



# Islamabad POST

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**Attack on Imran Khan, supporters unacceptable**

Detailed News On Page-06

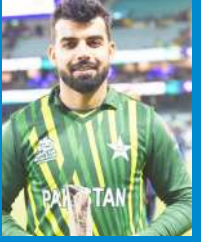
**Russian top brass discussed using nukes: US**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Shadab shines in Pakistan win over SA**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Army highly condemns the incident

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army on Thursday strongly condemned firing incident on former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar said. In a statement issued by the media wing of the military, it extended sincere prayers for precious life lost and speedy recovery and wellbeing of Chairman PTI Imran Khan and all those injured in this unfortunate incident. Earlier today, former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, other party leaders.

### Democracy under threat in elections

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has accused his predecessor Donald Trump and his supporters of undermining democracy, ahead of next week's mid-term elections. "Make no mistake, democracy is on the ballot for all of us," Mr Biden, a Democrat, said, referring to threats by some Republicans candidates to refuse to accept the outcome should they lose. Republicans hit back, saying Mr Biden was seeking to "divide and deflect". Control of both chambers of Congress is at stake in the 8 November vote.

### 'Thank God he's okay'

DNA

LONDON: Jemima Goldsmith, former wife of PTI chairman Imran Khan, on Thursday while reacting to the assassination attempt on the life of the former prime minister expressed gratitude to almighty God that he is safe. In her latest Tweet, she said, "The news we dread... Thank God he's okay. And thank you from his sons to the heroic man in the crowd who tackled the gunman." She also tweeted the picture of the PTI worker Ibtisam.

### EU envoy shocked

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Of European Union Riina Kionka has said political violence in any form, in any country undermines democracy and decency. In her Twitter message she said she was shocked by the attack on Imran Khan, Chairman PTI and his companions. Violence in any form is wrong and unacceptable, horrifying in a country with this sad history. We wish full recovery for all injured, her Tweet further read.

## One dead, 10 injured, US slams attack

# Imran survives murder attempt

Imran's container came under attack as it moved through Punjab's Wazirabad town, a bullet hit Khan's shin, alleged attacker arrested, 'Long march will reach Islamabad at all cost'

YOUSAF BHUTTA

WAZIRABAD: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, other party leaders including Senator Faisal Javed were wounded and one died after gunshots fired at the long march container. According to the details, the firing incident happened during the long march reception camp at Allahwala Chowk in Wazirabad. Imran's container came under attack as it moved through Punjab's Wazirabad town. He sustained a bullet wound to the leg while other party leaders and supporters were also injured in the attack - reportedly carried out by a lone gunman. Former health minister Dr Faisal Sultan, talking to the media, said medical examination has revealed bullet fragments and a slight chip in the tibia due to the bullet injury. He added Imran was coherent and was given pain medication during the emergency examination. District police officer Ghazanfar Ali said one person was killed and ten others were wounded in the attack. A bullet hit his shin, the PTI spokesperson Fawad Chaudhry said. "Imran Khan and (party colleague) Faisal Javed received bullet wounds. A bullet hit IK's shin. Both have been taken to hospital for treatment," Chaudhry told Reuters. Fawad further said that three people were injured in the attack, including Senator Faisal Javed and Ahmad Chattha. Imran Khan with later seen with a bandage on his right leg, just above the foot, according to reports and a blurry image. He was moved to another vehicle from his container truck, from where announcements were being made that he was safe. Imran Khan has said that he is not the one who would be frightened with such incidents. The former PM was wounded on Thursday when his convoy was shot at at



WAZIRABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan being shifted to armored car after he got injuries in firing incident (left). Senator Faisal Javed got bullet injuries (top right). Alleged shooter records his confessional statement before the police (bottom right).-DNA



Allahwala Chowk in Wazirabad. "A man opened fire with an automatic weapon. Several people are wounded. Imran Khan is also injured," Asad Umar said. Khan was taken to hospital. Former cricketer Khan, 70, was leading a protest march on Islamabad to demand snap elections. There were hundreds of people in the convoy. In his message after being injured in attack,

Imran Khan said that the long march will reach Islamabad at all cost. "I said that I will not bow down," Imran Khan said adding that he will continue to fight. Following the firing incident, the PTI chairman ordered to end today's long march and said that the convoy will start its journey tomorrow at 11:00 am. Target was only Imran Khan: alleged

attacker The alleged attacker who sprayed bullet with his automatic weapon at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's container said that his only target was the former prime minister. In his initial statement, the alleged attacker said that he suddenly decided to assassinate Imran Khan because he was misleading people.

## Blame game is regretful; Punjab Govt must resign

Sanaullah says govt will ask Punjab govt to form joint probe team



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to ask Punjab government to form a joint investigation team comprising senior officers to investigate the attack on Imran Khan, according to Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah. Sanaullah, in a press conference alongside Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb in Islamabad, said the entire government condemned the firing incident. He said the federal government has assured the Punjab government of "as-

sistance of any kind" during the investigation. He said that putting blame on federal government and institutions is regretful, instead Punjab government and CM Pervaiz Elahi must resign. The minister also lambasted PTI leaders for blaming and naming state institutions and giving irresponsible statements. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb condemned the attack on Khan in Gujranwala, demanding a thorough investigation into the incident. "The incident is very unfortunate and condemnable.

It should not be politicised and speculations must be avoided," she said while addressing a press conference in the capital. Marriyum said the Punjab Police as well as the administration and other relevant departments should bring forth the facts after investigating the incident which occurred within the jurisdiction of the Punjab government. She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had sought a preliminary report on the matter, while Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was in constant contact with the Inspector-General and Chief Secretary Punjab.

## Political leaders strongly condemn firing incident

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Following the assassination attempt on PTI Chairman Imran Khan, which left him with a bullet injury to his right leg, PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, PPP Co-chairman Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, among other leaders, condemned the incident in "strongest words." "I condemn the firing on Imran Khan and his associates and pray for the recovery of the injured," tweeted Nawaz. Taking to his Twitter account, PM Shehbaz stated: "I condemn the incident of firing on PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the strongest words. I have directed Interior Minister for an immediate report on the incident. I pray for the recovery and health of PTI chairman & other injured people." He further said that the federal government will extend all support necessary to the Punjab government in terms of security and investigation.

Continued on Page 06

## Imran Khan blames Shehbaz, Rana, army officer

If these officials are not removed from their offices, then the party would hold countrywide protests

DNA

LAHORE: PTI Secretary-General Asad Umar claimed Thursday that party chairman Imran Khan suspects three people - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, and a senior military officer - are behind the assassination attempt on him. The former prime minister was injured in an assassination attack on him earlier today when a man opened fire at him. "Imran Khan has said that he had the information beforehand that these people might be involved in the assassination attempt on him," Umar said during a video statement alongside party leader Mian Aslam Iqbal. Umar, quoting the PTI chairman, demanded that all three people - the premier, the interior minister, and the senior military officer - "be removed from their offices." The PTI leader added that Khan has warned that if these officials are not removed from their offices, then the party would hold countrywide protests as Pakistan cannot run in this manner anymore. "If the demands are not met, then all the party's workers are awaiting Khan's call, and when he does give that call, then protests will take place across the country."

