Society, and

'Bakhtawar the toughest character l have played

ISLAMABAD :Recipient of three Lux Style Awards for Best Actress categories, Yumna Zaidi is shining in television industry with her immense talent and unique style. Recently the actor gained massive praise for her versatile character in an on-going drama serial Bakhtawar.

During the recent interview for Gloss Etc by Maliha Rehman, Zaidi revealed the tricky side of behind the scenes while sharing her experience of performing the very difficult and unique character of Bakhtu & Bakhtawar.

"The transition from Bakhtu to Bakhtawar was really difficult. It was so tricky to be on-screen without makeup and carrying baggy attire while maintaining the tone of a male character but I picked it as a challenge to portray the injustice being faced by women all around the world and to showcase the struggle & a firm stand of a woman during the challenging scenarios of her life which she has to encounter," stated Zaidi.

The 'Dar Si Jaati Hai Sila' actress moved on further and expressed her gratitude towards the strong women out there dealing the stereotypical environment on a daily basis as she reminisced her own experience of the shoot.

"While shooting scenes in the local markets for both the roles as Bakhtu & Bakhtawar, the thing which I realized is the difficult dailv life of a women or a girl when she has to move out, travel, work or shop alone as it is really a challenging thing for women to face the prejudiced environment all by herself," said the actress. The on-going much-praised drama serial Bakhtawar is a story of a brave girl and her way of dealing with the dual-face society's cruel behavior towards women.-APP

CTO inspects

HEC, Australian Varsity sign DoU 12 housing Lecturer School of Engineering Dr. Rizwan shared a presentation on ECU, its world-ranking and academic programmes



Monal.....0334-5421812

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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15 Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police....9266044 Motorway Police..9270601-20 Women Police Stations Islamabad......9222596 Rawalpindi......9270601-20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIAFlightInfo.....114 PIACargo......9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..55554899281092 CAA



Hospitals

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СМН	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internatio	nal.4603666



Departments

CDA9221334-43
CDA9208301-04
Met Office9250360-6
RDA5555864
TMA5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown.....5773343

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan signed on Monday a Document of Understanding (DoU) with the Edith Cowan University (ECU), Australia to jointly work under a collaborative arrangement on various academic and research areas. Under the agreement, ECU will admit up to 15 HEC's PhD scholars - who meet the HEC scholarship criteria and the normal selection criteria for entry to an ECU PhD course including academic and English language entry requirements as indi-

cated on the ECU website - per year for five years, starting in 2023. The major research areas being covered under the agreement include Engineering; Arts & Humanities; Education; Medical &

Health Sciences; Science; Nursing & Midwifery, and Business & Law. The DoU signing ceremony was preceded by a detailed meeting of an ECU delegation, led by Executive Dean School of Engineering Prof. Daryoush Habibi, with Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed briefed the delegation on the long

history of academic and research collaboration between Pakistani and Ausinstitutions He tralian highlighted that Pakistan and Australia have a number of universities jointly working in various disciplines including Engineering, IT, Agriculture, and Management. Business He stressed the need for enhancing the scope of bilateral collaboration in the fields of science and technology, with joint research on food security, climate change, and energy. Prof. Daryoush Habibi

appreciated the performance of Pakistani stu-

dents and alumni at ECU and expressed a desire of increasing the number of Pakistani students and scholars at the university. He Lecturer School of Engineering Dr. Rizwan shared a presentation on ECU, its world-ranking and academic programmes. He said the core Engineering disciplines offered at the university include Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Environmental Electrical Engineering, Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Energy. He added that the university has four research groups including Thermo-

fluids Research Group. Pakistan Medical Coop-Geotechnical and Geoenerative Housing Society. vironmental Engineering Farming Research Group, Materials Housing Society and NA & Manufacturing Research Employees Cooperative Group, and Water and Envi-Housing Society. ronmental Engineering Re-Similarly, Cabinet Divisearch Group. He said the sion Employees Cooper-HEC priority areas being ative Housing Society, covered at the ECU include M/O Interior Employees sustainable energy, Infor-Cooperative mation Technology and Tel-Society, Civilian Employecommunication, advanced ees Cooperative Housing Society, Senate Secretarmaterials and manufacturing, advanced technologies, iat Employees Cooperative Housing Society, IB Employees Cooperative water management and sustainability, urban planning, climate change and Housing Society and CBR environment, transport and Employees Cooperative smart mobility, and process Housing Society were also technologies. included in the list.-APP

routes of long march

RAWALPINDI:Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Naveed Irshad on Monday inspected the routes of long march given by Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf.

CTO directed all the officials, including the circle and sector in-charges, to maintain the flow of traffic during the long march. On the occasion, he said that traffic wardens should maintain flow of traffic and provide all possible facilities to the road users.

He informed that as many as 550 officer and traffic wardens would be deployed to facilitate road users on Murree Road and other parts of the city. The traffic would be diverted to alternative routes by placing diversions at important places during rallies besides special arrangements have been made to maintain the flow of traffic on alternative routes and additional personnel have been deployed .- APP

Rise in ambient pollution fear surge in respiratory illness

ISLAMABAD :The rise in air pollution has feared an increase in respiratory ail-In between the twin cities there are big

ideal lake sight has not been undertaken so far. Similarly, in the Golf Club area in Phase-VII of Bharia Town potential of a big lake is available. In Phase-VIII a lake view sign board has been displayed for the last so many years simply to charge higher prices for plots and flates in Domanion Mall but no work of construction of a lake has so far been started. The author is a Retired Additional Chief Secretary and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.

Role of CDA and RDA against urban flooding

CHAUDHRY **MUHAMMAD LATIF**

ISLAMABAD: Recent climate resultant flooding in Pakistan has given a wakeup call to harness natural blessing of rain water to tackle simultaneously probable drought in 2025 and urban flooding to avoid human catastrophe in the future. It has been felt advisable to adopt ground water recharge wells technology as a national policy to counter urban flooding and to build reservoirs big or small as many as possible so as to be ready to save every drop of rain water. The rain water storage solutions like artificial lakes on micro level commencing from housing societies and artificial recharge wells would help manage rain water. We will have to either reduce ground water extraction mostly by tube wells or increase water table recharge in urban areas in particular. Luckily the Capital Development Authority Islamabad has taken a healthy and useful initiative of establishing 100 recharge wells and 20 monitoring stations from its own resources in Islamabad, the capital city. This realization has taken place after decade of neglecting this vital requirement of its residents. Out of 100 proposed recharge wells 50 have been accomplished with conservation of 10 million gallons of water which at first replenished the ground water and has also reduced NullahLeh flooding this year. This quantity of water if released to NullahLeh the result could be urban flooding as experience by the twin cities several times. This experience indicates that if this type of reservoirs are built up in all cities the menace of urban flooding could be minimized. The havoc of urban flooding in Karachi demands immediate steps in this direction.

Now the need of the hour is to bind down the housing societies to build water reservoir in their respective catchment areas on top priority basis. The issue of urban flooding dictates to build artificial lakes even in parks and similar vacant spaces available. A sincere effort could be solicited to the management of big mosques to build reservoirs of pure ablution water.

The CDA is a very powerful and strong agency in Islamabad. They can issue a regulatory policy of building lakes by housing societies preceding the commencement of construction of houses and commercial plazas. The CDA should add its administration a wing to monitor and supervise the construction of lakes by all housing projects and it should also undertake construction of lakes in all contributory nullahs of NullahLeh. Simultaneously the useless Mulburry trees in Islamabad causing nuisance of allergy every year should be uprooted, eradicated, and we replace by fruit bearing trees. The area reclaimed and retrieved from the

blockade of small nullahs should be utilized for plantation of fruit trees. The luxury of ornamental trees should be dispensed with. The fruit trees in open and unfenced areas should be open to the poor segment of our population. It will be a noble idea and enviable example for other development authorities in big cities.

The Director General Military Land and Cantonments, Major General Tarig Zameer has recently inaugurated an underground rain water storage tank in Rawalpindi Cantonment General Hospital colony. The tank has a water storage capacity of 50,000 gallons which would be used by the residents of the colony. The general emphasized that every Cantonment should make efforts to collect and preserve rain water while constructing new buildings. This is an admirable initiative which needs to be multiplied on top priority basis. It goes without savings that the implementation of such positive proposals is possible more promptly in Cantonments than in a civil organizations. Cantonments are available in almost all big cities. Therefore the Cantonments should go ahead without any loss of time. The Cantonment Board could seek public participation in Defense Housing Societies/authorities for building rain water reservoir. This is an ideal practical demonstration for the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA). They should not be mere spectator

to lament on the devastation caused by NullahLeh or the problem of ground water level going low day by day due to the huge number of tube wells.

housing projects mainly launched by DHA and the Bharia Town Housing Authority. The function and designs of housing authority must make it mandatory to build lakes in their sephere of areas, prior to the start of construction of building. There are numerous beautiful spots where natural lakes available which could be rendered in a shape of regular lake with meagre investment but with multipurpose benefits in return. The building of lakes in housing projects could reduce the cost of construction, could feed the requirement of water for vegetation, vegetables and fish farming.

In Gulburg Green scheme Islamabad where houses have been built but the

ments among the masses after the air quality of the Federal Capital deteriorated due to a persistent dry weather that ensued in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad at the onset of fall season with a little warm weather which resulted in increased creation of dust particles and particulate matter in the atmosphere. The Federal Capital's ambience started tainting amid steady rise in air pollutant's ratio due to increased vehicular emissions and human activities. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) daily air quality report noted that the air pollutants ratio recorded were below permissible limits and the air quality was healthy. The air quality data was collected by Pak-EPA for 24 hours based on three intervals of eight hours of data collection from different locations of the federal capital.-APP

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Briefs

AIOU commences final exams from **November 9**

DNA

ISLAMABAD. Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing final examinations of different postgraduate programs offered in semester spring 2022 from November 9, 2022. According to controller examinations, Mian Muhammad Riaz, roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS accounts and the date sheet is available on the university website (www. aiou.edu.pk) for the programs. Roll number slips are also being dispatched to the postal addresses of the students and they are also being informed about the exams through mobile SMS. Moreover, admissions for the second phase of semester autumn 2022 are open till 8th November with late fee charges. Programs offered in this phase in-clude ADE, B.Ed, BA (Associate Degree) BBA and postgraduate programs. Continue students can enroll themselves till November 15.-APP

IESCO

to start

phase wise

maintenance

ISLAMABAD:Islamabad

Electric Supply Company

(IESCO) will start mainte-nance of 11 kV feeders from

Tuesday (November 1) in a

"Timely system mainte-

nance is essential for stable

power distribution, which

power supply to consumers

and protects the system

from overloading and other

damages," IESCO Chief En-

gineer Muhammad Aslam

He said that the overhaul-

ing of power transformers

installed in more than 100

grid stations of IESCO has

already been started since

He said system mainte-

Khan told here Monday.

uninterrupted

phased manner.

ensures

October 22.

