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**Biden to seek red lines in talks with China's Xi**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Britain warns tax hikes coming after Truss fiasco**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Int'l community lacks climate action: Sherry**

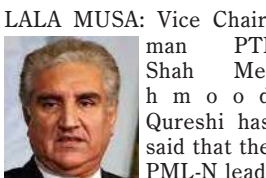
Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

### Qureshi slams PML-N leadership

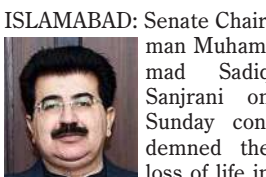
DNA



LALA MUSA: Vice Chairman PTI Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that the PML-N leadership is trying to put the country in a state of uncertainty. Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that those who have no constitutional role are sitting in London and making important decisions. "This government is giving preference to personal interest instead of national interest. Imran Khan is trying to show constitutional and democratic way." Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that the inflation rate increased in these six months.

### Sanjrani condemns Istanbul blast

APP



ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday condemned the loss of life in the Taqsim Square's blast, Turkiye in its strongest terms. He, in a statement, said all out efforts must be made to curb all miscreant elements that were involved in heinous acts against humanity. The senate chairman expressed the hope that the global leaders could join hands to play and important role to make the world a better and safer place for all. He said the hearts of all Pakistanis go out to their Turkish brothers in such a critical time.

### Stability possible by elections

STAFF REPORT



LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday said that the country could be stabilized through elections, not appointments. Speaking to the media at Zaman Park Lahore, Fawad Chaudhry criticized the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership over their political approach and the manner they are handling the prominent affairs related to the country.

# Istanbul: Six dead in blast on busy street

"Efforts to take over Turkiye through terrorism will not yield results", says Erdogan

NEWS DESK / DNA

ISTANBUL: Six people were killed and 53 others were wounded on Sunday when an explosion rocked a busy pedestrian street in central Istanbul, according to state-owned Anadolu Agency. "Based on initial information from the governor Istanbul explosion could be a suspected act of terrorism," it quoted Turkish President Erdogan as saying. He said that at least six people were dead while 53 were injured during the explosion on Istanbul's Istiklal Avenue, adding that initial observations showed a woman played a role in the incident. "Efforts to take over Turkiye and the Turkish nation through terrorism will not yield results," he added. Ambulances rushed to the scene on the packed Istiklal Avenue, which police quickly cordoned off. The area, in the Beyoglu district of Turkiye's largest city, had been crowded as usual at the weekend with shoppers, tourists and families. State broadcaster TRT said that the cause of the blast was not yet known. A Reuters reporter saw a helicopter overhead and several ambulances in nearby Taksim Square. "When I heard the explosion, I was petrified, people froze, looking at each other.

## President, PM condole with Turkey

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed their condolences to Turkiye over loss of precious lives in Istanbul blast. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister expressed his deep anguish over the explosion at Istiklal Avenue, Istanbul and conveyed condolences to the brotherly people of Turkiye on part of the government of Pakistan and its people. The prime minister also prayed for the speedy recovery of those who had been injured in the explosion. "I have learnt with deep anguish about the explosion at popular Istiklal avenue in

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

# PML-N running away from elections: Imran PTI Chairman says he desires "respectable relations with US"

ASHRAF CHOHAN

KHARIAN: Former prime minister Imran Khan, in an address via video link, castigated PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif for "running away" from elections to "save his corruption". "They [the Sharifs] stole money for 30 years and transferred the amount abroad [...] these people are now deciding the future of the country [...] these people are now taking decisions on the appointment of the army chief [...] these people sitting in London," he said. "The people never made a decision on merit. They always bring their people to head institutions. They don't care about the country's economy," Imran claimed, emphasising that his long march was aimed at "tackling the PDM". He added that no matter how much the government lied, the truth would always come out. "The public has rejected this imported government and the number of people joining the long march has shown this." Former premier said that he desires "respectable relations with the US". "I never wanted to fight with anyone. I was just working on an independent foreign policy. I was working on a foreign policy that was beneficial for the people of Pakistan. "And with the US we want a foreign policy that India has [...] India has relations with the US but they have

Continued on Page 06

## President hints at consensus on elections' date

DNA

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi has said all stakeholders might sit together and make a decision about a mutually agreed date for the next general elections. Speaking in Lahore, the president hoped that such an approach would help reduce the political temperature in the country. "The stakeholders should also consider discussing the use of technology to bring efficiency, transparency and fairness in elections," Dr Alvi told reporters, according to a press release. The president said he would continue his efforts toward reducing the political polarisation, adding that his efforts had made some impact towards reducing the distance from extreme positions to some extent. Reports earlier suggested that the president mediated between Imran Khan and the establishment to lessen tension.

Continued on Page 06



MELBOURNE: England cricket players celebrate winning the T20 World Cup after beating Pakistan in the final. – DNA

## IMF asks to mobilise addl Rs 800bn

The budget deficit is projected to touch Rs4.750 trillion

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Amid increasing fiscal slippages and external financing gap, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are working out a revised macroeconomic and fiscal framework, whereby the budget deficit and primary deficit are projected to escalate massively against the envisaged targets. The IMF is asking Pakistan to fetch an additional 1% of GDP revenues equivalent to Rs800 billion, keeping in view the shortfall on both tax and non-tax revenues as well as the hike in expenditure side, media reported Sunday. The debt servicing has ballooned to unprecedented levels, putting more pressure on fiscal fronts. The budget deficit is projected to touch Rs4.750 trillion or close to 6% of GDP against the envisaged target of Rs3.79 trillion. The primary deficit is now assessed that it may touch a deficit of 2.8% of GDP, equivalent to Rs2.18 trillion against the sought target of a surplus of Rs152 billion or 0.2% of GDP. "In the wake of massive fiscal slippages, the IMF is asking the government to come up with a mini-budget by taking additional measures to bridge the fiscal gap," a top official source told a select group of reporters in Islamabad. The macroeconomic framework will be revised downward as the GDP growth

Continued on Page 06

# Stokes, Curran star as England win T20 World Cup

Afridi's untimely injury prior to business end of the game gifts England the final

AGENCIES

MELBOURNE: Ben Stokes and Sam Curran starred as England edged Pakistan by five wickets to win the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday and become the sport's first dual white-ball champions, holding both the 50 and 20-over titles. Jos Buttler's side held Pakistan to 137-8 in front of a partisan 80,462 fans at a heaving Melbourne Cricket Ground, with player-of-the-match Curran bagging 3-12 and Adil Rashid chipping with 2-22. In reply, England slumped to 49-3 in the sixth over as they struggled to get any momentum against a fiery pace attack, with boundaries hard to come by. But Stokes (52 not out) and Moeen Ali (19) used their experience and cool heads to guide England to 138-5 with six balls to spare, climaxing a riveting tournament that spanned 45 games over nearly a month. The victory added to the 50-over title England won in 2019, building on the legacy of former captain Eoin Morgan, who retired this year after transforming the team into a white-ball juggernaut. It was England's second T20 crown after tasting success in

2010, joining the West Indies as the only two-time winners since the tournament's inception in 2007. The game was billed as a showdown between Pakistan's attack and England's top order, and Shaheen Afridi bowled danger man Alex Hales in the first over of the run chase. But that only fired up Buttler who smashed two boundaries off Naseem Shah. Phil Salt, playing in place of the injured Dawid Malan, didn't last, making just 10 before pulling Haris Rauf to Ifukhar Ahmed. The ball was swinging and seaming and the menacing Rauf claimed the key wicket of Buttler just as he was getting in, edging to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan on 26 off 17 balls. The runs dried up and Harry Brook needed treatment for a blow to his elbow but he soldiered on as they reached 77-3 at the halfway point of the innings, compared to Pakistan's 68-2. Brook came undone on 20 against the spin of Shadab Khan, holing out to Afridi as he tried to get the scoreboard moving. It came down to needing 41 runs off the final five overs. Stokes relieved the pressure with a four and a six off Ahmed and there was no stopping them with the England all-rounder hitting the winning runs.

# US can't bar Pak from Russian oil, says Dar

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Sunday that the United States can not stop Pakistan from purchasing Russian oil and it will be possible to do so soon. While addressing PML-N workers in Dubai, the finance minister said during his visit to the US last month, he had a meeting with the officials of the US State Department in which the matter of oil purchase from Russia was discussed. Dar furthered that the US authorities were informed that they cannot stop Islamabad from buying oil from Moscow as the country's neighbor India is also buying oil from them.



Dar also said that the ministry will try to purchase oil from Russia on similar terms as it has with India. "In the next few months, you will see that the government will take important steps in favor of Pakistan in this regard," added the finance minister. Dar added that the country has financial dealings with Saudi Arabia, China, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "During the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia, meetings were also held with the Saudi authorities. From these meetings, you will see that there will be further improvement for Pakistan," said Dar.

## Inside...

7th Avenue interchange design should be probed – Page 02

Sanjrani for improved trade ties with Canada – Page 03

Azerbaijan keen to enhance trade with Pakistan: Envoy – Page 04

US midterm results: Will Trump demand a Biden impeachment? – Page 05

Pakistan wins the silver at the IHF Awards 2022 – Page 06

Zaheer Janjua hails conferral of award on Pakistani doctor – Page 07

Democrats keep control of United States' Senate – Page 08

# Why MBS Pakistan visit is postponed?

Some sources believe, Saudis would like Raheel Sharif to be the caretaker prime minister when the incumbent govt announces date for elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Muhammad bin Salman was due to visit Pakistan on November 21, 2022 in connection with his 'visit Asia' trip however the visit had been postponed. The Saudi Foreign Ministry has said the visit had been rescheduled and new dates shall be announced soon. According to Pakistani officials, MBS wanted to visit Pakistan in peaceful times. The PTI long march had virtually brought everything to a standstill therefore he was advised to reconsider his visit since there was no point in visiting Islamabad when the political parties were at odds with one another. Some sources believe, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince may wait till a new army chief is appointed. However some analysts

believe that the appointment of the new army chief was delayed because the incumbent army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa wanted to receive MBS, since both had excellent relations. Probably that was the reason that names for the new chief were not sent to the government. Like others Saudis are also keenly watching the developments regarding this top appointment. Traditionally and historically Saudis used to enjoy excellent working relations with all army chiefs. With political governments, they may have, some time, estranged relations but with the military leadership their relationship has always been cordial. For example, during PTI government Saudi-Pakistan relations always remained tense. The situation became extremely difficult when

Continued on Page 06

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## Defence exhibition in Karachi begins on Tuesday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: All is set for the 11th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar IDEAS-22 that will be held in Karachi from Nov. 15 and conclude on Nov. 18 under the auspices of the Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO). Director General DEPO, Defence Export Promotion Bureau Brigadier Naveed Azam Cheema told reporters that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the exhibition.

They said the exhibition will prove beneficial for boosting the export of the defence industry. It was informed on the occasion that fifty-two delegates from fifty-one countries will participate in the exhibition.

Earlier today, Karachi police issued an alternate traffic plan ahead of the 11th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2022, being held in Expo Centre. The IDEAS 2022 will be held Karachi Expo Centre from November 15 to 18.

According to the alternate traffic plan, heavy traffic will be banned on the roads to the Karachi Expo Centre. Heavy vehicles and commercial traffic will be completely banned from Shahrea Faisal's Nursery to Shah Suleman Road.

The alternate route for the heavy and commercial traffic will be Drigh Road to NIPA Chawranghi, whereas, heavy traffic will be disallowed from Rashid Minhas Road-Millennium Mall to Dalmia Road.

## 141 more people affected by dengue in KP

PESHAWAR :As many as 141 more people are affected by the dengue virus all across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said an official of the Health Department KP here on Sunday.

He said now the number of people affected by the dengue in the province has increased to 2,181 with a maximum of 84 cases reported in Peshawar and the total number of cases in Peshawar reached 8,917.

About the situation in other districts of the province, he said, 10 dengue cases were reported from Mardan where the total number reached 3,923, seven new cases from Abbottabad, 19 from Bannu and 16 from Swabi.

He disclosed that during the last 24 hours, seven more patients were admitted to the hospital and now a total of 40 dengue virus patients were being treated in different hospitals. So far, he said, 18 people died of dengue in the province this year.—APP

## Governor Sindh visits Akhtar Colony Market

KARACHI, NOV 13 (DNA) — Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori visited Akhtar Colony Bazaar and met the shopkeepers and buyers present there to ascertain their problems. On the occasion Muhammad Rafiq Bata of Akhtar Colony Bazaar was also present.

The shopkeepers and buyers were pleasantly surprised to see the Governor Sindh in their midst and expressed their opinion that this is how the Governor should be, and should interact with the people.