Umar said that he spoke to the doctors - including Dr Faisal Sultan - about Khan's situation and they have informed him that his condition is stable and out of danger. "The doctors said that bullets hit him and at this time, it is unclear as to how many they were. Three or two pellets are still lodged in his leg. The bullet also chipped his bone. The CT scan is also clear." "Khan is ready to sacrifice his life for the nation. There should be no doubt about it now. He is fine, but he says that we should always believe in Allah," Umar said. PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry, speaking to Reuters, said: "It was a clear assassination attempt. Khan was hit but he's stable. There was a lot of bleeding." "If the shooter had not been stopped by people there, the entire PTI leadership would have been wiped out." PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi condemned the attack on Khan and said the former prime minister would now have to move towards his destination with "more force". Following the attack on the former prime minister during his long march, which left him with a bullet injury on his right foot, the Pakistan Army "highly condemned" the incident.



Table listing National Days and Armed Forces Days for November, including dates for Algeria, Italy, Russian Federation, Cambodia, Poland, Jordan, Belgium, Brazil, Northern Cyprus, Morocco, Bangladesh, Lebanon, and Suriname.

Hotels & Restaurants

- Hotels: Serena Hotel, Marriott, Monal.

Airlines

- Turkish Airlines.

Emergency

- Rescue (Police), Bomb Disposal, Fire Services, Ambulance, Motorway Police, Women Police Stations, etc.

Enquiry

- Edhi Ambulance, PIA Flight Info, PIA Cargo, Railway Inquiry, etc.

Hospitals

- CMH, MH, Cantt Hospital, DHQ, RGH, Holy Family, PIMS, Polyclinic, Shifa International.



Departments

- CDA, Met Office, RDA, TMA, Cantonment Board.

Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation, Potohar Town, Rawal Town.

Water Tank

- Islamabad.

The Pakistan-Palestinian forum visit Palestine embassy

The stance of the Pakistani nation will remain same about the political, constitutional and legal rights of the Palestinian nation and these values of Pakistani people transferred to the Palestinian people



DNA ISLAMABAD: The Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, Counselor/ Nader Khamsi Al-Turk, and the Embassy staff received at the Embassy headquarters a delegation of leaders and cadres of the Pakistan-Palestinian Forum headed by Maulana Fatihullah Osmani...

Ali Jinnah, that "the policy of the British government towards Palestine is based on injustice, oppression and cruelty, and that if the Palestinian issue is not resolved in a just manner, this will be the beginning of a point Turn to the British Empire...

of the Palestinian-Pakistani brotherly relations and the appreciation of the Palestinian people and their leadership, headed by His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, for the continuous support of the Pakistani people, president, government and political parties to the Palestinian cause internationally and regionally...

NPO to organize webinar on Risk Planning & Mitigation'

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) will conduct a webinar on "Risk Planning and Mitigation" on November 09 (Wednesday). "Risk Planning and Mitigation is the process of identifying, assessing and mitigating risks to scope, schedule, cost, and quality..."

Int'l military delegation meets children at PSH

ISLAMABAD: An international delegation of National Defence University, comprising 42 military officers from 23 countries, visited the Pakistan Sweet Home here on Wednesday and appreciated the authority for providing facilities to the orphan children. On this occasion, children narrated their stories before the visitors and said their lives would have shattered without Pakistan Sweet Home.

President Alvi urges varsities to conduct market-oriented research

DNA ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called upon universities and educational institutions of the country to conduct market-oriented research to provide indigenous solutions to indigenous problems being faced by the different sectors of the economy.

occupations which were required by the market. This, he added, would provide the graduates with lucrative jobs, besides providing the industry with pertinent, productive and quality Human Resources to improve the quality of their products and services.

Railways restored more passenger trains

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has restored more passenger trains after repair and maintenance of railway tracks which were badly affected by heavy rains and subsequent floods. "The decision was taken on the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique to facilitate the passengers who were suffering a lot due to non-availability of trains..."

ICCI, TME sign MoU to promote industry-academia linkages

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU with The Millennium Education (TME) Pakistan to get discounts for its members and promote industry-academia linkages.

Through this MoU, TME Group has offered customised 'privileged' charges for the members and employees of ICCI for all their brands, including Roots Millennium Schools (RMS), The Millennium Colleges, Future World Schools and Colleges (FWS&C).

The Little Millennium and The Millennium Universal Colleges (TMUC), Pakistan. Moreover, ICCI will collaborate with TME Group for planning and executing joint events, symposiums, knowledge and research sessions, workshops and seminars, job fairs, career counselling, mentorship sessions, inspirational talks and Internship opportunities for the high achievers of The Millennium Education at ICCI.

endeavour to strengthen, promote and develop academic, community and corporate engagement and education benefits. Dr. Chaudhry Faisal Mush-taq Chief Executive Officer The Millennium Education Group shared TME's 35 years legacy of academic excellence and holistic learning. He explained his vision of where he sees TME in the future and how this collaboration will open new doors of beneficial outcomes for both the parties.





## Israel's election: a bad day for democracy

IN some ways, Tuesday's election looked drearily familiar to voters in Israel – inevitably so, as the fifth in less than four years. Once again, it was fought to a large degree on whether Benjamin Netanyahu, still on trial for corruption, is fit for office. The official results will not be declared until next week, and tiny shifts in votes could push smaller parties over the threshold for representation, which can be critical in the usually drawn out process of coalition-building. Nonetheless, it seems extremely likely that Mr Netanyahu will be back as prime minister once more, with a small majority in the 120-seat Knesset, after a brief interregnum. Yet the results so far are also deeply shocking. They mark the triumph of the racist far right, in the form of Mr Netanyahu's Religious Zionist allies, who want the deportation of "disloyal" Palestinian citizens of Israel and the annexation of the occupied West Bank. They are not only Mr Netanyahu's partners, but his creation: he brought three far-right parties on to the same slate, welcoming them into the mainstream. Itamar Ben-Gvir, second on the list, is an anti-Arab former follower of the banned Kach terrorist group, with a conviction for inciting racism. The Biden administration has rightly made it clear that it wants nothing to do with Mr Ben-Gvir. Mr Netanyahu appears unfazed, doubtless counting on a Republican resurgence and Donald Trump's return in 2024, and the unlikelihood of Washington taking the kind of action that might make Likud think again in the meantime. "The results confirm that we have no partner in Israel for peace," said Mohammad Shtayeh, prime minister of the Palestinian Authority. The choice between the right and the "government of change" led by the centrist incumbent Yair Lapid – an unwieldy anti-Netanyahu coalition, which replaced him for a year before collapsing – was like that between Pepsi and Coca-Cola, he suggested. That view may not last. This could mark a turning point for Israel's democracy, and especially its judiciary, with grim and dramatic repercussions. The Religious Zionists and Likud share one key interest: to rein in the supreme court and other democratic safeguards, such as the attorney general's power and independence. Mr Netanyahu wants his legal problems to vanish. Mr Ben-Gvir's very popularity, however necessary to Likud's leader, is likely to alarm him too. Mr Netanyahu may not be able to restrain the force he created. His political partners have always lived to regret their dealings. But for that very reason, he is out of other options. And a more ideologically cohesive government should be easier to manage than his previous incoherent coalitions. This is a truly frightening moment. The country's increasingly rightwing electorate has picked a government likely to pursue an extreme and authoritarian trajectory, trampling over the lives of Palestinians and the democratic safeguards of Israel.