New technology, skills crucial to benefit from CPEC China is building an enabling environment for business and economic opportunities in our country: Expert

STAFF REPORT

GWADAR, The experts at special discussion on Monday called new technology and technical skills crucial to benefit from the mega China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative as the master plan of Gwadar smart port city envisioned the development of industrial base that would make it the hub of trade and economic activities, and a great attraction for tourists, investors, and labour. These views were expressed by Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani, the Director-General of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) while speaking at a special session on "Gwadar and the Road to Sustainable Development" organized here by Sustainable Development Policy Institute, a news release said. He said that the master plan of Gwadar port city was inspired by China's city of Shenzhen and GDA was vigorously executing it for a timely delivery. "More than five years were spent on refining this master plan with close collaboration between Pakistan, China, and other stakeholders," he added. He apprised the participants regarding various projects, including Asia's largest airport to be functional in 2023, plans for implementing a safe city model, oil and gas infrastructure for smart energy modeling in the city, maritime tourism, and extensive plans for ferry transport and freight and railways network connecting Gwadar with Karachi and other parts of the country.

He said this year the GDA would inaugurate work on the ambitious Central Business District in Gwadar to be spread over 12.3 square kilometers to encourage fast-track development through public-private partnerships. The District would be developed in 10 years which would cost around Rs 84-90 billion and Rs 400 billion of profit was estimated to be generated. Cognizant of the environmental concerns in development, he

said there were plans for a solar park as well as various on and off-grid solutions to meet the energy demand of the city. Mentioning initiatives to meet the energy demand, he said that 100MW would be added to the system in Gwadar to bridge the energy demand-supply gap through a partnership with Iran. On water supply management initiatives, he informed that two freshwater dams have been connected to meet the high water demands. Though water is ample, management issues have marred the distribution system, which would be replaced.

He said that a separate governance structure has been agreed upon by the federal and provincial governments for one-window operations to enable swift decision-making. Senior Advisor, China Study Centre, Dr Hassan Daud Butt said that keeping in view the demand for new jobs in the country, it was crucial to embrace technology faster than our current pace to improve productivity and avail future economic opportunities. He said that Sino-Pak cooperation in connection with CPEC and COVID-19 has transformed our technological pace.

He said China is building an enabling environment for business and economic opportunities in our country, therefore, we must prepare ourselves to capture the same. He said that the world was on the verge of a new economic transformation with Turkey introducing the Islamic financial system and Fortune 500 companies mushrooming in China rather than the USA.

Deputy Executive Director, of SDPI, Dr Sajid Amin said that the development sector and civil society organizations could play a pivotal role as knowledge partners and in the advocacy of the immense socio-economic potential of Gwadar. He lauded the efforts of GDA to develop linkages and research collaborations with think tanks and civil society to support and highlight the initiatives being undertaken in the develop-

Anti-polio drive concluded in **RWP**

RAWALPINDI :Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of District Health Authority Dr. Ansar Ishaque Monday said the Anti-Polio drive, which started in the entire district on October 24, had concluded successfully.

The CEO, while talking to APP, said that over 948,000 children below five years of age were administered anti-polio drops during the campaign launched in all tehsils and towns of the district. He informed that 3,000 polio teams, 396 area In-charges, and 204 medical officers participated in the drive. In addition, children were also immunized at 307 fixed centers and 182 tran-

sit points in the district. Dr. Ansar said the drive had also been utilized for creating awareness about COVID-19, smog, and anti-dengue preventive meas-ures.-APP

IRSA releases 96,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD :Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 96,400 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an in-

flow of 53,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.95 feet and was 132.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 30,200 cusecs while outflow was 47,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1161.95 feet, which was 111.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded 5,100 cusecs and 31,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa Guddu and Sukkur were recorded 61,300, 41,200, 34,400 and 12,600 cusecs Similarly, respectively. from River Kabul, a total of 8,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera, whereas 2,400 cusecs of water was released from River Chenab at Marala.-APP

Travelers face



ISLAMABAD: : Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the participants of 9th Parliamentary Development Course.-DNA

Digital connectivity infrastructure in high



ment of Gwadar. **Govt not** afraid of opposition's long march

> ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Monday said that the government was not afraid of sit-ins or long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and would not create any hurdle if it held with a peaceful atmosphere. Talking to a private news channel, he said PTI chairman had

always used to say that his protesters will remain non-violent during the long march but the government does not believe in this statement as he was known master of U-turns. Replying to a question, he

said that no one was stopping Khan from coming to Islamabad as the PTI had held public meetings before without any hindrance. -APP

Sibbi-Harnai railway track to be completed by January 2023

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Railways is likely to complete

nance working hours would be strictly monitored and regular surprise visits would be made to relevant XENs and SDOs to ensure work quality.

He said the consumers would also be informed timely about power outages on the respective feeders through print and electronic media. They would also be informed through announcements in mosques and SMS messages, he added.

Aslam Khan said apart from this, the system mainte nance program would be uploaded on IESCO Data Control Center Twitter account @XEN-DCC and the IESCO website www.jesco.com.pk in time. He said that due to annual system maintenance, the distribution system would be more stable and it would help reduce line losses and tripping which would directly benefit the consumers. Line staff have been instructed to ensure the implementation of all safety rules during work and any lapse in this regard would not be tolerated, he said.-APP

Various artists to bring 'Diversity, Social Harmony' for art lovers

ISLAMABAD: A group art show "Diversity and Social Harmony" by various artists featuring traditional and contemporary arts will be presented for art lovers here on November 8 at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

The exhibition includes an exquisite collection of artworks, including paintings and ceramics as an attraction of Pakistani art. The event is a collaboration between Nomad Gallery and PNCA. While the art exhibitions will be followed by seminars, Daastangoi, performance art, and art workshops. The exhibition will be ongoing till 16 November. S. Najam Kazmi, Samina A. Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Khurram Abbas, Hassan Sheikh, Areej Nasir, Emaan, Tauqeer Hilbi, Alefiya, Rakshanda Atawar, Hassnain Awais, Nabahat Lotia, Jamil Hussain and Kuzhad are among the participating artists.-APP

gear in Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD : In order to promote digital connectivity in Gwadar, a broadband project costing PKR 188.1 million has been approved for more than 15,000 people in 19 villages of Gwadar.

According to Gwadar Pro, the rest of the villages in Gwadar will benefit from digital connec-

tivity. An IT ministry official said that the completion of the project will provide an opportunity for the residents of unserved, under-served, and remote areas of Gwadar. Recently, the Universal Service Fund (USF) launched a fiber-optic project for Gwadar to bring 4G compatible high-speed internet and telecom services to the region. The project is expected to be completed by next year. USF has finalized paperwork for several projects, including a 400km fibre-optic project in Gwadar and 4G services in Loralai, Balochistan. Apart from residential and commercial districts, USF has an extensive plan to cover the roads in Gwadar, especially Gwadar Eastbay Expressway.

Makran coastal highway and NH 50-70 in Balochistan have already been covered with telecom services. Gwadar Port has already gone digital as the state of fiber optic cable



network is operationalized. "Installation of fiber optic cable has equipped Gwadar Port with a high-tech web-based one customs (WeBOC) system of goods declaration and clearance," GDA senior official said. He also added that Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) completed the project of laying down the new fiber optic cable. He said that the fresh development would play a tremendous role in facilitating traders, custom officers, and agents. "It would make processes simpler, GD clearance system faster and container tracking easier," he opined. CPEC's commercial route runs from Gwadar to western China. The corridor, now worth over USD 60 billion, needs faster internet connectivity to run its large-scale operations smoothly. Fiber optic cable is a gigantic step to fulfil this commercial need.

Dengue cases decline due to weather change

RAWALPINDI: District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr. Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that dengue fever cases had registered a sharp decrease in the city during the last two days due a change in the weather. He said that around 38 patients had been brought to the allied hospitals of the city last Saturday and 26 on October 30, while earlier the number patients was 60 to 80 per day. "This year, around

4,285 dengue cases were in the health facilities of the district while the number of cases was 1,660 in 2021,16 in 2020, and 5,652 in 2019 " he added. Dr. Sajjad said that around 26 more dengue cases were reported in the last 24 hours, including eight from Potohar town urban area, six from Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Chaklala Cantonment, and one from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi and Potohar rural. Dr. Sajjad added that 120 patients were ad-

mitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 46 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 44 to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), and 30 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH). He informed that out of the total admitted patients, 85 tested positives, with 60 belonging to Rawalpindi. The health official said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 2,983 FIRs, sealed 668 premises, issued Challans to 7,784. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov calls on SAPM Shah Owais Noorani. - DNA

before PM's visit



ISLAMABAD: The first direct flight of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) from Islamabad arrived in Beijing Sunday, two days before the scheduled arrival of Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Beijing on 1 November.

After suspended operation between Beijing and Islamabad since February 10, 2020 due to COV-ID-19, PIA now officially resumed its operation between the two capital cities.



The first flight PK-854 with 61 passengers on board arrived at Beijing Capital Airport at 14:55 pm local time on Sunday. A Pakistani passenger Khan Raza told CEN that he is very excited to arrive in Beijing, adding that he has business in Beijing and a direct flight suits him.

" I was waiting for a direct flight to Beijing for the last two months and luckily I got one. Now I can resume my business activities. A direct flight has two major advantages for me. One is short distance, and secondly, low fare", he added. Talking to China Econom-

ic Net, Abbasi Shahzad said he was studying in Beijing but was stuck due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The direct flight has facilitated him to resume his study right at his university in Beijing. "I'm very happy today

that I safely reached Bei jing and the ticket I got is a much-discounted fare as compared to previous months. After quarantine, I will resume my off-line study", he stated. It is to be noted that PIA

is expanding its flight network for China and having direct flights to Chengdu, Xi'an, and Beijing and it is expected that PIA will start the Lahore-Guangzhou operation in December this year

construction and rehabilitation work on the strategic Sibbi-Harnai railway track by end of January 2023 with the help of National Logistics Cell (NLC).

