



Islamabad POST

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Prime Minister Shehbaz greets Hockey team

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Pak-Vietnam ties for benefit of both states

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Iran vows firm response to new EU sanctions

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Briefs

Gen Bajwa visits Sialkot, Mangla

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Sialkot and Mangla garrisons

as part of his farewell visits to various formations. COAS met officers and men at both locations and addressed the troops. COAS appreciated formations for their excellent performance during various operations, training and natural calamities. COAS advised troops to keep serving the nation with same zeal and commitment no matter what the circumstances. Earlier, on arrival at Sialkot, COAS was received by Lieutenant General Muhammad Aamer.

Marriyum castigates Imran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday castigated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for creating chaos, anarchy and polarisation in the country.

"There has been chaos, anarchy and hatred in the country due to Imran Khan who is bent on spreading his Fitna to create disorder, mischief and arson," she said in a news statement. She asked Imran Khan what motives he wanted to achieve by closing down roads. Marriyum said Imran Khan, who once gagged the media and others.

Govt committed to reviving CPEC projects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Lin Songtian

along with a delegation called on Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad on Thursday. They discussed projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Speaking on the occasion, Minister said Pakistan has a long historic relationship with China.

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PTI resumes long march

Imran says no fight with Pak Army

Seeks CJP help in registration of FIR

KHALID MAHOOD

WAZIRABAD:— Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Thursday addressed the long march participants via video link and invited the nation to come to Rawalpindi against the sitting thug rulers. He said he and his party respected Pakistan Army and he cannot even think to fight with his own army. Former Prime Minister appealed to the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial to take action on the matter of the firing incident as the nation is looking up to him. Imran Khan requested the CJP that he should have to see four things including 1) What happened to Azam Swati and Arshad Sharif, 2) How a post-mortem report of Arshad Sharif came to the TV anchor, 3) How the boy was used to Wazirabad firing incident, and 4) Who was the other shooter at the spot. Imran Khan said though they have a government in Punjab but the police were being controlled from somewhere else so how to trust them? He said Pakistan is going to be a banana republic that has no justice there either and this

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Roads' closure affecting public: Rana

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has appealed to local leaders and parliamentarians of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz to play their role in bringing out masses from difficulties being faced by them due to the closure of roads by PTI workers. In a statement on Thursday, he said PTI workers are involved in closing roads under police protection and government protocol, adversely affecting the general public. He said this situation is disturbing people's businesses, their participation in matters relating to joy and mourning, as well as educational activities. He said patients are facing

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Russia withdraws troops from Kherson

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russia has ordered its forces to withdraw from the Ukrainian city of Kherson, the only regional capital seized by President Vladimir Putin's troops since the war began. The announcement followed weeks of Ukrainian advances towards the city and signalled a potentially huge blow to Russia's military campaign in Ukraine, which it invaded in late February. In televised comments, General Sergey Surovkin said it was no longer possible to keep Kherson city supplied. "Having comprehensively assessed the current situation, it is proposed to take up defence along the left [eastern] bank of the Dnieper River," said Surovkin, standing at a lectern and indicating troop positions on a map whose details were greyed-out for the TV audience. "I understand that this

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Russian retreat would be Ukraine's victory

DNA

BRUSSELS: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday, Nov. 10, he was waiting to see how Russia's withdrawal from Kherson played out, but if confirmed, it would be "another victory for Ukraine". "We have to see how the situation on the ground develops in the coming days. But what is clear is that Russia is under heavy pressure and if they leave Kherson, it would be another victory for Ukraine," he said in Rome. Ukraine said Thursday its forces had reclaimed a dozen villages in the southern Kherson

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Spain Jose A de Ory called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.-DNA

PM greets Hockey team

Pakistan defeated Japan 5-3 to clinch the bronze medal

ISLAMABAD :Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday congratulated the national hockey team on bagging a bronze medal in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 in Ipoh, Malaysia, and said the nation was proud of their victory. "I felicitate the Pakistan hockey team on defeating Japan by 5-3 goals in an exciting match and clinching the bronze medal in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup," he said in a tweet. He said, "Congratulations to the team and the entire nation on the good news from the hockey field."-DNA

Nawaz issued diplomatic passport

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government on Thursday issued a diplomatic passport to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The passport was issued after clearance from the Foreign Ministry, sources said. According to details, the federal

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Pak for world engagement with Afghanistan govt

Minister of state underscored that deep rooted fraternal ties underpin the strong bonds of solidarity between the two countries

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reiterated the importance of sustained engagement of international community with the interim Afghan government, to ensure continued wellbeing and prosperity of the Afghan people. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar said this while talking to the Special Representative of the President of Iran on Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Ghomi, in Islamabad, the Foreign Office said on Thursday. Reaffirming Pakistan's abiding commitment to a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs underscored that deep rooted fraternal ties underpin the strong bonds of solidarity between the two countries. Taking note of the multiple, complex challenges confronting Afghanistan, the Minister of State reiterated the importance of sustained engagement of the international community with the Interim Afghan Government (IAG), in order to ensure continued wellbeing and prosperity of the Afghan people.

"As friends and neighbours of Afghanistan, the Minister of State impressed upon the critical role of Pakistan and Iran to this end," a statement quoted Ms Khar as saying. Earlier, the Iranian Special Representative also met his Pakistani counterpart, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq. Both sides agreed to further strengthen their cooperation towards advancing the mutually reinforcing goals of regional peace and development.

Taliban ban women from parks and funfairs

KABUL :The Taliban have banned Afghan women from entering the capital's public parks and funfairs, just months after ordering access to be segregated by gender. The new rule, introduced this week, further squeezes women out of an ever-shrinking public space that already sees them banned from traveling without a male escort and forced to wear a hijab or burqa whenever out of the home. Schools for teenage girls have also been shut for over a year across most of the country. "For the past 15 months, we tried our best to arrange and sort it out - and even specified the days," said Mohammad Akif Sadeq Mohajir, spokesman for the Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue. "But still, in some places - in fact, we must say in many places - the rules were violated," he told AFP late Wednesday. "There was mixing (of men and women), hijab was not observed, that's why the decision has been taken for now."

The news was met with dismay by women and park operators - who invested heavily in developing the facilities. "There are no schools, no work... we should at least have a place to have fun," said one mother, who asked to be identified only as Wahida, as she watched her children

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Political uncertainty deepens as long march resumes

ANSAR MAHOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Political uncertainty continues to grip the country amidst PTI Chief Imran Khan's recent Tweet that he will take more names who according to him are involved in an attack on him. At one point it seemed as if things had settled down with regards to registration of FIR against three persons including the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister and an army officer however after his new Tweet things appear to have turned even more complicated. The scope and ambit of the fight is now likely to be broadened, which means the future of politics in Pakistan may become bleak. The long march has started again albeit Imran Khan not leading it because of injuries but he promised his supporters that he will be with them when the march reaches Rawalpindi. Sources believe the PTI may not enter Islamabad before the visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman who is expected to arrive on November 21. If so happens, it would of course be a good omen with regard to relations between the PTI and Saudi Arabia. As mentioned in an earlier piece, during the PTI government Saudis chose to keep a distance from Imran Khan for a variety of reasons. Anyway, it is a good opportunity for the PTI to mend its fences with the Kingdom by allowing the smooth happening of the Crown Prince visit. During PTI famous 120 dharna, during the Nawaz Sharif regime, the party was severely grilled for hampering the visit of the then Chinese president Xi therefore it is expected that the party may not repeat the same mistake. Like Saudi Arabia, China also happens to be a friend that has always stood with Pakistan whenever Islamabad needed it. The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Nawaz Sharif in London a few days ago. It was a closed-door meeting however sources privy to the development revealed that future political scenario as well

appointment of the new army chief were the topics, which came under discussion during the meeting. Sources claim, the PML N leaders decided to stick to the principle of seniority in the appointment of the army chief, which means Lt. General Asim Munir stands a bright chance or at least the PML N camp wants him to be the new army chief. As media reports suggest, PTI and especially Imran Khan may not be comfortable with this appointment albeit he has announced that he and his party had nothing to do with the appointment of the chief but we all know this statement is just for public consumption. When it comes to appointment of the army chief one thing needs to be kept in consideration that by and large a person who is never discussed for the post but he is still in the queue, is often picked for the job. General Waheed Kakar, General Jehangir Karamt, General Asif Nawaz, General Musharraf, General Kayani, General Raheel Sharif and Gener-



al Qamar Javed Bajwa were all less discussed when the appointment was to be made but then we saw them rising to the coveted slot. In the present case the President of NDU Lt. General Nauman may prove a dark horse. Despite being in the list of probabilities for the job he is least discussed. We have to keep in mind that PTI Chairman Imran Khan wanted General Bajwa to continue till the time of next elections. He had made this announcement publicly during a rally in Faisalabad. Nevertheless, the incumbent has expressed his willingness to doff off uniform at the stipulated time i.e November 29, 2002 but things may take dramatic turn if the long march poses threats to the federal government and consequently emergency is imposed in Punjab and KP provinces. The COAS Gen Bajwa has already started paying farewell calls. On Thursday he visited Sialkot and Mangla in this regard. As regards the holding of elections or at least announcement of the date for the fresh elections as de-

manded by PTI, it seems uncertain that the PML N and its allied parties would prefer to go to elections at this time. It was also a unanimous view during the London meeting that PML N especially cannot afford elections at this particular juncture when wind is already blowing in favour of the PTI. The option of continuing with the government was also difficult because the PML N and its allied parties had not been able to perform well. The ruling parties however are of the view it is better to continue with the government no matter how bad is this option, rather than announcing fresh elections and consequently paving the way for the PTI to take over for next five years. The PTI instead wants removal of this government sooner rather than later. Even if the government is sent packing as a result of the PTI long march or any other reasons, immediate elections may not be possible. Analysts believe, allowing PTI to have two-thirds majority in the elections may not augur well for the future of the country, especially keeping in view the past performance of the party. The only viable option to stop PTI from getting absolute majority happens to be creation of a level playing field in which PML N leader Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz will have equal chances of contesting the upcoming elections. This is a preposition at present and needs to be fine tuned before it comes into practice.

The corps commanders met on November 9, 2022 though no formal communiqué was issued about this meeting. As per media reports, the commanders sought to adopt a wait and see policy regarding recent happenings in the country. Source claim the summary for the appointment of the army chief may be moved next week when the defence secretary returns from abroad. The govt on its part has decided to take its allies into confidence on this matter, which means the controversy caused by this appointment shall soon come to an end.

New technology, tools must for development

President said that steps should be taken to increase the ratio of insurance in GDP for which educating people and building their confidence on insurance is very essential for a vibrant economy

PESHAWAR :President Arif Alvi on Thursday said that trust and confidence of people in the insurance system is a must for a stable economy and prosperity of the country.

He was speaking as chief guest at a seminar titled "Role of Federal Insurance Ombudsman in provision of effective justice" organized by Federal Insurance Ombudsman at Governor House Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Among other distinguished participants, the seminar was attended by Speaker KP Assembly and Acting Governor, Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani and Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Dr. Muhammad Khawar Jameel. The President said that steps should be taken to increase the ratio of insurance

in GDP for which educating people and building their confidence on insurance is very essential for a vibrant economy. He said that alternation dispute resolution system (ADP) is the best efficient system adopted by the Federal Insurance Ombudsman to provide quick justice to insurance policy holders and resolve their monetary disputes instantly. He said that as a parliamentarian from 2013-2018, he worked hard to evolve ADR system for the benefit of people as tens of thousands of cases were pending in courts, adding litigation in courts is lengthy as well as costly process to get justice.

President Arif Alvi said that we have to adjust our system what people want to settle their disputes. He appreciated all

five federal ombudsman offices for resolving all complaints within 60 days. He stressed the need of embracing new technology, tools and innovations to compete with other countries.

Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Dr. Khawar Jamel said that his organization is playing important role in provision of justice to every citizen without hiring any lawyer and without any monetary cost. He said that under the effective guidance and patronage of President of Pakistan, the Federal Insurance Ombudsman has given monetary relief of over Rs. 2 billion to insurance policy holders in 2022 and complaints registration has increased by 300 times as compared to 2019.—APP

Chairman CDA visits Capital hospital

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chaitman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis visited Capital Hospital on Thursday and also inaugurated newly built modern laboratory. On this occasion, the officers of the relevant departments were present. According to the details, the newly built laboratory in Capital Hospital is equipped with modern technology to provide all possible facilities to the patients coming to the hospital. In the new and modern laboratory built in Capital Hospital, PCR lab facilities including high speed chemistry analyzer, high speed special chemistry analyzer, blood gas analyzer, electrolyte analyzer will be provided to the patients. On this occasion, Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis directed that special care should be taken for women and especially senior citizens coming to the hospital. He further directed to iden-



tify four suitable places in the city for establishment of collection units. He also the concerned formations to make arrangements for providing facility of home collection. Moreover, Chairman CDA also visited the pharmacy of Capital Hospital and took a detailed look at the problems faced by the citizens and while issuing instructions to the ED Capital Hospital, he said that such a mechanism should be made

so that the patients can be treated in the shortest possible time and medicines be provided without delay. Apart from this, Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis also visited the new OPD being built in Capital Hospital and reviewed the progress made in the development works. He further said that the construction work should be accelerated and it should be completed

as soon as possible and made operational for the citizens. Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis while issuing instructions to the concerned departments said that the speed of work should be accelerated and superior quality of work be ensured and all out efforts be made to complete the project before the scheduled time and all available resources should be utilized in this regard.

