



Islamabad POST

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Macron says World Cup in Qatar should not be politicized

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China terms Canada's manner condescending

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Briefs

Marriyum dares Khan to move court

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday stressed on the Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan to inform the public that when he would go to court on the Toshakhana issue. In a tweet, she said, Imran Khan after being "caught red-handed in a watch theft case had announced to approach the court". "If legal consultation has been completed on the issue, now he should disclose the date of approaching the court in the Toshakhana case," she quipped.

No 'major changes' to Army Act

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said Wednesday that the government was not considering making "major changes" to the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) 1952. "Media hype over amendments to the Pakistan Army Act is uncalled for," the defence minister stressed after a local daily reported that major changes would be made to the law. "Government is not considering any major changes in the said Act. SCP had demanded review of relevant clauses of PAA in its judgment in CP 39/2019, which shall be completed with in due course."

Toshakhana theft is now proven case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Change Minister and senior PPP leader Sherry Rehman has declared that Toshakhana is not just an allegation rather it was a proven case now. In a couple of tweets uploaded on Thursday, Sherry Rehman asked "Why are the politicians doing politics of thefts and robberies angry on the news about Toshakhana? If not stolen, why they object to the news reports?"

Changes in Army Act "Govt to bring in 'protective' Army Chief"

Imran expresses the fear that those who want him dead may try again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that the government is going to introduce changes in the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) 1952 to bring in a 'protective' army chief for themselves. Former premier Imran Khan addressed the participants of the PTI long march via video link from his residence at Zaman Park in Lahore on Thursday. PTI chairman said sitting ruling mafia has no aim to promote a professional army chief as they have interests against country. Imran Khan said the rulers have no concern for the country but ended their corruption cases and then left Pakistan. He said free and fair elections are the only way forward as the nation has given the message of no trust in the rulers after participating in his long march. PTI Chairman Imran said his party has won 70 percent of seats in the by-poll despite the fact that the establishment was standing with the rulers. Addressing the PTI workers he told them that he was



SC dismisses petition against PTI's long march

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a petition against former prime minister and chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan's long march towards Islamabad. A three-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ayesha Malik and Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition of former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Kamran Murtaza against PTI's long march. During the course of proceedings, Kamran Murtaza argued that according to Fawad Chaudhry, the long march would reach Islamabad on Friday or Saturday and this could affect normal life in the federal capital. Long march was the right of PTI but the rights of common man should not be affected, he added. Justice Ayesha Malik inquired whether

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Time to welcome Romania, Bulgaria in Schengen system

DNA

BRUSSELS: EU Commissioner Ylva Johansson has said it was time to welcome Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia in the Schengen system. She said, Schengen is the largest area of free movement in the world. 3.5 million people crossing borders every day - for work, studies, pleasure. One third of the EU population lives in border regions. Every year there are 24 million business trips, and travellers make 1.25 billion journeys in the area yearly. 420 millions across the continent are connected in the area of free movement. Schengen is one of the biggest achievements of the EU. Those connections grow the internal market, they grow economies. Schengen grows people's standard of living - pure and simple. 22 MS and 4 associated countries are in Schengen. Now it is time to include three more. So today I present a Communication on a stronger Schengen with full participation of Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia. It is high time to say welcome! Schengen is Europe. These three Member States deserve to feel fully European. To have the



privilege of being a member you are bound by the Council acquis. Which includes conditions, Uniform Schengen visas, Cooperation with law enforcement in other countries, Connection to information systems, such as Schengen Information System All this in order to maintain security within the area and in line with fundamental rights. Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia had strongly proven that they have met all these conditions.

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Pak participation in Moscow Format- a shift in its policies?

SHAMIM SHAHID

A MIDST growing tension with the Taliban regime, over border travelling restrictions, Pakistan has adopted a unique policy towards war devastated Afghanistan. On one hand, Pakistan has endorsing global community's reservations over Taliban policies especially restrictions against women, growth in opium production and others but on the other it insisting the international community for extending maximum support to Taliban regime. Even, Pakistan still confirms that, "footprint of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, has yet to be fully eradicated," remarked Pakistan's Special Envoy to Afghanistan Muhammad Sadiq Khan while addressing the 4th Meeting of the Moscow Format Member States at Moscow Russia on Wednesday. The summit attended by a number of countries, considered stakeholders to long standing conflict in Afghanistan has discussed in depth current situation of that country, which despite tall claims on the part of global community still ahead with un-ending internal