"The railway track was made dysfunctional after a series of bomb blasts damaged as many as 22 steel bridges in the highly rugged and inaccessible area," sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

They said the track was badly damaged in 2006 and so far about 95 percent of the reconstruction work of the project was completed and remaining would be completed soon. The sources said that Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique had also taken keen interest regarding the projects and directed concerned official to complete the project at the earliest.

They said 10 railways stations were rendered dysfunctional for over lack of proper maintenance over a long period of time. In March 2016, they said that a contract of rehabilitation and restoration of Sibbi-Harnai railway track along with up-gradation of railway stations was awarded to the NLC as no other construction firm agreed to undertake the project due to prevalent security situation and enormity of the task.

During initial survey of the track, they said that it was found that 22 steel bridges of different sizes were completely destroyed and required replacement.

They said in addition, a massive river protection work was to be undertaken to save the infrastructure. The quantum of work, non-availability of road access and requisite resources made the project 'a formidable challenge."

The sources said undertaking the project with the sincerity of purpose and utmost sense of duty, NLC officers, engineers and construction workers faced harsh weather conditions and a hostile security environment, and subsequently completed 95% of the rehabilitation works in record time.

The major task was the fabrication of steel bridges. The steel bridges were fabricated in Karachi and were transported all the way to the project site after painstakingly assembled by NLC engineers in a befitting manner, they added. They said a total of nine railway stations along with tracks have been upgraded by NLC engineers including reconstruction of Harnai Railway Station and a complete renovation of Sibbi Railways Station, which can be regarded as the finest railway station in Balochistan.-APP

OGDCL holds 3-day free eye camp

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), in collaboration with Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital Sukkur, held its second three days Free Eye Surgical Camp at the Rural Health Centre Ranipur to ensure availability of health services to the poor and marginalized communities of Sukkur.

Organized under the OGDCL's CSR Programme, the Free Eve Surgical Camp reflected the company's welfare policy towards poor people, particularly those in rural areas. OGDCL Regional Coordinator Sukkur inaugurated the 3-day Free Eye Surgical Camp. Dr. Rahim Bakhsh Bhatti (I/C GIMS Hospital Gambat, Mr. Shah Rukh Mangnahar, Assistant Commissioner Ranipur, health department and OGDCL officials, and media persons attended the opening ceremony. During the three days camp, a total of 1100 patients, including 520 males and 580 females, were provided with OPD services. Furthermore, eye surgeries of 70 patients were conducted, and 617 poor patients were provided with vision glasses. Furthermore, 33 patients were referred for surgery to Al-Shifa Eye Hospital at Sukkur. The Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital team will review the operated cases after seven days of surgeries. Assistant Commissioner Ranipur, Shah Rukh Mangnahar appreciated the OGDCL efforts under its CSR initiative for the under-privilege community of Sukkur. The Al-Shifa Eye Hospital doctors also lauded the OGDCL Regional Office for arranging the free eye camp for the poor and marginalized community.-APP

constraints amid PTI's long march

ISLAMABAD:Travellers in twin-cities had been facing constraints due to the long march of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf as some of the bus services had stopped inter-city advance bookings due to pertaining law and order situation. Talking to APP, passenger Muhammad Shahzad said that he was planning to travel from Islamabad to Multan for official purposes but he learned that advance ticketing from the relevant bus service was not available.

Another passenger Zaheer Khan said that containers had been placed on roadsides and entry points could be closed at any time due to which passengers were unable to plan their travel. He added that anyone could enjoy the right to protest after making sure that the lives of citizens were not being disturbed. –APP

Viral infections goes up as winter sets in

ISLAMABAD: As the winter season has arrived, the seasonal viral infections including cough,flu,fever and throat infection have started spreading in federal capital and to safe from these seasonal diseases, the citizens must avoid cold items.

Talking to a private news channel ,a Health Expert Dr Zubina Khalid said ,three months of cold was going to be harmful for children and old people specially, adding that climatic changes in the country also increased respiratory issues.

She further elaborated that most sore throats were not serious, but severe symptoms could make breathing difficult adding affected person needed antibiotics to fight the infection. Talking about flu and cough, she said the common cold and the flu (influenza) were infections of the upper respiratory system - the nose, mouth, throat and lungs. The infections are caused by viruses.-APP

Israel's "apartheid" against Palestinians

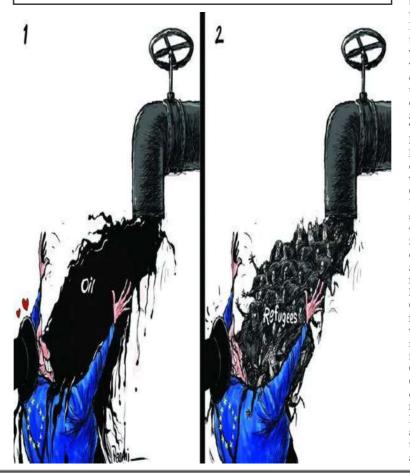
MNESTY International has applauded the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing for declaring that 'Israel' is committing the crime of "apartheid" against Palestinians. At the UN General Assembly on Friday, Special Rapporteur Balakrishnan Rajagopal presented an "Adequate Housing" report which condemned 'Israel' for overseeing an "institutionalised regime of systematic racial oppression and discrimination against the people of Palestine". The report, which compared the forcible transfer of Palestinians to the Syrian regime's destruction of civilian homes, concluded that Israel's routine abuse - including forced displacement and illegal demolitions - amounts to "the crime against humanity of apartheid". In the report, the Special Rapporteur cites several examples of Israeli government laws and policies which are used to confiscate Palestinian land and property, such as the Absentee Property Law and land registration procedures.

Israeli occupation authorities also use the designation "firing zone" or "closed military zone" to confiscate Palestinian lands. Approximately 20% of the occupied West Bank has been designated as "firing zones", and Palestinian presence is banned there without permission from the Israeli forces, according to the report. This affects more than 5,000 Palestinians from 38 communities, who are hit with eviction orders, threatened with displacement, or forced to leave their homes while the military conducts training exercises. In the community of Masafer Yatta in the occupied West Bank, more than 1,000 people are facing forcible eviction due to this policy. "Israeli authorities' domination and control of the Palestinian population, including through discriminatory land, planning and housing policies, is well documented, and extends to Palestinians wherever Israel has control over their rights," said Heba Morayef, Amnesty International's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa. "There is growing recognition among human rights experts that Israel is committing apartheid, and the presentation of this report today could not be more timely. As well as the ongoing threat of forced eviction, demolition, and forcible transfer, there has recently been an alarming escalation in attacks on Palestinians in their homes and towns throughout the occupied West Bank." She added, "Military incursions, closures, state-backed settler attacks, home demolitions, and destruction of property are all manifestations of Israel's apartheid system." Earlier this year, Amnesty International released a report declaring 'Israel' is carrying out "the crime of apartheid against Palestinians." Amnesty's report details how 'Israel' enforces a system of oppression and domination against Palestinians. Israeli human rights group B'Tselem also asserted that Israeli policies had been designed to enforce "Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea".

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Pakistan and climate catastrophe

ESPITE all the efforts to control the environmental pollution, there was no difference in the pollution and last day Lahore was declared as the most polluted city in the world. The campaign against environmental pollution continues and the authorities claim that in Lahore many polluting factories have been shut down and many have been given notices. The whole world is affected by climate change due to pollution and the flood situation caused by untimely heavy rains in Pakistan was also due to this reason. Recently, Pakistan launched an anti-pollution campaign, announcing that those who burn residues in fields will be punished, smoky factories and brick kilns will also be targeted, while garbage burning in the city will also be banned. And the closure of smoke-emitting vehicles was also announced, however, according to the information of the department, several measures were taken, but the effects were not seen, nor was the burning of garbage stopped in the city, and even the vehicles that emit smoke are not being asked.

There is a need for the relevant departments to perform their duties diligently and awareness should be raised among the citizens that smog also affects health. The window to take urgent climate action is closing rapidly. Unless countries dramatically scale up their efforts to counter the climate crisis, the world faces a global catastrophe, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned last week. Guterres' comments come upon the release of the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP's) Emissions Gap Report 2022, which shows that under current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the world is headed for 2.8 degrees of global heating by the end of the century.

Simply put, an NDC is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. Each party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years. Despite a call for strengthened NDCs for 2030, UNEP's report finds that progress since COP26 in Glasgow last year has been inadequate. "The recommendations in today's report are clear," said Guterres. "End our reliance on fossil fuels. Avoid a lock-in of new fossil fuel infrastructure. Invest massively in renewables." "Commitments to net zero are worth zero without the plans, policies and actions to back it up. Our world cannot afford any more greenwashing, fake movers or late movers," he added. "We must close the emissions gap before climate catastrophe closes in on us all." Guterres' warning comes less than two weeks before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), where global leaders will discuss ways to tackle the climate emergency - from building resilience and adapting to its impacts to financing climate action. As climate impacts intensify, the Emissions Gap Report 2022 finds that only an urgent system-wide transformation can avoid an accelerating climate disaster. The report looks at how to deliver this transformation through action in the electricity supply, industry, transport and buildings sectors, and the food and financial systems.

Putin's plan to crack Germany

Jeremy Stern

The US has indicated that a Russian nuclear attack could trigger NATO's Article 5 collective defense clause on the grounds that radiation would spread from Ukraine to NATO territory, like Poland. It would only take a small tactical nuclear explosion on the Ukrainian battlefield, or

FTER 30 years as a bastion of political and economic sanity in Europe, Germany is once again approaching the kind of disaster scenario it thought it had left behind forever. An energy supply crisis, runaway inflation, threats of nuclear war in Europe, attacks on energy infrastructure in the Baltic Sea, increasing diplomatic isolation, a collapsing economic model, and rising populist politics- Berlin's worst nightmares all seem to be coming true at once. How Germany responds will have consequences not only for German voters but for Europe as a whole, as well as for global stability.