Governor Sindh said that he wants to take the position of governor to the people. He said that by going among the people, he can understand their problems in a better way. Authority is not necessary but rather right intention is required to resolve problems, he added.

Governor Sindh further said that he has the best working relationship with the Chief Minister Sindh. Kamran Khan Tessori said that he wants to end the hatred and unite everyone, for which doors of the Governor House are open for the public.

Governor Sindh further said that commercial centers of the city contribute significant revenue towards national exchequer and all possible measures will be taken to facilitate them.—APP

# 7th Avenue interchange design should be probed

## National wealth has been wasted by building the underpass. Musab Khan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the office Bearers of Traders Welfare Association Aabpara Market and representatives of Markets of G-7 sector was held under the chairmanship of Ajmal Baloch, President of All Pakistan Anjuman Tajran. In the meeting, Raja Safeer, President of Fire Brigade Market, President of Satara Market, Altaf Shah, all business representatives of G-7 markets and Chairman of Aabpara Market, Ali Asghar Butt. Vice Chairman Musab Khan, Additional General Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Siddiq, Information Secretary Abu Bakr



Abid and other officials participated. Through a resolution, Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif and Chairman CDA Captain Usman have been demanded to

conduct an inquiry into the faulty designing of the interchange on Seventh Avenue and to punish those responsible. It has been done that roads to Abpara market and

CDA head office should be constructed.

Addressing the meeting, President of All Pakistan Anjuman Tajaran Ajmal Baloch said that due to

wrong designing and wrong planning, the routes to the oldest market of the federal capital Aabpara have been blocked. All the markets and residents of G-7 have been severely affected. On this, all the markets of G-7 and the traders of Aabpara Market are protesting. They said that even after spending crores of rupees, the public has not benefited, while the underpass being built Aabpara market is the first market of Islamabad, access to Abpara has also been made very difficult for the residents of all sectors including F-11 and G-11. The national treasury has been deliberately damaged. They have demanded that

the roads of Aapara market and all the markets of G-7 should be restored immediately by modifying the redesign. If this is not done, all the markets of G-7 and the traders of Apara market will stage a protest dharna. President Fire Brigade Market Raja Safeer, Satara Market President Altaf Shah General Secretary Rana Akram Chairman Ali Asghar Butt Vice Chairman Musab Khan Additional General Secretary Chaudhary Siddique Information Secretary Abu Bakar Abid and business representatives of all the small and big markets of G-7 attended the meeting.

# KCCI, affiliate Associations reject industries; gas closure

DNA

KARACHI: Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry and its affiliate industrial town associations: SAI, KATI, LATI, FBATI, NKA-TI, SSHAI & BQATI fully reject the notices issued by SSGCL for closure of gas to industries of Karachi starting from 15th November 2022 to 28th February 2023 due to the industrial production including manufacturing meant for export will be crippled and may come to standstill.

The export industries of Karachi contribute to more than 54 percent in the national exports while the general industries of Karachi also cater more than 50 percent of national need. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure the wheels of the industries should run smoothly in order to support the economy which is already going through a severe crises and consider and implement the rationale and workable plan of gas supply given by the industry to the Committee, in the national interest.

The Committee has noted

with great concern that the matter of supply of gas was highlighted very well on time to the Federal Government to plan in advance and take all appropriate measures to ensure supply of gas to the industries in Karachi instead of complete gas outages which may lead to huge decline in exports and revenue, closure of industries and massive layoffs.

A Committee on Gas matters was formed by Federal Government where in the representatives of Industries from Karachi have floated many prudent proposals and had given practical and workable suggestions as how to tackle incoming shortage of gas, nevertheless, the notices issued to industries for closure of gas by SSGCL cover none of them.

The Committee gave an idea of closing down gas supply for two days in a week in winter for every 12 hours and also suggestion was given for Gas Load Management on rotation basis so that the industrial production must not stop at all. Discussions were also held to close 50 percent Captive Power Plants.

It was suggested that the industries having proper power/ electricity supply from K-Electric shall close down their CPPs 100 percent, in view of the gravity of situation, wherever possible. It was also discussed that usage of gas shall be closed for CPPs whereas the gas must be ensured to supply gas for operating the industrial boilers. Besides, other measures of energy conservations should also be adopted.

SSGCL's gas closure notices issued are also in utter contrast as it is not mentioned how the Company will supply Gas to Export-Oriented Industries in winter which is a priority sector. The KCCI and its affiliate seven industrial town associations reject this gas curtailment plan of SSGCL and appeal the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Chief Minister of Sindh to immediately intervene in this matter and save the industries from closure.

The gas closures cannot prove good for the economy, especially this year, as no special arrangements have been made by the Government to purchase RLNG

to inject in the system. Pertinent to mention here that our Regional Competitor Bangladesh practice a pragmatic and wise plan during winter for gas supply to various sectors.

If we compare it with Pakistan, Bangladesh has accorded priority to industry by supply 961 mmcf which is 34% share of total gas being supplied to the industries while in Pakistan gas supply to industries is only 18% with a supply of 721 mmcf only. Bangladesh gas supply to domestic sector is 13% with supply of 368 mmcf. Comparatively in Pakistan, gas supply to domestic sector is 21% with supply of 857 mmcf. {Source: Energy Yearbook (PK), Economic Review (BN)} The representatives of industry of Karachi have also offered if Government wants to closed own, the CPP of General Industry shall be closed 50 percent, however, in that case gas should be supplied with required pressure for industrial activity and the industries shall sign MOU with SSGCL in this regard but SSGCL had denied

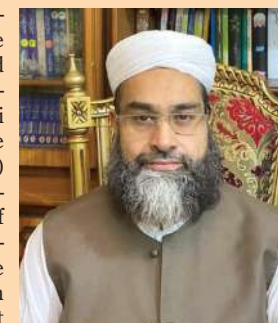
## MGI, COP27 to open new avenues of development: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD :Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) and 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) would open new avenues of development in Pakistan and the Middle East countries. Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, in an exclusive talk with APP, informed that the MGI signified Saudi Arabia's commitment to international sustainability efforts and enabled the region to help protect the planet by clearly defining an ambitious road map that significantly contributed to achieving global targets.

He said religious leaders were constantly creating awareness on the climate change challenges besides the inter-sect and interfaith dialogue at the global level.

He said under the patronage of Saudi Arabia's Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and with the support of the government of Egypt, the World Conference on Environment had determined an effective and positive direction at the global level in general and in the Islamic world in particular. "Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman has emerged as a great and visionary leader not only for the Muslim Ummah but also for the entire world," he added. He said Pakistan, besides assuring full cooperation, had already welcomed the Saudi Crown Prince's vision of Saudi and Middle East Green Initiatives.

Regarding the postponement of the Saudi Crown Prince's visit to Pakistan, Ashrafi said the visit was postponed due to the personal engagements of the prince. As per reports, the Crown Prince had not only postponed his visit to Pakistan but also delayed his visit to some other countries, he said adding, "As soon as his visit is rescheduled, it would be intimated to the quarters concerned." He also clarified that Pakistan's internal affairs had nothing to do with the postponement of the Crown Prince's visit. He also urged the people "not to be misguided by the rumours being propagated by negative elements."—APP



## Planning Commission launches Pakistan Outlook 2035

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Planning Commission has initiated a comprehensive study on the future development scenario building for Pakistan titled "Pakistan Outlook 2035".

The initiative, which will assess long-term challenges in the light of prevailing economic crisis and changing global dynamics in key sectors of the economy and identify policy choices for the policy makers for rapid socioeconomic development of the country, said a press release.

While chairing a meeting of the Planning Commission Members, Minister Planning and Development, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said that the study would be launched at the start of 2023, and that it would act as a prelude to developing Pakistan's Vision 2035 and Vision 2047. He emphasized that Pakistan's economy required fundamental structural changes and development of new export led growth paradigm. This could only be achieved by following a consistent policy framework for at least a decade.

"The country in 2017-18 was well on its way to realise the target of joining top 25 economies of the world by 2025 as set in Pakistan's Vision 2025 launched in 2014 under PMLN government but the change of government in 2018 caused a major diversion.

Continuity of policies was discarded and path of confrontation and reversals was adopted by previous government which destroyed the investor confidence and progress. Nearly four years later, we inherited a country close to economic bankruptcy," said the minister.

## Civil Society expresses solidarity with armed forces

BUREWALA :Members of civil society took out a rally to express solidarity with armed forces, here, on Sunday. The rally was led by MPA Sardar Khalid Mahmood Dogar and attended by farmers, ulema, lawyers, traders, and many other professionals. Addressing the rally, MPA Khalid Dogar stated that it was not a time for politics. "The politicians who are dragging the armed forces into politics should demonstrate responsibility. The masses are standing by the armed forces. Nobody will be allowed to weaken the institution. Armed Forces are guarantors of a country's defense," he said.—APP



**LAHORE:** First Lady Samina Alvi visiting the classrooms and interacting with special children during her visit to Special Education and Training Center. —DNA

## Dipping mercury increases demand of winter delights

He said that the purpose of buying such items is mainly to have a family time in which all of the family members can have discussions over the cup of tea and such food items

ISLAMABAD The demand of the traditional winter delights has registered an increase soon after the cold wave gripped different parts of the country with the onset of the second rain spell of this winter season.

The food outlets and markets of the federal capital can be seen jam packed with the food lovers who are buying the popular winter items like Chicken Corn Soup, Doodh Jalebi, Gajar ka Halwa, Kashmiri Tea, Samosas, Pakoras, fried fish and dry fruits etc especially during the rainy day.

A number of stalls carrying these delights at various markets including Melody Market, Karachi Com-

pany, Jinnah Super Market, Super Market, Aabpara Market and F-10 Markaz are attracting a large number of customers.

Sadia Ajmal, a university student said that winter is my favorite time of the year when my days are not enjoyable without having fish, soup or hot coffee.

She said that when the cold breeze of winter season blows, these foods not only satisfy your appetite but also help reduce the effects of chilly weather. Ajmal Khan, a fish buyer was of the view that fish is the most favorite food for his family during the winters which he used to buy almost every week. The increased prices of the fish has although im-

pacted our purchasing capacity of the buyers but we cannot imagine the winter season without fish.

"We all like to have fish barbeque parties or go for enjoying fried fish, however, my children prefer to eat finger fish" he added.

Sadiq, who is a piece rate worker, said that fish and dry fruits are too expensive and not affordable to buy so he has no option but to buy peanuts, samosas and pakoras for his children to make them happy.

He said that the purpose of buying such items is mainly to have a family time in which all of the family members can have discussions over the cup of tea and such food items.—APP

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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

PIA Flight 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

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Sanjrani for improved trade ties with Canada

Lauds the role of PWCTA, USPICC in promoting trade  
PWCTA to hold a single-country exhibition in Canada

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Canada is a very important market for Pakistan and the government will facilitate all the businesspersons who want to play their role in the improvement of bilateral trade relations between Pakistan and Canada.

Improved trade ties between Pakistan and Canada will serve the interests of both countries therefore the business community should try its best in this regard, he said. Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani said this while meeting Ms. Bushra Rehman, President of Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA), and Mohammad Ahmed, President of US-PAKISTAN International Chamber (USPICC), Pakistan Chapter.

Malik Sohail Hussain, Secretary General of USPICC and PWCTA, and Senator Zeshana Khanzada, Chairman Standing Committee on Commerce, were also present on the occasion.

Chairman Senate discussed various ideas to expand bilateral trade between Pakistan and Canada and laid special emphasis on boosting Pakistan's exports to Canada.

He lauded the decision of PWCTA to organize a single-country exhibition in Vancouver in May 2023 in which over 200 businessmen from Pakistan will heavily participate while women entrepreneurs will



get special discounts.

Mr. Sanjrani said such events will not only promote exports but also improve the image of the country in the western world. At the occasion, Bushra Rehman informed that the exhibition will showcase Pakistani products such as textiles,

rice, sports goods, surgical instruments, shoes, and IT products. A number of potential importers from the North American region will also be attending the event. President US-PAKISTAN International Chamber Pakistan Chapter Muhammad Ahmed said that we need

to enhance trade relations with important countries and highlight Pakistan's economic potential and try to attract investment in various fields. USPICC will fully cooperate with PWCTA to promote Pakistan's trade with Canada and other countries and its members

will participate the in single country exhibition in Vancouver, said Muhammad Ahmed. Secretary General USPICC and PWCTA Malik Sohail Hussain said that there are 500,000 Pakistani working in different fields in Canada serving as a bridge between both countries.

These people are not only playing an important role in the development of Canada but also sending valuable foreign exchange to Pakistan, he added. Malik Sohail will also coordinate with all the related bodies and keep all sides informed about the latest developments.