hostilities and external plots and aggressions. The conference held after two days of armed clashes in Chaman, Baluchistan considered second most busy crossing point between Pakistan and Afghanistan. As a result of tension erupted with losses to precious human lives from both sides in encounter, all sort of travelling and economic are on halt from last several days. Hundreds of million rupees fresh fruits and vegetables, loaded in trucks have been gotten, thus further fuelling hate and anger amongst the local traders from both sides. Sadiq Khan considered most experienced diplomat, especially on Afghanistan in his well explained presentation before participants of Moscow Format has pointed out, "Pakistan is a firm adherent to the primacy of a regional approach to the situation in Afghanistan. We believe that the Moscow Format advances this goal, by bringing together the regional countries in a process of meaningful dialogue and engagement on Afghanistan. We met in Moscow last year at a time of great flux - the precipitous withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan created a 'vortex' of uncertainty. As

the international community considered ways and means to stand down from Afghanistan, we, the friends and neighbours of Afghanistan, stood up for the people of Afghanistan." Ironically, Sadiq has confirmed creating of 'vortex of uncertainty' with withdrawal of international community last year in mid August but he had ignored the jubilation of what Pakistan military establishment jubilated 'fall of Dr Ashraf Ghani regime and entrance of its sponsored Taliban to Kabul.' No one is doubtful about sincerity of Ambassador Sadiq Khan who is interested in political resolution to the long standing conflict and cordial friendly relations between Islamabad and Kabul but military establishment has a different approach-based on influencing all sort of internal and external policies of Afghanistan. Discussion and stock of suggestions made in Moscow Format us similar to that discussed or exchanged in UN and other global or regional forums since the days of war in Kabul, erupted with former Soviet Union troops landing in Afghanistan in December 1979 last.

Continued on Page 06



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tesuri presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Morocco Mohammad Karmoune during his recent visit to Karachi. - DNA

COAS tells troops to serve the nation

Visits Bahawalpur and Okara as part of his farewell tours

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Bahawalpur and Okara on Thursday as part of farewell visits. According to military's media wing ISPR, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) laid a floral wreath at Martyrs' monument at Bahawalpur and interacted with officers and troops of Formations at Bahawalpur and Okara. COAS also witnessed Integrated Fire Power Manoeuvre Exercise at Khairpur Tamewali (KPT) where troops of Bahawalpur Corps along with PAF JF-17 thunder aircrafts, Cobra Gunship Helicopters and Mechanized elements displayed coordinated fire power in battlefield conditions. COAS appreciated the training standards, operational preparedness and high morale of officers and troops. COAS directed troops to keep serving the nation with traditional zeal and passion under all circumstances. A day earlier, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited the defence-related exhibition IDEAS-2022 at the Karachi Expo Centre. The COAS witnessed various stalls at the exhibition IDEAS-2022 at Karachi Expo Centre.

US says Pakistan 'critical' to its overall interests

"We don't have a position on one political candidate versus another," Patel says

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: A State Department spokesperson Wednesday sidestepped a pointed question about PTI Chairman Imran Khan's reported statement that he no longer blames the US administration for his removal from power, saying Washington views Pakistan as "critical to our interests not just in the region, but also the world more broadly." "The US values our longstanding cooperation with Pakistan and has always viewed a prosperous and democratic Pakistan as critical to US interests," the Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel, said in response to the question from a private Pakistani TV channel's correspondent at the daily press briefing. "That remains unchanged," he stressed. "We don't have a position on one political

Republicans win US House majority

DNA

WASHINGTON: Republicans were projected to win a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday, setting the stage for two years of divided government as President Joe Biden's Democratic Party held control of the Senate. The victory gives Republicans the power to rein in Biden's agenda, as well as to launch potentially politically damaging probes of his administration and family, though it falls far short of the "red wave" the party had hoped for. The final call came after more than a week of ballot counting, when Edison Research projected Republicans had won the 218 seats they needed to control the House.

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UNFPA gets new representative in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative Dr. Luay Shabaneh has officially presented his credentials to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. His Excellency, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Jauhar Saleem received Dr. Shabaneh's letters of credence. During the meeting, the Honorable secretary and the UNFPA Representative discussed issues of mutual interest to strengthen further the strategic collaboration between UNFPA and the Government of Pakistan, a press release issued by UNFPA. Earlier, Dr. Shabaneh arrived in Islamabad on 30 September 2022 to take up his new assignment. "I would like to acknowledge, with appreciation, the Government of Pakistan's tireless efforts to meet the urgent needs of the population, particularly women and girls, by providing access to lifesaving sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services. We also remain committed to continuing our support towards the Government's humanitarian response and post-disaster national action plan," said Dr. Shabaneh. Dr. Shabaneh will be leading the 10th Country Programme Cycle (2023-27) in Pakistan mainly aiming at reducing preventable maternal deaths, unmet needs for family planning, and gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage in Pakistan. The UNFPA programme is fully aligned with the national priorities, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), and Family Planning 2020 commitments. Dr. Shabaneh has served in his previous position as the UNFPA Regional Director of Arab States from May 2016 to August 2022. A native of Palestine, Dr. Shabaneh joined the United Nations Systems in 2009. He has held several high-profile national and international public service positions over the last two decades in official statistics, population census, population, and development, monitoring and evaluation, programme management, and advocacy within the UN System, in government, and the multilateral arena.—APP