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## Rising inflation challenge

CONSUMER price index (CPI) registered at 26.6 percent for October against 23.2 percent in September as per the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). This is an outcome of policy decisions taken last month, paramount being the announcement of 90 to 100 billion-rupee subsidy to provide electricity at 19.99 rupee per unit to the five export-oriented sectors which, in turn, further shrank the already small fiscal space available that can be attributed to the sustained failure of successive governments to widen the tax base or indeed to ensure an equitable and fair taxation system. An example is the wholesalers and retailers who account for nearly 19 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product at 7,299 billion rupees against the manufacturing sector's 4,817 billion rupees and crops estimated at 3,040 billion rupees as per the Economic Survey 2021-22 – while their contribution to taxes is minimal. Petroleum rates for the last fortnight (15 October to 31 October) remained constant while for the period from 1 October to 15 October prices of petroleum products actually declined: by 12.63 rupee per litre for petrol, 12.13 rupee per litre for high speed diesel, 10.19 rupee per litre for kerosene and 10.78 per litre for light speed diesel. In other words, the prices of petroleum products did not contribute to a rise in inflation and given the decline in rates during the first fortnight of October should have contributed to lower inflation than before. In this context, it is relevant to note that the OPEC+ decision to curtail production by 2 million barrels a day will limit the government's capacity to generate revenue from petroleum levy (already at the highest allowed rate of 50 rupees per litre for petrol though there is considerable room to raise it on HSD), thereby inflation is projected to rise further in the current month. The discount rate usually 2 to 3 percentage points higher than the rate of inflation, to ensure a positive rate of return, is 15 percent thus the Monetary Policy Committee may be compelled to raise the rate during its next meeting especially if the IMF's (International Monetary Fund's) ninth review is to be successful. Floods are an important factor in raising the price of food; however, the rise in food and non-alcoholic beverages was 16.3 percent in October over September with non-perishable items contributing 11.81 percent and perishable items 4.49 percent. To conclude, there is, therefore, a need for the economic team leaders to understand that the old measures used to strengthen the stranglehold of the elite on the country's resources under the guise of a trickle-down theory (encouraging exports and/or output) can no longer be continued due to steadily worsening funding issues that reflect an inequitable and unfair tax structure. The electricity sector at present has a circular debt of over 2.5 trillion rupees, requiring massive budgetary injections which the government cannot afford. Solutions are available but they all require a massive slashing of current expenditure and certainly not a rise in subsidies.

## The empire of two capitals

Usman W. Chohan

China in turn further opened up and became the largest untapped market for capitalist surplus production, gobbling up everything that foreign tastes could satiate. For most American multinationals, China became the single biggest driver of profits and earnings-per-share, thus generating enormous bonuses for the New York executives who chomped on fat cigars and boasted to investors about their "China exposure" in quarterly earnings calls. When I worked on the buy-side (global asset management), my single biggest question to investor relations teams and executives was on their exposure to the Chinese market

WHEREAS most great nations have built singular capitals whose ethos has guided national narratives and designed national strategy, some powers have instead had "two capitals" that operate on conflicting and competing logics. Beijing, for example, is the singular capital of the People's Republic of China, and it thus drives both the geostrategic and geoeconomic objectives of the Chinese state in a concerted, harmonious manner. In other words, the economic community and the security community in China are of one mind, enabling them to conduct effective "geoeconomics," which is a function of both strategy and economics executed in tandem. The United States, by contrast, has "two capitals" that proceed from conflicting logical premises. It has what we might call the "New York community" (i.e. Wall Street) that is driven by a market-based logic of co-integrating economies and generating profits, but it also has the Washingtonian "DC Crowd" which operates on traditional hard-security lines. The NY Crowd is driven by titans such as Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, while the DC Crowd draws upon institutions such as the State Department and the Pentagon. During the Cold War, it was the DC Crowd that maintained primacy in directing US policy, arguing from a siege-mentality for competition with Moscow for the preservation of security and hegemony, and fighting through proxies across the entire world as a battlefield. Thanks to help from Pakistan and some other countries, the DC crowd emerged triumphant in the early 1990s, having cemented a monumental effort into achieving a unipolar world at the mercy of a victorious empire. At that point, however, the New York crowd stepped in more forcefully in directing US policy, and it argued that, since we had arrived at the "end of history," it would be important for an economics-led prism to guide the US in the century ahead. This is because an economic-orientation would assure (their) prosperity and keep a "soft power" leash on the world, which would be far more palatable, and far less expensive, as an instrument of empire. With respect to what was then seen as the next big threat (China), the New York crowd pacified the DC folk by continually arguing that Peking would follow in the footsteps of Taipei and Seoul, which is to say that economic cooperation and investment would come

first, and in time Peking would come around to the American way of thinking (free-market capitalism and Western-style democracy). Truly, Taipei and Seoul were governed by authoritarian right-wing regimes in the mid-20th century, but through economic development they shed those hard skins and became genteel democracies and bastions of capitalism, even surpassing the United States in terms of "prosperity" along certain metrics. The NY crowd thus had a credible template, and steered the American public away from the intergenerational fatigue of Cold War adversarialism. American companies then poured enormous investment in China, building up a vast manufacturing base that was complemented by managerial expertise, transfers of technology (ToT), and the acculturation of business best-practices. China in turn further opened up and became the largest untapped market for capitalist surplus production, gobbling up everything that foreign tastes could satiate. For most American multinationals, China became the single biggest driver of profits and earnings-per-share, thus generating enormous bonuses for the New York executives who chomped on fat cigars and boasted to investors about their "China exposure" in quarterly earnings calls. When I worked on the buy-side (global asset management), my single biggest question to investor relations teams and executives was on their exposure to the Chinese market. This factor would drive my financial modeling, and help determine my judgment on the future path of the multinationals in question. China was simply the main story - indeed, the only story; and New York was smitten with China's wonderful economic future. However, the mood began to change after 2016, when Donald Trump was elected US President, and his administration began to levy hefty penalties on China, including trade sanctions and other measures inimical to economic cooperation and mutual benefit. The Trump administration had come to realize that China's economy was well on its way to surpass the United States by 2030, and yet, it hadn't followed the same path as Seoul or Taipei. It still had the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which was largely admired by the Chinese people for its transformative economic policies that offered a clear-cut counter-narrative to the American model of economic and social development. China had accomplished the single greatest economic