ISSI, INESG Algeria sign MoU to establish institutional linkages

ISLAMABAD: Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and National Global Strategic Institute (INESG), Algeria, here, on Thursday signed an MOU facilitated by Center for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA).

An MoU signing took place in presence of ISSI Director General Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and INESG Director General, Mr. Abdelaziz Medjahed, said a press release issued by ISSI. The MoU signing ceremony was also attended by H.E. Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan, H.E. Muhammad Tariq, and Ambassador of Pakistan to Algeria, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors (BOG), ISSI and Ms Amina Khan, Director, Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA).

Director CAMEA, Ms. Amina Khan, while giving her introductory remarks, stated that with the signing of MoU "we not only hope to further the relationship between Pakistan and Algeria, but we hope to establish institutional linkages between both sides for collaborative research and dialogue on issues of mutual interest".

Director General ISSI Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry gave a brief introduction of the Institute and extended his commendation to both Centers and hoped that this association would help produce quality research and dialogue for mutual benefit. Director General, INESG, Mr. Abdelaziz Medjahed said that Pakistan and Algeria are very important countries in the region and friendly ties between these countries are of utmost significance. Both countries

have a long-standing history of solidarity and Pakistan has always supported Algeria. He said that the entire team at INESG looks forward to a fruitful partnership with ISSI and this mutual cooperation will be beneficial for both countries. Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan, H.E. Brahim Romani said this MoU will help to produce diverse linkages and cooperation between the two institutions and will help to create collaboration at regional and international levels. He mentioned that this MoU will enable us to achieve better interaction and fruitful cooperation. Ambassador of Pakistan to Algeria, H.E. Muhammad Tariq was of the view that Pakistan and Algeria are two important countries and there is a lot of potential that needs to be explored.—APP

Minister hopes IT Export revenue to touch US\$5b

KARACHI :Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT), Syed Amin ul Haque, on Thursday, said that government was focused on promotion of research and development activities for encouragement of entrepreneurship in the country. He was addressing distribution ceremony of the 1st Hameed and Azra Awards in the field of Quality Academic Research in Pakistan held here at Karachi University to recognise and honour services of young researchers and scholars. Vice Chancellor Karachi University Prof. Dr. Khalid M Iraqi, Deans of faculties, senior faculty members, scholars and a large number of varsity students attended the ceremony. The federal minister said that cellular phone companies operating in Pakistan were being charged with a tax at the rate of 2 percent and out of that 1.5 % was being used to improve connectivity.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Yezhan kistafin Ambassador of Kazakhstan called on Chairman NDMA Lt. General Inam Haider Malik in his office.—DNA

Chairman NDMA thanks Kazakh envoy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik Thursday expressed his gratitude to the visiting dignitary for gracious donation and financial commitments from Republic of Kazakhstan towards Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan called on Lt General Inam Haider Malik here, a news release said. Both the dignitaries discussed necessity of continued support to flood affected people during impending winters. The chairman stressed on shared intellectual and administrative cooperation mechanism for investment in preparedness, greater than post disaster management. The two sides developed consensus on expanding capacity building of Pakistan's national efforts in Floods 2022, whereas

need to establish more bilateral and multilateral regional cooperation in disaster mitigation, awareness, preparedness and subsequently in relief, rescue and rehabilitation and reconstruction phases were also agreed. The ambassador proposed that after initial online meeting between Minister of Emergency Response of Kazakhstan and Chairman NDMA, the follow up high level delegates of Kazakhstan would plan visit to Pakistan and NDMA to explore further avenues of mutual cooperation.

Call to expand horizon of social protection system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The practitioners need to realize that social protection is the agent of social development, therefore, the horizon of social protection system must be expanded beyond the social assistance in the local context. This was stated by Dr. Franz von Roenne, Programme Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ, Pakistan) here at the launch of a training course on 'Social Protection in Pakistan' for public sector officials to develop a better understanding of the social protection concepts, instruments, and systems-based approach. The course was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with GIZ under a BMZ-financed programme, Oxford Policy Management (OPM), and Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg

(HBRS), Germany.

Dr Franz said that GIZ is supporting the federal as well as the provincial governments through its reform program, namely Support to Social Protection - Social Health Protection. Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI said that the government must think of social protection in context of post disaster situations such as floods and pandemic that calls for this kind of course. While discussing the fragmentation of the existing social protection system in Pakistan, he stressed the need for an integrated approach.

Mr. Tauseef Dilshad Khatana, the Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Social Protection Authority, said this course provides an opportunity to learn from diversified experiences and is a step forward to build capacities for the improved implementation of social protection.

Mr Fawad Khattak, Pro-

ject Director, PP SPRU P&D Department KP, highlighted the importance of adaptive social protection system with the aim of developing better system for social protection in Pakistan.

The departments whose representatives attended the course were: Federal Sehat Sahulat Program, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Benazir Income Support Programme, Punjab Bait-ul-Maal, P&D Board Punjab, KPTEVTA, Women Development Department, Punjab, Punjab Social Protection Authority, Special Education Department, Punjab, Zakat and Usher Department, Punjab Government, Punjab Health Initiative Management Company, Social Welfare Department of KP, Sehat Card Plus KP, P&D Department KP, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund along with other organizations.

RCCI's 2nd Pindi Food Festival starts

RAWALPINDI: The second Pindi Food Fest (Food Mela) organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce is starting today Friday, Commissioner Rawalpindi Saqib Manan will be the chief guest of the festival opening ceremony, the three-day food fest will be held from November 11 to 13 at Ayub Park. Saqib Rafiq, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, has said that the purpose of organizing the food festival is to promote traditional and regional foods, introduce new flavors and give an opportunity to entrepreneurs for the development of SMEs. A large number of people are involved in the food business, more than fifty stalls of different types of food will be set up in the three-day fair. Continental, fast food, barbecue and bakery foods along with local, desi and regional flavors. There will be stalls, women entrepreneurs who are associated with food business are also being given an opportunity to launch their own brand.

Chairman Festival Bilal Maqbool said that Rawalpindi Chamber is going to hold this event for the second time, last year we got good feedback. He further informed that on the occasion of food festival evening musical evening and kids carnival for children will also be organized for the entertainment of families.—DNA

Govt to strengthen National Skills University: Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday said the government would provide all necessary support to strengthen the National Skills University's (NSU) main and Muridke Campuses. During his visit to the various laboratories of National Skills University Islamabad Campus, he said that university's skills learning laboratories/workshops were of international standards. Rana Tanveer Hussain interacted with students, faculty, technologists and inquired about their future employability and university collaborations with employers. He also observed students learning skills by following standard safety procedures. Professor Dr. Zia-UI-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), also joined the workshops tour and briefing session. According to the Federal Minister, the government organization, mainly the ministries should get their vehicles repaired through NSU-trained personnel. This has multiple benefits of training national youth, economic and reliable repair supervised by world-class tech-

nologists, and strengthening the university services programs approved by its Senate. Later, upon completing his tour of laboratories and workshops, Rana Tanveer Hussain chaired a briefing session on issues related to the initiation of classes at the NSU Muridke Campus and the brotherly country Turkey project by the TIKa about the establishment of the hospitality center at the premises of the National Skills University Islamabad. Of note, it is essential to mention that TIKa works with an approach that involves sharing Turkey's development experience with other countries and relies on an understanding of "cooperation partnership." The Minister was also apprised that Saudi support for the NSU will strengthen Muridke Campus and provide opportunities for youth in that region to excel in skills learning. Mr. Wasim Ajmal Chaudhary, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, mentioned that Saudi's Government support project for the NSU has been prepared in consultation with the Ministry and discussed at bilateral levels.—APP

UET holds interaction session with students

PESHAWAR: The Department of Chemical UET Peshawar on Thursday arranged an interactive session of students with the Vice Chancellor and other faculty members here.

The opening ceremony of the Pakistan Institute of Chemical Engineers (PICHE-2022) was also held, wherein Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ifthikhar Hussain was the chief guest. In his address, the Vice-Chancellor said, "You owe a huge service to your parents and this country who have given you all opportunities to become successful in your career," adding the department of Chemical Engineering had produced eminent graduates who are serving the needs of the country.—APP

Dr Mukhtar highlights education diplomacy

He also urged the research community to organize academic debates, initiate institutional reforms and hence play a positive and constructive role

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed on Thursday narrated the significance of education diplomacy in bringing sustainable peace and stability in the region. He was addressing the audience in the one-day National Conference on "75 Years of Pakistan: History, Diplomacy and Economy" organized by Iqra University, Islamabad Campus (H-9). Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the importance of understanding our historical roots, the political transformation, transitions in diplomatic relations as well as the economic developments over the past 75 years of our homeland. He said that it is pertinent to have a critical understanding of our histo-

ry, so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. In his address, he also urged the research community to organize academic debates, initiate institutional reforms and hence play a positive and constructive role in countering regional issues such as climate change, population growth, and food scarcity. He suggested that in this age of hate speech, violence, contempt, stigmatization, education diplomacy can play a key role in promoting inclusivity, social cohesion and peaceful co-existence in a multi-faith society like ours. Honoring the sentiment of the Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan, he urged the scholars to put hope in the hearts of the young generation so that we

embark on a future journey full of hope and passion, full of dreams and challenges, and commitment to serve our motherland.

In his welcome address, the Guest of Honour Vice Chancellor/President, Iqra University, Prof. Dr. Wasim Qazi stressed on maintaining evolutionary continuity between our past, present and future.

He said, "History is a great teacher as its understanding leads to the intellectual evolution of human existence. Pakistan as a nation has also progressed in the 75 years of its existence, however, we are somehow stuck with the pre-independence historical movements."

He put emphasis on the need to align our diplomatic goals with the

economic betterment of our country. The event was attended by HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor/President, Iqra University, Prof. Dr. Wasim Qazi, Vice President, Iqra University, Dr. Muhammad Islam, South African Councillor Mr. Brian Witbooi, Turkish Education Counsellor Mr. Mehmet Emin Kiraz, Head of Mission at Finland's Embassy in Islamabad Mr. Hannu Ripatti, and diplomats of other countries. Key academicians from around 25 public & private sector universities from across Pakistan were also present. Throughout the day, around 45 scholars presented their research papers in the academic sessions at 3 different venues within the university.—APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (Works Division-II)

CORRIGENDUM

INVITATION FOR BIDS AGAINST THE PROJECT

"CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND BRIDGES / CULVERTS AT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE II, ISLAMABAD."

With reference to Invitation for bids notice as mentioned in Daily National News Papers and CDA websites and further corrigendum published in leading newspapers and uploaded in CDA/PPRA Website. The further corrigendum for the invitation for bids IFB is hereby issued again with new date and time for issuance and opening of subject tilted project along with change of Category are as under:-

For:-

Last date for issuance of tender on 11.11.2022 and opening on 14.11.2022 at 12:00 Noon (Category C-3 and above).

Read:-

Last date for issuance of tender on 18.11.2022 and opening on 21.11.2022 at 12:00 Noon (Category C-2 and above).

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

PID (I) No. 2963/22

Deputy Director
Works Division-II, CDA

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 / Northern Cyprus
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
Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

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
PIAFlight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

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

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

PTI continues protest in Rwp, roads blocked

Protesters stopped a large number of oil tankers and other heavy traffic on Fateh Jang Road besides blocking G.T.Road in Taxila for three days. Educational Institutions are closed in Tehsil Rawalpindi.