It is hard to exaggerate how shocking these circumstances are for most Germans. Germany has built an admirable society based on a high degree of social trust, a robust social security system, and low inequality. That post-reunification Germany was able to become the world's fourth-largest economy in such a short period of time is due in large part to its highly competitive industrial exports, which kept voters happy and politics boring. But ever since the pandemic-induced economic crisis began in 2020, and especially following the economic tremor of Russia's expulsion from the Western trade and financial system in early 2022, the German model has been revealed as something of a pyramid scheme. Far from a resilient system that can adapt to external disturbances like pestilence and war, the Germany economy depends on cheap Russian gas, reliable Chinese supply chains, and large foreign export markets. Now, Germans are watching in disbelief as steel, fertilizer, and chemical plants are closing or on the brink of shutting down. German automakers are being forced to consider moving domestic production to countries where energy is cheaper. Large German hopes have been pinned on green hydrogen as the future of the energy landscape, but as soon as it had to become a solution to an industrial problem rather than a climate problem, hydrogen now looks less attractive. If Germany, no longer has access to cheap energy-either from nuclear power or from pipeline-bound cheap gas-then energy-intensive production may increasingly move to where cheap energy is located. Rather than move green hydrogen across the globe to supply a steel mill in Germany, for example, firms may just move their plants to the Middle East, or to other EU countries where, thanks to nuclear power, green energy supply may soon exceed power demand. These are the kinds of disruptive economic changes that have led to populist political movements across the Western democratic world, from Britain and the United States to Italy and France. And indeed, the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) now polls as the most popular political party in all five states of the former East Germany.

This is not a reassuring development for Germany's neighbors, who are already smarting until the diplomatic clumsiness of the government of Chancellor Olaf Scholz. In response to the energy crisis, for example, Scholz recently unveiled a national subsidy that was uncoordinated with EU allies and thus seen as sabotaging their own efforts. The chancellor has so far taken a high-handed attitude to their fury. As kanzlerin for 16 years, Angela Merkel attempted to readjust Germany's position by warming up to (and benefiting from) a rising China, a supposedly declining America, and what she and the German establishment thought of as a revived Russia. Scholz, who served as Merkel's Finance Minister, largely shared this vision. But with China more inward-looking and hostile to foreign companies and imports, the United States growing closer to Northern, Eastern, and Central European countries as a result of the war in Ukraine, and Russia all but ostracized from the Western economic order, the Merkel-Scholz plan is now in tatters, and Germans feel increasingly alone and uncertain in a terrifying world. This is the political and psychological baggage with which Germans are approaching Vladimir Putin's mounting threats to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. The United States has indicated that a Russian nuclear attack could trigger NATO's Article 5

collective defense clause on the grounds that radiation would spread from Ukraine to NATO territory, like Poland. It would only take a small tactical nuclear explosion on the Ukrainian battlefield, or even perhaps an "accident" at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, to end 77 years of the international nuclear taboo. This is why US national security adviser Jake Sullivan recently warned that, "We have communicated directly, privately, and at very high levels to the Kremlin that any use of nuclear weapons will be met with catastrophic consequences for Russia, that the US and our allies will respond decisively."

If Putin did go through with his nuclear threat, in other words, there is a distinct possibility that it could lead to a NATO attack on Russia or Russian military assets in Ukraine or the Black Sea. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the President of Germany and a leading member of the ruling Social Democratic Party, has publicly vowed that Germany will never participate in armed hostilities with Russia, implying a special German exemption from NATO's Article 5 commitment of mutual assistance. Scholz has never disavowed such claims. Both Steinmeier and Scholz come from a long line of Russophile German leaders who see the two countries' destinies as inextricably linked, and Germany as the only country that understands the "Russian soul." Putin, who began his career as a KGB officer in East Germany and speaks fluent German, knows the Germans better than they know him. He has good reason to believe that they would be prepared to violate their treaty obligations to NATO, if push came to shove. Putin sees his place in Russian history not only as the man who will have reclaimed lost territories, but as the man who will have finally defeated the hated "West." If a tactical nuclear strike in Ukraine might cause NATO to break part and the EU to fracture over support for Ukraine-to say nothing of causing markets to crash and an economic depression in Europe–Putin's threats may not be as empty as we all hope.

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Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, to end 77 years of the international nuclear taboo. This is why US national security adviser Jake Sullivan recently warned that, "We have communicated directly. privately, and at very high levels to the Kremlin that any use of nuclear weapons will be met with catastrophic consequences for Russia, that the US and our allies will respond decisively"

- Source: Al Arabiya

Being ruled by elites is not new for the UK

Mark Blacklock

Of course, the answer to the inequalities in Britain's historically unequal contemporary society - the cost-ofliving crisis - would be a redistribution of wealth. An authentically socialist agenda would make the economy less vulnerable to the vicissitudes of

market forces, and control

of natural resources would provide stability by ensuring critical decisions are based on more than the motive to make profit. That will never happen under Sunak's government

N Britain, there is cause for celebration that Rishi Sunak has become the first person of color to ascend to the highest public office in the UK. To have a British Asian of Indian descent as prime minister of a country whose empire conquered, colonized, and plundered for a hundred years the homeland of his ancestors is a fantastic achievement for him personally and for the UK as a multicultural nation. Beyond that, his example will serve as an inspiration to others in minority communities that they live in a land where diversity is seen as a fundamental tenet of the national character, and not a barrier to be overcome. To that extent, the arrival of Sunak, a proud and devout Hindu, in No.10 Downing Street renders him a luminary, both as a person of faith and a person of color.

Like most of Europe, Britain has a growing population which is increasingly diverse. Migration is acknowledged as one of the drivers of this and people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) origin now account for about 14 percent of the population, although they are still underrepresented in many areas. The 2019 general election sees Britain elect its diverse parliament, with 10 percent of MPs from a minority background. The picture is slowly improving: The figure is much less than 10 percent 20 and 30 years ago. The old "stale, male, pale" image long associated with people in UK public life is altering as the nation learns to embrace and celebrate its diversity. Its capital London is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. The city's Labour

mayor Sadiq Khan is a former MP and the son of any minority's role model: He was an outspoa working-class bus driver of Pakistani heritage. Khan, a devout Muslim, described Sunak's election as a source of pride for British Asians.

Anglo Saxon dominion has been decaying and its power of exploitation is declining. However, Sunak's achievement should be seen in its proper context: Not as that of a person of faith or a person of color, but as a person of his class. Unlike Khan, Sunak is one of the richest people in UK politics.

He may as head of the UK government represent the nation but he is as far removed from the average voter as it is possible to be. Fabulously rich, sitting on a family fortune of about 730 million pounds (\$843 million), the owner of at least four homes in Britain and the US each worth several million, he has had a life of privilege unattainable by ordinary people.

He has enabled policies which impact negatively on the lives of millions of people living in real financial peril. They are in danger of losing their jobs, their homes, and some face daily choices of whether to feed themselves or heat their homes. Any hopes of rapid aid from Sunak have been dashed by his delaying of a fiscal plan until the end of October. People cannot afford to wait for any help. Superstitious people might think it is no coincidence the plan would be unveiled on October 31, which is celebrated as Halloween: In legend, a time when spirits are afoot. How fitting.

The party Sunak leads seems intent on keeping poorer people poor and the rich even richer. He has hard-line political views at odds with

ken advocate of Brexit, which helped trigger a wave of racist crimes; he supports the deportation of refugees to Rwanda; he dismisses legislation designed to protect minorities as "woke nonsense."

Of course, the answer to the inequalities in Britain's historically unequal contemporary society - the cost-of-living crisis - would be a redistribution of wealth. An authentically socialist agenda would make the economy less vulnerable to the vicissitudes of market forces, and control of natural resources would provide stability by ensuring critical decisions are based on more than the motive to make profit. That will never happen under Sunak's government. The former investment banker and hedge fund manager, educated at an elite public school and at Oxford and Stanford, will look after the interests of his own kind - the infamous "1 percent." That exclusive proportion of the population regarded as the richest, having personal wealth of more than 3.6 million pounds, is apart from the other 99 percent of "ordinary people."

He is more prepared to pull the ladder up to keep his class in power. In this way, Sunak reveals his foremost loyalties - not to ordinary people, but to the establishment, the ruling class, membership of which is accessible only through wealth and privilege. Being ruled by elites is nothing new for British people, and as long as Sunak is in charge it will be more of the same.

WORLD / SPORTS



Briefs **PM unveils** incentives for farmers

FROM PAGE 01 2500 rupees per bag with the fertilizer producers. He said under this package five billion rupees has been reserved to provide subsidy on mark-up of loans that will be provided to landless peasants of the flood affect ed areas. He said 1.2 million bags of certified seed will be provided to the farmers

of flood-hit areas. The Prime Minister said Small and Medium Enterprises will be regularized for investment in Agriculture sector. The SME's interested in investment in this sector will be able to get loans on subsidized rates and for this purpose we have fixed 6.4 billion rupees. Under their modernization scheme 10 billion rupees were fixed. The Prime Minister said keeping in view the increased prices of new tractors, the import of used tractors has also been permitted and now the farmers can import second hand tractors up to five years of their manufacture date. The subsidy on the duty of fiveyear old tractor will be 50 percent while the duty on a three-year old tractor will be 36 percent. He said duty has been reduce from 35 percent to 15 percent to attract new entrepreneurs in the field of tractor manufacturing.

Khattak rubbishes...

FROM PAGE 01 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said: "No meeting has been held with the government for negotiations and no backdoor talks are taking place." Khattak, when talking about the party's long march, said that the party is peaceful. "If the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) wants a clash, then it is their problem." Commenting on the government's reluctance to allow the party's long march in the federal capital, Khattak said: "We are democratic people. Let us come [there], we just stage a sit-in." "We have to move ahead in the long No one car stop us, it is their misunderstanding [if they think so],' he said highlighting PTI's resolve to continue the "Hagigi Azadi" march. He added that the party has been protesting ever since the day Khan was ousted.

RCCI and PCBF ink MoU for B2B cooperation

The major aim of the MOU was to increase cooperation between PCBF and RCCI for exploring business opportunities, networking, exchange of trade delegations and sector-based information

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of Pakistan China Business Forum (PCBF) visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). The delegation was led by Sheikh Muhammad Nasir. The delegation called on RCCI President Saqib Rafiq and other officials, on this occasion Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, President of Anjuman Tajran Cantt Sheikh Hafeez, Lieutenant General Retired Abdul Qayyum, Sheikh Ijaz, Chinese representatives from various sectors and executive members and honorable members of the Chamber were also present.

The delegation discussed various ways of boosting trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and China and vowed to put in joint efforts for facilitating business matchmaking



and sharing relevant information about B2B events, exhibitions and trade fairs.

four hours.

fence forces".