miracle in human history, lifting 700 million people out of poverty within two generations, a feat that took the West far longer to achieve, and of course the West was receding into decline in any case. By this point, the DC crowd had forcefully challenged the New York folk who had grown fat on the riches of commerce with China. They pointed out that China had a strengthening array of both hard and soft power assets, and if timely action isn't taken, the American Empire would fade from view without even firing a shot at China. The NY Crowd had taken two decades to realize their proposal of converting Peking into its acolyte, but instead China was already chipping away America's primacy, and that too on the back of American technological, managerial, and material largesse! Since then, even as the Trump administration failed to be re-elected, the Biden administration has pursued an equally harsh, if not harsher, approach against China. The DC crowd and its Cold War mentality are back in full swing, and the New York crowd is today both embarrassed by the shortcomings in attaining their final objective, and by the increasing diatribe against their winnings from engagement with China. A flurry of recent books has demanded accountability from Wall Street for making so much money by helping China to rise, while leaving the American worker in the dust and the American economy in shambles (particularly after Covid-19). This is the drawback of an empire with two capitals: they may follow competing (and contradictory) approaches towards maintaining hegemony, and may come to blows as the zenith of the empire wanes and its power begins to fade. There are, however, many sympathetic voices that still argue for a cooperative approach between the US and China, not just within New York, Peking, and even some Washington; but also from around the world as countries attempt a tenuous balancing act between two titans. However, the voice that argues for international economic cooperation, sadly, is being drowned out, and the world will pay a heavy price as the DC folk relegate the NY folk to ignominy. - Dr. Usman W. Chohan is the Director for Economic Affairs and National Development at the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS). He can be reached at dir.economics@cass.com.

## American horror: POTUS after POTUS wronged this old Pakistani man

Andrew Mitrovica

The prime years of his life didn't matter. He was a nobody. Not a husband. Not a father. Not a brother. Not a son. Just another Muslim that a sham, illegal apparatus run by soldiers at the behest of presidents got what he deserved. But what Paracha and his family deserve, at the very least, is an apology. That won't happen. It should, but it won't. Presidents don't apologise to men like Saifullah Paracha. It would be beneath them and the office of the presidency to apologise. They're important. He's not. But a recent photo of Paracha reveals that, through it all...

IF I FIND it infuriating when a scarred life is reduced to a quirky curiosity. That is what has happened to Saifullah Paracha, a 75-year-old Pakistani entrepreneur who was finally released in late October from the United States-run dungeons in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In reporting on Paracha's belated liberation, several news organisations noted that he was the oldest captive there without, of course, admitting that, like so many others, he should not have spent a moment in jail given his US captors never came even remotely close to finding him guilty of a crime. Paracha was locked up for 19 years at what one New York Times correspondent called a "seafront compound". Sounds almost like a sun-kissed tourist resort rather than a brutish, remote prison featuring barbed wire fencing, guard dogs and armed US soldiers manning lookout posts. In any event, that Paracha was an anomaly at Guantanamo Bay – where most of the other captives were much younger men – is what made him newsworthy. Not the fact that Paracha wasted nearly two decades of his life in a dungeon as part of a covert, worldwide abduction racket. Nor the fact that Paracha was never charged by his American abductors and jailers during his long imprisonment. But journalists, ultimately, aren't the villains here. The responsibility for this horror is shared by a succession of unrepentant US presidents who will likely never experience even a minute measure of regret or discomfort for what they did to an ageing, frail man and his family. Paracha was "accused" of being an al-Qaeda sympathiser and "suspected" of bankrolling the group. That sentence, which quotes the BBC, contains two of the three most popular weasel words governments use to "link" – that's the third – anyone to terrorism without proof. In July 2003, a suspicious FBI lured Paracha to Thailand where they abducted him and flew him – bound, shackled and hooded – to Afghanistan, in an obscene affront to international law. While being held incommunicado at a US military prison

at Bagram, Paracha suffered the first of a series of heart attacks. Fourteen months later, he was taken – bound, shackled and hooded again – to Guantanamo Bay where, without a scintilla of evidence that he helped finance or promote al-Qaeda's interests, he remained until a few days ago. In 2005, Paracha's son, Uzair, who was living in New York, was convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison for allegedly "providing material support to terrorism". Thirteen years later, in 2018, a US federal court judge ordered his release after exculpatory information was discovered that raised doubts about his conviction. Justice Sydney Stein said he was granting Uzair a new trial because permitting the original judgement to stand would be "a manifest injustice". Two years later, prosecutors dropped the case against Uzair. The Paracha family has indeed been the victim of a "manifest injustice", perpetrated by powerful men who, today, are being rehabilitated and feted as "elder statesmen". American presidents are not only immune to accountability; they are also immune to shame. I doubt that George W Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump remember who Paracha is or care a whit about his fate since one of the principal qualifications to become commander-in-chief is to be prepared to deploy American force to harm and kill people in defence of the "national interest". And this, at least, Paracha has over those who have presidential libraries built as monuments to their importance: There is no basis to claim that he has ever harmed or killed another soul. In particular, the conduct of that smug liberal darling, Obama, in connection with Paracha's ordeal is shameful. A "task force" established on inauguration day by the then-new president reported to him in 2010 that there was "no evidence" to justify laying charges against some of the Guantanamo "detainees" but added that they were "too dangerous" to be set free. In April 2013 it emerged that Paracha was one of 71 captives who were innocent. Still, politics trumped integrity. And Obama allowed

a sick, honest man to remain captive rather than release him into the care of his loving family in Pakistan. What makes Paracha's lengthy incarceration in America's gulag all the more egregious is that the businessman had lived and worked in the US since the 1970s and throughout his inhumane odyssey professed not only his innocence but love and gratitude for his adopted country. None of that history mattered. The US – spurred on by revenge-thirsty columnists who told Iraqis to "suck on this" – was hunting "terrorists" in Kabul, Baghdad and beyond. Paracha was merely disposable, forgettable fodder to be used to show how ruthless both Republicans and Democrats could be in shielding their "homeland" from future attacks. The rule of law didn't matter. International law didn't matter. The US Constitution's rights and guarantees didn't matter. Fairness didn't matter. Due process didn't matter. And of course, Saifullah Paracha didn't matter. The prime years of his life didn't matter. He was a nobody. Not a husband. Not a father. Not a brother. Not a son. Just another Muslim that a sham, illegal apparatus run by soldiers at the behest of presidents got what he deserved. But what Paracha and his family deserve, at the very least, is an apology. That won't happen. It should, but it won't. Presidents don't apologise to men like Saifullah Paracha. It would be beneath them and the office of the presidency to apologise. They're important. He's not. But a recent photo of Paracha reveals that, through it all, he held tight to his humanity and perhaps his sense of humour. Arms crossed, wearing a white t-shirt and a wry smile, he sits at a table in a McDonald's restaurant in Karachi. I suppose that after this burst of attention, Paracha will slip back into anonymity and try, as best he can, to recover and enjoy the sunset of his life. He will do that in the quiet knowledge that he is a better man than the preening presidents who will always carry the blot of the indecency they visited on a decent human being. - Courtesy: Al Jazeera