RAWALPINDI :The workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday continued the protest here for the fourth day and blocked several roads including Murree Road and G.T.Road against the assassination attempt on former premier Imran Khan. The PTI supporters are holding protests at several main places including Murree Road opposite Allama Iqbal Park near Shamasabad closing the road from both sides. The G.T.Road Taxila near 'bypass chowk and Margala Hills' closed for all kinds of vehicular traffic. Main Peshawar Road and Mall Road are open for traffic. However, the starting point of IJP Road, near Ghosia Ada towards Rawalpindi and Islamabad is closed for all kind of traffic. Jhelum Road near Swan Bridge towards Kutchery is closed for traffic but the road is open towards Rawat. Motorway M-1, Islamabad to Peshawar is open for traffic moving towards Peshawar while M-2, Islamabad to Lahore is closed for traffic moving towards Lahore. Old Airport Road near Gulzare-Quaid is open for all kinds of traffic. The protesters stopped a large number of oil tankers and other heavy traffic on Fateh Jang Road besides blocking G.T.Road in Taxila for three days. Educational Institutions are closed in Tehsil Rawalpindi. According to a City Traffic Police spokesman, alternative routes have been arranged to facilitate citizens. He informed that Saidpur Road, 5th Road, Commercial Market and Kuri Road can be used to reach Islamabad. M-1 can be used to bypass G.T.Road, Taxila which is closed for traffic. Similarly, main Peshawar Road, Chur Chowk towards Westridge, Marble Factory Road, Golra Mor, Srinagar Highway can also be used as IJP Road, near Ghosia Ada towards Rawalpindi and Islamabad is closed for traffic. He further informed that DHA-1/Behria Phase7/8 and Expressway from T-Chowk can also be used to bypass Swan Bridge which is closed for traffic moving towards Kutchery Chowk. New Airport Road, Thallian Interchange can be used to use M-2 which is closed only at starting point near Islamabad Toll Plaza while the rest of the motorway is open for traffic. The closure of different roads had badly affected the traffic flow on several roads. PTI workers also blazed tyres and raised slogans against the government. The ambulance service was also suspended and several vehicles transporting patients to the hospitals got stuck in the traffic gridlocks.—APP

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar presenting his registration from the Senate seat to Chairman, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.—DNA

Empowerment of women top priority, says Shazia Mari

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) on Wednesday stated that women empowerment was among the top priorities in Pakistan. She was addressing the Fifth Annual Reykjavik Global Forum Women Leadership in Iceland. The federal Minister Ms. Shazia Marri is representing Pakistan in Fifth Annual Reykjavik Global Forum Women Leadership along with MNA Ms. Shaista Pervaiz. Ms. Shazia Marri in her speech, said that she hailed from a flood affected district in Sindh province and highlighted that she herself and five other women Ministers are in the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan, which reflects women empowerment in Pakistan. The Minister informed the forum that she was coming from a country that was facing unprecedented floods due to historic rains which Pakistan never experienced before that. She highlighted that 33 million people were displaced due to flooding, a population more than total population of many countries around the world. She underscored that there were around 650 thousand pregnant women among these people who needed maternal services while 4 million children are also suffering from the calamity. "I am also the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety" she continued, "I take pride to lead Pakistan's most successful social protection programme, that is called Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)". The Minister informed the forum that BISP covers about 8 million families of Pakistan which are the poorest of the poor, and the Government of Pakistan is providing targeted cash relief to these needy families for a better living. Ms. Shazia Marri also quoted two other programmes, one pertained to nutrition and other one to the education. "We are trying to incentivize nutrition and education through Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)" she concluded.—DNA

Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar tenders resignation

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar on Thursday during a meeting with Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani tendered his resignation from the seat of the Upper House of the Parliament in person. According to a notification, issued by the Senate Secretariat, the Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has accepted the resignation of the respective member and consequently, the seat has become vacant in terms of Clause (1) of Article 64 of the Constitution with effect from November 10, 2022.—APP

ANF seizes over 423 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI :Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan has seized over 423 kg of drugs, 428 heroin-filled and 259 charras-filled capsules besides netting three accused during counter-narcotics operations in different areas. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF Sindh managed to bust a gang and arrested three accused namely Shamim Khan, ring leader, resident of Karachi, Abdul Jameel Khali, resident of Peshawar, drug supplier, and Muhammad Afham, a drug carrier, resident of Karachi and recovered 428 heroin-filled capsules, 259 charras-filled capsules and 3600 grams charas from their possession. The gang was allegedly involved in drug smuggling to Arab countries through drug carriers. In another raid, ANF Balochistan conducted a raid in the 'Kech' area and seized 400 kg of charras.In the third operation, ANF and FC recovered 20 kg of charras from the Khyber area. Separate cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 and further investigations are under process, he added.—APP

Imran Abbas wows fans with latest lip-sync video

ISLAMABAD :Top-notch Pakistani actor, producer and former model Imran Abbas is conquering the hearts of millions worldwide not just for his exceptional acting skills, but also through his hilarious lip-sync videos. This time around, the starlet left netizens gushing over his latest fun-filled BTS video, right from the set of the new serial 'Eham-e-Junoon' with the leading lady Neelum Muneer while lip-syncing the song 'Tum jo kaho', which went viral across social media platforms. In the viral video, the duo can be seen performing on the famous track while their expressions were on point. "Fun behind the scene and between the scenes of Eham-e-Junoon", the heartthrob captioned the enchanting reel. Furthermore, the epitome of talent and beauty Muneer also took to her respective social media handle and reposted the video on her Insta reel while sharing her work experience with 'Khuda Aur Muhabbat' sensation.—APP

Police launch search operations

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi District Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi on Thursday launched search operations in different city areas in the jurisdiction of Kalar Syedan, Morgah, Saddar Baroni, Kahuta, Taxila, Kotli Sattian, Rawat and Patriata police stations, said a police spokesman. He informed that heavy contingents of Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of senior police officers, conducted search operations in different areas and searched 476 houses, 80 shops, 10 hotels, besides checking the particulars of 47 tenants. Over 733 persons were also checked during the operations, he added.—APP

Protests held against anti-people policies of India

ISLAMABAD:Wide-range protests were held against anti-people policies of the Indian authorities in parts of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir media service,The skilled and un-skilled laborers sat on a sit-in protest near the office of Super Highway in Jammu. After passing of deadline given by labour union to enroll the local youth in construction of the highway, a number of skilled and unskilled but unemployed workers staged the protest. They were raising slogans in favor of their demands. A union leader Isher Dass Khajuria widely condemned the attitude of the authorities for ignoring the local unemployed youth and giving employment to outsiders. Meanwhile, the Nursing staff of SKIMS appointed under the academic arrangement also staged a protest against the authorities saying that they were made to work without getting paid. Scores of nurses appeared in the press enclave, Srinagar, holding placards and raising slogans in favour of their demands which included the continuation of their services. "We are working as nursing staff under the academic arrangement in SKIMS. We have been working there for more than 18 months. Firstly, we got the extension of one year and then we were verbally told to work for 6 months more, however, for that, we did not get any approval from the authorities," Mehreen, one of the protesting nurses said. She said that their salaries for those six months were not released either. The Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of the Education Department staged a protest against the Finance Department for sitting on a file which was submitted to it by the School Education Department. Scores of such workers appeared in the press enclave, Srinagar and raised slogans against the authorities while warning that they will go for no pay and no work to press for the fulfilment of their demands.—APP

Pakistan may benefit from use of bamboo instead of plastic

DNA ISLAMABAD: An initiative to replace the use of plastic with bamboo was launched by the Chinese government in collaboration with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) at the opening ceremony of the Second Bamboo and Rattan Congress (BARC 2022) and celebration of INBAR's 25th anniversary held here both online and offline, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. Incorporated under the framework of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic Initiative is designed to radically scale up the use of bamboo as a renewable resource to reduce plastic pollution and address climate change and jumpstart international efforts to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As per INBAR, bamboo plays a huge role in cutting plastic pollution and is on track to replace plastic in the field of commodity, engineering and medical treatment. The initiative advises countries to provide supportive policies and promote the use of bamboo over plastic. Efforts should also be made, it states, to incentivise scientific research and innovative uses of bamboo so as to promote new technologies and new products. The initiative also proposes to increase public awareness of bamboo as a sustainable substitute for plastic through national and international forums, exhibitions and other public events.Plastic pollution has posed a grave threat to the

earth and human beings. As per a 2021 UNEP report, "approximately 7 billion of the 9.2 billion tonnes of plastic produced from 1950-2017 became plastic waste, ending up in landfills or dumped," representing a global recycling rate of less than 10%. Researchers at INBAR have also found that tiny plastic particles arising from plastic waste have spilled over into the food chain and that such microplastics can also be found in plants and fetuses of the Himalayas and the Mariana Trench. In Pakistan, 250 million tons of garbage in Pakistan primarily consists of plastic bags, pet bottles and food scraps, and 65% of waste that ends up on beaches along the coastal areas includes water bot-

NPO to organize webinar

ISLAMABAD:The National Productivity Organization (NPO) will conduct a training course on "Awareness of Six Sigma" on November 15 (Tuesday). The six sigma methodology is a systematic application that focused on achieving significant financial results and increasing customer satisfaction through data-based / quantitative problem-solving tools," according to an NPO document shared. The training provides a brief overview of how the principle, practices, and techniques of Six Sigma works. The objective of the training is to understand the fundamentals of quality management approaches, understand what is six sigma methodology and the approach to apply in any firm. The workshop will also provide information related to processing management vocabulary, quality definitions, the six sigma approach in problem-solving.—

AIOU Inks MoU with PAF

DNA ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony was held between Allama Iqbal Open University and Provost Training School, PAF regarding allotment of quota for admissions of Post Graduate Diploma Program in Criminology for PAF officers yesterday. The ceremony was presided over by Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Dean Faculty of Education while Air Commodore, Maqsood Akhtar represented the Provost Training School team. According to the agreement, Allama Iqbal Open University will allocate a special quota for Post Graduate Diploma (Criminology) admissions for the students of Provost Training School and also review the criminology courses along with the school management, teachers, officers and experts. The Provost Training School will enroll officers as per the dedicated

slots in PGD Criminology for PAF officers. According to the agreement, exchange of faculty, conducting joint research activities, publication of research, educational materials along with the exchange of knowledge and sharing of training facilities are included in the agreement. The documents of the agreement were signed by Raja Umar Younis, Registrar AIOU and Air Commodore Maqsood Akhtar of PAF. Speaking on the occasion, Maqsood Akhtar said that there is a need for theory along with practical in criminology and policing, and AIOU will fulfill the need. He said that Allama Iqbal Open University is producing competent professionals in every field and these services of the university are commendable for fulfilling the needs of society. He said that we have students in every institution of the country, now the officers of Pakistan Air Force will also be our students as

well. Chairman, Department of Sociology, Dr. Syed Imran Haider highlighted the importance and need of this study. Meanwhile, a walk was also organized in the university in memory of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The walk was led by Director Student Affairs, Rana Tariq Javed, Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer

Ahmed Khan, Controller Examinations, Mian Muhammad Riaz and Director Public Relations, Dr. Bakht Rawan. Speaking at the end of the walk, Dr. Bakht Rawan said that Allama Iqbal is not only a poet of the East but also a benefactor of Pakistan. The dream of a free homeland for Muslims is his great kindness to the Pakistani nation, which

we will always remember. Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmed Khan said that we are grateful to Iqbal for dreaming of a separate country. Thinking of a separate homeland for Muslims while living in united India, is a great favor to us Pakistanis which we can never forget and will always pay tribute to him on his birthday.