Hina slams Imran

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hina Perwaiz Butt on Thursday strongly criticized the selling of 'Toshakhana' gifts by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan. Talking to a private news channel, she said that Imran Khan must reveal the facts before the nation about Toshakhana scandal as he had allegedly "sold a watch on a much higher price". She further said Imran Khan had been misleading the nation by conducting several public meetings in a bid to create "chaos and disturbance in the country". "Imran Khan should provide documents (money trail) and clarify his position regarding Toshakhana gifts," she demanded. She also sought Imran Khan to provide evidence of the amount received by him after selling Toshakhana gifts in the market.—APP

Alvi for peace, morality-based new world order

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday urging the need to shun destructive security paradigms and doctrines in international relations, said that the world order should be based on rules, morality and ethics for making the world a better place for everyone. He added that doctrines such as Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), Humane Warfare, and Cold War mentality, should be discontinued and replaced with a philosophy of Total Peace, where war was completely eliminated. The president expressed these views while addressing a special session of the Margalla Dialogue, an interactive and policy-driven discussion, on the theme of "Navigating the Great Power competition: Developing World Perspective". The session, organized here by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, was attended by diplomats, foreign dignitaries, members of the academia and intelligentsia,

a press release issued by the President's Media Wing said. The president said that destructive philosophies and ideas needed to be replaced with the philosophy of Total Peace where resorting to war was not an option. This, he added, was possible when

all nations and nation-states and people living in them were treated with dignity, honour and respect without any discrimination on the basis of colour, creed, race or language. The president said that the principle of giving preferred status to

some nations in the form of VETO power should have no place in the new world order which, based on experience, had the potential to be misused to bring misery and war to less powerful nations. He further stated that the world powers had been pursuing the philosophy of Mutually Assured Destruction, Humane Warfare, and the Cold War, where every nation was producing lethal and dangerous weapons having the ability to destroy the entire world many times over by investing precious resources. The president said that superpowers spent trillions of dollars on creating lethal and powerful weapon systems, adding that even a fraction of these huge amounts could have helped mitigate the effects of climate change and global warming, and eliminated hunger and misery in the world.—APP

JICA distributes wheat seed bags to ensure food security

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan office provided 12,500 certified wheat seed bags to flood affected farmers of five districts Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Soubatpur, Jal Magsi and Kacchi in Balochistan Province. The Japanese assistance enables 2,500 flood affected farmers families to cultivate wheat crop on their 12,500 acres of land during this Rabi season which will ultimately ensure the food security through availability of sufficient wheat yield in next harvesting season. This year intense rainfall in monsoon season caused severe flooding across Pakistan and impacted a large number of people and households including deaths of people, damages of infrastructure, destruction of agricultural area and push millions of people into poverty and hunger. As per Rapid Need Assessment (RNA) conducted by Government and FAO Pakistan, in Balochistan province 4,972 km² agricultural area (1,228,531 acres, 15 percent of the total agriculture area in Balochistan) has been inundated and Nasirabad Division is the severely affected districts. Furthermore, Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) report on Pakistan flood 2022 also emphasized for immediate needs by ensuring preparedness for the incoming Rabi season through land clearance and land preparation,



and the distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers) to small and medium agriculture farmers. On the request of Government of Balochistan, The Government of Japan and JICA Pakistan office decided to extend the critical support to ensure food security in flood affected areas in Balochistan province. Mr. Yasumitsu Kinoshita, JICA Pakistan office and Mr. Abdul Wahab Kakhar, Director General, Directorate of Agriculture Extension, Government of Balochistan signed Minutes of Meeting on the additional assistance for support for livelihood improvement of agriculture farmers affected by flood 2022 in the selected districts of Balochistan province under JICA's ongoing technical cooperation project "The Project for Capacity Development of Agriculture Extension Services in Balochistan Province". JICA hired the service of Taragee Foundation, local organization in Balochistan for quick assessment of 2,500 affected farmers families from five districts Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Soubatpur, Jal Magsi and Kacchi which will be provided 5 bags (for 5 acres of land) of certified wheat seeds to each farmer after verification process by the district's authorities of Government of Balochistan. Furthermore, JICA's cooperation will not only ensure the future availability of wheat as essential food item for food security but also improve livelihood of 2,500 agriculture farmer's families affected by flood 2022 in Balochistan Province.