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Pakistan China

Business Forum and the Rawalpindi Chamber The major aim of the MOU was

to increase cooperation between PCBF and RCCI for exploring business opportu-

nities, networking, exchange of trade delegations and sector-based information.

demand accountability

JAKARTA: When 17-month-old Nadira fell sick with a cough and flu, her mother Agustina Maulani bought her some paracetamol cough syrup from a health centre in south Jakarta. "I gave her medicine every four hours, because her fever refused to go down. She would recover, but then have a fever again. In the end she stopped urinating," she told media. Nadira was taken to hospital but didn't get any better. Laboratory diagnosis showed she had excessive levels of urea and creatinine; waste products that build up after kidneys shut down. She fell into a coma and died.

"At the end she passed away quickly. With pain that was really terrifying," said Agustina, crying.

Indonesia is grappling with a horrifying wave of deaths: at least 157 children have died this year from acute kidney injury and other complications, believed to have been caused by contaminated medicines. Almost all were under the age of five. Nadira died in August. In October the Indonesian authorities said she had been among a wave of children to die of unexplained kidney conditions.

The government then banned the sale of all liquid medi

Brazil election: Lula makes stunning...

FROM PAGE 01 US President Joe Biden, who noted the result came "following free, fair, and credible elections". He added he was looking forward to continuing co-operation. Russian President Vladimir Putin also offered his "sincongratulations", cere saying the results had confirmed Lula's "impressive political authority".

India's Narendra Modi said he looked forward to deepening ties, while UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak tweeted: "I look forward to working together on the issues that matter to the UK and Brazil, from growing the global economy to protecting the planet's natural resources and promoting democratic values.'

Jair Bolsonaro's backers encouraged by their candidate's allegations that "the establishment" and the media were against him and therefore underplaying his support - had complete faith in his victory.

The left-wing leader's vic-tory is likely to rankle with these Bolsonaro fans, who routinely label Lula "a thief" and argue that the annulment of his conviction does not mean he was innocent, iust that the proper legal procedure was not followed. And while Jair Bolsonaro has lost, lawmakers close to him won a majority in Congress. This means that Lula will face stiff opposition to his policies in the legislative body when he takes office on 1 January.

But Lula, who served two terms in office between January 2003 and December 2010, is no stranger to forging political alliances.

As his vice-presidential running mate he chose former rival Geraldo Alckmin, who ran against Lula in previous elections. His strategy of creating a "unity" ticket seems to have paid off and drawn voters into the fold who may otherwise not have considered casting a ballot for his Workers' Party.

PTI doesn't want...

FROM PAGE 01

Ukraine's power and water hit in Russian strikes

city had been damaged in **News Desk**

KIEV: Ukraine says power and water supply across the country has been badly hit after Russia launched more than 50 missiles targeting critical facilities.

In the capital Kyiv, 80% of residents were without water, and about 350,000 apartments had no electricity, Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko said.

In the north-eastern city of Kharkiv, energy facilities were struck. Russia said its long-range

the Russian attack. He said regions under attack were the supply would be partialurged to remain in shelters, ly restored within three to amid fears more strikes could follow. They were also warned that "emer-He also said that engineers were urgently deployed to gency power outages" were restore electricity supply. being rolled out across the The city authorities said country. In neighbouring that in Kyiv itself "no hits Moldova, the authorities were recorded" due to "the reported that a missile shot effective work of the air dedown by Ukraine fell in the "northern end of the town of Naslavcea" near the bor-On Monday morning, missile strikes were also reportder with Ukraine. There ed in the central Vinnytsia were no reports of any casuregion, as well as Dniproalties - but windows were smashed in several houses. petrovsk and Zaporizhzhia

casualties. Residents in the Russia has carried out several waves of deadly missile and drone attacks in recent weeks, reportedly destroying almost a third of Ukraine's power stations and other energy-generating facilities ahead of the cold winter period. Ukraine and its Western

allies have repeatedly said that targeting civilian infrastructure amounted to war crimes.

On Saturday, one Russian warship was damaged in the port city of Sevastopol in a drone attack, the Russian defence minIndonesia syrup deaths: Parents

'Imran march...

FROM PAGE 01

been no revolution over the last six months, but the people have seen the corruption of Imran Khan including the foreign funding, Toshakhana robberies, Bushra Bibi's diamond grabbing, compromise on country's interests for grabbing land, and lethal campaigns against the martyrs. She said Imran should have

better-offered an extension to the Army chief in March when he was in power to achieve the objective of elections. She said that container Khan would not get an election date and return to power through abuse and guns.

French envoy...

FROM PAGE 01

The ambassador said that he was pleased to see French companies operating in Pakistan and also expressed his satisfaction on the manufacturing of Peugeot in Karachi.

He also congratulated the senator on Pakistan's removal from the FATF's Grey List and said France had immensely supported Pakistan on the issue. Discussing the recent floods and France's contribution in relief and rescue operations in Pakistan, he said the French rescuers assisting in the operation was a perfect example of developing people to people contact that would lead strengthening of bilateral ties. He was of the view that parliamentary visits were an excellent means of improving and enhancing relations between the two countries. At the end of the meeting, Ambassador Nicolas was presented with a memento. He thanked Senator Mandviwalla for his hospitality and said he looked forward to developing stronger bilateral links through various parliamentary and business avenues.

high-precision weaponry targeted Ukraine's military command and energy systems. The country's defence ministry added that all "designated objects were hit".

The strikes come after Russia blamed Ukraine for a drone attack on its Black Sea Fleet in the annexed Crimea. Mr Klitschko reported wa-

WARSAW: South Korea

and Poland have signed an

agreement to develop a

private nuclear power plant

in Poland. South Korea's

Industry Ministry said on

Monday. The state-run

Korea Hydro & Nuclear

Power (KHNP), Polish en-

ergy group ZE PAK, and

state-owned power com-

pany PGE signed a letter

of intent in Seoul and said

they will come up with a

preliminary development

plan for the construction

by the end of this year.

The document was signed

by Poland's Deputy Prime

ter shortages in Kyiv after an energy facility near the

Warsaw, Seoul sign pact to

build nuclear plant in Poland

in western Ukraine. A facility at the Dnipro hydroelectric power plant in the Zaporizhzhia region was also reportedly hit. Overall, 18 facilities - most of them energy-generating

Minister and Minister of

State Assets Jacek Sasin

and South Korea's Trade,

Industry and Energy Min-

ister Lee Chang-Yang. The

governments of both coun-

tries have declared their

support for the investment.

"The construction of the

nuclear power plant will

support the country's key

nuclear energy program,"

said Sasin. Last week the

US' Westinghouse Electric

beat out KHNP on a deal

for a first nuclear plant, but

the deal announced Monday

is for a second plant out of

a projected six. – Agencies

in the south-east, and Lviv

were hit in 10 regions of Ukraine, Prime Minister Denvs Shmyhal said, adding that "hundreds of localities in seven regions" were left without power.

It was not immediately known if there were any

man Yuriy Ihnat told Ukrainian TV that Russia had used its strategic bombers to carry out its "massive" strikes. Ukraine's military later said that 44 out of more than 50 X-101 and X-555 cruise missiles launched from Russia's Rostov region and also the Caspian Sea had been shot down, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmvtro Kuleba said that "instead of fighting on the battlefield, Russia fights civilians".

KIGALI: The UN's top of-

ficial has called on armed

groups to put an imme-

the eastern Democratic

Republic of Congo (DRC)

amid renewed fighting be-

tween government troops

urges the M23 and other

armed groups to immedi-

ately cease hostilities and

to disarm unconditionally,"

said a statement issued on

Sunday by the spokesman of

Secretary-General

and M23 rebels.

"The

Ukraine's Air Force spokesistry said. It also accused British specialists of having trained the Ukrainian soldiers who then carried out the strikes in Crimea - Ukraine's southern peninsula, annexed by Russia in 2014. Moscow provided no evidence to back its claims.

Ukraine has not commented on the issue, while the UK defence ministry said Russia was "peddling false claims on an epic scale".

cines. It later limited the ban to about 100 suspect products which had been found in the homes of the children who fell sick. Pharmacies across the country have pulled bottles from their shelves, advising parents instead to crush pills for their children if they need medicine.

Indonesia's health minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said traces of the harmful substances ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol butyl ether had been found in the victims. Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are typically used in antifreeze solutions for air-conditioners, fridges and freezers and as a solvent for many products including cosmetics at very low concentrations. The World Health Organization (WHO) says they are never used in medicines. "It is confirmed that (acute kidney injury) was caused by (those) substances," the minister said. - Agencies

want clash with the state institutions. "I can assure you that we are peaceful people. We can sacrifice our lives for peace but do not believe in violence," he said while speaking to the media in Rawalpindi on Monday.

Amid a tense political situation in the country, Rashid said the former ruling party wants to avoid confrontation and its sole demand is early elections. Speaking about the security measures being taken in the federal capital ahead of PTI's long march towards Islamabad, the AML chief urged Rangers to "only focus on protecting state buildings".

He said it is expected that PTI's Haqeeqi Azadi March caravan would reach Islamabad on Friday. "No matter whether you place thousands of containers or extend the Red Zone area till Lal Haveli thousands of people from Rawalpindi will participate in the long march. Rashid said he is staying in Rawalpindi with the approval of the PTI's chief to oversee the preparations for the long march. "We will give a historic welcome to the long march," he added. Responding to a question, the former interior minister expressed

ignorance about the backchannel talks between the establishment and the PTI. Not aware of

undertaking about...

FROM PAGE 01 regard and that there was "no question" of him "knowingly violating an undertaking" made before the court or not following its order. The former prime min-

ister also requested the court to allow him to submit a detailed response by November 3.

The PTI chair submitted his response in the contempt of court plea filed by the federal government against the PTI chairman in the Supreme Court over his long march to the federal capital. At the last hearing, the apex court issued a showcause notice to Khan according to the previous differing note.

The court had ordered that the PTI chairman and his lawvers submit an answer by October 31 on the violations committed by the party during the May 25 march.

Finch 63 leads Australia to victory over Ireland

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, : Australia got their Twenty20 World Cup defence back on track with a 42-run win over Ireland at the Gabba in Brisbane on Monday. Ireland, chasing Australia's 179-5, were all out for 137 in the 19th over to put Australia level on five points with leaders New Zealand, who have a game in hand, at the top of Group 1.