Briefs

17 drug peddlers, bootleggers arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police in their ongoing operations against law-breakers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 17 drug peddlers, bootleggers, and illegal weapon holders besides seizing 3540 grams of charras, 35 liters liquor, a 9mm pistol, four 30-bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Rattaamral, Race Course, Taxila, Dharmial, and Murree police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and recovered 3540 grams of charras from the possession of Ijaz, Shahzaib, Tanveer, Usama, and a female drug pusher namely Zulekha. In other raids, Gungmandi, Sadiqabad, and Rawat police seized 35 liters of liquor and netted Toqeer, Arslan, Rohail, Tabasam, and Saghir. The spokesman informed that Patriata police conducted a raid at a wedding ceremony and rounded up two accused identified Khizer and Akhlag who were allegedly involved in fireworks. Meanwhile, Sadiqabad, Wah Cantt, Rawat and Chontra police in their operations arrested Shehryar, Mumtaz, Nabeel Ahmed, Yamin, and Yasir Mehmood on recovery of a 9mm pistol, four 30-bore pistols, and ammunition. —APP

Classical dance performance, storytelling mesmerize audience

ISLAMABAD :A classical dance performance by Khanzada Asfandiyar Khattak, a classical dancer and choreographer enthralled the audience of twincities here Thursday at the auditorium of Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) featuring the dance forms of the subcontinent to promote peace and positivity. The qualified classical dancer is also a dance teacher who performed at home and abroad while serving as CEO at Teri Nawab Durbar - a rights-based organisation working for peace and economic prosperity through culture, heritage, art, music, dance and tourism. The Kathak Dance in Pashtun and Afghani tribal costumes were beautifully presented for the fun lovers. The dance performance was followed by Daastangoi (storytelling) by Dr Waqar Azeem and Sadia Hayat. The traditional way of narrating story presented a traditional short story and a contemporary. Combining vibrant costumes, the presenters narrated stories with messages of positivity, peace and harmony. —APP

World Science Day highlights significance of science in society

ISLAMABAD :World Science Day for Peace and Development was celebrated across the globe on Thursday to highlight the indispensable role of science in human society. The day underlines the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging and crucial contemporary issues relevant to science. This year, the theme of the day was "Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development". The United Nations General Assembly on December 2, 2021, while endorsing the proposal for an International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, affirmed the applications of basic sciences as vital for advancements in various sectors including medicine, industry, agriculture, water resources, energy planning, environment, communications, and culture, said a press release issued by UNESCO. Islamabad in collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC), the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), the Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation ECOSF.—APP

ICCI signs MoU with PWCTA to promote Pak-Canada trade

ICCI and PWCTA should work together to develop strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries in order to improve bilateral trade volume

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work jointly for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Canada. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI and Ms. Bushra Rehman President PWCTA signed the MoU during a ceremony held at ICCI. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Canada in 2020 was just around US\$ 1.11 billion, which is not reflective of the actual potential of both countries. He stressed that ICCI and PWCTA should work together to develop strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries in order to improve bilateral trade volume. He said that Canada is a developed country and Pakistan can get many economic benefits



by enhancing economic cooperation with it. He said that Pakistan offers great opportunities to Canadian companies in education, IT & telecom, cleantech, energy, oil & gas, agri-food, wood sectors and many other fields. He hoped that the MoU between ICCI and PWCTA would contribute to strengthening trade ties between the two countries.

Ms. Bushra Rehman, President, Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association said that her Association is advocating the collective voice of the private sector and offers helpful advice and assistance to the Government in its efforts to promote exports, encourage foreign investment and stimulate economic activities in the country. She

said that PWCTA is playing an active role in promoting economic activities and in identifying problems of trade, industry, services, investments, environment that are taken up with the government to safeguard the interests of the private sector. She said that PWCTA would work with ICCI for reduction of transaction costs and simplification of

procedures by taking up such issues with their respective governments to facilitate trade promotion. She said that the Pakistani business community including women entrepreneurs should participate in trade fairs and exhibitions in Canada to introduce the export potential of their products including textiles products, surgical instru-

ments, footballs etc. She said that the student visa acceptance rate in Canada is 82 percent and Pakistani students should take advantage of this facility to get quality education in Canadian universities. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Canada have good potential to enhance trade in edible products that would be beneficial for both countries. By signing the MoU, both parties agreed to extend continuous support to each other and exchange information on general economic status, investment opportunities, trade policies and legislative changes of their respective countries in order to strengthen trade, technological and industrial co-operation between the two countries. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Malik Sohail Hussain, Rizwana Asif President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sheikh Nadeem, Tariq Khan Jadoon President Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders & Industry also spoke at the occasion.

Elimination of interest-based system to boost economy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Thursday said the elimination of interest-based system would help boost economic activities in the country. Addressing a presser, Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, thanked the government, particularly Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman who is also the head of ruling coalition, Pakistan Democratic Movement and Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani's unflinching efforts to get rid of this anti-Islam system from our financial institutions. The withdrawal of appeal of national and state banks against the Federal Shariat Court's decision on Riba (interest) had infused a wave of happiness not only in the country but in the Islamic world. This bold step had raised the prestige of Pakistan in the Muslim Ummah all around the world, he added. "It was a longstanding demand of the people to make our society free from this interest-based economic system," he added. In the light of Quran and Sunnah, Maulana Ashrafi said the interest-based system was in contradiction to Islam and its adaptation was considered as an open war with Allah Almighty and His last Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him. He, on behalf of the Ulema and Mashaykh, assured the government's team to provide all-out support to transform the economic system in accordance with Islamic laws and divine commands. Regarding the visit of Saudi Arabia's Prime Minister and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman to Pakistan which is expected on November 21, this month, he said the Saudi Leadership was not only a state guest but he was a distinguished guest of the entire nation. "He must be given an overwhelming welcome on his arrival to Pakistan," he urged.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci paying respects to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on the 48th anniversary.—DNA

DEMP organizes calligraphic show

ISLAMABAD :Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Thursday inaugurated a 'Calligraphy and Digital Exhibition' in connection with Iqbal Day, organized by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP). The exhibition showcased the calligraphic work of the school and university-level students mainly having couplets on colourful and abstract backgrounds. Addressing on the occasion, Irfan Siddiqui said that educational institutes should organize exhibitions and competitions among students to spread the message of Allama Iqbal. He said that he was consulted

on the restoration of the Iqbal Day's holiday and he had recommended it with the belief that it would be helpful in highlighting the message Iqbal. He said Allama Muhammad Iqbal was a down-to-earth poet but he was aware about the worth and reach of his work. He said that the poetry of Allama Iqbal had given encouragement to the youngsters and the nation. He said that the participants of the calligraphy competition had painted an eagle on their work and they should also be aware of the reason due to which the eagle was beloved to Allama Iqbal. He said Allama Iqbal loved

the eagle due to its characteristics including flying without getting tired, a habit of not making the nest and eating the prey that was not dead. Speaking on the occasion, scholar Talib Hussain Sial said that Iqbal Day should be observed every month adding that teachers and educational institutions should arrange literary events frequently. He said that character building and a stable economy were the core messages of Allama Iqbal. He said Allama Iqbal's poetry and messages had been included in the syllabus and now it was

the responsibility of the teachers to sensitize the students. Earlier, Irfan Siddiqui visited the exhibition with Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shahera Shahid and Director General DEMP Imrana Wazir. During the visit, he appreciated the participants and the song produced by the DEMP based on the poetry of Allama Iqbal. Senator Irfan Siddiqui distributed the certificates of appreciation among the winners of the calligraphic competition and appreciated the song produced by DEMP based on Iqbal's poetry.—APP

Population and food security

DNA

ISLAMABAD. Dr. Sabina Durrani, DG Population Programme Wing, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Government of Pakistan, delivered the talk. The participants included members of think tank community. The talk was part of the Grand National Dialogue (GND) series being planned on a number of pertinent issues. Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with IRS is hosting events on "Population and Food Security," input from all provinces is being sought to get a national narrative on the subject. Earlier events planned on population and food security were in

Peshawar, Wah and Sargodha. Population is a chronic disorder and the issue needs a wider introspection other than family planning. Population can be productive and can contribute to economic growth. However, in a situation where the population lacks in health and education, it becomes a burden on economy and a security threat. In 2018, the devolution of power to provinces was carried out, primarily to improve the situation of population growth. The institutional fault-lines, like the competition over the resources coupled with the inability at provincial levels have failed to attain the desired outcome. Resultantly, the data on population submitted to federal is not correct.

China & Pakistan explore mutual avenues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China & Pakistan should jointly explore more avenues in social cultural & economic sectors for mutual benefits. This was stated by Amb. Lin Songtain President Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) China, while talking with Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi at later's residence alongwith 6 members high profile delegation. Chinese charge d Affairs Madam Pang Chunxue, Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Executive Committee Member Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary-General Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani were also present on the occasion. The visiting Chinese dignitaries Amb. Lin Songta in appreciate the efforts of PCFA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during past more than 3 decades and we can explore more avenues with mutual understanding can



learn from each experience for speed up social prosperity and economic development. CPAFFC President Lin Songtain also share his experience during his stay in African Continent as Chinese Ambassador and mentioned that honest efforts with clear vision can bring new heights in our society behavior positivity. Earlier Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi welcome the visiting CPAFFC delegation headed by its President and accompanied by Chinese Officiating Amb. Madam Pang Chunxue and extend thanks on behalf of the people of Pakistan for China assistance during floods and mentioned that we should take the advantage of both China & Pakistan historical and exemplary relationship for further strengthening mutual relationship for coming generations. He mentioned that we should further strengthen people to people and sister city relationship to get benefit from each other experiences. Later on traditional Souvenirs were exchanged and were appreciated from both sides.

Three bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three bike lifters and recovered five stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, New Town Police Station managed to net three bike lifters namely Hasan, Zohaib and Haroon and recovered five stolen motorcycles from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigations are underway. Superintendent of Police, Rawal Babar Javed Joya said, the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. He said that the operations against the law-breakers would be accelerated further.—APP

Burning tyres amid protests causing serious air pollution

ISLAMABAD: The air quality of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad is deteriorating due to the burning of tyres amid protests of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers causing congestion on routes and interchanges across both the cities.

The PTI workers took to countrywide protests on November 4 (Friday) after the party chairman Imran Khan got injured while leading his long march to the federal capital as he was shot in his shin near Wazirabad city of the Punjab province.

The party workers had blocked routes and set tyres at fire near Shamsabad on Murree Road, Peshawar Road, whereas diversions were placed for both sides of traffic at Margallah Pahar point of GT Road and traffic coming from Taxila via GT Road to Rawalpindi. Moreover, alternatively, traffic was diverted to Srinagar Highway from Chungi No. 26 due to the protesters choking the thoroughfares. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the impact of fires due to burning of tyres was highly health injurious and environment damaging and were difficult to handle.

It added that these fires risk air, soil, and water pollution. "However, if a tyre fire occurs, tyres break down into hazardous compounds including gases, heavy metals, and oil. The average passenger car tire is estimated to produce over two gallons of oil when burned," the US EPA stated on its website. The oil released by tyres during burning were discharged directly into ground and surface water and hence making it a significant environment pollutant and highly combustible material. "Air pollution caused by tyre fires may include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), benzene, styrene, phenols, and butadiene," the US EPA said. 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 as a day earlier rainfall impact and cloudy weather subsided the air pollutants. 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

530 more cameras installed under safe city project

ISLAMABAD :Islamabad safe city project has been extended through the installation of 530 more cameras and repairing of 487 cameras which would ensure broader online monitoring and help curb crime in the city. As per the vision of Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, efforts were underway to secure the Capital while Islamabad Safe City Project was being made more effective and its reorganization was underway, the police said on Thursday. Following directions of Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan, DIG Safe City Romail Akram and his team have worked day and night to expand the coverage of the project. In Islamabad Safe City, 487 cameras have been made functional again which were closed due to development works.—APP

Possible Xi Jinping-Biden meeting in G20 summit

CHINA on Thursday hinted at a possible summit between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Joe Biden in Indonesia next week. “China attaches importance to the US proposal of the meeting between the two top leaders at the upcoming G20 summit in Bali,” Zhao Lijian, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at a regular news conference in Beijing. Xi and Biden would be in Bali, Indonesia, next week to attend the G20 summit. “Chinese and US heads of state remain in frequent communication in various ways. The two sides are communicating on the matter (possible Bali meeting),” Chinese daily Global Times quoted Zhao as saying. Beijing’s statement came after Biden said on Wednesday that he “will not make any fundamental concessions” on Taiwan’s defense when he meets Xi at the G20 leaders’ summit in Bali. “I’m not willing to make any fundamental concessions because what I’ve told him in the beginning ... when I was vice president,” Biden told a news conference. Zhao, however, said the US “should stop blurring, hollowing out and distorting the one-China principle.” Xi and Biden will meet for the first time face to face in Bali since the US president was inaugurated two years ago. It would also be the first conversation at the highest level since US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid an unannounced visit to Taiwan in August triggering massive tensions between the two countries. Biden would also be meeting Xi first time since the Chinese president was proclaimed as secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party for a historic third term last month. Both leaders should play their part in ending the Ukraine war and other ongoing conflicts in the world. At a time when the global economy is facing serious threats and the world is close to suffering from food shortages and climate change poses a great threat to human life, the position of the heads of two large and powerful countries like the United States and China. Let them materialize their efforts to save humanity from this impending doom.

Ukraine war offers China opportunity

James Dorsey

Mr. Xi seeks to ensure that China, at least for now, is primus inter pares alongside the United States and that it can propagate its notion of a totalitarian surveillance state shielded from criticism. This Russian Chinese divergence creates a double-edged sword for China. It generates geopolitical opportunity, nowhere more so than in Afghanistan and Central Asia, a region crucial to Chinese security, when the Ukraine war has altered the balance of power in the Chinese Russian relationship. Russia has turned itself into a pariah state in Western eyes. It has put a bull’s eye on itself by brutally challenging the international order and proving not good at it. At the same time, the war in Ukraine threatens to dash Messrs. Putin and Xi’s hopes of papering over differences in their diverging notions of a 21st-century world order while presenting...