## Authorities directed to prepare peri-urban structure plans & RDPs

RAWALPINDI :The authorities concerned have been directed to prepare Regional Development Plans (RDPs) for Rawalpindi district and Peri-urban structure plans for tehsil headquarters of the district.

According to RDA spokesman, a meeting for preparation of RDPs for Rawalpindi district and peri-urban structure plans for tehsil headquarters of the district was held here at Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA).

The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan while Mott MacDonald Pakistan Company's consultant gave a detailed presentation about regional development plans and informed that extensive work had been done for preparation of RDPs of four Tehsils of Rawalpindi which include Gujar Khan, Taxila, Kallar Syedan and Kahuta and the data had also been shared with concerned local governments for verification and their inputs.

It was also decided that a coordination committee would be notified comprising planning officers of local governments and RDA for coherent work of urban plan and regional development plan. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division appreciated work of the consultant and sensitized him that remaining deliverables may be completed well within time after associating all stakeholders and the general public as well.

He directed Director General (DG) RDA Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa that RDA should work more on master plan. —APP

## Indonesian musical show at RCCI food fest

RAWALPINDI: The Ladies of the Indonesian Embassy amazed the visitors of the 2nd Pindi Food Fest 2022 at Ayub National Park, Rawalpindi with "Angklung" performance playing "Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da" by the Beatles and traditional folksong. Pakistani popular singer, Natsha Baig, performed also at the Festival together with Chef Gulzar, Shan Khan, Bakshi Brother, Mash Baloch, Hassan Darbuka and others. Angklung is an Indonesian musical instrument consisting of two to four bamboo tubes suspended in a bamboo frame, bound with rattan cords. Since each Angklung only generates one note or chord several players must work together in order to play melodies. Angklung captures the spirit of cooperation and togetherness of diverse Indonesian society. The Angklung is closely related to traditional customs, arts, and cultural identity in Indonesia played during ceremonies such as rice planting, harvest, and circumcision. Noting the unique sound and philosophical meaning of this cultural tradition, Angklung was recognized by UNESCO in 2010 as a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity. Initiated last year, the Pindi Food Festival is an annual cultural and culinary promotion event organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber & Commerce of Industry (RCCI). The three-day food festival features more than 55 food stalls representing delicious and diverse Pakistani cuisines.

Arabella's Kitchen MRC Pakistan is participating in the 2nd Pindi Food Festival of 2022 and introducing Indonesian cuisines such as Bakso (meatballs), Bakwan (Indonesian Pakora), Siomay, Fried Rice and Noodles, Chicken Satay and Banana Cheese Roll to Pakistani food lovers. Indonesian food stall attracted many visitors who wanted to experience some similarities with Pakistani dishes but were encouraged by the unique flavors of Indonesian cuisines. —DNA

## Police accelerate search operations in Pindi

RAWALPINDI Rawalpindi District Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi have accelerated search operations and snap-checking in different areas to net the criminals and proclaimed offenders while as many as 3,435 suspects were checked in the jurisdiction of different police stations during the last week.

According to a police spokesman, search and combing operations were launched in the jurisdiction of Kahuta, Gujar Khan, Murree, Chontra, Dhamial, Rawat, Saddar Baroni, Civil Lines, Naseerabad, Race Course Jatli, Gungmandi, Bani, Saidqabad, Kalar Syedan, Morgah, Saddar Baroni, Kotli Sattian, Patriata, and other police stations.

He informed that heavy police contingents, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel, and Ladies police under the supervision of senior police officers conducted the operations and searched over 1058 houses, 210 shops, seven workshops, 35 hotels, and two marriage halls, besides checking the particulars of 264 tenants. As many as 3,435 suspects were also checked during the operations, he added.

He informed that Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Na-deem Bukhari had accelerated snap-checking and search operations in different city areas to net lawbreakers. Police were also conducting snap-checking in different areas, he said adding, police teams were checking vehicles, motorcycles, hotels, and shops to nab the lawbreakers and intensify the security of the city.

He said that following the directions of the CPO, district police were making all-out efforts to net those involved in criminal activities.

Superintendents of Police, Sub-Divisional Police Officers, and Station House Officers were conducting operations themselves along with police teams and ensuring effective policing.

The overall efforts were being monitored by the Senior Superintendent of Police Operations Rawalpindi and the purpose was to ensure effective security and protection of the lives and property of the citizens. Owing to these efforts, the crime rate was also declining in the city and such endeavors would continue, he added.—APP

## Around 9,986 acres Railways land found under illegal occupation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways major portion of around 9,986 acres land worth billion of rupees found under illegal occupation of private, individual and different government departments across the country. "Around 3,287 acres were occupied in Punjab, 832 acres under encroachment in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh and 687 acres land occupied in Balochistan," an official in the Ministry told APP.

However, he said Pakistan Railways has retrieved as many as 955 acres of its land worth Rs19, 603 million during various anti-encroachment operations across the country in the last five years.

"Around 476 acres retrieved in Punjab, 133 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 327 acres in Sindh and only 19 acres in Balochistan acres land had been retrieved by the Pakistan Railways," he said. He said that about 3,287 acres in Punjab, 832 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh, and 687 acres of land in Balochistan were being encroached.—APP

## IESCO catches 3,093 power pilferers in Oct

ISLAMABAD:IESCO has identified 3,093 power pilferage cases in various circles of the company during October and imposed Rs 33.3 million fine for power theft. IESCO Chief Dr Muhammad Amajd Khan told that during site checking, some 3012 meters were found slow while 39 consumers were getting direct power supply.—APP

## MoHR reveals helpline 1099 data, receives 6355 calls

ISLAMABA The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) on Sunday revealed the data of its helpline1099, which had been launched for the provision of swift services and timely resolution of public grievances related to human rights abuses in the country. According to data provided by MoHR, a total of 6355 calls have been received by its helpline 1099 services of which 6273 calls were received (Inbound, Outbound, Visits, application, fax, E-mails. Around 82 calls were received via the mobile app. A total of 205 calls service provided by the 1099 helpline. All relevant callers are given legal advice and referred to the relevant departments where 201. Recently a mobile app of the Helpline 1099 has been launched and in a short time more than 5 thousand downloads of the App have taken place and more than 2 cases are received through this latter. Toll-Free Number 1099 was installed to offer access to callers from all over the country (with no cost at all) to get free legal advice, counseling, legal assistance, and referral service for the redressal of their grievances was provided. BToll-Free Number 1099 was installed to offer access to callers from all over the country (with no cost at all) to get free legal advice, counseling, legal assistance, and referral service for the redressal of their grievances was provided.—APP

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- Models, Methods and Artifacts
- Agile Project Management
- Microsoft Project

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## Briefs

## PAL to compile literary encyclopedias

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) is working on the novel idea of developing separate literary encyclopedias of all the regional languages of Pakistan in Urdu which would help promote the literature, history and culture of different regions of the country. The project is the first of its kind which was approved by PAL during a recent meeting of its Board of Members, Co-coordinator of the project, Asim Butt said while talking to APP. He said, "It is a specific encyclopedia which will only cover the literature and literary information of the specific regional language and the main objective of the project was to promote the literature of regional languages. About the content of the encyclopedia, he informed that each encyclopedia would be divided in different parts, including chapters on noted literary personalities, renowned books and a chapter on specific terminologies on the specific language. —APP

## PTDC strives to boost religious tourism

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) is pursuing a concrete plan to boost religious tourism in the country which can be a great source of revenue generation for the country. "PTDC is working to promote religious tourism for not only revenue generation purposes but also promote religious harmony and tolerance among the people", Managing Director, PTDC, Rana Aftab said in an interview with APP. He was of the view that Pakistan is a country with landmarks of various religious ethnicities and has a great yet unexplored potential for religious tourism. Religious tourism is one of the important segments of the country's tourism industry which includes Buddhism, Sikhmat, Hinduism, and Christianity-related tourism, and has a lot of potentials. Besides religious tourism, there were two other segments in the field of tourism one is adventure tourism and the other is cultural tourism. The MD PTDC said that Pakistan's adventure tourism is a unique segment of the country's tourism sector which includes river rafting, paragliding, tracking, mountain climbing, and other new winter sports. Another important segment of this sector, he mentioned, is the culture and archeological sites of the country which are a great source of attraction for tourists both local and foreign. —APP

## RCCI food festival concluded at Ayub National Park

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: A three-day food festival organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) concluded at Ayub National Park, here, on Sunday. In the festival more than 55 food stalls were set up representing delicious and diverse Pakistani cuisines. Pakistani popular singer Natscha Baig performed at the festival together with Chef Gulzar, Shan Khan, Bakshi Brother, Mash Baloch, Hassan Darbuka and others. The ladies of the Indonesian embassy also amazed the visitors of the 2nd Pindi Food Fest, 2022 with "Angklung" performance playing "Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da" by the Beatles and traditional folksong. Indonesian food stall attracted many visitors who wanted to experience some similarities with Pakistani dishes but were encouraged to join in by the unique flavors of Indonesian cuisines.

## Azerbaijan keen to enhance trade with Pakistan : Envoy

Envoy said that Azerbaijan's economy has been on a steady growth trajectory and has positioned itself as a strategic transport hub between Europe and Asia

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan said that Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkey have good potential to develop an economic block to achieve better outcomes for their respective economies. He said that Azerbaijan is keen to enhance bilateral trade with Pakistan, which would be very beneficial for both countries. He said that Azerbaijan and Turkey collaborate in a variety of economic fields and their bilateral trade is in billions. Therefore, Azerbaijan wants to develop similar kinds of trade ties with Pakistan to complement the economy of each other. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The envoy said that Azerbaijan's economy has been on a steady growth trajectory and has positioned itself as a strategic transport hub between Europe and Asia. Therefore, close cooperation of Pakistan with it would open up new avenues for Pakistan to promote trade ties with Central Asia. He said that many Pakistani products including pharmaceutical products, textiles, optic and medical equipment, rice and fruits can find a good market in Azerbaijan. Similarly, Azerbaijan



can export many products to Pakistan including tomato, hazelnuts, strawberries and other fruits, berries, vegetables, fruit juices, sauces and other preserves, cotton & cotton yarn, polymers and black fermented tea. He said that Azerbaijan has set up many industrial zones and Pakistani investors should explore them for JVs and investment. He highlighted potential sectors for investment in Azerbaijan including ag-

riculture and processing, construction, petrochemicals, renewables, transport, trade, logistics, mining, digital economy, tourism and light industry. He said that ICCI should form another delegation for Azerbaijan and assured that his Embassy would fully support it to make its tour successful. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Azerbaijan

is rich in oil & gas reserves while Pakistan is facing problems in purchasing LNG. He said that Azerbaijan should cooperate with Pakistan to address this issue. He said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan are enjoying cordial relations that should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations to achieve better benefits for both countries. He said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is quite low as compared to their actual

potential. He said that both countries can trade in many items for which it is very important to develop strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan can cooperate in multiple fields including military, defence industry, security, agriculture, trade, banking, energy, tourism, transport, information

& communication technologies, science, education. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan should explore promoting trade through road links that would boost bilateral trade ties. Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zahid Maqbool, Usman Khalid, Maqsood Tabish, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Imtiaz, Fatma Azim, Javed Iqbal, Dr. Muhammad Usman and others were present in the meeting.

## Pak looks to maximum coop with China on agri technology

## DNA

ISLAMABAD "Pakistani and Chinese researchers are jointly testing hybrid wheat varieties with higher resistance to drought, diseases, and climate uncertainties and higher production per unit area. Our government looks forward to maximum cooperation and coordination with China", Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). He told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview that due to the floods, about \$4 billion was lost from wheat damages, with Sindh and Baluchistan being the hardest hit areas. The government has already imported around 1 million tons of wheat for local consumption, and more will be



imported. "Then hopefully in March next year, we will welcome wheat harvest", Chairman PARC said. "But about 20% of wheat production will be reduced in the coming season because the low land is still waterlogged and not suitable for sowing", he added. As extreme weather conditions are happening ever more frequently, Chairman PARC anticipates closer cooperation with China for agricultural technologies.

"To combat climate change, climate-smart technologies are required. We need new, climate-resilient varieties; we need machinery for planting from seed to grain; we need storage system to protect ourselves from disruptive disasters. During PM's visit to China, agriculture is also one of the priorities of cooperation" he said. It is learned that PARC is working with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yunnan Acad-

emy of Agricultural Sciences, especially in breeding technologies. Yunnan, a province in southern China, has a climate similar to Pakistan. Through years of exchanges, the two sides have discovered that doubled haploid breeding and hybrid breeding of wheat apply to Pakistan. Personnel exchanges and training is ongoing sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China and breeding resources are being shared with over 200 lines of wheat being selected. "We look to learning the technologies from the Chinese side", PARC Chairman said. "We can form joint working groups and declare centers of excellence so that technologies can be transferred and our scientists can indigenize them to build capacity and rehabilitate our farmers."