Imran's bluster shows he's badly exposed

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday said the "bluster and confusion of PTI chief Imran Khan showed that he is badly exposed" under the garb of his "orchestrated" narrative. In a flurry of tweets on her official Twitter handle, the federal minister queried that why Imran Khan, who used to hurl accusations of thieves and robbers against his political rivals, was angry at the news about Toshakhana scandal. Senator Rehman wrote, "If you have not stolen then why you are objecting to the news on Toshakhana gifts? Reporting is the responsibility of the media, you want no one to talk about your corruption and theft? Why are you afraid of the news if you did not steal?"—APP

Government trying to upward social mobility, says Musadik



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: "The government's vision of the energy sector is to energize the whole sector. Energies the poor and create the infrastructure that allows them upward social mobility," was said by the keynote speaker Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister of State

Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division was the keynote speaker. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI in his welcome remarks highlighted the relevance of the topic chosen for discussion. Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, in his introductory remarks

appreciated the audience about the significance of TLF. Dr. Malik in his address said that the subsidies have hindered the growth of energy sector infrastructure. Productivity needs to be increased in both the public and private sectors through innovation and technology infusion. The major problems of

the energy sector include availability, affordability, and fiscal sustainability. Therefore, building pipelines especially from Central Asia to Pakistan like TAPI is necessary. Also, it is important to work on indigenous gas exploration in the country to build capacity and focus on renewable sources of energy. He further stated that Pakistan is soon aiming to announce its refining policy and is expected to attract an investment of 12 billion US dollars to set up a world-class refinery in the country. His address was followed by a Q & A session on a wide range of topics including energy security, circular debt, and self-sustainability in the energy market. Towards the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG ISSI, presented ISSI's souvenir to the keynote speaker. The event was received well across the board.

Chairman NDMA, US delegation discuss post flood damages

ISLAMABAD: The US Delegation led by Commanding General of US Army Central, Lieutenant General Patrick D. Frank on Thursday visited NDMA and held a meeting with Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik. The delegation exchanged aspects of mutual interest in post floods damages' management in Pakistan and sought insights into areas of future possibilities of engagement and cooperation, a news release said. The chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) indicated an immediate requirement of developing intellectual and academic forums such as a new National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and visible presence of NDMA in global and regional platforms and events. He underscored the envisaged areas of technological inputs to enhance capacity and futuristic risk projection by NDMA through newly conceptualized existing National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) and investment in building capacity of national emergency response and preparedness through sharing experience, training and transfer of technology in the field of Disaster Management. The chairman hinted at great learning outcomes from the management of current floods and NDMA's planning for new proactive approach to engage all emergency response-related stakeholders for national-level preparedness of disasters. He also discussed the existing shortfalls in disaster management in Pakistan and emergency response structure. Chairman NDMA noted that Pakistan ranked seventh amongst the most vulnerable countries to climate change impact and there is a critical requirement to build an AI-based systems. He shared NDMA's vision to be a futuristic, technology-enabled entity and globally engaged organization, which is committed for 'Climate Millennium Goals' and leading for 'Climate Reversal Initiatives'. He added that it required US-led international support in completing Pakistan's held-up national surveys of vulnerable areas.—APP

Murad lauds armed forces role in eliminating terrorism

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that since 9/11, Pakistan had experienced the worst form of terrorism, crediting the brave soldiers of the armed forces for eliminating terrorism while sacrificing their lives. This he said while speaking as a chief guest at Karachi Show IDEAS 2022 organized at Nishan-e-Pakistan Sea View, said a statement. Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Provincial Minister Shabbir Bijarani, Vice Admiral Faisal Rasool Lodhi HI (M), Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz HI(M) Commander Coast, and foreign delegates were also present on the occasion. The CM Sindh appreciated the role of the Pakistan Armed Forces in general and the Pakistan Navy in particular in the recent floods which affected the Sindh province. He added that the Pakistan Navy being cognizant of its responsibility remained at the forefront in providing

humanitarian and disaster relief assistance to the people trapped in inaccessible areas by using helicopters and hovertcrafts. He said that it was indeed a fabulous experience to witness the excellent conduct of the Karachi Show being part of IDEAS 2022. He added that it was heartening to watch a professionally conducted demonstration of Pak Armed Forces capabilities which spoke of their dedication and commitment to defend Pakistan against any aggression by the enemy. "Such readiness is surety of peace and is projected in IDEAS 2022 under the theme of 'Arms for Peace,'" he said. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the showcasing of weapons and equipment during the exhibition was proof that technology played an important part in the defence of any country. He congratulated Pakistan Navy for arranging an incredible event at Nishan-e-Pakistan. "It's also an honor for us (Pakistan) that our friends

from different corners of the world are participating in this exhibition," he said and added that he wanted to send the message across the world that Pakistan was a peace-loving country that would like to take all possible measures to avoid conflict with any country. The CM said, "Our desire for peace should not be misunderstood as our weakness, Pakistan Armed Forces are fully ready to respond to any aggression if imposed." According to the chief minister, a platform like IDEAS gives the opportunity to understand technological advancements in the field of the defence sector across the globe. "It not only gives awareness regarding modern technology and military equipment but also provides an opportunity to exchange progressive ideas in learning from each other's experiences," he concluded. Earlier, the chief minister witnessed the marines' special drills, a mock counter-terrorism operation, and an air show.—APP