Settler violence prospers in the Israeli political void

Yossi Mekelberg

Yossi Mekelberg: Well, this is a myth that Israel has carefully crafted and the settler movement as a whole and the far-right religious-messianic elements within it have now become too powerful and influential for any Israeli government to contain. The issue has been left to fester to the point that it is now out of control and, following last week’s election, these people have even greater representation in the Israeli legislature, the Knesset. It was reported last month that Israeli security officials themselves have expressed concern...

ONE can only wonder how many more general elections it would take for the violence inflicted by Jewish settlers on their Palestinian neighbors in the occupied West Bank – with either the active support of the Israeli security forces or their deliberate apathy – to become a major point of debate in Israel. Apparently there has not been space for such a discussion in five election campaigns over the last three and a half years and, meanwhile, I suggest you don’t hold your breath. For the vast majority of the Jewish-Israeli population, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are faraway places where they send their children to serve in the Israel Defense Forces as part of the occupying machine. Whatever happens in these occupied territories stays there and they do not want to know. With the exception of a few brave civil society organizations, journalists and politicians, who can be counted on the fingers of one hand (maybe two), there is no genuine interest either in the morality of oppressing the rights of millions of people who actually live in very close proximity to them, or in how it has torn apart Israeli society and compromised its long-term interests and democratic system. Nothing represents this willful denial and ignorance about the situation in the West Bank more than the ongoing and constantly worsening settler violence, about which almost nothing is done by the Israeli authorities. On the rare occasions that the security forces intervene, it is mainly to protect those settlers who viciously attack innocent Palestinians and members of Israel’s civil society who come to express solidarity with the victims of these violent acts and document what is actually taking place. Otherwise, what is presented to Israelis and the international audience is a distorted version according to the settlers themselves, their elected representatives, the military and the right-wing media, all of whom always portray the Palestinians as the violent party or as terrorists, and always claim that the settlers are acting in self-defense. They are largely a bunch of thugs who go about deliberately instigating friction with the Palestinian population

Yossi Mekelberg: Well, this is a myth that Israel has carefully crafted and the settler movement as a whole and the

far-right religious-messianic elements within it have now become too powerful and influential for any Israeli government to contain. The issue has been left to fester to the point that it is now out of control and, following last week’s election, these people have even greater representation in the Israeli legislature, the Knesset. It was reported last month that Israeli security officials themselves have expressed concern at the increase in acts of violence committed by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank in recent weeks. These have reached the staggering figure of more than 100 criminal acts motivated by religious-nationalist zeal in just 10 days. Palestinians are currently caught between the oppression of the “official” occupation as represented by the Israeli security forces and administration, and the settlers who are acting as a law unto themselves and harassing and intimidating their Palestinian neighbors. There is no denying that there are acts of Palestinian militancy, some of which can be classified as terrorism, while others represent legitimate resistance to occupation. No one would like to see a single extra Palestinian or Israeli lose their life to this senseless conflict, but occupation is bound to bring resistance and some of this is armed resistance. The point is, however, that what the settlers are doing has nothing to do with security, whether personal or national, or self-defense; it is about imposing their distorted versions of Zionism and Judaism. And it is about making the lives of Palestinians as unpleasant as possible in the hope that this will make them cave in and submit themselves to the whims of this group of supremacists; or, if not, just leave. These supremacist settlers are harboring a grand plan and, for now, they have been given a wild card by Israeli society to carry it out against the Palestinian population as they please. The UN’s Middle East envoy, Tor Wennesland, recently told the UN Security Council that, in his assessment, 2022 is on course to be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the organization started tracking fatalities in 2005. It remains to be seen whether his call for immediate action to calm “an explosive situation” and urgently resume Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations will have any impact on the international community. I doubt it.

The grim figures are that, this year, at least 125 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, while a series of Palestinian attacks has killed 27 Israelis inside Israel and in the Occupied Territories. And in this violent environment, Israeli settlers or other civilians have, so far this year, committed 106 attacks on Palestinians resulting in 63 injuries and/or damage to Palestinian property with complete impunity. In recent weeks, much of the settler violence has taken place in the vicinity of Nablus, where settlers have not only attacked Palestinians, but also turned against Israeli soldiers who, on these occasions, have tried to stop their attacks. The town of Hawara has become one of their favorite targets. For a minority of settlers, although a substantial and vociferous one, the aim is for the Occupied Territories to become the “wild” West Bank, where they recognize no authority but that of their own rabbis, who are often extremists that consider it completely acceptable to burn Palestinian fields, uproot olive trees, intimidate the local population with firebombs and beat up shepherds – all in the name of what they see as their divine right to the entire country. These settlers are not the modern-day pioneers they pretend to be, who are making sacrifices for the sake of Israel’s security and character. They are anything but. They are largely a bunch of thugs who go about deliberately instigating friction with the Palestinian population, knowing that in Israel’s current political climate they are almost untouchable, and even revered by some. Israel and its people have a choice to make: Either employ the full force of the law against the perpetrators of these settler crimes and put them behind bars and ban them from the West Bank, or allow them to carry on with this behavior, in which case every Israeli is complicit in aiding and abetting, whether actively or passively, these racist crimes. This should not be a tough choice for any civilized society that believes in justice, humanity and the rule of law.

– **Yossi Mekelberg is professor of international relations and an associate fellow of the MENA Program at Chatham House.**

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Shehbaz letters to CJP

PRIME Minister Shahbaz Sharif has written two letters to the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Umar Atta Bandyal, in which he has requested to form a judicial commission consisting of all available judges to find out the facts related to the assassination of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan and the murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif has been requested. In the letter written regarding the attack on the head of Tehreek-e-Insaf, some questions have also been raised, for example, what are the facts of the firing incident? Which law enforcement agencies were responsible for the security of the Long March? Were prevailing safety measures and standard operating procedures followed for safety? What are the facts regarding reports of multiple shooters, return fire, total number of victims and nature of their injuries? Did law enforcement and administrative authorities follow investigative procedures following the incident? Adopted the prevailing method of gathering evidence and dealing with the situation and if not, what flaws and weaknesses of the code were exposed? Which administrative authorities, law enforcement agencies and provincial government officials were held responsible for these regulatory deficiencies? What elements are intentionally hindering the incident investigation process and why? Was it an assassination plot that really aimed to kill Imran Khan or was it just a personal move by an individual, in both cases who are the responsible elements? The prime minister has also requested the commission to consider five questions in the case of Arshad Sharif, how did Arshad Sharif go abroad and who facilitated his deportation? Was any federal or provincial agency, institution or administration aware of any threat received by Arshad Sharif? If Arshad Sharif’s life was in danger, what steps were taken to save him? Under what circumstances and reasons did he go to Kenya from the United Arab Emirates? What is the real truth behind his death, a case of mistaken identity or is it the result of a criminal game? In the interest of the rule of law, the prime minister has assured the Supreme Court that the federal government will provide full support to the commission in the interest of the rule of law. In addition to the questions raised in the letters of the Prime Minister in the above incidents, there are many other issues that are rising in the heart and mind of every intelligent Pakistani and he wants to know the answer to them. The tragedy is that the mystery of Arshad Sharif’s martyrdom was not solved in Kenya, that there was a murderous attack on Imran Khan, this has increased the public anxiety. After the attack on Imran Khan, protests and vandalism are continuing in some cities of the country, along with law and order, the routines of ordinary citizens are also being affected. Imran Khan has announced the end of the protests from all the cities of the country except Islamabad, but the protests are continuing in the limits of Rawalpindi by blocking the entrances to Islamabad, which in addition to the residents of the surrounding areas, thousands of people work daily. People coming from Pindi to Islamabad are facing difficulties. Since Rawalpindi falls under the Punjab government, the federal government has alleged that the Tehreek-e-Insaf protest is being held under government patronage. The Federal Ministry of Interior has written letters to the governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, in which it has been said that due to the closure of roads, children are facing difficulty in going to school.

Briefs

Imran says no fight with...

FROM PAGE 1

is the reason that the people have lost faith in institutions.

The PTI chairman said the assassination attack on him was a 'Cover up' plan which was made two months ago in September and he also knew very well about the people behind this conspiracy.

Former premier Imran Khan said the conspirators had made a plan to kill him with some false allegations of religious blasphemy and the shooting killer was taught like a parrot about his statement after firing on him.

PTI Chairman said the opponents have oppressed him and his workers like terrorists and Pakistan Television (PTV) is playing the video to provoke the masses against him. He lauded Ibtisam for his courageous action against the shooter as well as he promised that his party, the PTI will be responsible for the care of assassinated Moazzam's children.

Imran said the thieves have no relation with the religion and only care about concealing their theft. He said no action was taken over torture on PTI leader Shahbaz Gill and Senator Azam Swati, adding that whatever is happening in the country is bringing bad name to the country across the world. The former PM while raising question on presence of pictures of slain journalist Arshad Sharif said that his mother is not being provided the postmortem report despite repeated demands. Slamming the PML-N supreme and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Imran said that efforts underway to ensure the return of Nawaz, adding that he [Nawaz] is fond of playing with his own umpires.

Continuing to take a swipe at the government, Imran said that rules are delaying the elections as they are feared of his [Imran's] increasing popularity. Saying that he merely wants the transparent elections, Imran added that the conduction of transparent elections is the only solution to all the problems, which the country is facing.

Earlier, expressing his thoughts, while meeting with a delegation of journalists in Zaman Park, Imran Khan on Thursday lambasted the incumbent government, said he is not desperate to speed up the tempo of his long march, but that the rulers in Islamabad are. Imran said that the leaders opposed the EVMs because they knew that he [Imran] will defeat them. "If I had to approach the establishment for help, so why I talked about the EVMs.

Roads' closure affecting...

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hardships in reaching hospitals.

Rana Sanaullah said a handful of PTI workers have been disturbing people for the last four days at the behest of the police. He said people's patience is running out due to the prevailing situation.

The Minister said we neither want any political confrontation nor will allow this, but we are afraid that people may now start accountability of Imran Khan's activists, who are hell-bent to create chaos and anarchy in the country.

Taliban ban women from parks ...

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play in a park through the window of an adjoining restaurant. "We are just bored and fed up with being at home all day, our minds are tired," she told AFP. At the next table, Raihana, 21, who is studying Islamic law at university, shared her disappointment after arriving at the park to spend the day with her sisters. "We were very excited... we were tired of staying at home," she said. "Obviously, in Islam, it is allowed to go out and visit parks. When you have no freedom in your own country, then what does it mean to live here?"

IPC to probe against Ex DG PSB foreign visits



AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) has decided to conduct probe on the last two years poor performance of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) along with its Ex-Director General Asif Zaman's foreign visits which he done without the approval of Prime Minister. These decisions were taken during the Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination which met here at Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship

of Nawab Sher Waseer. During the meeting committee members Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, Wajih Qamar and Shahida Rehmani raised many questions on the poor performance of Ex Director General PSB Asif Zaman and said that there are many allegations against former DG Pakistan Sports Board. The committee members raised question on Asif Zaman foreign visit's without the approval of competent authority and said that if the prime minister did not approve his foreign trips, then how did Asif Zaman go abroad? "IPC ministry didn't issue any NOC to Ex-DG Pakistan Sports Boards for

his any foreign trips", said Federal Secretary on Inter Provincial Coordination Ahmad Hanif Orakzai adding that Asif Zaman issued him self NOC for his foreign visits. The standing committee has decided to summon the FIA officials in the next meeting while expressing its anger on the issue and has directed the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination to conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter of Asif Zaman and send the report to the committee.

The Committee also expressed concern over the poor performance of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) during the last two years

as it failed to promote sports activities in Pakistan Sports Complex due to mis-management and lack of coordination with different National & International Sports Organisations. The Committee therefore, constituted a Four Members Sub-Committee to examine the overall performance of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) especially detail of ongoing Projects, Initiating the civil work after installation of precious Astotroph, detail of International visits of Director General and other officials of PSB without getting NOC from the Competent Authority and efforts made by the current management of PSB to promote sports

activities at Sports Complex. The Standing Committee also expressed concern over the use of political rallies in sports grounds, committee member Shahida Rahmani said that sports grounds are being destroyed by political rallies, the use of political rallies in sports grounds should be banned. The committee directed ministry to ask for a report in this regard from all the provinces. The Committee appreciated the performance of Pakistan Cricket Team for reaching into the Final of T20 World Cup, 2022 and prayed that Pakistan Cricket Team would win final match and bring World Cup Trophy in Pakistan as well.