## 'Pakistani youth ready to for digital infrastructure'

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan is focusing on innovation, technology, and digitalization. We have one of the youngest populations in the world, which is talented and tech savvy and is ready to contribute to the global effort." This was stated by Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China at the "Belt and Road" Internet International Cooperation Forum, one of the sub forums of the World Internet Conference (WIC) 2022 held in Wuzhen, China, according to China Economic Net (CEN). With the theme "Towards a Shared Digital Future in a Connected World - Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace," this year's WIC Wuzhen summit brought together more than 2,000 rep-

resentatives from over 120 countries and regions. They showcased more than 200 projects which aimed at building a community in cyberspace and using digital technologies to promote social fairness. Pointing out that building a digitally inclusive community is a collective global responsibility, the ambassador emphasized that Pakistan would not be far behind, and would be a willing partner in a shared concept to build a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive digital future for all. "While constructing a global digital infrastructure, we should enable the developing countries to be an equal partner to increased investments and technical support.", the envoy said. "Cooperation and development" is one of the key focuses of WIC 2022.

## Conspiracies of Imran 'exposed'

HAVELIAN :Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Sunday said the "conspiracies hatched by Imran Khan have been exposed before the people by bringing the country to the brink of destruction". He expressed these views while talking to the media after the inauguration of a business center in Havelian city. The minister further said that Imran's narrative of external conspiracy had been exposed, alleging that the PTI chief "created chaos. —APP

## Western perspective towards China 'distorted'



ISLAMABAD: Recently, a video of a Singaporean scholar rebutting Western journalists' "smear-style" questions has gone viral. In the video, which was shot during a recent forum on China held in Singapore, a Western reporter claimed China's success was based on "high-level repression" in his question. In response, Kishore Mahbubani, a Singapore-based scholar and former diplomat, said the question shows the "distorted perspective" of reality in the media's perception of China. "If the Communist Party of China only relied on repression to stay in power, it would not create the most dynamic economy in the world. China is by far the most dynamic economy in the world and delivered the fastest-growing economy for 30 years," Mahbubani said. Mahbubani explained that China's achievement came through educating the Chinese people to an unprecedented level, adding 129 million Chinese left China freely in 2019 and all came back — almost twice the population of the UK. Such could not never be happened in a state of repression.

## Irfan registers 60th Guinness World Record

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan's renowned martial artist Irfan Mehsood has achieved another milestone after his 60th Guinness World Record was approved for the highest standing jump carrying a 60lb pack. "The previous record for the highest standing jump was held by Silvio Sabba of Italy. The highest standing jump carrying a 60 lb pack was 92.6 cm (3 ft 0.45 in), and was achieved by Silvio Sabba in Rodano, Milan in February 2018," he told APP. Irfan said the highest standing jump he did carrying a 60 lb pack was 96 cm (3 ft 1.79 in). "I attempted the feat in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, in July 2022." Irfan has previously also broken many other records including the most push-ups (fingertips, carrying a 60 lb pack) in one minute, most step-ups in one minute (carrying a 100 lb pack), and the longest time in a reverse abdominal plank position carrying a 100 lb pack. Mehsood who was overjoyed over his remarkable feat said he was also the only athlete to break world records using 80 to 100 Pounds of weight. —APP

## PMNH lags behind in execution of projects due to lack of funds

ISLAMABAD :Museums are the important pillars of any society and have multiple roles in terms of the conservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity to educate the future generations. However, the important department of the Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) is lagging behind in the execution of any development project due to a lack of funds for the last two quarters. The department is compelled to rely on the income, generated through the routine visits of the public, for meeting its maintenance expenditures and paying bills.

According to an official source, PMNH was established under the patronage of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), the Ministry of Science and Technology and its scientists work on various projects for the popularization of natural history through research publications, displays, exhibits, and dioramas for public awareness.

"The concerned ministry has issued a clear directive to the department to first defend their project for which budget is required and give proper justification otherwise the funds would not be provided", the official source said.

"Now the failure is on the part of the head of the department if he or she is unable to defend any project before the relevant ministry's top officials", the source added. —APP

## PFC urges govt to raise forest cover

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Furniture Council on Sunday urged the government and private sectors to join hands for raising its forest cover from 5 per cent to 25 per cent in order to meet the ever-growing needs of the furniture industry in Pakistan. Mian Kashif Ashfaq CEO PFC, while talking to a delegation of women furniture entrepreneurs led by Ms Nida Ejaz said currently, paper and furniture and local industries, are experiencing serious supply shocks which are not only impeding their further growth and but also adversely affecting their international competitiveness.

As the global economy is expected to be more challenging this year in the wake of Covid 19, he urged the furniture industry to remain resilient by innovating, adopting technology as well as diversifying export markets in order to sustain demand in the long run. "We have to overcome challenges to strengthen our market share; we must continue to produce innovative and market-oriented products to meet challenging times," he added. Mian Kashif Ashfaq said in the absence of enough supplies of wood, cheaper furniture made of fancy and laminated sheets of chipboard has flooded the local market. —APP

## Revamping health sector on modern lines priority

ISLAMABAD :Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel on Sunday said that the government was revamping the health sector for provision of advanced healthcare facilities for better medical treatment to the public and ensuring transparency in MDCAT 2022 exams.

Talking to PTV news, he said that government was paying special attention to the health sector to ensure well-equipped advanced health facilities for the masses, adding, all available resources were being used to provide better health facilities and any kind of negligence will not be tolerated in this regard. Replying a question related to MDCAT exams, he said MDCAT exams were conducted as per scheduled from November 13 (today) in which we will ensure its complete transparency and merit, adding, the PMC management had conducted exams after taking all provinces into confidence. Government was taking all urgent measures to facilitate medical students, he said, adding, PMC had introduced a computer-based exam system to enhance transparency and allow all students to compete on a level playing field. —APP

## Pak cherries gaining market access in China

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani fresh cherries is gaining market access in China, it was reported by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday. During Pakistani Prime Minister Shabaz's visit to China earlier this month, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and the Ministry of Food Security and Research of Pakistan signed the Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Fresh Cherries from Pakistan to China by exchanging signed texts, thus marking that fresh cherries produced in Pakistan have won China's market access.

According to a report released by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan, cherries in Pakistan mainly come from Baluchistan and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) regions, with a planting area of about 5,931 acres and a yield of approximately 6,000 tons, which is about 2/3 of the world average. The ministry estimates that 10% of the cherries are available for export currently, worth about \$1.77 million, with a broad space for further export. There is a huge demand for imported cherries in the Chinese market. China imports more than 200,000 tons of cher-

ries annually, making it the world's largest consumer of cherries.

The approval of Pakistani cherries to enter the Chinese market is expected to drive the development of Pakistan's domestic cher-



Pakistani cherry growers eyeing Chinese market due to high demand

ry industry, Dr. Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said in a recent interview with China Economic Net. He added, "China and Pakistan can cooperate to introduce Chinese technology to expand the planting area of cherries, improve the unit yield and fruit quality, and invest in the construction of cold treatment facilities, which will not only meet the demand of the Chinese market but also bring foreign exchange earnings to Pakistan." Since 2019, relevant Chinese and Pakistani departments have initiated risk analysis for the export of fresh cherries from Pakistan to China. The two sides have reached an agreement on the list of quarantine pest and cold treatment conditions and finally signed the export protocol.

Dr. Gu informed that Pakistan's cherry orchards should focus on environmental-friendly production and biological control of quarantine pests should be enhanced during cultivation. "All cherries exported to China must be treat-

ed cold. Conditions of cold treatment facilities and sanitary conditions during processing, packaging, storage, and shipping of cherries need to be further improved," suggested him. Explaining the transportation Dr. Gu said that fresh cherries are of high value and those produced in Baluchistan can be exported from Pakistan to China by air-cooling. "As Pakistan Customs further improves its inspection and quarantine facilities at Sustar Pass, cherries produced in the GB region can also be exported to China via refrigerated containers at Khunjerab Pass," added him. Under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, cherries from Pakistan that meet the requirements can enjoy zero tariffs when exported to China. According to the Protocol on Plant Quarantine Requirements of Pakistan Fresh Cherries Exported to China, the exported cherry orchards, packaging plants, refrigerated warehouses, and related processing facilities must be reviewed and filed by the Ministry of Food Security and Research of Pakistan, and the ministry will provide the list of names to GACC for approval and registration. Since November 2021, China and Pakistan have signed four protocols on exports of agricultural products to China including onions, buffalo embryo, Rhodes Grass, and fresh cherries.



## Negotiating with Vladimir Putin

Vladimir Putin's decision to stay away from this week's G20 summit of world leaders in Bali is telling. While Indonesia insisted that Russia's president was welcome, his presence would have been an embarrassment. He is an international pariah – and he knows it. Even China appears to be losing patience. The reason for this is, of course, Ukraine, where Putin's calamitous "special military operation" diminishes him and his country by the day. Last week's liberation by Ukrainian forces of Kherson, following victories around Kyiv and in Kharkiv region, was the most significant Russian reverse since the invasion began in February. Putin annexed the Kherson oblast in September after a phoney referendum and declared it sovereign territory. The provincial capital, the only one in Kremlin hands, would "never" be surrendered, he vowed. Now, his troops, fearing encirclement, have cut and run, scuttling off to the relative safety of the east bank of the Dnipro River. Exhibiting trademark political cowardice, a shellshocked Putin has been trying to distance himself from this disaster. He left it to his hapless defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, and newly appointed hardline commander in Ukraine, Gen Sergei Surovikin, to break the humiliating news to TV viewers.

But every Russian knows who is responsible. For dictators like Putin, that is the price of absolute power. The Kherson debacle has further dispelled the aura of a wise, all-knowing, tsar-like father figure that he has cultivated over two decades. Sadly, Putin is not yet finished, but his public standing is considerably weakened. This sense that Russia is on the back foot is one of several factors fuelling speculation about peace talks. Meanwhile, Pentagon chiefs worry about escalating financial costs and weapons shortages – a problem already affecting European Nato states. The US has provided \$19.3bn (£17bn) in lethal aid to Ukraine, including an additional \$400m last week. There is talk of a new \$50bn congressional package by year's end. This will not please some newly elected Republicans, who want to cut aid. That is not a view shared by Ukraine's leadership and citizens. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his advisers say bluntly there is nothing to negotiate about while Moscow's aggression continues and, in any case, Putin cannot be trusted. They point out that there is no sign Russia is ready for serious talks. Rather, it is digging in and preparing for a long winter of attritional warfare. A yearning for a quick, painless end is a natural response to slaughter and misery. Disrupted grain supplies to developing countries, fears of nuclear escalation, dire environmental impacts, the weaponisation of fossil fuels and the economic pain felt by people everywhere all add to pressure for a swift resolution. Endless war is not an option. Negotiations with the Russian government, not necessarily with Putin, will happen eventually. But the time is not yet ripe. Ukraine must be allowed to choose its moment and begin any talks from a position of maximum strength. Putin must not be rewarded for his butchery. More victories like that in Kherson can pave the way to peace.

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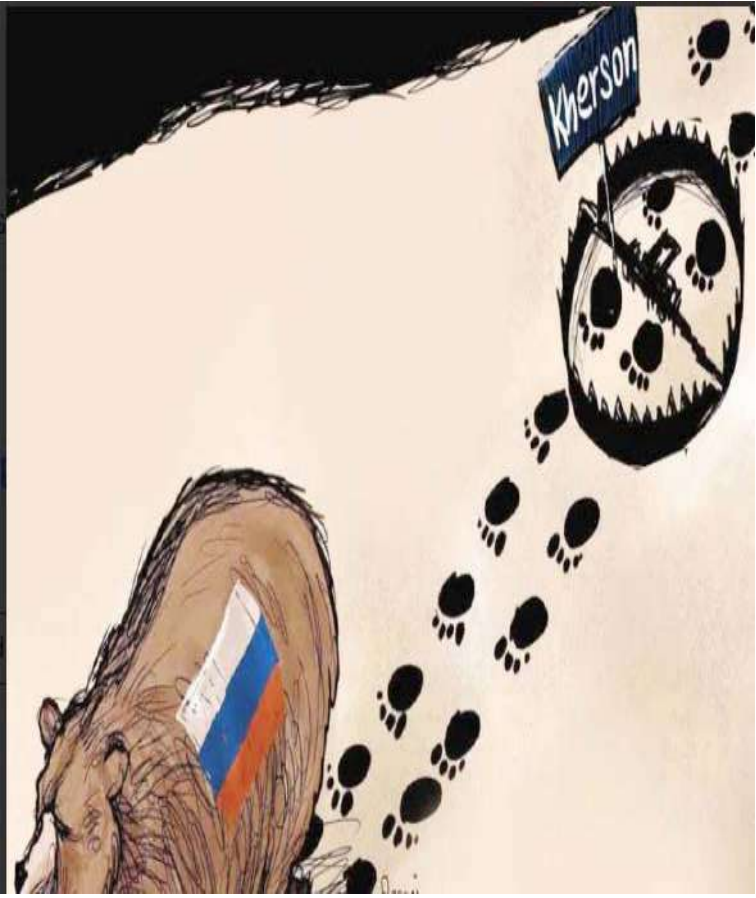
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# US midterm results: Will Trump demand a Biden impeachment?