Govt making efforts to resolve issues of telecom industry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Thursday said the government was making all possible efforts to resolve the issues of the telecom industry as the economic stability of the country was linked to uplift of it. "We are well aware of the departmental issues confronted by the country's telecom industry, and struggling to settle these issues to stabilize investment in the IT and telecom sector," he said this while talking to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jazz Amir Ibrahim, CEO Telenor Irfan Wahab Khan and Hatem Bamatraf of Ufone. Heads of the telecom companies apprised the Federal Minister for IT about different issues of the telecom industry. They also offered thanks to IT Minister Syed Amin Ul Haque for his strong cooperation with the telecom industry.—APP

SATRC exemplary platform of sub-regional digital cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Maj General Amir Azeem Bajwa (R) has said that the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) is an exemplary platform of sub-regional digital cooperation and mutual assistance. He said this while attending the 25th anniversary of the SATRC held in Tehran, said a news release received here on Thursday. Speaking at the occasion, Chairman PTA congratulated the members and APT leadership for the outstanding achievements of the council over the last two and a half decades. The forum has imparted collective knowledge and regulatory experience of nine South Asian countries in a structured and efficient manner for the past 25 years. The chairman reaffirmed PTA's commitment to the council affairs and highlighted the need for enhanced collaboration in addressing common challenges of the region. The annual meeting has been organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CRA), Heads of the regulators from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as delegates and industry executives, attended the meeting.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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..... | 051-2826211 |
| 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 |

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| PIA Flight Info..... | 114 |
| PIA Cargo..... | 9280979 |
| Railway Inquiry..... | 117 |
| Railway Exchange..... | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi..... | 5555489 |
| CAA..... | 9281092 |



Hospitals

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| CMH..... | 5611111 |
| MH..... | 5611116 |
| 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 |
|----------------|--------------|

Boom in Housing Sector to revive economy: Shallwani

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Sardar Tahir, Ch. Masood, Muhammad Naveed Malik and others also spoke at the occasion and assured of their cooperation and support for the Expo

ISLAMABAD: Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works said that the boom in the housing and construction sector can turn around the economy, create more jobs and attract investment. He said that Dubai in 2008-09 was facing economic problems and the construction of only one mega project "Burj Khalifa" helped revive its economy. He said that many countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Japan achieved better growth by focusing on the housing and construction sector, which showed its vital role in the economy. He said this while addressing the pre-launch ceremony of the first International Housing Expo being organized by the Ministry of Housing & Works in collaboration with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry under the theme "Shelter for All" on Dec: 8-11, 2022 at Convention Centre, Islamabad. A large number



of builders, developers and realtors attended the event and showed keen interest to participate in the Expo. Iftikhar Ali Shallwani said that the purpose of organizing the first International Housing Expo is to stimulate the business and economic activities and provide affordable housing to people. He said that the government wants to promote the housing sector with public-private partnership to

address the housing needs of people. He said that housing is the fundamental right of every citizen and the government wants to fulfil this right in collaboration with the private sector. He said that the Expo would attract local and international investors and would be a right step towards providing shelter for all. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of

Commerce & Industry said that the country was witnessing a deficit of millions of houses due to rising population and stressed that the government should support the housing and construction sector to ensure shelter for all. He said that the growth in housing and construction would boost the business activities of all allied industries and help revive the economy. He said that timely delivery of cred-

ible housing projects on public-private partnership would improve the confidence of the buyers and attract more investment. He said that ICCI has already organized two very successful property and housing expos and hoped that the first international housing expo would be another landmark success. He said that the government should establish an Expo Centre in the federal capital to promote

exhibitions of various sectors to boost the business and economic activities. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Sardar Tahir, Ch. Masood, Muhammad Naveed Malik and others also spoke at the occasion and assured of their cooperation and support for the Expo.

Pakistan's annual GDP can fall 18-20% by 2050: WB

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is at risk of falling by 18 to 20 percent by 2050 due to the combined risks from the intensification of climate change and environmental degradation in the country if the climate change issues are left unaddressed. "The combined risks from the intensification of climate change and environmental degradation, unless addressed, will further aggravate Pakistan's economic fragility; and could ultimately reduce annual GDP by 18 to 20 percent per year by 2050, based on the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios", a report recently published by the World Bank said. Between 6.5 and 9.0 percent of GDP will likely be lost due to climate change (in the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios, respectively) as increased floods and heatwaves reduce agriculture and livestock yields, destroy infrastructure, sap labour productivity, and un-

dermine health, the report further said. Additionally, water shortages in agriculture could reduce GDP by more than 4.6 percent, and air pollution could impose a loss of 6.5 percent of GDP per year. The use of water for non-agricultural purposes is likely to increase significantly with climate change. Under a high-growth (4.9 percent per year) and high-warming (3°C by 2047) scenario, water demand is projected to increase by almost 60 percent, with the highest rates of the increase coming from the domestic and industrial sectors, the report said. It added that climate warming will account for up to 15 percent of this increase in demand. This heightened demand will result in unintended consequences that deprive downstream areas of water rights. The competition among sectors will necessitate inter-sectoral tradeoffs that will likely be made at the expense of water for agriculture.