Nadal, Swiatek to start in Australia

SYDNEY: Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek will kick off their 2023 seasons at the United Cup in Australia, a new mixed teams event, but a host of top 10 players are skipping the tournament. The United Cup, with US\$15 million in prize money and rankings points at stake, has replaced the men's ATP Cup and will be held in Brisbane, Perth and Sydney as a key build-up to the Australian Open Grand Slam. Eighteen countries will compete across 11 days from December 29, with each team comprising four men and four women with 500 WTA and 500 ATP rankings points available. "The playing group is very excited about the United Cup, and that's confirmed in the high quality and calibre of those who've committed to the event," tournament director Stephen Farrow said Thursday.

"We are delighted with the depth and breadth of the teams, and we can look forward to many exciting matchups and lots of entertaining tennis." World number two and 22-time Grand Slam winner Nadal – the defending Australian Open champion – will headline Spain's team along with 13th-ranked Paula Badosa. But Spanish world number one Carlos Alcaraz will not take part. Top-ranked Swiatek will spearhead Poland alongside Hubert Hurkacz while world number three Jessica Pegula is on a United States team that also features Madison Keys, Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe. A resurgent Caroline Garcia, fresh from beating Aryna Sabalenka to win the season-ending WTA Finals on Monday, is the big-name player for France. Sixth-ranked Maria Sakkari is the only other woman in the top 10 taking part, in a strong Greek team seeded one with world number three Stefanos Tsitsipas. The likes of top-10 players Sabalenka, Ons Jabeur and Coco Gauff have opted to begin their seasons at other events, likely the Adelaide International, a joint ATP-WTA tournament that runs at the same time. Other notable United Cup entries include Norwegian world number four Casper Ruud, Germany's Alexander Zverev, who is planning a return to the courts in December from a serious ankle injury, and Australian showman Nick Kyrgios. Brisbane, Perth and Sydney will each host two groups of three countries in a round-robin format from December 29 to January 4 with ties comprising two men's and two women's singles matches and one mixed doubles. – DNA

BJK Cup: Badosa leads Spain to victory over Kazakhstan



SPORTS DESK

GLASGOW: Paula Badosa won on her Billie Jean King Cup debut as she battled past Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina in three sets to secure victory for Spain in the Group C tie on Wednesday, while the United States got their campaign off to a winning start. Badosa, ranked 13th in the world, won 6-2 3-6 6-4 over Rybakina, giving Spain a chance to go into the semi-finals if

they win over Britain on Thursday. "It was my first time and I think I enjoyed every minute on court," Badosa said. In a late Group D match on Wednesday, Coco Gauff and Caty McNally beat Magda Linette and Alicja Rosolska 6-1 6-2 to earn the United States a 2-1 win over Poland, who are without world number one Iga Swiatek.

The teams were level before the decisive doubles match after Danielle Collins' opening victory was cancelled out by Linette's defeat of Madison Keys. McNally said team captain Kathy Rinaldi had told them to enjoy the occasion. "Kathy kept reminding us to have fun. That's the most important thing for both us, just to enjoy it," she added. Belinda Bencic led Switzerland to victory over Italy in their opening tie, while Slovakia bounced back from a tough loss to Australia to defeat Belgium and get their campaign back on track. Olympic champion Bencic, the world number 12, saw off Jasmine Paolini 7-5 6-3 to secure the Group A tie for Switzerland after Jil Teichmann saved a match point en route to her thrilling 6-3 4-6 7-6(5) win over Elisabetta Cocciaretto. Bencic returned to court half an hour later to team up with Teichmann and wrap up a flawless day for last year's finalists as they beat Paolini and Martina Trevisan 7-6(5) 6-1 to complete a 3-0 sweep. Earlier, Viktorija Kuzmova and Anna Karolina Schmiedlova won their singles ties to give Slovakia a



2-1 victory over Belgium in their final Group B tie. Kuzmova scored a 6-2 7-6(7) win over Ysaline Bonaventure and Schmiedlova sealed the tie with a tenacious 5-7 6-2 6-3 win over Maryna Zanevska before the Belgian doubles pairing of Elise Mertens and Kirsten Flipkens won their match. The competition, formerly called Fed Cup, was renamed in honour of 12-times Grand Slam champion and restructured into a format concluding with 12 nations competing over one week for the title.

Varane, Giroud named in France squad

PARIS: France coach Didier Deschamps included Raphael Varane in his World Cup squad on Wednesday despite the defender's recent injury problems, while 36-year-old striker Olivier Giroud was also called up. Deschamps selected 25 of a possible 26 players for the tournament in Qatar, where France will attempt to become the first team to defend their World Cup title since Brazil in 1962. Eleven members of the 2018 title-winning squad return, including captain Hugo Lloris and reserve goalkeeper Steve Mandanda, along with Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann. Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who has missed a series of games for Real Madrid this season because of injury, is set for his first World Cup appearance since 2014. Benzema was frozen out of the France team for five-and-a-half years due to his role in a blackmail scandal involving a sextape and his international teammate Mathieu Valbuena. He was convicted for his role in that affair last year but by then he had returned to the France side, playing at Euro 2020 and in the team that won the UEFA Nations League. Giroud is two goals away from equalling Thierry Henry's national record of 51 but has often been overlooked since Benzema's recall. The former Arsenal and Chelsea forward, now with AC Milan, would become France's oldest outfield player at a World Cup. "You know tonight, I made some people unhappy. I am well aware of that," Deschamps told TF1. – APP



PARIS: Pakistan ambassador to France, Asim Iftikhar presents copies of his credentials to Philippe Franc Director of State Protocol. – DNA

England humiliate India to reach World Cup final

SPORTS DESK

ADELAIDE: England stormed into the Men's T20 World Cup final with a sensational 10-wicket demolition of India at the Adelaide Oval. Openers Jos Buttler and Alex Hales overcame a feverish India-supporting atmosphere and chased 169 without the loss of a wicket. They romped home with a massive 24 balls to spare to set up a final against Pakistan on Sunday and seal one of England's greatest white-ball wins. Hales ended 86 not out from 47 and Buttler unbeaten on 80 from 49, the England skipper clinching the match with the pair's 10th six. Earlier, England's bowlers had restricted India well before Hardik Pandya's 63 from 33 balls powered his side to what had looked a testing score. But Hales, recalled after more than three years in the international wilderness, gave England a rapid start and Buttler continued the onslaught. It denies the tournament what would have been a mouth-watering India-Pakistan finale, instead ensuring a repeat of the famous 1992

50-over World Cup final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). This was supposed to be the night India joined their great rivals in what would have been one of the great sporting finals. A frenzied crowd was expectant but by the end, a small pocket of England fans were jubilant, the quietened India supporters drifting away. England's bowling effort, without Mark Wood because of injury and up against India's batting line-up of superstars, was tidy and disciplined, until they were knocked off course by Hardik's late blitz. The batting was simply stalling. The imperious Buttler settled any nerves by taking three fours from the first over before he and Hales dispatched both pace and spin in seemingly effortless fashion. As the final majestic strike cleared the fielder and boundary at long-on, Buttler whipped off his helmet and roared with delight. A campaign that was floundering after defeat by Ireland two weeks ago could still end in glory. Pakistan, who have produced their own remarkable recovery to reach the showpiece, were beaten 4-3 by England in a seven-match T20 se-

ries in their own backyard last month. Eleven overs into the chase India's ragged fielders looked beaten, the ball repeatedly travelling to, or over, the boundary rope. Buttler was dropped on 66 at mid-off by Suryakumar Yadav, with the ball ricocheting off his body and beyond Virat Kohli for four, but by then the contest was over. Having opted to chase on a used pitch, Hales and Buttler took on Adelaide's short square boundaries to race along consistently at 10 runs per over. They took 63 from the powerplay – a clear contrast to India's 38-1 – and did not look back. This was Hales' greatest night in his England career, a career that looked over when he was unceremoniously dropped on the eve of the 2019 World Cup before being recalled for this tournament after the injury to Jonny Bairstow. He slog-swept spinners Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin and cleanly struck the pace bowlers back over their head for seven sixes. After a quick start, Buttler settled into the supporting role before unleashing his ramps and power strokes in a canter to the finish line.



Russia withdraws troops...

FROM PAGE 1

is a very difficult decision, but at the same time, we will preserve the most important thing – the lives of our servicemen and, in general, the combat effectiveness of the group of troops, which it is futile to keep on the right bank in a limited area."

Russian Minister of Defence Sergey Shoigu also echoed the comments and said: "I agree with your conclusions and proposals. Proceed with the withdrawal of troops and take all measures to transfer forces across the river." The announcement came hours after the Russian-installed deputy head of Kheron, Kirill Stremousov, was reportedly killed in a car crash after weeks of urging residents to evacuate the area. Pavel Felgenhauer, a Moscow-based Russian military and defence analyst said the announcement was a "big blow" to Moscow and was being criticised in Telegram channels linked to the nationalist right.

"Politically it's very embarrassing," Felgenhauer told Al Jazeera, "But militarily it makes sense and that is why Russian generals were pressed into such a decision. This is not a Russian defeat since it will be withdrawing in an orderly manner and Ukraine will advance cautiously, afraid of any kind of Russian trickery." Prominent Kremlin supporters including Wagner Group founder Yevgeny Prigozhin and Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of state media outlet RT, put a positive spin on Surovkin's announcement noting the need to save lives, with Simonyan drawing parallels with the 1812 decision to abandon Moscow to Napoleon. Ramzan Kadyrov, the Chechen leader who has frequently urged a more aggressive approach.

Russian retreat would be Ukraine's victory

FORM PAGE 1

region, a day after Russia ordered its troops to withdraw from the eponymous city. "We have seen how the Ukrainian armed forces have been able to push back Russian forces and liberate territory," Stoltenberg said. "These gains belong to the brave courageous soldiers of Ukraine."

"At the same time the unprecedented support that NATO allies, including Italy, have provided is making a difference on the battlefield every day and remains vital for the Ukrainian progress." Stoltenberg was speaking after his first face-to-face talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who took office late last month. Her government allies include many people sympathetic to Moscow, although she herself has repeatedly emphasised her support for Ukraine and for sanctions against Russia. Meloni said one of her priorities was to work to strengthen the alliance, to make it "even more capable of responding to threats coming from all directions".

Nawaz issued diplomatic...

FROM PAGE 1

government has issued a diplomatic passport to Pakistan Muslim League leader (PML-N) Nawaz Sharif. The passport, issued after Foreign Ministry clearance, will be valid for 5 years. The passport has been sent to Nawaz Sharif via Passport and Immigration Office. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government suspended the PML-N leader's passport after he was declared an absconder by the court. The PML-N leader was issued a regular passport earlier. Earlier in April, the Pakistani Embassy in London issued a passport to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif. It may be noted that the passport of the former prime minister was revoked on Feb 16, last year. The PML-N supreme was issued a Pakistani passport in the normal category for 10 years. After a change of government in Pakistan, the passport was renewed at the direction of PM Shehbaz Sharif. The federal government instructed the relevant authorities to issue a passport to the former prime minister and he is free to travel to Pakistan.

Briefs

Hurricane Nicole makes landfall in Florida

WASHINGTON: Hurricane Nicole made landfall on the Atlantic coast of the US state of Florida, meteorologists said Thursday, sparking mandatory evacuation orders. The Category 1 hurricane, a rare occurrence this late in the year, comes just weeks after Florida was battered by Hurricane Ian, one of the most powerful storms to hit the United States.

Nicole was packing sustained maximum winds of up to 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour and made landfall "along the east coast of Florida just south of Vero Beach," the US-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said in a statement Thursday at 0800 GMT. The storm had passed over the Bahamas on Wednesday, with the level of destruction not immediately clear.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Florida's eastern coast from the city of Boca Raton to the boundary between Flagler and Volusia counties, the NHC said. Forty-five of the state's 67 counties were under a state of emergency, Governor Ron DeSantis said, while four counties were under mandatory evacuation orders, according to the state's Division of Emergency Management. DeSantis said 16,000 people had been recruited to respond to power outages following the storm and 600 national guardsmen had been activated. The death toll from Ian stands at more than 100 in Florida alone. — APP

Qatar completes airport expansion

DOHA: Qatar on Thursday opened a huge expansion of its main international airport as the national carrier's chief hit back at "rumours" that it could not cope with World Cup passengers.

After the multi-billion dollar overhaul, Hamad International Airport will take its capacity from 40 million passengers a year to 58 million, Qatar Airways chief executive Akbar Al Baker told a news conference. The expansion adds 39 airport gates to the existing 140 at the airport, which is a major hub for transit passengers.

The project was completed just 10 days from the start of the World Cup, which is expected to draw more than one million visitors to the Gulf state, the smallest ever host of the mega event.

Qatar has reopened Doha International Airport to ease pressure. Qatar Airways has also eliminated 18 destinations from its schedule to increase flights from key World Cup markets and to allow other airlines to run football charters.