Andrew Mitrovica

Six years later, in the weeks leading up to last night's pivotal US midterm elections, Moore was writing and appearing on TV prodigiously again, saying that the pollsters and commentariat were wrong once more. This time, his charmed crystal ball saw a Democratic Party resurgence at a time when the establishment consensus was that a red Republican "wave" would wash over a tired, forlorn nation. Turns out, both Moore and the establishment were mistaken: We appear to have a split decision.

Michael Moore got it wrong this time – just barely. In 2016, the provocateur and filmmaker outwitted the preening pollsters and commentariat by insisting that Donald Trump would defeat the much-favoured Hillary Clinton in the United States presidential election. At the time, Moore was on TV a lot warning that restive Americans were primed to reject the status quo and elect a rank celebrity. Moore's

urgent maydays were dismissed as the cockeyed musings of a contrarian rabble-rouser who should stick to making quirky documentaries rather than calling presidential elections. They were wrong. He was right. Six years later, in the weeks leading up to last night's pivotal US midterm elections, Moore was writing and appearing on TV prodigiously again, saying that the pollsters and commentariat were wrong once more. This time, his charmed crystal ball saw a Democratic Party resurgence at a time when the establishment consensus was that a red Republican "wave" would wash over a tired, forlorn nation. Turns out, both Moore and the establishment were mistaken: We appear to have a split decision. Republicans are likely to take control of the House. But the predicted wave was more like a ripple – as the party seems poised to earn only a slim plurality. Meanwhile, Democrats – at this writing – appear likely to be able to ultimately retain their paper-slim control of the Senate. There's a tiny possibility that they might even end up with a clear majority in that chamber if incumbent Raphael Warnock turns his narrow lead over Republican challenger Herschel Walker into a win, or if he beats Walker in a possible run-off in December. Given these muddled results, Republicans are confronting a prickly question they hadn't anticipated at the start of Election Day. If they were unable to produce the promised red "wave" while the incumbent's approval ratings are lower than Nickelback's, and as Americans face debilitating inflation, soaring mortgage rates and high gas prices, which political hack will take the proverbial fall? In any event, TV pundits said in unison that the outcome reflected the "national narrative" – the cliché du jour – without bothering to explain to their befuddled viewers, including me, what that means. Nor did they address who helped estab-

lish and drive that narrative. The "national narrative" isn't the only thing that's unclear, though. The results also represent a confusing verdict on the Republican Party. More than a few of the new Republican House members are frothing MAGA acolytes who share the same lunatic lies and delusions that their dear, beloved leader clings to like a colicky child sucks on a pacifier. They will now join the other rabid reactionaries in the Republican caucus who will make it their priority not to help govern a frayed republic, but to impeach a president as a grovelling act of gratitude and fidelity to Trump. Despite suggestions that his influence is waning, Trump remains the signature force within the Republican Party that has embraced fascism as its governing principle at the expense of a constitution that it still, laughably, swears allegiance to. Bitter and vengeful, Trump will expect House Republicans to channel his malice and abiding desire for retribution and do what Democrats did to him – twice. Republicans will seize any indictment of Trump as a pretext to claim that President Joe Biden has "politicised" the FBI and justice department to possibly imprison and silence – as if that were even remotely possible – a former president and potential Oval Office challenger. This, they will cry, warrants Biden's impeachment. It is, of course, a lie. The motive is as pedestrian as Trump himself: to try to even the score. Then, the lord – pun intended – of the Mar-a-Lago resort will do what he most enjoys: watch TV, with cheeseburgers and Diet Cokes at ready hand, as the impeachment "proceedings" drag on like re-runs of The Apprentice. Be prepared, as well, to watch as Republicans use their House majority to launch recycled "in-

vestigations" into Biden's son Hunter's laptop, Hillary Clinton's emails and quite possibly whether John F Kennedy Jr is still alive and intends to reappear in Dealey Plaza to greet his evangelical QAnon admirers. Yet last night's results could also trigger trouble for Trump. Despite reclaiming the House, the GOP lost many races where its candidates were Trump picks who have parroted his litany of lies. Among them are Doug Mastriano, who lost the Pennsylvania governor race to Democrat Josh Shapiro; and Mehmet Oz, the slimy quack doctor and – like Trump – a TV celebrity, who lost to stroke survivor John Fetterman in a Pennsylvania senate race. Kari Lake, the Trump-backed Arizona gubernatorial candidate, and Lauren Boebert, one of the former president's most loyal supporters in Congress, were also trailing in tight races late on Tuesday night. Florida's governor, Ron "dehumanised" DeSantis' persuasive victory may be sowing a smidgen of doubt in Trump's tiny mind about the challenge he might face for the Republican Party's presidential nomination come 2024. On the advice of Monty Python, I'm going to end this column by looking on the bright side of life. Enlightened Americans turned out to vote yesterday just as Michael Moore said they would. In their wisdom, they elected Maura Healey, the first woman and openly lesbian Governor in Massachusetts. They chose Jared Polis – the first openly gay man to be elected governor of a US state – for a second term as Governor of Colorado, over a 2020 election liar. And they picked Fetterman, who overcame the near-death experience of his stroke to vanquish Oz – whose campaign had repeatedly mocked Fetterman's disabilities. That, by any humane measure, is a good day and confirms the promise of hope over hate. *Courtesy: Al Jazeera*

# Unfolding food security in AJ&K

Dr. Shahid Hameed



Statistics from the AJK Planning and Development Department show that as of the 2017 Census, there were 4.045 million people living in the 1768 villages that make up the AJK area. Intriguingly, there are not any overcrowded districts in AJK, however approximately 30% of people are unemployed. Despite this unemployment, there is a decline in agricultural employment in rural areas.

Food security in Azad Jammu & Kashmir is one of the paramount issue that needs to be considered at both the institutional and community levels. When it comes to struggling to makes ends meet, people frequently blame hoarders and the governments for the rise in the cost of basic food items. As the economy worsens and the majority of people struggle to afford basic essentials of life, anxiety increases and creates a sense of insecurity, which culminates into negative opinions. This unrest in society develops when the issue grows and spreads both vertically and horizontally. With the passage of time, this societal unrest stemming from individual frustration to societal dissatisfaction becomes source of polarized political and philosophical approaches. At this point, it also gets an easy task for other states to exploit the situation and wage psychological and hybrid warfare. In short, a deteriorated social structure may be detrimental to the national security of a state and thus requires securitization. Statistics from the AJK Planning and Development Department show that as of the 2017 Census, there were 4.045 million people living in the 1768 villages that make up the AJK area. Intriguingly, there are not any overcrowded districts in AJK, however approximately 30% of people are unemployed. Despite this unemployment, there is a decline in agricultural employment in rural areas. Dependence on non-productive and non-technical services as well as excessive resource waste are the main causes of the region's declining economic conditions, which fuel social dissatisfaction. Azad Jammu & Kashmir was self-sufficient in staple foods such as maize, rice, and vegetables a few decades ago. Even wheat has been grown as a necessary crop, and a considerable section of the population was able to meet its needs. When people were effectively using land and other natural resources for production, a sizeable chunk of the needs of the rural population were also being fulfilled by locally grown brinjal, beans, chillies, mustard, spinach, garlic, tomato, potato, coriander, turnip, carrot, radish, and other crops. In different parts of AJK, there are many medic-

inal plants, including shrubs and herbs, but no effective management has yet been put in place. Better oversight, instruction, and processing capabilities may be advantageous to the people of AJK because they may not only enhance employment opportunities but also considerably enhance their domestic needs. The economic and social strength in AJ&K eventually declined as a result of the societal inclination to towards a non-agricultural lifestyle, especially after the 2005 earthquake. With respect to the numerous facets of food security, such as its production, availability, usage, quality, safety and health, AJK was significantly affected, with subsequent psychological and political implications. An increased crime rate, a culture of bribery in public sector workplaces, violence, and most importantly, a decline in national integration have become an essential part of our society. To evaluate differences and changes in these socially important traits that ultimately weaken intra-national bonding, a careful analysis is needed. Universities, institutions, and individual scholars must concentrate on these specific concerns that are harming national integrations, religious harmony, and giving informational warfare a platform. All of these social evils are essentially connected to stress and anxiety on an individual and societal level, which is a result of the adjustments we made to change our cultural and historical posture. In AJK, a substantial portion of the land has now turned into wasteland. When compared to the period before the 1990s, agricultural and vegetable production fell by 70%. The state's economy is heavily dependent on non-technical jobs and the diaspora in Europe and the Middle East. On the one hand, these non-technical job holders lack the qualifications to contribute in almost any manner to industrial development, while a major section of the diaspora is not a resident of any foreign country and, as a result, lacks future

food security when they return home. The national security policy (2022-26) is the most valid instrument that tackles this important topic. The portion of the policy document that is not classified demonstrates that we are aware of the significance of these overlooked facts, which are critical for maintaining national security. However, immediate and efficient action must be taken to restore the AJK society's shattered portions, particularly food security playing a key role. Existing systems for ensuring food security need to be improved. Assessment of production and use on a village-by-village basis is the initial important prerequisite. Even though AJK's agricultural, livestock, and natural resource potential has been studied widely, the refined and comprehensive plan is still necessary to achieve the intended outcomes. The micro-financing should be extended and youth and students should be given small loans for specific agricultural and food production projects. Infact, ensuring the food security in AJK will ensure the national security. Engaging and supporting students, young people, and non-technical workforce in proper resource usage to improve economic conditions will have profound impacts. Additionally, it calls for appropriate instruction and significant reforms in primary education. The responsible authorities should introduce trainings for practical capacity management and sustainable resource at village, school and college level. There is also a dire need for intra-departmental coordination with respect to the food security in AJK. The linkage between public offices, the university researchers and local markets is still missing and thus needs a serious attention. If the government becomes able to successfully address the problems with food security in AJ&K, this will have a positive impact on intra-state political and social environment as well as national integration. *The writer is Director at Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS), AJK.*



## Briefs

Istanbul:  
Six dead  
in blast on  
busy street

FROM PAGE 01

Then people started running away. What else can you do," said Mehmet Akus, 45, a worker in a restaurant on Istiklal. "My relatives called me, they know I work on Istiklal. I reassured them," he said. The nearby Kasimpasa police station told Reuters all crews were at the scene but gave no further details. Local media said crime inspectors were on the scene and Anadolu reported that the Istanbul chief public prosecutor's office had launched an investigation into the blast. While the cause of the blast was unknown, Istanbul and other Turkish cities have been targeted in the past by Kurdish separatists, Islamist militants and other groups. The Turkish Red Crescent said blood was being transferred to nearby hospitals.

President,  
PM condole  
with Turkey

FROM PAGE 01

the heart of Istanbul. Govt & people of Pakistan express deepest condolences to the brotherly people of Türkiye at the loss of precious lives & send prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured," he posted a tweet. The president strongly condemned the explosion and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Türkiye over the incident. He said that they shared grief with the people of Türkiye. He said that terrorism was a collective issue of the world. The president prayed for the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. He also prayed for the quick recovery of the injured people.

Why MBS  
Pakistan  
visit is...

FROM PAGE 01

Imran Khan decided to take part in a conference in Malaysia but later he had to reconsider his decision upon huge Saudi pressure. Saudi Arabia has considered that conference an attempt to establish an organization parallel to the OIC. It was the time when Saudis decided to withdraw their support to Pakistan. Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa then jumped into the fray and helped normalize relations between the two brotherly countries. Another former army chief Raheel Sharif is still serving in Saudi Arabia, a post he was offered soon after his retirement. Some sources believe, Saudis would like Raheel Sharif to be the caretaker prime minister when the incumbent government announces date for the elections.

IMF asks  
to mobilise  
addl...

FROM PAGE 01

target might be slashed to 2% of GDP and inflation is projected to hover around 23%-25%. The most important step is revising the downward fiscal framework whereby the tax and non-tax revenue targets will be re-adjusted. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has been facing a shortfall and is projected to face a shortfall in the current fiscal year for achieving the target of Rs7.47 trillion.