England, who play New Zealand on Tuesday, are third, two points behind Australia but with a superior net run rate, a factor that could become crucial in a tight group. Ireland, also on three points, had outside hopes of reaching the semi-finals before the match but they were blown away in the chase by the pace and inswing of Mitchell Starc and then by the scoreboard pressure of their 180-run target.

They slumped to 25-5 and handed the World Cup hosts a comfortable win despite a superb unbeaten 71 from Lorcan Tucker. Australia captain Aaron Finch, who won the man of the match award for his 63 runs, said scoring had not been straightforward.

"It wasn't the easiest wicket, it was a lot slower than what we expected," Finch said. "They changed their pace really well and bowled a lot of cutters early in the innings. "It was hard to get a rhythm and we did well to get 179." Earlier Finch had stormed back into form with his 44ball knock which contained five fours and three sixes, answering critics who had

called for him to be dropped after a poor run with the bat. Finch denied he had been affected by all the chatter. "Nah, not feeling the pressure at all to be honest," Finch said. "The support from the change

room and support staff has been incredible. T20 is a high risk-game, sometimes it comes off, sometimes it doesn't.'

He stayed patient, playing the anchor role as Australia lost their first three wickets



UN chief calls for cease-fire in DRC

Secretary General Antonio FOREIGN DESK Guterres, following talks with regional leaders.

According to the statement by spokesman Stephane Dujarric, Guterres expressed concerns over the resumption of diate stop to violence in hostilities that have displaced thousands, calling for respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC.

The DRC accuses neighboring Rwanda of backing the M23 group, which resumed fighting in the North Kivu province on Oct. 20, capturing towns in the Rutshuru area. Kigali has dismissed the charge "scapegoating." Since as

the resumption of clashes between the Congolese army and the rebels, more than 50, 000 people have been displaced in the province of North Kivu, according to the UN Office for Humanitarian Coordination (OCHA).

Secretary-General "The calls on all parties to facilitate humanitarian access to the affected population, and to ensure protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law," the statement said, also urging all sides to refrain from hate speech and incitement to violence.

pealed to the international community over alleged persistent hate speech. public incitement, and violent harassment against Rwandans and Congolese Kinyarwanda-speaking communities in the DRC. Following the resumption of the hostilities, Guterres held talks with the DRC's President Felix Tshisekedi, as well as his counterpart from Angola Joao Lourenco and Rwanda's Paul Kagame, Kenya's William Ruto, and Senegal's Macky Sall, who is also the chairperson of the African Union.

to tight Irish bowling. His circumspect ap-

proach paid off and Finch profited after

the Ireland attack began to falter under

the pressure of an onslaught from Marcus

Ireland started their run chase briskly but

suffered a big blow when captain Andy

Balbirnie was bowled by Pat Cummins for

six off the last ball of the second over. He

was followed almost immediately by the

dangerous Paul Stirling, who was caught

at mid-off by Cummins from part-time

Maxwell then had Harry Tector caught

at square leg with Ireland on 24 and

the game was as good as over one run

later when Starc clean bowled Curtis

Campher for a duck. Starc was bowling

with real pace and he struck again with

another beautiful inswinger to account

for George Dockrell, leaving Ireland

Tucker and Gareth Delany led a slight

recovery until Delany skied to Max-

well trying to belt Stoinis for six. Tuck-

er, who had come in at number three,

played a lone hand, amassing his 71

from 48 deliveries until he ran out of

partners. "We're making progress to

keep up with these big teams -- looking

at the scoreboard we thought it wasn't

"Again the wickets column was a prob-

lem and who knows if someone had

against us," captain Balbirnie said.

stayed with Tucker."- APP

spinner Glenn Maxwell for 11.

reeling at 25-5.

Stoinis, who blasted 35 off 25 balls.

Last week, Rwanda ap-

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Norway to resume Brazil aid halted over deforestation

OSLO: Norway said Monday that it would resume sending Amazon protection subsidies to Brazil, which it had halted in 2019 under Jair Bolsonaro, following Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's election victory.

"We had a good and very close collaboration with the government before Bolsonaro and deforestation in Brazil declined greatly under Lula da Silva's (previous) presidency", Environment Minister Espen Barth Eide told AFP.

"Then we had a head-on collision with Bolsonaro whose approach was diametrically opposed when it came to deforestation". Norway was the biggest donor for the protection of Amazon rain forest, but like Germany, halted its aid to Brazil in 2019 after Bolsonaro took power. Under the far-right leader, deforestation of the

Amazon accelerated by 70 percent, a level Barth Eide described as "scandalous" He said some five billion

kroner (\$483 million) in unused aid was waiting to be disbursed in the Amazon Fund for Forest Conservation and Climate Protection.

"We note that during the campaign he (Lula) emphasised the conservation of the Amazon forest and the protection of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon," Barth Eide told AFP.

"This is why we are eager to make contact with his teams, as quickly as possible, to prepare for a resumption of the historically good collaboration between Brazil and Norway".

Lula, who served as president between 2003 and 2011, said after his election victory on Sunday that Brazil was "ready to reclaim its place in the fight against the climate crisis, especially the Amazon."He vowed to "fight for zero deforestation."-APP

President for enhancing the quantum of trade with Ireland

Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Ireland, Ms Aisha Farooqui calls on President Arif Alvi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has underlined the need to bring a substantial increase to the quantum of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Ireland to realize the full potential of bilateral trade, adding that the current level of investment by Ireland in Pakistan should be further enhanced by inviting Irish companies to invest in Pakistan and benefit from its lucrative foreign investment regime.

The President expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Ireland, Ms Aisha Farooqui, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Talking to the Ambassador-designate, the President said that there were immense opportunities for the IT-skilled youth and startups to secure online jobs in Ireland as more and more IT companies in Europe were shifting their headquarters to Ireland, which had been termed the "Silicon Valley of Europe".

The President expressed the hope that the Ambassador-designate to Ireland would work towards further deepening Pakistan's fruitful



partnership with Ireland and expanding the mutually beneficial cooperation by taking meaningful steps which may include an increasing level of bilateral engagements,

catalyzing the flow of investment to Pakistan, creating online job opportunity for the IT skilled youth of Pakistan,

nomic Net.

increasing parliamentary exchanges, cementing people to people to contacts, and seeking better cooperation in agriculture and livestock.

He said that Pakistan should focus on becoming an active partner in Quantum Computing research programs as quantum computers may

take a few minutes or hours to solve complex scientific problems which supercomputers of today may take years to solve.

The President termed the support of Ireland for Pakistan very important during the ongoing Fourth Biennial Review of GSP Plus and launching of the new GSP Scheme post-2023 which, he said, would require active engagements. He also termed the opening of the resident Embassy in Islamabad in October this year by the Irish Government as a welcoming step and said that it would help in taking the mutually

Ethiopia peace talks ongoing in South Africa

Islamabad **POST**

Tuesday, November 1 , 2022

ADDIS ABABA: Talks between the Ethiopian government and the rebel authorities in Tigray aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to their devastating two-year conflict were continuing Monday, a diplomat said.

The negotiations led by the African Union began last Tuesday in South Africa, the first formal dialogue to try to end a war that has killed many thousands of people and unleashed a desperate humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia.

South Africa had initially said the talks being held in Pretoria would run until Sunday, but they remain shrouded in secrecy.

Ebba Kalondo, spokeswoman for AU Commission chair Moussa Faki Mahamat, said in a message to AFP that "there was no date limitation put on the talks".

A diplomat with knowledge of the discussions confirmed to AFP that the talks were continuing on Monday, without giving further details, adding: "They are very strict about confidentiality." A source close to the Tigrayan delegation in South Africa had told AFP at the weekend that the talks would likely continue until Tuesday.

Since the negotiations began, intense fighting has continued unabated in Tigray, where government troops backed by the Eritrean army and regional forces have been waging artillery bombardments and air strikes, capturing a string of towns from the rebels. Diplomatic efforts to try to bring the government and the rebels to the negotiating table gathered pace after combat resumed in late August, torpedoing a five-month truce that had allowed limited amounts of

The international community has voiced deep alarm over the ongoing fighting and the human cost it has exacted on civilians caught in the crossfire.

It is calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities, humanitarian access to Tigray where many face hunger, and a withdrawal of Eritrean forces, whose return to the conflict has raised

Pakistan online pavilion launched

BEIJING: An Online National Pavilion featuring Pakistan's trade exchanges, investment environment, characteristic industries. and tourism was launched for the upcoming 5th China International Import Expo (CIIE) scheduled to be held in Shanghai.

showcased Pakistan as an

emerging market of thriving

"We are looking forward to

the participation in different

trade fairs, especially the

upcoming CIIE to be held

in Shanghai this Novem-

ber,"tnoted Moin ul Haque,

opportunity.

As per the Trade Developness partners in the world's ment Authority of Pakistan second-largest economy. The (TDAP), the cloud pavilion Expo launched its cloud se-

Pakistan Ambassador to Chitional Import Expo Bureau, adding that the platform is na, while taking an exclusive set to offer a visiting experiinterview with China Ecoence comparable to that of an

Scheduled from November 5 offline exhibition. to 10, the 5th CIIE provides a Pakistan enjoys a large pool of workforce of more than platform for companies from around the world to display 60 million, and a growing their products, promote their consumer teledensity of brands, and find more busimore than 150 million, noted a source from TDAP. Also, Pakistan is one of the major contributors to the global market when it comes ries recently, which consists of the online national exhibito agriculture, textile, foottion and the Digital CIIE platwear, pharmaceutical, sports goods, packaging, iron & form. A total of 30 countries have taken part in the online steel. "Using this platform, country exhibition which is we are working together to expand our trade with Chinow in trial operation, said Sun Chenghai, deputy direcna and with the world,"t the tor-general of China Interna-Ambassador pinpointed,

adding that China is already Pakistan's largest trading partner and last year the bilateral trade volume hit a record level. Courtesy of the booming Sino-Pak trade and investment cooperation coupled with important platforms such as CIIE, Pakistan's overall export to China has registered steady growth in recent years. EU congratulates Lula hopes for trade

EU congratulates Lula, hopes for trade deal

BRUSSELS:The leadership imports, but on Mondav the of the European Union conhead of the European Comgratulated Brazil's Luiz Inamission, which is the EU cio Lula da Silva on his presiexecutive and trade negotiadential election win Monday tor, expressed optimism. "I look forward to working and expressed hopes of closer cooperation on trade with you to address pressand climate change. A trade ing global challenges, from food security to trade and climate change," Ursula von

with the aspirations of the

Kashmiri people. He add-

ed that there was a need to

sensitize the international

community, particularly the

United Nations and its hu-

man rights machinery, to

take cognizance of the rapid-

ly deteriorating situation of

Islamophobia in India.

deal signed between Brussels and the Mercosur bloc Brazil, Argentina, Uruder Leyen told Lula, in a congratulatory tweet. guay and Paraguay - in 2019 Charles Michel, the presihas never been ratified, in part because of concerns dent of the European Counabout environmental policil, which represents the

aid into Tigray.