Baker dismissed suggestions that Qatar's aviation authorities could not cope. "There have always been rumours," he said before insisting that "systems and innovations" introduced for the World Cup had been tested. — APP

China sees big jump in Covid cases

BEIJING: China on Thursday reported a big jump in COVID-19 cases, registering 1,185 infections, most of which were locally transmitted. National Health Commission (NHC) of China said in a statement that the Chinese mainland recorded 1,185 confirmed COVID-19 cases on Wednesday.

It added that 1,133 were local transmissions while 52 were recorded among those who came to China from overseas. Over 1,000 cases in a day is a big jump in recent past in China which has adopted a strict lockdown strategy to stem the threat of the infection.

The statement also revealed 7,820 asymptomatic cases were registered the same day as around 52,411 asymptomatic patients are undergoing medical observation across the country.

With 1,185 fresh cases, the NHC data showed the total COVID-19 cases reported in mainland China since December 2019 climbed to 267,544. The country has recorded 5,226 deaths due to the infection in the same period. — APP

50 years of Pak-Vietnam friendship

Pak-Vietnam ties develop for the benefit of people

Economic and trade relations between the two countries have nearly tripled from USD 331 million in 2013-2014 to USD 907 million in 2021-2022 and are expected to reach USD 1 billion in near future

DNA

HANOI: An international conference titled "International Conference on 50 Years of Vietnam-Pakistan Diplomatic Relations", was organized on 08 November 2022 by the Embassy of Pakistan in Hanoi in collaboration with Vietnam Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies to celebrate the completion of 50 years of diplomatic relations. Organization of international conference was aimed at re-invigorating the bilateral ties and stirring much needed discussion among the policymakers of Vietnam and Pakistan regarding the bilateral relationship.

Chief guest of the conference was Ms. Le Thi Thu Hang, Assistant Minister/Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam. According to Le Thi Thu Hang, the diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Pakistan originate from their historical similarities in culture, geography, and trade. The relationship has grown thrivingly to new heights after the two countries officially established their diplomatic relations



on November 8, 1972.

During the past 50 years, adapting to the regional and global changes, the Vietnam - Pakistan relations, rooted in sincere friendship cultivated through generations of leaders and people of the two countries, have strongly developed. In response to the development requirements of each country in a changing world, the friendship between Vietnam and Pakistan has become

increasingly important to both countries. Vietnam and Pakistan need to make determined efforts to preserve and develop good relations to meet the aspirations and interests of the two peoples. Hang expressed her belief that with the high determination of the leaders and the support of the two peoples, the good friendship between Vietnam and Pakistan would develop substantively and effectively for the benefit of the

two countries, the interests of the people, for peace, stability, cooperation and prosperous development of the region and the world. Pakistani Ambassador to Vietnam Samina Mehtab said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations, bilateral relations between the two countries have developed strongly in all fields such as politics, economy, trade, and people-to-people exchanges. Pakistan and Vietnam possess a solid and

long-standing bilateral cooperation mechanism, including Bilateral Political Consultation, Joint Ministerial Committee, and Joint Trade Committee, demonstrating both sides' will to establish relations in different fields.

Economic and trade relations between the two countries have nearly tripled from USD 331 million in 2013-2014 to USD 907 million in 2021-2022 and are expected to reach USD 1 billion in the near future. In terms of people-to-people exchanges, Pakistan has regularly provided capacity-building training courses for the Vietnamese people. The number of Vietnamese tourists to Pakistan is also steadily increasing.

According to Ambassador Samina Mehtab, during her term, she is trying to create the necessary momentum for bilateral relations. The highest goal is to promote regular high-level exchanges between the two countries so that there will be a high-level visit in the near future. Ambassador Mehta said the two sides are focusing on promoting cooperation in trade, investment, information technology, and tourism.

Tayyip Erdogan marks death anniversary of Ataturk



ANKARA: Türkiye will not rest until it makes the centuries-old dreams of its nation come true, the country's president vowed on Thursday, marking the 84th anniversary of the passing of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Türkiye. "We, 85 million citizens, are preparing the Republic of Türkiye ... for the future in a stronger, more prosperous, and more prestigious way with the vision of the Turkish Century," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wrote in the memorial book of Anitkabir, Atatürk's mausoleum in the capital Ankara.

Paying his respects to the country's founder and leader of its independence movement, Erdogan said: "We will not rest until we make the centuries-old dreams of our nation come true, we will not give up in the face of attacks, and we will continue our struggle with determination. Bless your soul." He also commemorated Atatürk's heroic comrades-in-arms and martyrs who defended the nation's independence at the expense of their lives. Before leaving his written message, Erdogan placed a wreath at Atatürk's mausoleum and joined in a moment of silence before taking part in the Turkish national anthem along with a distinguished delegation. As is customary every Nov. 10 in Türkiye, daily life stopped at 9.05 a.m. local time (0605GMT), with sirens wailing to mark the exact moment of Atatürk's death at age 57, and millions of people across the country observed two minutes of silence. The battle of Turkish independence started on May 15, 1919, with the firing of the first bullet against the occupying Greek forces. Remarkable victories on the battlefield led to Turkish independence, culminating in the founding of the Republic of Türkiye on Oct. 29, 1923. Atatürk served as the republic's first president until Nov. 10, 1938, when he passed away in Istanbul at age 57 due to cirrhosis. Turkish people traditionally visit Atatürk's mausoleum every Nov. 10 to pay their respects to the nation's founder. — APP

Transit strikes snarl London, Paris

PARIS: Commuters in London and Paris scrambled for alternatives Thursday — or simply stayed home — as public transport workers went on strike for higher pay, the latest industrial action seeking relief from soaring prices in Europe. Spreading labour unrest poses a problem for governments which are already spending billions trying to blunt the worst effects of rising prices, at least for the most vulnerable. "I am very deeply affected by the strike," said 36-year-old Nicco Hogg in London. "I took my car, the train and now I have to cycle." The action in Britain, by members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) and Unite unions, follows several prior walkouts this year amid a long-running dispute over job cuts, pensions and working conditions.

In France, the strike aims also to ratchet up pressure on President Emmanuel Macron before he brings a controversial pensions overhaul bill to parliament, which would require millions of people to work longer before retiring. "It's to show that if we want to take action, we know how to take action," Frederic Souillot, head of France's FO union, said ahead of the Paris strike. The capital's public transport operator RATP said nearly every Metro line would be shut down or operating with only limited rush-hour service, and urged people to work from home or postpone trips if possible. Many commuters appeared to heed the call, with the morning crush less chaotic than many feared, and the city's growing network of bike lanes saw a surge of cyclists under a bright autumn sky. — APP

Pak finds latest agricultural technologies at CIIE

SHANGHAI: Pakistan finds latest agricultural technologies at the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) Gwadar Pro reported it on Thursday. According to the report, new subsection for crop seeds' pavilion was set up at the expo where one can find a lot of the latest technologies that can be introduced to Pakistan.

In the dazzling pavilion of food and agriculture, the display of verticle farming is quite eye-catching. The rising impact of climate change, warming temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns have increased worries among farmers. Vertical farming can be a solution to that. Different from tra-



ditional farming, vertical farming grows vegetables indoors, where multiple planting layers are stacked vertically. Artificial light sources like LED are used to provide light, and water is provided by water spray or automatic drip irrigation system, so it can achieve high yield with-

out the influence of environmental factors. "It takes 30 to 40 days to produce vegetables in the field, while it only takes 10 to 12 days for vertical farming. In addition, vertical farming requires 95% less water than conventional farming." The exhibitor said. Pakistan had been

adversely affected by the impacts of climate change, so "climate-smart" farming techniques are strongly encouraged by Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi.

"One unit of vertical farming could be established on one kanal of land with an estimated initial investment of Rs. 2.5 million, which was quite affordable and made good business model and economic sense as return on investment was higher," he said.

Except for the big equipment of vertical agriculture, exotic products including purple cauliflower and colorful seeds are also intriguing. "The purple color is from anthocyanidin in the vegetable generated by gene modification." — APP

Pakistan's jade gets big response at China Int'l expo

"I think that products on this year's CIIE are of better quality, which owns to the more strict quality checking procedure of organizer. I appreciate that because customers can build trust with our exhibitors more easily at this expo"

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan jade has great potential in the Chinese market, said Abdul Basit Khan, a Pakistani exhibitor who participated in China International Import Expo (CIIE) for the fourth time, according to Gwadar Pro. "This expo gives us a perfect platform where we can get some customers who can work with us in the future," said Basit Khan who has well-arranged booth at the expo with colorful stone crafts.

"I think that products on this year's CIIE are of better quality, which owns to the more strict quality checking procedure of the organizer. I appreciate that because customers can build trust with our exhibitors more easily at this expo."

Abdul added, that this year they not only brought products of better quality, but also brought products of more varieties. "This year we have a bigger booth, so we can bring goods of bigger size."

"Compared with the year 2020, the visitors

are more this year. We already got great orders and contacts of some potential cooperation partners," Abdul told Gwadar

Pro that through CIIE, they got a long-term business partner in Henan who import raw onyx material from them a few times. Abdul



also has branch offices and product display centers in Yunfu, Guangdong and Lanzhou, Gansu in China. "I think Pakistan jade has great potential in the Chinese market. Chinese people like jade very much. Our jade looks familiar to Hetian Jade in China, only the hardness and density are different. The hardness of our jade is lower than that of Hetian jade, while its polishing and transparency are better.

The price of our jade bracelet of the same appearance is only about one percent of the Hetian jade bracelet." Abdul stressed. He also showed us their fluorite handicrafts, which are very popular at this year's CIIE. This is also the first time he bring fluorite products to the expo.

"We got a lot of advice for our product improvement on CIIE as well," Abdul said when he showed us a jade handicraft of peony, Chinese national flower. "We produce products according to Chinese culture as there has been a long and deep culture of stone arts in China. Sometimes our Chinese customers teach us how to do," he added.

Bitcoin falls below \$16K

DNA

LONDON: Bitcoin saw its price dive below \$16,000 late Wednesday as a major sell-off in the crypto market intensified after Binance backed out of a potential deal to buy its rival FTX, which is in financial turmoil. "As a result of corporate due diligence, as well as the latest news reports regarding mishandled customer funds and alleged US agency investigations, we have decided that we will not pursue the potential acquisition of http://FTX.com," Binance announced via Twitter.

"Every time a major player in an industry fails, retail consumers will suffer. We have seen over the last several years that the crypto ecosystem is becoming more resilient and we believe in time that outliers that misuse user funds will be weeded out by the free market," it added.

Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange by volume, said Tuesday it intended to buy FTX, while co-founder and CEO Changpeng Zhao stressed that the world's third largest crypto platform has "a significant liquidity crunch." With the deal scrapped and crypto users' fears amid uncertainty, the price of Bitcoin plummeted to \$15,588 around 6.00 p.m. EDT — its lowest since Nov. 12, 2020, according to official figures. It was around \$16,170 at 9.50 p.m. EDT for an 11.3% loss.

Ethereum, the world's biggest altcoin, was trading around \$1,140 at the time for a 12.5% daily decline. The total value of the cryptocurrency market was down 10.3% to \$812 billion during that time, according to data from digital asset price-tracking website CoinMarketCap.

Hospital waiting lists in England hit record highs

LONDON: The number of people waiting to receive treatment in England's state-run health service has hit at an all-time high of 7.1 million people, official figures showed Thursday.

Struggling to clear backlogs from the pandemic, the National Health Service (NHS) is recording long waits for tests — including for cancer — and routine and emergency care. The waiting list for hospital treatment rose by 100,000 to 7.1 million at the end of September — the highest figure since records began in August 2007.

Around one in 18 of those on the list have been waiting more than a year for hospital treatment, although the number of people waiting 18 months for treatment has dropped by almost 60 percent in a year, said NHS England. But accident and emergency departments are reporting new highs in the number of people having to wait more than 12 hours for a bed after being determined they need one.

The situation shows no sign of immediate improvement, with a nursing strike set to increase the usual winter pressure from a rise in seasonal viruses such as flu.

The Royal College of Nursing on Wednesday announced the first UK-wide strike action in the union's 106-year history due to a cost-of-living crisis that it says has left its members struggling to feed their families and pay their bills. The industrial action is expected to begin before the end of the year, with dates to be announced soon. — APP

Russia to introduce military training in curriculums

MOSCOW: A course of primary military training will be introduced to Russia's school curriculums starting next year, according to the education minister. The course will be included in the subject Fundamentals of Life Safety (FLS) as part of the compulsory school curriculum, Sergey Kravtsov told reporters on Wednesday.