President  
hints at  
consensus...

FROM PAGE 01

However, the mediation has not yet yielded results. "I had been and am still trying to bring stakeholders together on one table and resolve their differences by democratic means of discussion, consultation and deliberation to find mutually agreed upon solutions on major issues and matters to reduce the political polarisation in the greater national interest," Dr Alvi said.

Aga Khan Health Service  
Pakistan wins the silver  
at the IHF Awards 2022

DNA

DUBAI: Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) has won the Silver award in the Ashika-Nikken Excellence award category for Green Hospitals at the International Hospital Federation (IHF) Awards 2022.

The IHF Awards were launched in 2015 and are recognised around the world as the premier awards programme to honour hospitals and healthcare organisations. Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan was presented with the Silver award during a special Awards Ceremony at the 45th IHF World Hospital Congress in Dubai, UAE, for the steps they have taken and have committed to take to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The World Health Organisation estimates health operations to be responsible for approximately 4% of a nation's carbon emissions. According to conservative estimates, health systems in low- and middle-income countries may contribute between 3-5% of their countries' greenhouse gas emissions. Keeping this in mind AKDN has made it a priority to reduce their carbon footprint across the globe. Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan shares the commitment of AKDN to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and is leading the climate agenda across its 113 health facilities

throughout the country.

In Pakistan, waste volumes and emissions have been controlled at health facilities operated by Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan up to 60%. Air conditioners and refrigerators have been shifted to use the most environment-friendly gases; all facilities and offices are in the process of switching to energy-efficient lights or, in some cases, solar energy; emissions from travel have seen significant reduction through the use of technology; and efficient waste management practices have been adopted.

In remote valleys where distances are vast or in villages with no secondary healthcare facilities, Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan has made it possible for patients to connect with doctors in urban areas, working in modern health facilities, via teleconsultations. This not only saves patients' time and money but also impacts emissions by minimising the need to travel. New health facilities are being constructed in a manner that minimises harm to the environment; and are designed to operate efficiently. Commenting on the importance of reducing harmful emissions, Mr.



Nadeem Abbas, CEO, Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan, said: "We have all seen first-hand how, over the past few years, climate change has affected Pakistan. In

the aftermath of the recent floods, the conversation has been dominated by climate change and rightfully so. Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan is committed to achiev-

ing net zero emissions by 2030. We will continue to work closely with the government and our partners to amplify the impact of these climate-smart actions."

Fans, trophy and teams arrive in  
Qatar for World Cup countdown

DOHA :One week from kickoff, the World Cup trophy returned to Qatar on Sunday, teams and fans started arriving and safety barriers went up across Doha ahead of one of the most controversial football tournaments ever. The trophy which will be presented to the winning team on December 18 returned from a world tour in time for next Sunday's opening game when hosts Qatar take on Ecuador.

FIFA's pleas to "focus on the football" have struggled however against an international spotlight on Qatar's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community. Qatar has angrily rebuffed most of the attacks and local media on Sunday blasted the "arrogance" of some Western countries. "It seems to have been all we have read about in recent weeks," said Ringo Gonzalez, an Ecuadoran based in Germany, who was among fans gathering at the World Cup countdown clock on the Doha seafont early Sunday. "It will be good to

see the teams finally doing something. I want Ecuador to do well and to see Lionel Messi and the other big names in action."

The United States team has already arrived in Doha and Australia were to join them on Sunday. Qatar is predicting more than one million fans will be in the smallest country to host a World Cup, and many have arrived in the capital.

Many star players were still involved for their European clubs on Sunday in the final matches before the season is paused for the World Cup. Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe were all named in the starting lineup for Paris Saint-Germain against Auxerre in Ligue 1.

In Doha port, the giant newly built cruise ship, MSC Europa, was to be officially named on Sunday before it welcomes thousands of World Cup fans.

In a concession to Qatar's Islamic culture that restricts alcohol and bans gambling, a bottle of rose water was to be smashed on the hull instead of traditional cham-

pagne for the inauguration and the ship's casino was to be closed while it was in port.

Three cruise ships will house up to 10,000 fans and MSC said the Europa was fully booked for the first two weeks of the 29-day tournament. On land, barriers have gone up on main streets and around metro stations and stadiums as security forces brace for the football invasion. Organisers say that 2.9 million of the 3.1 million tickets have been sold and scores of hopeful fans waited outside the FIFA ticketing centre hoping that scarce tickets become available for top games.

Matthew Coleman, an Australian living in Doha, and his Dutch friend Gijs Beenker, left empty-handed because there were no "interesting" matches available.

At a nearby World Cup souvenir store, the staff said Europeans who buy the official ball or the La'eeb mascot were the main clients. Migrant workers from South Asia have bought thousands of replica Brazil and Argen-

tina shirts and can be seen wearing them in the streets. The labourers have been at the centre of an often acrimonious dispute over deaths, injuries and their working conditions since Qatar was awarded the World Cup in 2010. European and Qatari media on Sunday kept up their war of words over whether the energy-rich Gulf state should host the event. One British newspaper said that many fans believed that Indians in Qatar had been "paid" to take part in rallies supporting Argentina and Brazil. Thousands of migrant workers flocked to the march on Friday. In response, Qatar's AlSharq newspaper said the anti-Qatari campaign "confirms the arrogance of some Western countries who believe organizing the World Cup must remain monopolized by them". Al Raya said "the enthusiastic, festive atmosphere of large crowds of football fans of different nationalities in Doha revealed the failure of smear campaigns led by some media and Western politicians against the 2022 World Cup".—APP

200,000 rally in defence of  
Madrid public healthcare

MADRID: Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators rallied in Madrid on Sunday in defence of the region's primary care services, warning plans to overhaul the system would "destroy" local healthcare.

On a sunny afternoon, huge crowds rallied at four points across the capital and marched on city hall in a mass protest under the slogan: "Madrid rallies in support of public healthcare and against the plan to destroy primary care services". Primary care services in the Madrid area have been under huge pressure for years due to a lack of resources and staff, with the situation worsened by poor regional management, unions say.

A regional government spokesman said there were 200,000 people. "Healthcare for all, your health should never depend on your wallet," read one huge green banner as thousands of voices chanted "Public healthcare!"

The protest convened by local associations and municipalities takes aim at the health policies of the regional government of right-wing leader Isabel Diaz Ayuso - including a push for public-private healthcare partnerships and its restructuring of primary care.

The protest comes ahead of a planned strike by nearly 5,000 regional family doctors and paediatricians scheduled for November 21, due to "the overload of work, endless appointments and lack of time with patients".

They will join an earlier strike by medical staff over the new model for non-hospital emergency centres, which have seen some offering only video consultations due to a lack of staff. Speaking to reporters at the rally, Monica Garcia of the hard-left Mas Madrid party said the health policy of the regional government, which is run by the right-wing Popular Party (PP), was destroying the public health system. "What they are doing is an unprecedented disaster," she said. "Ayuso needs to step up, listen to this demonstration and take political responsibility: either her health minister goes or she goes, or the whole Popular Party government goes" she said. "There is a very simple way to retain professionals and that is to treat them well: give them contracts that are not just for a month, a week, a weekend. When a government is incapable of doing this, it is because there are political interests at work."

Cross-Channel migrants  
top 40,000: UK

LONDON:More than 40,000 migrants have crossed the Channel to Britain so far this year, a new record, the UK government said Sunday as it targets a deal with France to fight people smuggling. The provisional total for this year stands at 40,885, most of them Albanians, Iranians and Afghans - well in excess of last year's 28,561, the Ministry of Defence said. Saturday, some 972 people were detected making the perilous crossing in 22 boats, it said. The figures have been rising for years. Some 299 were detected making the crossing in 2018; 1,843 in 2019; and 8,466 in 2020, according to the UK.

The numbers have continued to surge despite various UK initiatives including a plan to send the migrants to Rwanda, which has been blocked in the courts. Last week, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said a new plan agreed with France was in the works, after his first face-to-face meeting with President Emmanuel Macron. In talks Friday, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna and British counterpart James Cleverly "stressed the urgency of tackling all forms of illegal migration including small boat crossings and addressing their root causes", according to a joint statement. The rising numbers have caused a logjam in asylum claims and increased accommodation costs estimated by the UK government at £6.8 million (\$7.8 million) a day, straining local services and fuelling public anger. Writing in the Sunday Telegraph, immigration minister Robert Jenrick said Britain's "generosity" was being "abused" by economic migrants who were "asylum shopping" their way around Europe.—APP

PML-N  
running  
away from  
elections:  
Imran

FROM PAGE 01

a lot of self-respect in them, they stand for the interests of their people [...] I can never accept slavery under anyone," he clarified.

Imran also recalled that during PTI's tenure Pakistan was the country that had raised the issue of Islamophobia in the United Nations. "The entire world saw where Pakistan stood during our government," Imran Khan, while slamming the coalition government, asked if anyone had a way out of the current crisis in the country.

In an address via video link, he said that people had lost confidence in the government. "Our debts are increasing and revenue is decreasing. Inflation has increased tremendously during these seven months. Today, I ask the cabinet if they have a solution for these problems."

Imran went on to stress that political stability could only be achieved if the country was economically stable.

PTI chairman Imran Khan claimed that "propaganda" was being done against the party's long march.

"It is being shown as if we are oppressing the public [...] Imran Khan is not doing a long march to finish his corruption cases. It is very important to use our democratic right and hold fresh elections in the country," he said in an address via video link. "I have been saying this for the past seven months that coalition government can not handle the pressure of running the government," the former premier said, stating that he had been telling the "handlers" that their "experiment" has failed. "This march is for free and fair elections. We are trying to pull the country out of a swamp."

Buttler  
lauds Stokes  
as 'one of  
the greats'

MELBOURNE: England skipper Jos Buttler hailed Ben Stokes as "a true match-winner" Sunday after the allrounder's unbeaten 52 helped steer them past Pakistan to win the Twenty20 World Cup. In the process they became the sport's first dual white-ball champions, holding both the 50- and 20-over titles.

Buttler's side restricted Pakistan to 137-8 in front of a partisan 80,462 fans at a heaving Melbourne Cricket Ground, with player-of-the-match and tournament Sam Curran bagging 3-12 and Adil Rashid chipping in with 2-22. In reply, England stuttered to 49-3 in the sixth over as they struggled to get any momentum against a fiery pace attack, with boundaries hard to come by. But Stokes and Moeen Ali (19) used their experience and cool heads to guide England to 138-5 with six balls to spare, climaxing a riveting tournament that spanned 45 games over nearly a month. "He always stands up in the biggest moments, he's a man who can take a lot of pressure on his shoulders and perform," Buttler said of Stokes. "When he's there you know you have a good chance. He's a true match-winner. He's one of the great players of English cricket." Curran added that "we all look up to him. People question him, but he's incredible" Stokes insisted the bowlers deserved the credit - APP

OIC Mission  
opens at new  
premises  
in Kabul

ISLAMABAD: The new premises of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Mission was inaugurated in Kabul on Sunday.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi, resident heads of missions of the OIC member states, and representatives of the United Nations, the European Union, and other international organizations, a press release of the OIC General Secretariat said. Speaking on behalf of the OIC Secretary-General, Special Envoy Ambassador Tarig Bakheet thanked the Afghan authorities for the support and assistance as well as for providing the necessary facilities and security to the OIC Mission. - APP



BUDAPEST: Secretary Defence Lt. Den. R Hamood Uz Zaman and State Secretary for Defence Hungary Dr. Gaspar Maroth sign MOU on cooperation.—DNA

## 'Global community has spirit of unity, lacks action'

SHARM EL-SHEIKH :Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said the world at the global forum of UN Climate COP-27 had a spirit of unity, collaboration and cooperation but there was lack of action hindering the way to a climate resilient future.

In her keynote address at the Parliamentary Meeting at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-27) under the auspices of

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Minister said there was a climate clock running at the 27th conference of the parties (COP-27) meeting where there were intense negotiations underway. Prior to the address of the minister, a two-minute video prepared by the Ministry of Climate Change was played highlighting the Century Breaking Climate Events in Pakistan. Senator Sherry Rehman said, "Let us pay attention to what

we are doing to each other and this planet. And there's no other option for us and no 'planet B' where we can migrate." She added that the video clip was a tiny projection of the scale and magnitude of the century breaking climate catastrophes. "As the UN secretary general said a scale and tragedy we have never seen before."

The Minister warned the forum that the global warming was not going to stick to the 1.5 degrees

temperature rise rather hurtling towards 3 degrees future.

She said, "I am coming from a country where there has been 3 degrees Celsius rise in overall summer heat which is not habitable for human civilization. I do not think that we need to be sanguine or indifferent to the coming crisis for humanity and the planet we live on." Senator Rehman emphasised that it was not a prophecy of doom and was happen-

ing now, adding, "I didn't show the other video that showed what went on the year. The forest fires, heatwaves and it's one after the other. There has been a record over 53°C highest temperature where the people have died from such shocks."