New Zealand announces more sanctions on Russia

AUCKLAND: New Zealand on Monday announced additional sanctions on Russia over ongoing war in Ukraine.

In a statement, Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta said this round of penalties focused on the Russian defense and security sectors.

"Today we are sanction ing 14 individuals and seven entities as part of our ongoing support for Ukraine.

The group includes military personnel, defence entities and executives, Russian-directed disinformation outlets, and a paramilitary organisation and its senior commanders," Mahuta said in a statement.

"They include executives and shareholders from companies that design and manufacture missiles and firearms, as well as members of neo-Nazi paramilitary groups linked to the Wagner Group of mercenaries," she added.

Sanctions were also imposed on the InfoRos "news agency and cyber operation run by Russia's military intelligence," as well as the Crimea-based outlet NewsFront.

Mahuta underlined that through these sanctons, New Zealand was "making clear its condemnation of those who play a role in facilitating Russia's illegal and unjustified actions in Ukraine.' "Continued reports of indiscriminate attacks and widespread damage on civilian targets by Russian Armed Forces in Ukraine is deeply concerning,' she added.

So far, New Zealand has imposed sanctions on over 1.200 individuals and entities since April, including trade measures to ban exports and imports from Russia. Russia is currently the

world's most-sanctioned country since it launched its war on Ukraine in February.-APP

BEIIING: Prime Minister Shehhaz Sharif has said that both Pakistan and China were tied together by a common vision to play a role in a brighter future for the people of the two countries as well as for peace and stability of the broader region. "This is a responsibility that history has placed on our shoulders and we would surely fulfill it" he expressed these views in an article published by Global Times, an English-language Chinese newspaper, ahead of his official visit to China starting on Tuesday.

Following is the article:- "Confucius once paid tribute to friends and friendship in these illuminating words:

"There are three types of good friends: one that is direct and honest; one that is trustworthy, dependable, and generous when you need help; and one that is knowledgeable and talented to guide you and show you what you can't see." China-Pakistan's eternal friendship fulfils all three attributes as illustrated by the Great Master.

Longevity, love and trust aptly describe the Pakistan-China friendship. There is no relationship like ours which so deeply touches the soul of our people and evokes such strong emotions. Poetic expressions with emotive diction are used to captivate the essence of these fabulous ties. Touching stories of mutual support and solidarity in difficult times, transferred from generation to generation, have become an ineffaceable element of our collective consciousness.

Nurtured by the enthusiasm of our people and steered by the vision of the leadership, the seed of the Pakistan-China friendship has blossomed into an evergreen tree with deep roots and strong branches. It has withstood the vicissitudes of international upheavals and vagaries of domestic changes

For Pakistan, relations with China form the cornerstone of our foreign policy; in China, Pakistan is described as Ba Tie i.e. China's Iron Brother, and elsewhere our ties are appreciated for their unique strength, enduring permanence and unfathomable trust.

I would be soon in Beijing on my first bilateral visit after assuming office, and that too at an opportune time, soon after the successful conclusion of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

I would like to express my heartiest felicitations to my brother General Secretary Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China for starting a New Era of China's progress, and I say with complete confidence that it heralds the dawn of a brighter era of China-Pakistan friendship too. Ever since the beginning of my political career, China's civilizational ethos, rich historical experiences and its odyssey to become the centre of global politics and economics have been a subject of irresistible curiosity for me.

In my previous visits to China, I tried to unlock the secrets of its rapid growth and development. I was deeply impressed to observe the selfless dedication, toil and labour of Chinese people, in particular the "Chinese speed" to achieve national targets set by the leadership. As the Chief Minister of Punjab, I tried to work with the same spirit for the province's

socioeconomic development. As the Prime Minister of Pakistan. I am determined to work with a similar passion to meet our common development goals.

Since my last visit to China, the international landscape has undergone a profound transformation unprecedented in its scale and scope. Geopolitical tensions are leading to conflicts, the resurrection of the ideological deal Brussels, Oct 31 (AFP/ APP): The leadership of the European Union congratulated Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on his presidential election win Monday and expressed hopes of closer cooperation on trade and climate change.-APP

defeated right-winger Jair Bolsonaro, allowed the de-forestation of the Amazon basin to increase by 75 percent compared to the previous decade, denting EU support for a deal. Europe's farmers are also

cy. Brazil's outgoing lead-

concerned about competition from cheap Brazilian

ber states, said Brazilian voters had chosen a change

governments of EU mem-

"The EU is committed to cooperate on global challenges: peace and stability, prosperity, climate change. And we'll work with the whole region," Michel tweeted.-APP

tears of renewed atrocities against civilians. The conflict erupted on November 4, 2020, when Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops into Tigray after accusing the region's ruling Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of attacking federal army camps.-APP

Pak-China friendship: a sacred tale of abiding trust, love

pling, and the costly arms race. Sadly, this is happening when a multitude of humanity continues to suffer from poverty, disease and hunger. In many parts of the world, people are still battling with COV-ID-19 and its aftershocks. The spectre

of climate change is

looming large and is

a grim reality of today.

divide, economic and

technological decou-

Pakistan has been its recent victim in the shape of devastating floods

The imperatives of the 21st Century demand a new paradigm to deal with emerging challenges as well as opportunities and to wean our region away from conflict and conflagration. We seek friendly relations with our neighbouring countries on the basis of mutual respect and a spirit of cooperation and desire a peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes including the Kashmir issue through dialogue and diplomacy based on the UN charter and resolutions.

The very nature and genesis of all these challenges are unique and, if left unattended, they could reverse the march of globalization and undo the great achievements humankind has made. It surely requires what President Xi has often said, global action, global response and solidarity.

Amidst this unfolding global scenario, the salience of the China-Pakistan strategic partnership has increased manifold. The imperatives of geography, our common outlook, expanding economic partnership and an acute sense of destiny have made us a natural partner.

Pakistan is committed to further deepening bilateral ties between our two countries, continuing our mutual support on core issues, continuing our efforts for regional peace and connectivity and progressively advancing our all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation to a new pinnacle of trust and close cooperation.

The solidarity and support China extended to Pakistan in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic was the vivid manifestation of our time-tested friendship. Over sixty relief flights carrying emergency medical supplies were sent to Pakistan. Chinese-made vaccines were the mainstay of our nationwide immunization drive.

Similarly, after the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, China's top leadership, central government ministries, provincial governments, enterprises and common people from all walks of life came forward to assist the flood-affected people of Pakistan. I was particularly touched to note that even children watching visuals of floods in Pakistan donated their pocket money. These moving stories truly reflect the deep affection and close fraternal bonds between our two peoples. Pakistan today finds itself at the anvil of unprecedented changes as it marches forward for robust, sustainable and inclusive economic development. Like other countries, Pakistan's economy too is facing a number of challenges due to the global



economic slowdown, rising food and oil prices and supply chain disruptions. Despite the global economic headwinds, my government is working assiduously to harness our indigenous resources and potential for ensuring the prosperity and progress of our people.

In pursuance of these objectives, we draw inspiration from China's achievements be it attaining the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society or its

endeavours for meeting the second centenary goal of building a modern socialist country in all respects. China is Pakistan's largest trade and investment partner. We want to expand these ties by making optimal use of the 2nd Phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and enhancing industrial cooperation. Pakistan can serve as the manufacturing base for China and an extension of its industrial and supply chain network.

As the fifth most populous country with over 60 per cent youth, talented human resources and a burgeoning market with immense growth potential. Pakistan offers attractive investment opportunities to Chinese companies in areas of industry, agriculture modernisation, infrastructure, green energy and digital economy.

Since ancient times, the fertile river valleys of Pakistan have been the granaries of the subcontinent. Building upon the complementarities in agriculture, our two countries can fast-track bilateral cooperation to boost corporate farming, efficient water usage, development of hybrid seeds and high-yield crops and establishment of cold storage chains. This cooperation has assumed added importance to address common concerns related to food security. Climate change poses an existential threat to humanity's survival. The recent unprecedented floods in Pakistan inundated one-third of our territory and affected over 33 million people with huge economic losses. This climate-induced catastrophe is a wake-up call for the sceptics and a clarion call for joint action.

China is the leading voice for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and has upgraded its disaster response mechanism. We look forward to learning from China's technological advancement in the early warning system, building resilient infrastructure and disaster management.

The knowledge-based economy has emerged as the new driver for national growth. In Pakistan, we are laving focus on e-commerce, the establishment of technology parks and smart cities. We appreciate China's rapid advancement in science and technology and want to expand cooperation in emerging and smart technologies including quantum computing, robotics, AI, and big data.

Pakistan is the earliest partner of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative. We have also ardently supported President Xi's Global Development Initiative, which complements BRI and would contribute to the implementation of UN 2030 SDGs. Pakistan looks forward to working with China to meet GDI goals as a key partner country.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as the flagship of BRI has infused renewed vitality into our socioeconomic development in a short span of a few years. I fondly recall that CPEC was formally launched during the tenure of my brother, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, As the Chief Minister of Punjab, I contributed to the then government's effort by completing many key energy and public transport projects in record time which included coal power plants at Sahiwal, Quaid-i-Azam Solar Power Park and Pakistan's first Lahore Orange Line mass transit project.

As a game-changer for Pakistan and subsequently, for the broader region, CPEC is the central pillar of my government's development agenda. Under its rubric, the successful completion of energy and transport infrastructure projects has set the stage for Pakistan's economic revitalization and for laying a solid foundation for cooperation in diverse sectors.

CPEC's next phase of high-quality development will encompass key areas such as industry, energy, agriculture, ICT, rail and road network and developing Gwadar Port as a hub of trade and transhipment, investment and regional connectivity. Our overall aim is to harness the potential of CPEC for Pakistan's inclusive and sustainable growth, socioeconomic development and for improving the livelihoods of our people.

The safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan remain our top priority. The loss of precious Chinese lives in Pakistan is our loss. We would not let anyone damage our close friendship and strong economic partnership. My government would spare no effort to bring to justice the perpetrators of these reprehensible acts.

To a cursory observer, Pakistan-China friendship may be driven by their respective national interests. To a historian, the geographical proximity and commonality of past experiences may have brought us together. But for us in Pakistan and in true essence, fraternal bonds between our two peoples are much deeper, transcending the general precepts of inter-state ties and uniting us in an eternal and timeless relationship. While intensifying our efforts to expand our bilateral cultural exchanges and bring people of our two countries together, we need to pay a special focus to encourage more exchanges amongst our youth to bequeath the finest traditions of our bilateral friendship and to help them grasp its significance in a fast-changing world.

Both Pakistan and China are tied together by a common vision to play a role in the bright future of our people as well as for the peace and stability of the broader region. This is a responsibility that history has placed on our shoulders and we would surely fulfil it.

And I am confident that our relationship, which President Xi hailed as "taller than mountains, deeper than oceans, and sweeter than honev" in his address to Pakistan's Parliament in April 2015, can help us achieve our common aspirations. Live Long Pakistan-China Friendship."- Agencies

from the recent past.







TURKISH NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED

Briefs Alvi summons NA session on Nov 3

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has convened the session of the National Assembly on November 3 (Thursday), the President's House said on Monday. The session will be held at 4 pm at the Parliament House. The president has summoned the National Assembly session in line with Article 54-1 of the Constitution. – **APP**

Bilawal to represent Pakistan in SCO meeting

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will represent Pakistan at the SCO Council of Heads of Government (SCO-CHG) meeting scheduled to be held in Beijing on 1st November 2022. The SCO-CHG will be held in a virtual format owing to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. The CHG will be chaired by the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Li Keqiang and attended by the Heads of Government from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Heads of Government of SCO Observer States i.e., Belarus, Iran

and Mongolia will also attend the meeting. The Council of Heads of Government is the second highest forum in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) that focuses primarily on the areas of trade, finance, commerce and socio-economic cooperation among SCO Member States.

Dar meeting proves fruitful as dollar depreciates



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Khawaja Muhammad Asif Minister for Defence, Federal Minister for Narcotics Shazan Bugti, Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen ® Zubair Hayat, SAPM Faisal Karim Kundi, Ambassador of Turkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci and others cutting cake to celebrate National Day of Turkiye. – DNA

Somalia appeals for world help after deadly blasts

MOGADISHU: Somalia's president has issued an urgent plea for international help for wounded victims of devastating car bombings at the weekend that claimed the lives of 100 people. Bulldozers were continuing to clear the blast site in the capital Mogadishu on Monday in the hunt for bodies feared trapped under the rubble. Saturday's attack, which also wounded more than 300 people, was claimed by the Al-Shabaab jihadist group and was the deadliest in the fragile Horn of Africa nation in five years.

"We appeal for the international community, Somali brothers, and other Muslim brothers and or partners to send doctors to Somalia to help the hospitals treat the wounded people," President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said in a statement Sunday. He warned that the death toll could rise, as ill-equipped hospitals were swamped. Somalia has one of the world's weakest It said in a statement it had targeted the country's ministry of education.

The explosions tore through walls and shattered windows of nearby buildings, sending shrapnel flying and plumes of smoke and dust into the air. Ali Yare Ali, a local government official in Mogadishu, told reporters that between seven and nine bodies were suspected to be under the rubble of buildings destroyed by the blasts. Somalia's allies denounced the bombings, with the United States, the United Nations and the African Union among those issuing messages of support.

The attack tests the government's ability to secure the conflict-weary nation, including the capital of nearly 2.5 million people. "The Somali nation and these terrorists are at war, as I speak now, there is fighting ongoing in many parts of the country,' Mohamud said Sunday. "We are at war with them, and we are killing each other." The attack took place at the same busy junction where a truck packed with explosives blew up on October 14, 2017, killing 512 people and injuring more than 290, the deadliest attack in Somalia. Al-Shabaab fighters have stepped up their attacks in Somalia since Mohamud was elected in May and vowed an "all-out-war" on the Islamists. The insurgents have been seeking to overthrow the fragile foreign-backed government in Mogadishu for about 15 years. Al-Shabaab fighters were driven out of the capital in 2011 by an African Union force but the group still controls swathes of countryside and continues to wage deadly strikes on civilian, political and military targets. - APP

Somalia's allies denounced the bombings, with the United States, the United Nations and the African Union among those issuing messages of support

Pak strongly condemns terrorism in Somalia

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack in Mogadishu, Somalia claiming over 100 innocent lives and injuring many. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the deceased and wounded. The people of Pakistan stand in complete solidarity with the Somali nation in this most tragic hour of grief and mourning. Pakistan attaches great value to its fraternal ties with Somalia, and believes that the resilient Somali nation shall emerge from this tragedy stronger. – DNA

Mirwaiz among 500 most influential Muslims

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated senior APHC leader and renowned Islamic scholar Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been listed among the 500 most influential Muslim personalities globally. According to the Kashmir media service. RISSC based in Jordan in collaboration with Georgetown University published the annual list. Mirwaiz has been listed among 500 Muslim influential global personalities such as King Salman of Saudi Arabia, Ayatollah Khamenei of Iran, former PM Imran Khan, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and King Abdullah of Jordan. – APP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's meetings with the officials of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and currency dealers proved fruitful as the Pakistani rupee opened the week strongly in the interbank market on Monday.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local unit gained Rs1.59 or 0.72% against the greenback in the interbank market, closing at 220.88. Last week, the rupee lost 0.93% to 222.47 against the dollar. Analysts believed that the local currency would trade rangebound this week.

Pakistan-Kuwait Head of Research Samiullah Tariq said that the meetings of the finance minister with the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) officials and market participants including banks and exchange companies have improved the market confidence. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar warned last week that tough actions will be taken against those found manipulating the exchange rate. Dar stated that the rupee's actual value is below the 200 level against the dollar.

India bridge collapse kills more than 130

MORBI: At least 137 people died in western India when a colonial-era pedestrian bridge packed with revellers collapsed into the river below, police said Monday.

Authorities said nearly 500 people were celebrating the last day of the Diwali festival on and around the nearly 150-year-old suspension bridge in Morbi when supporting cables snapped after dark on Sunday. CCTV footage showed the

structure in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat swaying -- with a few people apparently deliberately rocking it -- before it suddenly gave way.

The walkway and one fence crashed into the river, leaving the other side dangling in mid-air and hundreds of people in the water. "I saw the bridge collapse before my eyes," said one witness who worked all night on rescue efforts, without giving his name. – **APP**

health systems after decades of conflict. "We cannot airlift all these numbers of wounded people... anyone who can send us we request to send us," said Mohamud, who himself has donated blood for the victims. Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre has ordered schools closed so that students can take part in a national blood donation drive. The World Health Organization said on Sunday it was ready to help the government treat the injured and provide trauma care. Al-Shabaab, an Islamist group linked to Al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attack in which two cars packed with explosives blew up minutes apart near the city's busy Zobe intersection, followed by gunfire.

Arshad Sharif murder Khurram, Waqar inquiry raises new questions

News Desk

NAIROBI: As part of its investigation into the Arshad Sharif murder case in Kenya the two-member Pakistani inquiry team has dug up some new details after interviewing the slain journalist's hosts. The questionable role of Khurram Ahmed, who was driving the vehicle carrying the slain senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Nairobi, and his brother Waqar Ahmed has come to the fore, especially the part where one of them miraculously dodges the Kenyan police bullets to reach the farmhouse safely with Sharif, who was killed by the head and chest shots. The government team closely examined the bullet-riddled

house where the journalist was allegedly staying. At the same time, the whole incident was also reenacted in light of the investigation. The farmhouse is 22 kilometres from the crime scene and is accessible mostly through a dirt road (trail). According to a briefing given to the Pakistani investigators, the lodge where Sharif reportedly had dinner had no CCTV cameras, while the place was powered by generators or other sources. The Kenyan authorities also provided details to the Pakistani team. The Pakistani sleuths also thoroughly interrogated Khurram Ahmed, who was driving Arshad Sharif to Nairobi at the time of the shooting.

car Sharif was travelling in, the crime

scene, the dinner spot, and the farm-

Pakistan need to emulate China model: PM Shehbaz Embarks on China visit; lauds the efforts

of Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong



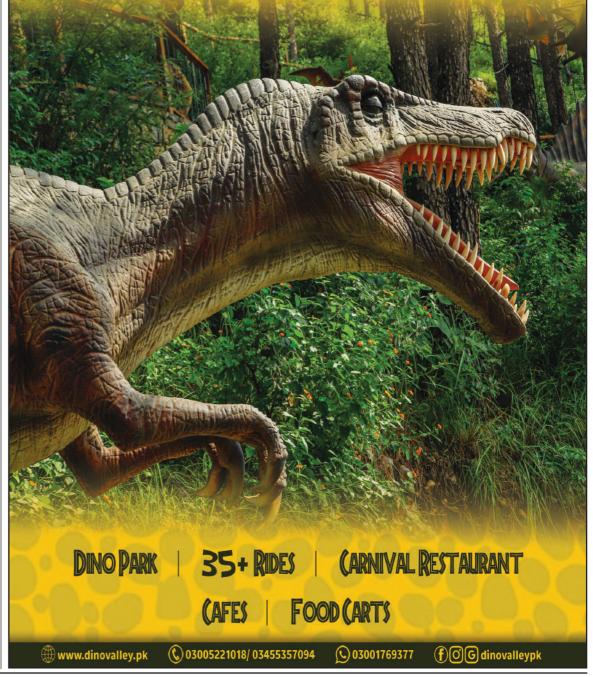
STAFF REPORT /DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said he looked forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of "productive and fruitful meetings" aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations. Shehbaz Sharif, who

is set to embark on a two-day visit to China on Tuesday, said Pakistan strongly needed to emulate the Chinese model of development for its sustainable progress and prosperity. Addressing here at the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), he emphasized creating favourable environment for building a business-to-business relationship. "Let's join hands and move forward to create a win-win situation for the Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and investors," he said. The prime minister mentioned the huge potential existing between the two countries and called for streamlining the business procedures in Pakistan to benefit from China being the second-largest economy in the world. He termed the CPEC a game-changer for development in Pakistan with billions of dollars of investment already committed by Chinese companies.



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