"(The course will be) under the mandatory FLS subject," the minister said. The Russian Education Ministry is currently working on the program, and teachers will undergo training, he noted. Kravtsov said the course is expected to be completed by Jan. 1, 2023. It will initially be taught as a pilot program before getting the final approval. — APP

Briefs

WB will help
to strengthen
social stability

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Women Development Sindh Syeda Shehla Raza met by a representative delegation of the World Bank in her office and discussed issues of mutual interest. The delegation included Practice Manager, South Asia for Social Sustainability and Inclusion Global Practice, Dr. Robin Mearns, Farhan, Babar, Uzma and others. While talking in the meeting, the delegation briefed the provincial minister about the aims and objectives of the World Bank and said that the World Bank is trying to promote social stability and strengthen women in Pakistan, especially in Sindh. They said that the World Bank wants not only to help and restore the flood victims, but also to take steps to solve the problems of women in collaboration with the Women's Development Department after the restoration. They said that they also have concerns about forced abduction of women, forced early marriages and domestic violence.

FMs of Pak
and Saudi
Arabia meet

DNA

RIYADH: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, jointly chaired the inaugural session of the Ministerial Committee of the Political and Security Pillar of the Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Committee, held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Riyadh on 10th November 2022. During the meeting, both sides held wide-ranging discussions on host of issues related to political and security domains. Underscoring longstanding fraternal and strategic ties between the two countries, FM expressed his resolve to further strengthen cooperation across entire spectrum of bilateral relations to realize the aspirations of the leaderships of the two countries, achieve common objectives and push their relationship to reach greater horizons. The two sides shared assessment of the changing regional and global environments and reaffirmed their commitment to continue coordinating positions on all issues of common concern.

Japan to continue support
for safe water projects

DNA

FAISALABAD: An inaugural ceremony for Japanese grant aid "The Project for Replacement of Pumping Machinery at Inline Booster Pumping Station and Terminal Reservoir in Faisalabad" and groundbreaking ceremony for Japanese grant aid "The Project for the Improvement of Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution System in Faisalabad" were held with attendance of H.E. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office, Mr. Nazar Latif, Provincial Minister of Punjab for Mines and Minerals, Mr. Muhammad Shahid Niaz, Commissioner Faisalabad Division, and Mr. Shahid Javed, Vice chairman WASA Faisalabad. The Government of Japan and JICA has supported water supply system development in WASA Faisalabad (WASA-F) since 2004 to strengthen urban water service for sustainability. "The Project for Replacement of Pumping Machinery at Inline Booster Pumping Station and Terminal Reservoir in Faisalabad" accomplished replacement of inefficient transmission pumps with new efficient ones, construction of pumping station, and rehabilitation of reservoirs using 1.616 billion Japanese Yen. Through these components, reduction of electricity cost and increase of daily maximum water supply will be achieved. JICA assisted WASA-F to formulate the Master Plan in 2019, targeting next 20 years of future water supplies, sewerage and drainage in Faisalabad, to become first success-

ful water utility in Pakistan as a role model for other water utilities. "The Project for the Improvement of Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution System in Faisalabad" has been formulated as a priority project under the Master Plan, aiming not only to increase the water supply capacity for the currently unserved 50,000 inhabitants, but also to expand the output of the pilot projects in the grant project's target area. The objective of this project is renewing of the Old Jhal Khanuana Water Treatment Plant and rehabilitation of water transmission and distribution facilities thereby contributing to improvement of water supply system in Faisalabad City under this 4.094 billion Japanese Yen grant aid project. JICA is also planning to assist WASA-F through a new technical cooperation project for improving their management capacity. Through this continuous assistance, WASA-F is expected 1) enhance water supply service level, 2) improve customer satisfaction, 3) improve tariff revenue, and 4) improve financial condition of WASA-F for future investment leading further to better services. This "Faisalabad model" would become a replicable model for other cities in the future. At the signing ceremony, Ambassador WADA stated, "Japan will continue to cooperate with Pakistan in the field of water, including the supply of safe water and the improvement of sewage treatment. With those efforts, I hope that people of Pakistan will remember Japan not only as the country of rising sun but also as the source of clean water." Mr. KINOSHITA Yasumitsu while speaking at the ceremony said "JICA is expecting WASA Faisalabad to take the leading role in sharing tips and lessons learned from our projects to be utilized for reforming water supply management not only in Faisalabad and Punjab province but throughout the country. I hope this grant aid project will be successful not only as a single project but as a significant milestone for having a positive impact on the improvement of water supply services in Pakistan in the future. JICA will keep contributing to the sustainable development of water supply sector in Pakistan."

Pak hails Ethiopian govt for
peace accord with TPLF

The envoy informed the secretary about the principled position of the government of Ethiopia on the issue and said it was striving to resolve the political disputes with political means and in a peaceful way

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Acting Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Jauhar Saleem on Thursday hailed the government of Ethiopia for signing a peace accord with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to bring peace and stability in the northern Ethiopia in particular, and Horn of Africa in general. The acting foreign secretary appreciated the Ethiopian government's efforts for peace in a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H.E. Jemal Bekar Abdulla who was called on him on 10 November 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad. During the meeting, both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interests and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. Ambassador H.E. Jemal Bekar briefed the foreign secretary on the peace agreement signed recently between the government of Ethiopia and TPLF to bring peace and stability in the northern Ethiopia. He said indeed, this shows the commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to peace and security of its country and region as well. H.E. Jemal Bekar said that the peace in northern part of Ethiopia would boost growth and development in his country by fast tracking the reforms agenda initiated by the current government under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. He highlighted the confidence building measures taken by his government to



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Bekar with Acting Foreign Secretary. – DNA

ensure successful peace talks which ultimately resulted into an all-encompassing peace agreement reached recently. The envoy informed the secretary about the principled position of the government of Ethiopia on the issue and said it was striving to resolve the political disputes with political means and in a peaceful way. "Our government wants African led and African owned solution to an African problem," the recent accord is the case in point, said the ambassador. H.E. Jemal also lauded the role of the African Union which played key role in success of talks and signing of the agreement. The AU would continue to play an

important role in the implementation of the Agreement through the High-level Panel and through African experts to monitor the cessation of hostilities, he added. He said the people of Ethiopia had taken a sigh of relief after the success of talk and believed that it would ensure a brighter future for the country. He believed that a political solution was only way forward to keep Ethiopia united with its diversity and differences, adding his government takes pride in making it possible under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Highlighting the objectives of the agreements, the envoy said the parties to the ac-

cord had agreed to a "permanent cessation of hostilities" to ensure a conducive environment for laying the foundation of sustainable peace. He said the accord's salient features also included restoration of the Constitutional order across the country, implementation of political solutions for the political problems, provision of a framework to address matters arising out of the conflict and their accountability, reconciliation and rehabilitation of social bonds, commitment to address the underlying political differences and formulation of a framework for monitoring and verification of its (accord) implementation. The ambassador said it has been agreed in the agreement to restore the federal authority in the Tigray region including control of the federal institutions and agencies by the Ethiopian government. On the other hand, the foreign secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan appreciated the recent peace agreement signed between the government of Ethiopia and TPLF and expressed their full support to implement the peace accord. He said it is a right and timely move to end the conflict and focus of reconstruction, rebuilding and development in which the government of Pakistan ready to support. He further noted the existing and flourishing relationship between the brotherly and friendly countries and resolved to advance their national and collective interests at bilateral, regional and global level in this fast-changing global dynamism. Finally, both the officials agreed to deepen the bilateral ties by increasing cooperation in diverse fields including trade, investment, tourism and technology transfer and capacity building.

Iran says
it has
developed
hypersonic
missile

TEHRAN: Iran has developed a hypersonic missile capable of penetrating all defence systems, General Amirali Hajizadeh, the commander of its Revolutionary Guards aerospace unit, said Thursday. Hypersonic missiles, like traditional ballistic missiles which can deliver nuclear weapons, can fly more than five times the speed of sound. "This hypersonic ballistic missile was developed to counter air defence shields," Hajizadeh said, quoted by Iran's Fars news agency. "It will be able to breach all the systems of anti-missile defence," said the general, adding that he believed it would take decades before a system capable of intercepting it is developed. "This missile, which targets enemy anti-missile systems, represents a great generational leap in the field of missiles." – APP

Russia denies
planning to
use nuclear
weapons

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia has rejected claims that it is planning to use tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine, tacitly acknowledging that such a scenario would trigger nuclear war, which it says "should never be unleashed." During a United Nations plenary meeting on a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Wednesday, Alexander Shevchenko, a member of the Russian delegation to the UN General Assembly, refuted claims that Moscow had threatened to use small atomic warheads in the ex-Soviet republic. "In response to today's entirely unfounded accusations that Russia is allegedly threatening the use of nuclear weapons during the conduct of a special military operation in Ukraine, we would like to once again underscore that Russia's doctrine in this area is purely defensive in nature and does not allow any extended explanation," he said, referring to the Russian offensive in Ukraine. "Russia is firmly committed to the principle that in a nuclear war, there can be no winner and it should never be unleashed," Shevchenko said. Western officials say Russia may use tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine. They have taken recent statements by Russian officials that Russia will use its entire arsenal to defend its territory as threats to use such force. On Tuesday, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that if Russia carried out its "horrific" threats of a nuclear strike against its enemies, the US would use the full force of its military power in response, an implicit threat of the use of nuclear force. "They (the Russians) deny that they would do such a thing but we know that Russia is capable of lies. We take their threats seriously," she said, adding.

China hints at Xi Jinping-Joe
Biden summit in Indonesia

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China on Thursday hinted at a possible summit between President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Joe Biden in Indonesia next week. "China attaches importance to the US proposal of the meeting between the two top leaders at the upcoming G20 summit in Bali," Zhao Lijian, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at a regular news conference in Beijing. Xi and Biden would be in Bali, Indonesia, next week to attend the G20 summit. "Chinese and US heads of state remain in frequent communication in various ways. The two sides are communicating on the matter (possible Bali meeting)," Chinese daily Global Times quoted Zhao as saying. Beijing's statement came after Biden said on Wednesday that he "will not make any fundamental concessions" on Taiwan's defense when he meets Xi at the G20 leaders' summit in Bali. "I'm not willing to make any fundamental concessions because what I've told him in the beginning ... when I was vice president," Biden told a news conference. Zhao, however, said the US "should stop blurring, hollowing out and distorting the one-China principle." Xi and Biden will meet for the first time face to face in Bali since the US president was inaugurated two years ago. It would also be the first conversation at the highest level since US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid an unannounced visit to Taiwan in August triggering massive tensions between the two countries. Biden would also be meeting Xi

Putin not attending
G-20 summit

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend next week's G-20 summit on the Indonesian island of Bali, the Kremlin announced Thursday. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will represent Moscow instead, said spokesman Dmitry Peskov. Peskov added that Putin's possible participation in the G-20 is "being worked out," perhaps through a videoconference format. His physical absence from the summit could prevent awkward moments with leaders of Western countries, who have denounced Putin for launching the war on Ukraine this February. On Monday, Peskov also said Putin does not plan to go to this weekend's East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. – DNA

first time since the Chinese president was proclaimed as secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party for a historic third term last month. The US formally recognized China in 1979 and shifted its diplomatic mission from Taipei to Beijing, including Taiwan as part of mainland China – popularly known as the "One-China Policy" as the shift in diplomatic recognition of Beijing was adopted by the UN. However, Taipei has insisted on its independence since 1949.

UK freezes
\$20.5bn worth
of Russian assets

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The United Kingdom says it has frozen assets worth 18 billion pounds (\$20.5bn) purportedly owned by Russian oligarchs, and other individuals and entities subjected to sanctions by London over the Russian offensive against Ukraine. "We have imposed the most severe sanctions ever on Russia and it is crippling their war machine," Andrew Griffith, a junior government minister in the UK Treasury, said on Thursday. "Our message is clear:

We will not allow [Russian President Vladimir] Putin to succeed in this brutal war." According to Griffith, the newly frozen Russian assets were six billion pounds more than the amount reported across all other British sanctions regimes. Western countries, including the United States and the UK, have slapped unprecedented sanctions on Russia since February 24, when Putin announced "a special military operation" in neighboring Ukraine on February 24 to "de-Nazify" the ex-Soviet republic. So far, London has imposed sanctions against over 1,200 people and more than 120 entities in Russia, including businessmen, firms, and politicians. Shortly after the onset of the war in Ukraine, the British government began imposing travel bans, asset freezes, and other sanctions on Russian individuals and entities. The British sanctions have targeted Russia's major banks, including Sberbank, and Credit Bank of Moscow. The UK has also banned any new investment in the Russian Federation. The Kremlin has said punitive measures against Moscow by the US and its allies and the shipping of weapons by them to Ukraine will prolong the war.

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