## Briefs

## Pope visits Bahrain for interfaith talks

FIUMICINO: Pope Francis, leader of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics, departed Thursday for the Gulf state of Bahrain to foster ties with Islam in a trip overshadowed by criticism of human rights abuses. His second voyage as pope to the Arabian Peninsula after a 2019 trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is similarly aimed at encouraging interfaith dialogue between Muslims and Christians, and will include the pontiff leading a prayer for peace at a vast modern cathedral opened last year. But criticism of Bahrain's human rights record has already erupted ahead of Francis' trip, which lasts through Sunday, as international rights groups urge him to speak out against alleged abuses against Shiites, activists, and opposition figures in the Sunni-led monarchy. After arriving at Fiumicino airport Thursday morning, the 85-year-old Francis, who suffers from recurring knee pain, was escorted in a wheelchair to the plane, which he boarded via elevator. The flight, which departed at 9:45 am local time (8:45 GMT), is scheduled to arrive in Awali at 4:45 pm (13:45 GMT) after which Francis will conduct a "courtesy visit" with King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa following a welcoming ceremony. - APP

## Norway brings climate ambitions in line with EU

OSLO: Norway, the largest oil producer in Western Europe, on Thursday announced it intended to cut 1990 emissions levels "at least 55 percent" by 2030, in line with EU goals. Just days before the COP27 climate conference in Egypt, the announcement is in line with commitments made by the centre-left coalition government when it took power in 2021. While not a member of the European Union, the Scandinavian country's new target brings Oslo in line with the overall target set by the 27-member bloc. Oslo also announced that it would present climate plans each year going forward.

Norway's climate target was previously to reduce emissions by between 50 and 55 percent of 1990 levels. "This sends a strong signal to other countries, and we hope that more will up their targets," Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said on Thursday. Store's Labour Party and its ally, the Centre Party, rule out dismantling the oil sector, which is a major part of the national economy. The war in Ukraine and the reduction in Russian exports have seen Norway become the leading gas supplier to Britain and the European Union. "The demand for fossil fuel energy will fall and renewable energy production must increase. This has to go hand in hand," Store told a news conference. He stressed that the planet would still need oil in years to come and argued it was "not a bad thing that some of it comes from the Norwegian continental shelf, which has the lowest emissions." - APP

## Turkish inflation tops 85%

ISTANBUL: Turkish inflation surged past 85 percent in October, its highest level since 1997, official data showed Thursday, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sticks to unorthodox policies to combat a cost-of-living crisis. Central banks worldwide are raising borrowing costs in efforts to tame soaring consumer prices, but Turkey has bucked the global trend, with Erdogan calling higher interest rates his "biggest enemy". Last month, Turkey's central bank cut its policy rate for a third consecutive time, bringing it down to 10.5 percent from 12 percent. With an election looming next year, Erdogan argues that high rates are the cause of inflation, not the opposite, in defiance of orthodox economic theories. Turkey's inflation has steadily risen since reaching a low of 16.6 percent in May 2021. It hit 85.51 percent in October, according to state statistics agency TUIK, up from 83.45 percent in September. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Women taking interest in various items during a cultural event organized by the Kyrgyz embassy in Islamabad. - DNA

## Scholz heads to Beijing amid pressure to take tougher line

"We clearly stated in coalition agreement that China is our partner on global issues and that we cannot decouple in our globalised world, but also that China is a competitor and increasingly a systemic rival," Baerbock said

## NEWS DESK

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz travels to Beijing this week in what is fast becoming a controversial trip, amid pressure both domestically and from within the EU to take a tougher line against China. Scholz is the first Western leader to visit the Asian country since the COVID-19 pandemic began and will go with a delegation of German business leaders. But many have questioned his intentions behind the trip, arguing he is prioritising economic ties at a time when the EU is looking to reduce its dependency on countries like China and Russia. Strong trade links already exist between Beijing and Berlin, with China being its second-largest export destination.

As a result, the idea of decoupling from China, like what is happening with Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine, is a virtual non-starter for a lot of German businesses, with so many heavily invested in the country. Pressure is growing though from within

Scholz's own governing coalition to deliver a tougher message to Chinese President Xi Jinping. A new China strategy is also being devised in Berlin, which Germany's foreign minister, Annalena Baerbock, says needs to be more assertive. In an interview with the newspaper Der Spiegel, she said this must be made clear to the Chinese leadership.

"We clearly stated in the coalition agreement that China is our partner on global issues and that we cannot decouple in our globalised world, but also that China is a competitor and increasingly a systemic rival," Baerbock said. "It is crucial to now make clear in China the messages that we laid down together in the coalition agreement." Samuel Cogolati, an MP in the Belgian parliament - who was sanctioned last year by Beijing - has questioned the timing of the trip. "It is wrong for two main reasons. First, because it is not a united European front and I think that if Ukraine has taught us something, it is that we stand stronger when we, as Europeans,



stand united when the 27 [EU countries] speak together with the same strong voice, and clearly that won't be the case if Scholz goes on his own just to represent his country. So that is really unfortunate," Cogolati told Euronews. "The second reason is, haven't we learnt anything from the past and anything from the dependency of Germany and other European member states on Russia. I think again we should rethink the way we look at China. China has changed enormously under Xi Jinping." The European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton,

recently warned member states not to be "naive" when it comes to Chinese investments in the bloc's critical infrastructure.

The criticism could be seen as being aimed at Scholz, who last week allowed China to buy a stake in a terminal at the Port of Hamburg, a crucial trading hub for Europe. The deal is contentious because, at a time when Germany and the EU are trying to wean themselves off Russian energy imports, it is seen as increasing dependency on Beijing. "We should learn from the mistakes of the past," Cogolati said. "We have seen that the dependency of European industries upon Russia was actually bad for our economies and was actually bad for our jobs. "In Europe, we should really reinvest in value chains based in Europe, value chains that are sustainable over the long term. Clearly too big of a dependency on China is bad for our future as Europeans." According to Andrew Small, an expert on China at the German Marshall Fund, the main purpose of the trip is shrouded in mystery.

"Everyone is saying this is the moment to be reducing dependencies on China. One should at least not be becoming more dependent and embroiled in a Chinese economic system that is going into this kind of orthotic struggle environment at the moment," he told Euronews. "That's the thing that's still slightly mystifying people about this trip because they haven't given a clear message or really what the intent of any of this is yet." One line of thinking in Berlin will be to shore up relations between Brussels and Beijing after the relationship soured over the past few years. Last year, a trade deal between the two was indefinitely suspended, following allegations of human rights abuses in China's Xinjiang region and after sanctions were imposed on some European lawmakers. Scholz now goes to China looking to mend fences. But some allies of the German Chancellor see the trip as more in his country's interests rather than the EU's and at a time when member states feel European unity is of the utmost importance.