It is projected that in the next three decades, about 10 percent of all irrigation water will need to be repurposed to meet non-agricultural demand. Freeing up 10 percent of irrigation water without compromising food security will be a complex challenge that will require substantial policy reforms to incentivize water conservation and increase water use efficiency in the agricultural sector and a shift away from water-thirsty crops as well as better environmental management. The projected costs of a forced reallocation of water out of agriculture, to meet non-agricultural demands, without such steps, could reduce GDP in 2047 by 4.6 percent. The losses projected here are thus the costs of forced reallocation of water to serve other urgent needs, including allocations for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and urgent environmental flows to sustain critical ecosystem services. Damage induced

by climate-related extreme events will likely have economy-wide impacts on growth, fiscal space, employment, and poverty. Global warming and extreme events affect economic activity through multiple transmission channels: impacts on lives, on infrastructure and assets, and on livelihoods, which can result in lost economic growth, worsening poverty and long-term threats to human capital and productivity. Existing macro models can help assess the expected scale of such events. The report added that household poverty is expected to decline over time, but even a 9 percent decline in GDP by 2050 is enough to stall poverty reduction, with disproportionate impacts on rural households. By 2030, the urban poverty rate is expected to be half that of rural areas. By 2050, urban poverty is projected to decline further, to 10 percent, while rural poverty remains in the 25-28 percent range.—APP

Wildlife painting exhibition starts tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition of paintings featuring wildlife and gems of nature by artists Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi will open here on November 18 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). The three-day show aims to generate collective actions to conserve nature where the existence of humans is dependent on wellbeing of all other living things. Both the artists are brothers who spent their lives chasing wild game set in pristine wilderness that taught them to appreciate the flawless design and harmony of all creation, said the organizers. "We have used many a canvas to express ourselves, sometimes by portraying the nature, sometimes by being part of it. We are self-taught weekend artists. Both of us share a passion for conservation of nature. Our artwork aim to showcase gems of nature in their natural habitats and at their best. We hope to inspire people around us so that we take collective actions to restore the balance of nature before it is too late," said Kamran Qureshi while talking to APP. "It is painful to see that many of our wild places are vanishing rapidly. Clear waters are becoming murkier, rubbish is finding its way to the remotest and cleanest places, forests are being cut and the air is becoming dirtier to breathe. Plants and animals are fighting for survival. We fear that this is becoming our legacy. Will there be anything left for our children to have a healthy life?" he said adding that now is the time that we need to focus on things we need to undo that includes piles of damaging waste, poisoned air and water, loss of forests, wild places and poaching and overhunting. The show is a message to joining hands in making this world a healthy place to live by being gentle and thoughtful about the environment and the small steps in this regard include discouraging wildlife trafficking, producing less waste and dispose-off waste properly, conserve fuel and power, stop using single use plastics, ensure litter free wild places, raise voice against pollution of natural water bodies, conserve water, stop using disposable items, discourage poaching and overhunting, and stop cutting and damaging natural forests.—APP

Gang of bike lifters busted

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital police on Thursday claimed to bust a gang of bike lifters and recovered five stolen motorcycles from their possession. Police spokesman said that a team under the supervision of SHO Aabpara police station nabbed three accused identified and recovered five bikes from them. The nabbed persons have been identified as Asmat Khan alias Kala Don, Azhar and Ali. During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed their involvement in numerous bike lifting incidents in different areas of Islamabad. Cases have been registered against them and further investigation is underway.—APP

RBISE announces HSSC Part-I Exam 2022 results

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (RBISE) on Thursday announced the result of the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) annual examination Part-I, 2022. According to RBISE Chairman Muhammad Adnan Khan, out of a total 74,537 enrolled candidates 72,281, including 41,386 female and 30,895 male students, appeared in the examination. A total of 66,119 were regular while 6,162 were private students. Assistant Controller Conduct, Assistant Controller Secrecy and several other members of their teams were also present on the occasion.—APP

Rupee extends losses against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Rupee on Thursday depreciated by 25 paisa against the US dollar in the inter-bank trading to close at Rs 222.66 against the previous day's closing of Rs 222.41. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the US dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 227.25 and Rs 229.5 respectively. The price of the Euro against the rupee decreased by 25 paisa to close at Rs 231.16 against the previous close of Rs 231.41. The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.59, whereas an increase of Rs 1.06 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 265.40 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 264.34. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal increased by 07 paisa and 09 paisa to close at Rs 60.62 and Rs 59.24 respectively.