The minister at the forum stated that the people at the most vulnerable risk from such calamity were still hoping that they would all be able to be secured and given predictability, their livelihoods and futures back.

"They have the right to live, breath, till the soil, farm their communities and work in the cities that are not burning their own out. These are the fundamental rights." Senator Sherry Rehman said the COP system was built on common but differentiated responsibilities, adding, "which are not mere word to us. We have come here in the hope that some path forward from intentions to action, from ambitions to process, and delivery on ground will be precipitated here."—APP



## Briefs

## Iran slams 'shameful' Macron remarks

TEHRAN: Iran on Sunday criticised a recent meeting between the French president and opponents of the Islamic republic, calling Emmanuel Macron's comments after the encounter "regrettable and shameful".

Macron on Friday met with four prominent Iranian dissidents, all of them women, as protests that have rocked Iran for weeks after the death of Mahsa Amini show no signs of abating.

The 22-year-old had been arrested by the morality police for an alleged breach of the country's strict dress rules for women.

The meeting was "a flagrant violation of France's international responsibilities in the fight against terrorism and violence", foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said.

"We consider that France favours these sinister phenomena," he added.

US-based activist Masih Alinejad, and Ladan Boroumand, co-founder of Washington-based rights group Abdorrahman Boroumand Center, were among those at the meeting.

Alluding to Alinejad, Kanani said it was "surprising that the president of a country that stands for freedom would degrade himself by meeting" her, charging that she had "tried to spread hate and carry out violent and terrorist acts in Iran and against Iran's foreign diplomatic missions".

After his meeting with the women, Macron spoke of his "respect and admiration in the context of the revolution they are leading". —APP

## COP 27: Durrani emphasizes on climate dialogue

ISLAMABAD :National Assembly Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani on Sunday emphasized on facilitating dialogue on the climate crisis among the global parliamentary community. He said it would help identifying inter-parliamentary solutions for a more sustainable world.

Durrani said Pakistan need support of international community for tackling devastating impacts of climate change.

The deputy speaker along with noted parliamentarians from Pakistan, attended the parliamentary meeting, held on the occasion of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27). The meeting which was jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Egyptian House of Representatives took place on 13 November 2022 in Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt.

On this occasion, Pakistani delegates touched upon the key climate issues including emissions reductions, scaling-up adaptation efforts and mobilizing climate finance for developing countries that are on the front lines of climate change.

They drew attention of the world parliamentary leaders to the fact that the recent devastating floods had caused severe damage to the lives and properties of millions of people in Pakistan. —APP

## Five held for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI :Police have arrested five illegal arm holders and recovered arm and ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Sunday, informed police spokesman. According to the details, police station city arrested Saddique and recovered 1 pistol of 30 bore from his possession. Similarly, Race Course police recovered 1 pistol of 9mm from Amir and same police recovered 01 pistol of 30 bore from Rashid. While, Wah Cantt police arrested Osama and recovered 1 pistol of 30 bore from his possession. Chuntra police held Faizan and recovered 1 rifle of MP5 from his custody.

Police have registered separate cases against all the accused and further investigation was in progress. —APP

## Gairdner Global Health Award 2022

## Zaheer Janjua hails conferral of award on Pakistani doctor

DNA

Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua has hailed the conferral of Canada's annual Gairdner International Award on eminent Pakistani healthcare professional Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta for his development and evaluation of evidence-based interventions in child and maternal health for marginalised populations.

Dr. Bhutta was presented the award in Toronto by Canada's Gairdner Foundation. High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua also attended the ceremony and presented the prestigious 2022 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award to Dr. Bhutta on behalf of the Gairdner Foundation.

John Dirks, Gairdner President Emeritus, Heather Munroe-Blum, Chair of Gairdner's Board of Directors, and Sommer Wedlock, Gairdner EVP were also around them.

In a statement, Zaheer Janjua congratulated Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta for winning the award, calling it an "exceptional achievement" and a testament to "dedication, devotion and hard work" put by Dr. Bhutta and his team for many years in the field of health.



Dr. Bhutta has won global recognition for developing a unique collaboration between centres in Pakistan, United Kingdom and Canada and mobilizing cluster randomized effectiveness

trials (cRCTs) to gather data used to shape and improve intervention packages for community based maternal and newborn care, nutrition, and early childhood development.

Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta is currently Professor Department of Pediatrics at Nutritional Sciences, and Public Health, University of Toronto. He also holds the Robert Harding Chair in Global

Child Health besides being Co-Director at SickKids Centre for Global Child Health and Senior Scientist at The Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Bhutta has been the Founding Director

of Center of Excellence in Women and Child Health and Institute for Global Health and Development, The Aga Khan University South-Central Asia, East Africa, United Kingdom.

## Budget deficit projected to cross 6% of GDP: BMP

## Mian Anjum for slashing govt expenses, debt servicing to contain budget deficit

DNA

As the fiscal slippages and external financing gap is constantly rising the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has called for keeping check on government expenditure and high cost of debt servicing to contain budget deficit, which is projected to cross Rs4 trillion -almost 6% of the GDP in current fiscal year of 2022-23.

Expressing serious concern over the high jump in country's budget deficit – the gap between the government's income and its expenditures, FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said the primary deficit is now assessed to touch a deficit of 2.5 percent of GDP, equivalent to Rs2.15 trillion against the target of surplus of Rs150 billions.

Mian Anjum maintained that the failure to reform the tax system and increase

revenue collection is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government. He claimed that the total government expenditure has increased massively during this period mainly due to high cost of debt servicing, which has jumped by more than 20 percent. The budget deficit is going up despite the government claim of tight control over expenditures, while the only main head of expenditure that remains out of control is the debt servicing cost, he said.

The government has to revise macroeconomic and fiscal framework, whereby the budget deficit and primary deficit are projected to escalate massively against the envisaged targets.

The government has envisaged a budget deficit target of 4.9 per cent of the GDP for the current fiscal year and it seems hard for restricting the budget deficit within the desired limits mainly because of difficul-

ties in achieving the fixed revenue target and curtailing the expenditures at the twilight of the government's tenure for completion of its tenure.

He observed that Pakistan's fiscal deficit continued with old traditional practices as the development budget became the major victim among three major Ds on the expenditure front, including debt servicing, defence and development. The Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) could only utilize Rs0.74 trillion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year as the spending remained halted in the aftermath of severe floods.

Quoting the data, the Businessmen Panel chairman said that Pakistan's budget deficit in absolute terms almost doubled in the first quarter by touching the figure of Rs800 billion in the current fiscal against Rs430 billion in the same period of the last financial year. The budget deficit in the percentage of the GDP es-

calated sharply as it stood at 1 per cent of the GDP in the first three months of the current fiscal year despite a revenue surplus generated by the provinces to the tune of Rs215 billion against 0.5 per cent of the GDP in the same period of the last financial year.

The FPCCI former president stated that Pakistan's fiscal policy continued to focus primarily on macro-economic stabilization, in response to the financial crisis, instead of putting more emphasis on reforms to foster long-term growth through industrialization by adopting advanced technology.

The federal government's budget deficit stood at Rs1.02 trillion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year and the provinces generated a revenue surplus of Rs0.218 trillion, so the consolidated overall budget deficit was brought down to Rs0.808 trillion, equivalent to slightly over 1 per cent of the GDP. —APP

## One body found after buildings collapse in France's Lille

LILLE, FRANCE: Rescue workers retrieved one body early Sunday in the northern French town of Lille, following an hours-long search through the rubble of two collapsed buildings.

Two small adjoining houses collapsed in a shopping street in the city centre at around 9:15 am local time (0815 GMT) on Saturday.

At first the collapses did not appear to have caused any casualties. The homes were evacuated during the night as a precaution following a warning by a resident that one of the walls was "warped", police said.

Authorities soon realised a doctor was missing after calls to his phone went unanswered. He had been lent an apartment in the building for the weekend.

A body was located shortly before 1:30 am on Sunday and fire service Lieutenant Colonel Stephane Beauventre, who is leading the rescue operations, said they believed the victim was the doctor.

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"The body went to the forensic institute. It will be clearly identified later," Beauventre said.

Officials visited neighbouring houses on Saturday to check for cracks or gas leaks after the collapse.

A resident of one of the buildings first noticed something was amiss in the early hours of Saturday, when he returned home and saw that "the building had moved".

"We could not open the door, we heard rubble falling," Thibault Lemay told French radio, adding that he immediately warned emergency services.

Municipal police and firefighters decided to evacuate the buildings, as "there was a real risk", said Lille's mayor Martine Aubry. Another resident, Benjamin Lopard, 35, told AFP: "I was not yet asleep when the firefighters began to bang on the doors, but I thought they were party people and I stayed in bed." "When the police arrived, I realised it was serious," he said, adding that he left around 5:30 am with his papers, computer and a change of clothes. Both three-storey houses had crumbled by around 9:15 am. "I realise now the incredible luck we had," Lopard said. Without the evacuation, he said, "we would all be in wooden boxes". —APP

## 20 killed as minibus plunges into canal in Egypt

ISTANBUL :At least 20 people were killed and six injured Saturday when a minibus fell into a canal in northern Egypt, according to officials.

Dakahlia governorship updated the death toll on Facebook. The Health Ministry previously said 19 were killed and six injured when the minibus fell into the Nile River. Media reports said the minibus was carrying dozens of passengers when the driver lost control and fell into Mansuriya canal in Aga town, in the Nile Delta province of Dakahlia.

A Health Ministry statement said 18 ambulances were dispatched to the scene to search for survivors. Egypt has a poor transportation record despite government efforts to improve the country's road network.

The country has recorded 56,789 deaths and 6,164 injuries in road accidents in 2020, according to the state statistics agency, CAPMAS.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry extended condolences to the people of Egypt. "We wish God's mercy on those who lost their lives, our condolences to their families, the brotherly people of Egypt and the Arab Republic of Egypt, and a speedy recovery to the injured," is said in a statement. —APP

## Israel's Netanyahu poised to retake reins of power

JERUSALEM :Israel's president on Sunday is set to formally designate Benjamin Netanyahu to form a government, a victory for the former veteran prime minister who had vowed to return to power. After a period of unprecedented political gridlock that forced five elections in less than four years, polls on November 1 gave Netanyahu and his far-right allies a clear majority in the 120-seat parliament.

The result has all but sealed Netanyahu's comeback, paving the way for him to form a government that could be the most right-wing in the country's history. President Isaac Herzog will formally assign him the task at around midday (1000 GMT), after 64 lawmakers recommended Netanyahu be tapped for the job. The veteran right-winger, who is on trial over corruption allegations that he denies, will have at least 28 days to build a coalition with his allies – two ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties a rising extreme-right alliance called Religious Zionism. The 73-year-old Netanyahu is expected to deliver a speech following Herzog's announcement. His moves over the coming weeks will be closely scrutinised, as unease mounts in some quarters over Netanyahu's policy plans and the goals of his controversial governing partners.

The new government is widely expected to pass sweeping judicial reforms, a long-held priority of Israel's right. —APP

## Biden to seek red lines in talks with Xi

PHNOM PENH: US President Joe Biden said Sunday he will seek to establish "red lines" in America's fraught relations with Beijing when he holds high-stakes talks with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. Biden said he goes into Monday's encounter on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Indonesia stronger after his Democratic Party's unexpected success in midterm elections they were forecast to lose heavily.

Washington and Beijing are at loggerheads over issues ranging from trade to human rights in China's Xinjiang region and the status of the self-ruled island of Taiwan. Biden said he expected candid talks with Xi.

"I know Xi Jinping, he knows me," he added, saying they have always had "straightforward discussions".

The two men have known each other for more than a decade, since Biden's time as vice-president, but Monday will see them meet face-to-face for the first time in their current roles.

"We have very little misunderstanding. We just gotta figure out what the red lines are," Biden said.

White House officials say Biden will push China to

use its influence to rein in North Korea after a record-breaking spate of missile tests sent fears soaring that the reclusive regime will soon carry out its seventh nuclear test.

Biden had a fillip overnight with the news that the Democrats retained their effective majority in

the US Senate thanks to Catherine Cortez Masto winning in Nevada.

"I know I'm coming in stronger," he said of the midterms' impact on his talks with Xi.

- Japan, S. Korea talks - Biden will meet his South Korean counterpart Yoon Suk-yeol and Japanese

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday to discuss ways to address the threat posed by the North's missile programme.

China is Pyongyang's main ally and US officials say that, while Biden will not make demands, he will warn Xi that further missile and nuclear build-up

would mean the United States boosting its military presence in the region – something Beijing bitterly opposes.