## Russian top brass met to discuss using nukes, US claims

## MONITORING DESK

MOSCOW: Top Russian military brass held talks on when and how the Kremlin might use a tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine, multiple US outlets reported, causing consternation amongst Kyiv's western allies.

It is unclear whether Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in the discussions. Washington has "grown increasingly concerned" about a potential Russian nuclear strike on Ukraine, the White House stated.

"We still have not seen any indication that the Russians are making preparations for such use... But this is all deeply concerning to us," John Kirby, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said on Wednesday.

"We have grown increasingly concerned about the potential as these months have gone on," Kirby added. Putin recently denied having any intentions of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine but described the conflict there as part of alleged efforts by the West to secure its global domination,



which he insisted are doomed to fail. Speaking in late October at the Valdai discussion club meeting - a state-funded conference of international foreign policy experts - Putin said it is pointless for Russia to strike Ukraine with nuclear weapons. Putin said an earlier warning of his readiness to use "all means available to protect Russia" did not amount to nuclear sabre-rattling but was merely a response to Western statements about their possible use of nuclear weapons. "We have maintained, I believe, an appropriate level of concern about the potential use of weapons of mass de-

struction in Ukraine to include nuclear weapons," Kirby told reporters in recent weeks, Moscow has amped up its claims that Kyiv is preparing a nuclear "dirty bomb" attack, with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said to have made calls to his western counterparts to discuss the issue. The move was widely seen by analysts as a possible means of distraction while the Kremlin prepared its own false flag operation. Claims that Russian troops were conducting "secret construction" at the Zaporizhzhia power plant in Ukraine - Europe's largest atomic energy facility - further exacerbated fears of nuclear foul play. Meanwhile, the UN Security Council overwhelmingly rejected Russia's attempt to establish a commission to investigate its unfounded claims that Ukraine and the US are carrying out "military biological" activities that violate the convention prohibiting biological weapons. Russia only got support from China in the Wednesday vote on its resolution, with France, the UK and the 10 other council nations abstaining.

## Serbia shoots down drone on border with Kosovo

BELGRADE: Serbia neutralized a commercial drone Wednesday on the Kosovo border, according to the Defence Ministry. The agency said the drone was shot down near military facilities in the Kaska garrison by applying electronic jamming measures. "The Serbian Armed Forces are taking increased measures to detect, track and neutralize unmanned aerial vehicles near military facilities," it said in a statement. The statement said the army was acting in line with orders from President Aleksandar Vucic.

"The Serbian Armed Forces will continue, in accordance with the order of the President of the Republic and the Commander-in-Chief, to shoot down all drones found in the no-fly zone and in the vicinity of military facilities," it said. Vucic issued orders to the military Tuesday to destroy any enemy drones in the country's airspace after unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were spotted above military bases bordering Kosovo. Prime Minister Ana Brnabic confirmed that drones had been spotted filming military bases.

Defense Minister Milos Vucevic said earlier that the armed forces are on alert as tensions escalate with neighboring Kosovo about the issue of car license plates. Kosovo has tried many times this year to make its Serbian minority renew their license plates which date before 1999 when Kosovo was part of Serbia. The move has resulted in violent clashes between police and Serbs. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008 but Serbia continues to see Kosovo as its territory. - APP

## Pak calls for collective efforts for refugees' protection

"We value UNHCR efforts to broaden the support base for refugees and reach out to new partner states and institutions," the Pakistani envoy said, hoping that it would result in tangible growth in humanitarian funding

NEW YORK: Reaffirming its commitment to the Global Compact on Refugees, which calls for greater support for refugees and the countries that welcome them, Pakistan told a UN panel Wednesday about its "unparalleled" hospitality in hosting Afghan refugees for four decades while adhering to the highest standards of protection, which continued during the pandemic. "The prevailing complex and multifold challenges demand more robust and collective efforts to meet the growing protection needs and to forge durable solutions," Ambassador Aamir

Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, aid in his remarks to the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters. The Pakistani envoy was commenting on the report presented to the committee by Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who said that currently there were 104 million displaced people in the world, and pointed out that the Russian invasion of Ukraine led to one of the fastest refugee crises since the Second World War, displacing 14 million people.

On its part, Aamir Khan said Pakistan, despite its economic and social pressures, hosts more than 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees and 850,000 Afghan Citizen Card holders, who he said have free enrollment in government primary schools and access to higher education with generous scholarships, along with bank accounts and numerous livelihood opportunities. Pakistan, he said, has also supported complex humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan, facilitating evacuations as well as providing food and other supplies. "We value UNHCR efforts to broaden the support base

for refugees and reach out to new partner states and institutions," the Pakistani envoy said, hoping that it would result in tangible growth in humanitarian funding. He also said that the UNHCR should be sensitive to the local requirements of refugee-hosting countries and ensure the implementation of its policies is consistent with the local environment. Briefing the Committee, Grandi, the high commissioner, said, "while climate, the lasting effects of COVID-19, and the cost-of-living crisis all have grave consequences, the inability of the international community to prevent or re-

solve conflict continues to be the biggest driver of displacement. Addressing climate-induced displacement, he pointed to floods in Pakistan, a country that already hosts many Afghan refugees, as well as other affected regions, including the horn of Africa, Latin America, South-East Asia, and the Middle East. Turning to his agency's budget, he said that it normally receives \$5 billion from bilateral and multilateral donors, but this must rise, as the war in Ukraine has increased its spending by more than \$1 billion and current funding is lacking by \$700 million. - APP

## Russia summons United Kingdom ambassador

## DNA

MOSCOW: Russia on Thursday summoned the UK ambassador in Moscow over last week's attacks on its Black Sea Fleet. According to the media reports, Deborah Bronnert, the UK envoy, left the ministry building without making any comments. On Wednesday, ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the Ukrainian military carried out attacks at the Black Sea port of Sevastopol on the Russian military under the guidance of British military specialists. She said the ambassador would be summoned and presented the evidence that Russia has about the UK's alleged involvement in the attacks. In a separate statement the same day the Russian Defense Ministry said Moscow resumes the implementation of the grain deal suspended on Saturday, after receiving guarantees from Ukraine about the non-use of the humanitarian corridor for the attacks. Türkiye, the UN, Russia, and Ukraine signed an agreement in Istanbul on July 22 to resume grain exports from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports, which were paused after the Russia-Ukraine war began in February. A Joint Coordination Center with officials from the three countries and the UN has been set up in Istanbul to oversee the shipments.

## US urges Colombia to stick to democratic values

## DNA

WASHINGTON: The US has urged Colombia to uphold democratic rights and norms following the visit of its president to Venezuela after a three-year hiatus in diplomatic ties.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, State Department spokesman Ned Price said: "We've urged Colombia to continue working with its partners in multilateral fora, to advocate for a democratic and prosperous hemisphere as well, and to hold accountable governments that have violated the democratic rights and the democratic norms."

On Tuesday Colombian President Gustavo Petro held talks with his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro in the capital Caracas in their first meeting since the two countries reestablished diplomatic relations after a three-year break.