Group show by various artists concludes at PNCA

KHAYAM ABBAS

ISLAMABAD: A group show of paintings on traditional and contemporary arts concluded here Thursday at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) after serving the art lovers with celebration of cultural diversity of Pakistan and creating social harmony through soft expressions of art. The show carrying paintings and art pieces titled "Diversity and Social Harmony" was a collaborative event between Nomad Gallery and PNCA. S. Najam Kazmi, Samina A. Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Khurram Abbas, Hassan Sheikh, Areej Nasir, Emaan, Tauqeer Hilbi, Alefiya, Rakshanda Atawar, Hassnain Awais, Nabahat Lotia, Jamil Hussain and Kuzhad were among the participating artists. Pakistan's culture is diverse and has always found itself rooted to traditions along with art. It can be seen through the various monuments and iconic architectural structures across the country that are testaments to its glorious history. Culture and creativity here manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities, said Nageen Hyat, curator of the show while talking to APP. Najam Kazmi is working as a miniature, contemporary and traditional artist since

1989 to date. He was conferred the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan and honored by the life time achievement award by the Rawalpindi Art Council. He has exhibited in many countries including Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Algeria, Sri Lanka, India and the Gulf. Samina A. Akhtar a senior artist having exhibited in multiple countries while Khurram Abbas's work is based on social injustice and his war trauma. As the memories never fade he expresses them in his painting, the visuals of which help him to alleviate their impact. His work is meant to be an expression of protest in silence. "As an artist, I am mostly concerned about various issues relevant to my cultural background and most of my works reflect multi social, political, and religious aspects as well as racism, sectarianism, injustice, and terrorism, which are inter-connected at some levels. Being artists, we are concerned citizens and get easily affected by the actions and extremism taking place in our surroundings. And I am always keenly observing human behavior rapidly changing in my surrounding," said Zafar Ali about his work. Hassan Sheikh says that "during my early years experimenting in the field, I realized that to most South Asians, miniature is only an

ancient artistic expression used during the pre-colonial times. Thus, I began my art practice by exploring ways to develop the expression such that it becomes relevant in today's context." Rakshanda Atawar's work, with a portfolio expanding 3 decades, is a free hand use of rich colors, the effort guided by emotional outbursts. The latest series is heavily influenced by one considerable factor, having to remain in lockdown during the pandemic. Hassnain Awais's work consists of records that have been selected for permanent or long-term preservation on grounds of their enduring cultural or historical value. Such records are normally unpublished and almost always unique. Nabahat Lotia is a ceramic artist who like to experiment with her medium clay and different firing techniques. "Maati - clay, is my Master and I am still learning", she said. Jamil Hussain captures the buildings and monuments which existed in 1947 (pre-partition). "I have selected some dilapidated, neglected, forgotten monuments and through my work I have endeavored to create an awareness to save our built-heritage," he said. Alefiya's work explored Islamic geometry, Islamic illumination manuscripts and miniature paintings.

SSP holds 'Khuli Kutcheri' to address citizens' complaints

RAWALPINDI: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan under the Punjab government's open door policy held a 'Khuli Kutcheri' here on Thursday in Police Lines Headquarters to address complaints of the citizens. According to a Police spokesman, the SSP issued directives to the officers concerned to take action and submit detailed reports on the complaints submitted by the citizens in 'Khuli Kutcheri'. Assistant Sub-Inspector, Kalar Syedan was charge-sheeted on the poor investigation in a case and two constables, Raza Shah and Akash were suspended on corruption complaints. The SSP also issued the order to charge-sheet a Traffic Warden Inspector Abdul Waheed on a charge of misbehaving with a citizen. He directed the Stations House Officers of the police stations to remain present for at least three hours from 3 pm to 6 pm in their respective police stations to hear public complaints. The SSP said that negligence on part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated. He informed that the 'Khuli Kutcheries' were being held to provide the citizens immediate relief and address their complaints besides, it also helped improve standards of policing.—APP