"North Korea represents a threat not just to the United States, not just to (South Korea) and Japan but to peace and stability across the entire region,"

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters.

Kim Jong Un's regime ramped up missile launches in response to large-scale US-South Korean air exercises, which the North described as "aggressive and provocative".

The tests included an intercontinental ballistic missile and another short-range projectile that crossed the de facto maritime border and landed near the South's territorial waters for the first time since a ceasefire ended hostilities in the Korean War in 1953.

Diplomatic blitz - Biden flew to Phnom Penh from the COP27 climate conference as part of US efforts to boost its influence in Southeast Asia as a counter to China.

China has been flexing its muscles – through trade, diplomacy and military clout – in recent years in a region it sees as its strategic backyard.

Biden took a veiled swipe at Beijing in talks with leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional bloc.

He said the United States would work with ASEAN to "defend against the significant threats to rules-based order and threats to the

rule of law".

While the president did not refer to China by name, Washington has long criticised what it says are Beijing's efforts to undermine international norms on everything from intellectual property to human rights.

Biden and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang were seated on either side of host, Cambodian leader Hun Sen, at a gala dinner to mark the ASEAN summit on Saturday night.

While Biden goes into the meeting with Xi buoyed by the Democrats seeing off a predicted Republican "red wave", Xi was anointed last month for a historic third term as paramount leader by the Chinese Communist Party congress.

Li met International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva at the ASEAN gathering on Saturday, when he also addressed participants.

Biden and Li took part Sunday in an East Asia Summit that rounds off the first leg of a trilogy of top gatherings in the region, with the G20 on the holiday island of Bali and an APEC gathering in Bangkok to follow. The consequences of the war in Ukraine are set to dominate the upcoming talks, although Russian President Vladimir Putin will be notably absent. —APP





## Briefs

Pyongyang  
warned  
against  
nuclear test

AGENCIES

PHNOM PENH: The United States, Japan and South Korea on Sunday vowed a "strong and resolute response" if Pyongyang carried out a seventh nuclear test. A record-breaking recent spate of missile tests by North Korea sent fears soaring that the reclusive state would soon conduct its seventh nuclear test.

US President Joe Biden held talks with allies Japan and South Korea in Phnom Penh Sunday, on the eve of a crunch meeting with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, whom he will press to rein in Kim Jong Un's regime.

Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol issued a joint statement condemning the recent barrage, which included an inter-continental ballistic missile. "They reaffirm that a DPRK nuclear test would be met with a strong and resolute response from the international community," the statement said, using an abbreviation for North Korea's official name.

The trio met on the sidelines of an East Asian Summit in the Cambodian capital. "President Biden reiterated that the US commitment to defend Japan and the ROK is ironclad and backed by the full range of capabilities, including nuclear," the statement added, using an abbreviation for the South's official name. Biden will meet Xi on the sidelines of the G20 summit on the Indonesian island of Bali on Monday.

Violence stalks  
EU-Libya  
migrant deal

ROME: Leona Blankenstein couldn't believe what she was hearing when the Libyan coastguard threatened to blast her small plane out of the sky. The German doctor was in a spotter aircraft for the rescue charity Sea-Watch when she encountered the Fezzan patrol boat as it picked up migrants in Maltese waters on October 25. "Get away from Libyan territorial (waters), otherwise we'll shoot you by SAM (surface-to-air) missiles," warned the vessel, one of several Italy gave to Libya under a controversial EU-backed deal to stop migrants reaching Europe. The Libyans brought the migrants onboard before scuttling their rubber boat with incendiary ammunition, according to Sea-Watch footage. "It happened in just seconds... Their behaviour is highly unpredictable, so you never know what they are going to do next," she said. The warning "was threat enough for me to leave the area immediately", she added. The 2017 deal has faced renewed scrutiny since far-right Italian leader Giorgia Meloni's government took office, adopting a hard-line stance against asylum seekers rescued at sea. Despite years of criticism by charities and human rights groups, Italy quietly renewed the accord earlier this month. - APP

Democrats keep control  
of United States' Senate

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer described it as a "victory and vindication" for Democrats and their agenda

NEWS DESK

PHOENIX: Democrats held onto control of the U.S. Senate, handing a major victory to President Joe Biden and extinguishing hopes of the "red wave" that Republicans had expected leading into the midterm elections. Biden - who struggled with low approval ratings ahead of Tuesday's elections, partly due to public frustration over inflation - said the late Saturday outcome made him look forward to the remainder of his term in office. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer described it as a "victory and vindication" for Democrats and their agenda. He accused the Republican Party of stoking fear and division during the campaign. Republicans, however, remained close to seizing control of the House of Representatives as officials continued counting ballots. It could take several days or more before the outcome of enough House races is known to determine which party will control the 435-seat chamber. Returns were still flowing in for several races, including many in liberal-leaning California. As of late on Saturday, Republicans had won 211 seats, with 218 needed for a majority, ahead of the Democrats with 205. "The American people rejected the anti-democratic, authoritarian, nasty and divisive direction the MAGA Republicans wanted to take our country," Schumer said after Senator Catherine Cortez Masto's re-election win in Nevada sealed control of the chamber for Biden's Democrats. The Democrats would control the Senate, as they have for



the past two years, with 50 of its 100 seats, as Vice President Kamala Harris holds a tie-breaking vote. If Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock were to win the Dec. 6 Georgia runoff election against Republican challenger Herschel Walker, the Democrats' 51-49 majority would give them an additional edge in passing the few bills that are able to advance with a simple majority, instead of the 60 needed for most legislation. "We're focusing now on Georgia. We feel good about where we are," Biden said on Sunday in Cambodia ahead of an East Asia summit. "I am incredibly pleased by the turnout." Hovering over the 2022 midterm elections all year has been

former President Donald Trump, who used his continued popularity among hard-right conservatives to influence the candidates the Republican Party nominated for congressional, gubernatorial and local races. With Republicans' lackluster performance - even if they win a narrow majority in the House - Trump has been blamed for boosting candidates who were unable to appeal to a broad enough electorate. A Republican loss in Georgia could further dampen Trump's popularity as advisers say he considers announcing this week a third run for the presidency in 2024. The outcome may increase the chances that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who routed his Democratic challenger on Tuesday, opts to challenge Trump for the 2024 presidential nomination. Democrats had portrayed Republicans as extremists, pointing to the Supreme Court's decision to eliminate a nationwide right to abortion and the hundreds of Republican nominees who promoted Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was fraudulent. Continued control of the Senate means Democrats will still be able to approve Biden's nominees such as federal judges. That would include appointees to the Supreme Court should any vacancies open in the next two years on the bench with a 6-3 conservative majority. House Republicans, should they prevail, have pledged to try to roll back Biden victories on battling climate change and want to make permanent a series of 2017 tax cuts set to expire. They also have vowed investigations into Biden administration activities and probes of the president's son, who has had business dealings with Ukraine and China.

Multiple dead  
as planes  
collide during  
Dallas air show

HOUSTON: At least two crew members were killed when two World-War-II-era planes collided in mid-air at a show in Dallas, a pilots association said, with witness footage showing Saturday's crash ending in a fiery explosion on the ground. By early Sunday it was still unclear exactly how many people were in the two aircraft, a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and a smaller Bell P-63 Kingcobra, the Federal Aviation Administration said. But the Allied Pilots Association, the collective bargaining agent for American Airlines, confirmed two of its retired members died in the Texas accident. "Our hearts go out to their families, friends, and colleagues past and present," the group said late Saturday in a statement on Twitter. - APP

Britain warns  
tax hikes  
coming after  
Truss fiasco

LONDON: The UK government on Sunday warned of impending tax hikes, especially for wealthy, as it bids to repair economic havoc wrought by Liz Truss's short-lived tenure as prime minister. Truss's successor Rishi Sunak, who was heading to a G20 economic summit in Indonesia, has vowed to get soaring inflation under control even if it means more pain for hard-pressed consumers and businesses. His finance minister, Jeremy Hunt, told Sky News that the pain would fall disproportionately on the better off when he unveils an emergency budget statement on Thursday. "We're all going to be paying a bit more tax, I'm afraid," he said, while refusing to be drawn into detail on the plan, after a tax-cutting budget by Truss caused panic on financial markets. - APP

G20: Bali preps for everything  
from security to tsunamis

WEB DESK

NUSA DUA: Indonesia on Tuesday will host the G20 leaders' summit, gathering the globe's most powerful figures together on the resort island of Bali instead of the traffic-clogged capital Jakarta. Seventeen world leaders - bar Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the leaders of Mexico and Brazil - will seek solutions to myriad global crises on the Muslim-majority country's mostly Hindu "Island of Gods". Preparations for 20 national delegations, plus other prominent international figures including the heads of the United Nations and FIFA, are well under way, aimed at ensuring the summit passes without incident 20 years after a major bombing killed more than 200 people on the island. "I have inspected the smallest aspects (of

the venues) since this morning. We have checked everything, and I want to convey that we are ready to receive the G20 guests," Indonesian President Joko Widodo said this week, according to state news agency Antara. Here's how authorities in the G20's only Southeast Asian member have been preparing for the global stage, and for thousands of delegates to descend on an island that is witnessing a tourism revival after two years of being slammed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The security measures, dubbed Operation Puri Agung, will see 18,000 military and police officers deployed to the Nusa Dua area of Bali, popular with tourists. The heads of state will move between their 24 designated hotels and the summit venue - the Apurva Kempinski - inside a security ring protected by the Indonesian military, with outer rings manned by the country's police force.



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Alfred Grannas waving Pakistani flag during screening of T20 World Cup final. - DNA

Russia rejects  
G20 focus  
on security

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday called for the G20 to stop talking about security and focus on the world's most pressing socio-economic problems, ahead of a summit set to be dominated by Western criticism of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The G20 - a group of the world's largest economies that make up more than 80% of global GDP - is set to meet on the Indonesian island of Bali this week, with Western leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden expected to use the high-profile forum to slam Russia publicly over the war in Ukraine. In a statement issued ahead of the summit, Russia's foreign ministry said it

was "fundamentally important that the G20 concentrate its efforts on real, rather than imaginary, threats." It added: "We are convinced that the G20 is called upon to deal with socio-economic problems. Expanding its agenda into areas of peace and security, which many countries are talking about, is not viable. This would be a direct incursion on the mandate of the United Nations Security Council and will undermine the atmosphere of trust and cooperation in the G20." Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will head Russia's delegation to the summit - the first since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February - after the Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin was too busy to attend. Earlier on Sunday, Lavrov scolded the West for seeking to "militarise" southeast Asia, in comments that set the stage for a potentially tense confrontation at the G20. Russia said the global food crisis would form a key part of the agenda in Bali, which falls just days before the landmark Black Sea grain deal could expire on Nov. 19.

Pak votes against draft calling  
for death penalty moratorium

UNITED NATIONS: A committee of UN General Assembly has adopted a western draft resolution calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, after overcoming opposition from a bloc of states, including Pakistan, that said it undermined their sovereignty. The 193-member Assembly's Third Committee - which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues - approved the draft resolution by a vote of 126 in favour to 37 against, with 24 abstentions. The draft will come up for the General Assembly's endorsement next month. Under the terms of the draft, the Assembly would call on States to progressively restrict use of capital punishment, ensure that it is not applied on the basis of discriminatory laws, improve conditions in detention and establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty. Czech Republic, speaking on

behalf of the European Union (EU), said that they were pushing for the draft resolution as capital punishment fails to deter criminal behaviour. Justice systems are run by humans and are therefore exposed to mistakes and aggravated by social stigmas and political pressure, particularly in countries with no independent judiciary, the EU statement said, adding that the death penalty primarily affects poorer persons and those belonging to marginalized groups. After several countries called the draft flawed in attempting to reinterpret existing human rights instruments, it was adopted following the approval of an amendment, which garnered 103 votes in favour to 68 against, with 13 abstentions. The amendment affirmed, "the sovereign right of all countries to develop their own legal systems, including determining appropriate legal penalties, in accordance with their international

law obligations". Pakistan voted in favour of the amendment, but cast a negative vote on the full draft resolution. Explaining his vote, Pakistani delegate Muhammad Rashid said that while the amendment has been adopted, Pakistan does not agree with the overall framework of the draft resolution, and therefore voted against it. Noting that there was no consensus for or against the death penalty, he said that every State has an inalienable right to decide its own laws, recalling that the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights allows for the death penalty in a manner consistent with a State's law and judicial processes. "Death penalty when applied in accordance with due process of law and judicial safeguards, does not infringe on any other human right," Pakistani delegate said, adding that right to life must be protected for victims of horrific and most serious crimes as well. - APP



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