On the October meeting in the capital Bogota of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Colombia's newly sworn-in President Petro, Price said: "Venezuela was top on the agenda. We thanked Colombia for the important role that they're playing when it comes to hosting some 2 million Venezuelan refugees, and we discussed ways we can work together with Colombia to hold the Maduro regime to account." Criticizing Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro for denying democratic norms, Price said: "Our posture won't change until and unless we see progress on the rights of the Venezuelan people." Saying US sanctions on Venezuela will remain, Price said: "We have been very deliberate in promoting accountability for the rights abuses that are taking place and that have taken place in Venezuela."

## Czech Republic to close its embassy in Kabul

## DNA

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic will close its embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul on Jan. 1, 2023 as no improvement in the country's security situation is expected anytime soon, local media reported Wednesday. Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky has decided to close the Czech embassy in Kabul, said the Czech News Agency (CTK). The Czech Republic, which opened the embassy in Kabul in 2007, temporarily closed it in August 2021 and had to evacuate its staff due to the rapid advance of Taliban forces to the capital.

## Briefs

**North Korea fires suspected ICBM, warns United States**

AGENCIES

TOKYO: North Korea fired multiple missiles into the sea on Thursday, including a possible failed intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), prompting the United States and South Korea to extend air drills that have angered Pyongyang. Despite an initial government warning that the apparent ICBM had flown over Japan, triggering warning alarms for some residents, Tokyo later said this was incorrect. The launches came a day after the North fired a daily record 23 missiles, including one that landed off the coast of South Korea for the first time, and drew swift condemnation from Washington, Seoul and Tokyo. Since Monday, South Korea and the United States have been conducting one of the largest air exercises ever, with hundreds of South Korean and U.S. warplanes, including F-35 fighters, staging around-the-clock simulated missions. After Thursday's ICBM launch, the allies agreed to extend the drills past Friday, when they had been scheduled to end, South Korea's Air Force said in a statement. "A strong combined defense posture of the ROK-U.S. alliance is necessary under the current security crisis that is escalating due to North Korean provocations," the statement said, using the initials of South Korea's official name.

**'Brazil keen to exploit potential of trade with Pakistan'**

ISLAMABAD: Brazilian Ambassador to Pakistan, Olyntho Vieira, on Thursday said that Brazil and Pakistan were collaborating to expand trade volume between the two nations. In an interview with APP, he stressed the need for expanding businesses from both the countries to look more thoroughly into the prospect of investments, joint ventures or partnerships in sectors like textiles and meat processing. The envoy said that Brazil and Pakistan were regional giants with similar populations, common positions in many issues of the international agenda and sharing challenges such as poverty and the effects of climate change, which the two countries could fight jointly. He mentioned these elements as the basis for the amicable and fruitful 74-year-long diplomatic relationship between both the countries, which resulted in warm and friendly relations. Brazil was the first nation in South America to recognize Pakistan, in 1948, and to establish an Embassy in Pakistan's former capital Karachi, 70 years ago. - APP

**Pakistani envoy sees bright US tries**

DNA  
WASHINGTON: Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan says the prospects of Pakistan-US relations are bright and our ties are poised to grow in the future. He was speaking at a two-day conference organized by the US top think tank Atlantic Council, John Hopkins University, University of Lahore and Engro Corporation on 'Future of Pakistan-US relations' in Washington DC. He said that Pakistan-US relations now have been de-hyphenated from India and Afghanistan. The Ambassador said that Pakistan and the United States are developing a singular trajectory with responsibilities towards the broader region. He said that Pakistan and the US understand each other's strategic calculus and imperative. While Pakistan has strong ties with China, it wants to have very robust ties with the United States in all fields.

# Çırağan Palace Chefs star at Serena Turkish Food Festival

"Serena is delighted to welcome back chef de cuisine, Serdar Öngel, sous partie, Davut Kutlugün and chef de partie, Yalcin Kokmen for the fourth year in a row, who are responsible for many of superb meals at the Çırağan Palace Kempinski in Istanbul

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted Culinary Artists from Çırağan Palace in an elaborate Turkish Food Festival, which was launched on the 1st of November with a fundraising event, which featured the classical trio of talented performing artists, Osman Kırklıkçı, on Oud, Şükür Türkmen on Solfege and Serkan Özdemir on Cello. The Food Festival was inaugurated for the public on the 2nd by the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye Mehmet Pacacı, featuring food by renowned chefs Serdar Öngel, Chef de Cuisine, Davut Kutlugün, Sous Chef, and Yalcin Kokmen, Chef de Partie, from Çırağan Palace Kempinski Istanbul and classical music performances by the talented trios. Experience a truly Turkish Experience with the 4-day festival held in the Zamana Restaurant, from November 2, 2022, to November 5, 2022, at Islamabad Serena Hotel, is part of the Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, which focuses on creating and cultivating diplomatic ties. Pakistan and Türkiye, share a bond that dates back to 75 years of friendship and support. This Culinary Arts festival was a collaboration between Serena Hotels and the only 17th-century Ottoman imperial palace and hotel on the Bosphorus, Çırağan Palace, Kempinski, Istanbul. Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Mehmet Pacacı appreciated the chefs and musicians who came from Türkiye to promote Turkish culture & cuisine among Pakistanis and to Serena Hotels for supporting such an event here in Islamabad. It transports Pakistanis to Türkiye, as the Zamana Restaurant is transformed into a Turkish wonderland, to enhance the guest experience of Turkish Culture & Cuisine. Otto Kurzendorfer, General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel, said, "Serena is delighted to welcome back chef de cuisine, Serdar Öngel, sous partie, Davut Kutlugün and chef de partie, Yalcin Kokmen for the fourth year in a row, who are responsible for many of the superb meals at the Çırağan Palace Kempinski in Istanbul. We are happy to work with the embassy of the Republic of Türkiye on their national day and their support in organizing the Fund Raising Gala Dinner to raise funds for the flood affectedes. An amount of 4.6 million rupees were collected from the Gala Dinner, which was hosted an evening before and was well attended by people from all walks of life, including the diplomatic community, corporate sector, and business community whose contribution will help provide relief for the flood affectedes. The Turkish Food Festival at Zamana Restaurant in Islamabad Serena Hotel is a



constant that used to be held yearly, until COVID-19, and has been revived again to enhance cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Türkiye, as Pakistan celebrates the National day of Türkiye deepening bonds between the two Nations.

## German Envoy lauds PAF's professionalism, capabilities



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Alfred Grannas called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu in Islamabad on Thursday. Several key areas of mutual interest along with regional developments were discussed. Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours of PAF's modernization plan of smart acquisitions from allied countries, up gradation of infrastructure and revamping of training. The Air Chief also highlighted that both the countries enjoy unprecedented strategic partnership and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral ties in the military to military cooperation. He said Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic and defence relationship with

Germany which is based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability. The visiting dignitary offered heartfelt condolences to the people of Pakistan over the loss of life amidst devastation caused by floods and appreciated the efforts put in by Pakistan Air Force for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims. The Ambassador praised the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by Pakistan Air Force over the years, especially through indigenization. He also appreciated Pakistan's continuous efforts for regional stability and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. Both sides agreed to further consolidate existing military-to-military ties particularly in training and operational domains.

## PM returns to Pak after successful China visit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has returned to the capital after completing the visit to China on Thursday. Pakistan and China have reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen and deepen bilateral All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and enhance practical cooperation in all areas. The resolve came during the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's two-day visit to China. The statement said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held in-depth discussion with the Chinese leadership, including President and the Prime Minister, on the bilateral relations as well as regional situation and international political landscape. The two sides agreed on the importance of China-Pakistan All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the emerging global challenges. The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, mutual strategic trust and commonality of views. The statement stated that the leaders reaffirmed that close strategic ties and profound friendship between China and Pakistan is time-tested and resilient. Pakistan-China friendship is a historic choice of both peoples that serves the interests of the two countries. The Chinese side reiterated that relations with Pakistan will always be given the highest priority in its foreign policy. The Pakistani side underscored that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy and that the Pakistani people always support the closest friendship between the two countries. The statement further said that both the sides reiterated their mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests. The Pakistani side expressed its commitment to the One-China Policy and support on issues of Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. The Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity. The Chinese side reiterated that relations with Pakistan will always be given the highest priority in its foreign policy. The Pakistani side underscored that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy and that the Pakistani people always support the closest friendship between the two countries. - DNA

**Shehbaz, Nawaz Sharif, not on same page on COAS name: Rashid**

DNA  
RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AMLP) leader and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid on Thursday said that the whole world is against one person, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, he will defeat everyone. Taking to Twitter, Rashid said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Supremo Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif are not on the same page on the issue of appointment of Army Chief. He went on to say that now no one can bear the burden of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). While he added that no one is giving charity to beggars, Sheikh Rashid said that the "imposed government" will not stay for long and it has not been supported. He said that this government are requesting other countries for the invitations. He further added that he do not want to comment on the recent China visit of PM Shehbaz. He said that the government should respond to the Russian senator's allegation of aid to Ukraine.

**First winter rain expected from weekend**

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Thursday indicated chances of first winter rain with snowfall in the country from the weekend. A westerly wave is likely to enter the country on November 4 evening or night and likely to persist November 7. Under the influence of this weather system, rain-wind/thunderstorm as well as snowfall over the mountains with isolated hail storms are expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Buner, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Malakand, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan from November 4 to 7 while in Bajaur, Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Kohat, Waziristan, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Mianwali, Khushab, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahaudin, Jhang and Faisalabad from November 5 to 7. Heavy rainfall is expected in Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Murree, Galiyat, Kashmir, Islamabad, Potohar region, Gujrat, Gujranwala and Sialkot from November 5 to 6. Light to moderate rain-wind/thunderstorm is also expected in Quetta, Zhob, Barkhan, Chaman, Pishin, Qillah Saifullah, Loralai, Bolan, Sibbi, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Awaran, Dadu, Shaheed Benazirabad, Karachi, Qambar Shahdadkot, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Naseerabad, Bhakkar, Layyah, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur Muzaffargarh, Sahiwal and Okara on November 06 and November 07.

**ECP receives briefing on Karachi LG polls' report**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday received a briefing on the report of the Sindh government to conduct local government (LG) elections in Karachi. The meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja was informed that as per the report, the provincial government said that the police strength was insufficient to hold LG elections, while the deployment of police from other districts was also not possible. The report further said that deployment of police personnel was also necessary for the security of Covid-19 vaccination staff and for other international events like seminars or conferences, therefore, holding of peaceful local government was not possible. The report also stated that an international defence expo/seminar will be held in Karachi, in Expo Centre, from November 15-18, and a copy of event had been sent to ECP. - DNA

## Netanyahu's win: Palestinians fear violence surge

Amer Hamdan, a legal activist from Nablus, said on Facebook: "How will we feel about ourselves when we watch millions of Israeli citizens going to the polling stations... and we cannot choose who represents us; neither in West Bank nor Gaza Strip?"

WEB DESK

RAMALLAH: The prospect of Benjamin Netanyahu returning to power as head of one of the most right-wing coalitions in Israeli history has prompted concern among Palestinians who fear it could be a prelude to an escalation of their conflict with Israel. More than 100 Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank have been killed by Israeli forces this year. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayeh said the rise of right-wing parties was "a natural result of the growing extremism and racism in Israeli society, which the Palestinians have been suffering from for years." But Palestinians "would not stop their legitimate struggle to end the occupation, gain freedom and establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital regardless of the identity of the winners in the Israeli elections." He added: "The difference between the Israeli parties is the same as the difference

between Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola. "We had no illusions that the ballot boxes in the Israeli elections would produce a partner for peace in light of the aggressive policies and practices that our people suffer from, which do not give weight to international decisions and laws. "The results of the Israeli elections confirmed that we have no partner in Israel for peace and that the international community must assume its responsibility to implement international resolutions and protect our people after the rise of racist parties to power in Israel." The Palestinian leadership has always supported and maintained ties with Israel's left-wing parties in the hope of a resumption of peace talks. Ahmed Al-Deek, an adviser to the Palestinian foreign minister for political affairs, told Arab News: "We will determine our position on the upcoming Israeli coalition based on its policies and stances on the Palestinian issue. "We view with great gravity this emergence of Israeli fascism represented by Ben Gvir and Smotrich, and we consider

it one of the expressions of the deep crisis that Israelis are experiencing as a result of the continuation of the occupation and the establishment of the apartheid regime in the Palestinian territories." Israeli lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir calls his Arab colleagues "terrorists" and advocates deporting political opponents. In his youth, his views were so extreme that the army banned him from compulsory military service. Bezalel Yoel Smotrich is a radical right-wing politician who heads the Religious Zionist Party and previously served as a Knesset member for Yamina. Hamas, which governs Gaza, holds a similar position to President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah on the Israeli poll. Hamas official Bassim Naiem told Arab News that the results of the election showed the "true face of Israel." "Those who showed great sadness over these results or expressed great surprise, locally and internationally, are either naive or politically ignorant, who didn't read the history of the Zionist movement and

project, and if they did, they didn't understand it," he said. Mustafa Barghouti, secretary-general of the Palestinian National Initiative, said the elections would not change anything because they were taking place between two extremist right-wing groups and in the absence of a true peace camp. He added that the most troubling thing was that a criminal fascist party headed by Smotrich and Ben-Gvir might get third place, indicating the degree of descent of colonial Israeli society toward racial extremism and the doctrine of ethnic cleansing and apartheid. Al-Deek said: "There is no power in the world capable of canceling the presence of the Palestinian people on their land and homeland, and they will continue to struggle by all means to confront the occupation until the double standards in international standards are broken." Palestinians also expressed anger at the fact that their occupier has held five elections in less than four years while they have not held any since 2006.