Muqam inaugurates Islamabad's renovated museum



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture, Engr Amir Muqam here on Thursday inaugurated the recently renovated Islamabad Museum that serves visitors, researchers, students and heritage professionals. The inauguration was followed by introductory briefing of organization while PM's aide also chaired an important meeting at Department of Archeology and Museum (DOAM). PM's aide on the occasion

said the new extension of Islamabad Museum will open new vistas for cultural heritage visitors. A total of 46 artifacts confiscated in the USA have been repatriated to Pakistan and are displayed in the museum. The new artifacts from reserve collection of Islamabad museum have also been displayed in the museum while the new artifacts from reserve collection of Islamabad museum have also been displayed in the museum. This recent renovation and extension of museum has made great impact on

the visitors, researchers, students and heritage professionals and preserving the history has always been priority of the world nations and in this regard Museums play vital role. Adviser to Prime Minister said that Islamabad museum is home to cultural heritage and encompass the entire history from old age to later Mughal period. In Islamabad, an effort has been made to delineate the saga of evolution of cultures and civilizations in Pakistan through display of artifacts and works of arts.—APP

Briefs

Show-cause notices issued

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Health Minister Dr Akhtar Malik paid a surprise visit to Wah Cantt General Hospital and Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Taxila late Wednesday night and ordered the concerned to issue show-cause notices to both Medical Superintendents (MS) of the hospitals over negligence in duties and poor performance.

According to a release issued here Thursday, the Minister checked the attendance register of both hospitals and suspended doctors, pharmacists, and administrative officers of the Taxila hospital over absence from duty.

He interacted with the patients admitted to the hospitals and inquired about the availability of the medicine and treatment facilities.

The Minister said that providing the best healthcare facilities to the province's residents was the priority of the Punjab government, and no compromise would be made. Akhtar also warned that he would continue to pay surprise visits to different provincial hospitals and take stern action over those not performing duties. DMS Taxila Hospital Dr Nabila Kashif and Dr Asif Hameed were also instructed to report to the Health Department.—APP

Wheat smuggling bid foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police while foiling a bid to smuggle wheat and seized 560 bags here on Thursday. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad police conducted a raid and rounded up a driver Hamza and recovered 560 wheat bags from his possession. He said, the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of the authorities concerned were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids.—APP

'Pakistan to enhance trade with ASEAN countries'

ISLAMABAD, Nov 17 (AP-P): Federal Tax Ombudsman's Coordinator Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said Pakistan has huge potential to enhance its volume of trade with the Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN).

Talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Mian Zeeshan Elahi, he said today the trade volume of ASEAN countries has exceeded \$3.3 trillion, which is likely to improve further in the near future, he said adding that Pakistan's trade volume with ASEAN countries is \$11 billion, which is much less than its current potential.

He said China is already working closely with ASEAN neighbors to resolve problems and improve the efficiency of trading, particularly with the development of the digital economy. He said the practical application of this cooperative approach is also seen in the framework provided by the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which unites the region in the world's largest trade agreement.

He said business leaders and institutions are looking to further strengthen their regional cooperation and develop business opportunities brought by the RCEP agreement. He said an essential part of the long term success of the RCEP is to nurture new drivers of growth such as digital economy and low carbon development.

He said the digital economy can only reach its full potential if there is a common agreement of digital standards and protocols. He said there is a vast scope in diversified sectors for Pakistan to increase its volume of trade with ASEAN who are committed lending full collective strength to recover from the Covid-19 and recent flood devastation that badly affected fragile economy.—APP

CPEC energy enterprises' donation exceeds Rs.115m

According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute shared details about CPEC energy enterprises' support for Pakistan in flood relief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Millions of people in Pakistan are still deeply affected by the aftermath of flooding which "is not going anywhere". In the time of need, the CPEC energy enterprises have stepped forward to assist the local people and provided relief worth Rs.115 million (including food and supplies).

According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute shared details about the CPEC energy enterprises' support for Pakistan in flood relief. Zonergy extended support of Rs.12 million, Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Rs.1.06 million. State Grid of China donated about Rs.44 million, and Matiari Lahore Transmission Company Rs.3.72 million. China Power Hub Generation Company provided Rs.1.7 million, China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Rs.9.36 million, and UEP Wind Power Rs.100,000. PowerChina contributed Rs.30.21 million containing seven batches of donations. Shanghai Electric Rs.8.16 million, three batches. China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Rs.4.37 million, five batches.

Some enterprises have transferred the donations to local governments, relief funds, and NGOs in Pakistan, who then dispatched



them to the forefront of disaster-hit areas. Some are distributing rations on-ground. For example, Zonergy, China's renewable energy solutions conglomerate, provided portable solar energy equipment and food to areas deprived of electricity and life necessities. Shanghai Electric sent tents, medicine, and drinking water to the families of employees affected by the flood. Matiari Lahore Transmission Company, alert to diseases caused by the flood, delivered 2500 relief packages and medical services to residents near the Matiari Converter Station. PowerChina HuaDong pur-

chased food for individuals around the sites of their project. In fact, whenever Pakistan faces a major challenge, the Chinese government, enterprises, and people step forward to provide support. This is quite true in the case of flood circumstances. Near the PowerChina Diamer Basha Dam Project, main roads linking villages to town were destroyed by torrential floods, cutting access to relief materials essential to the local residents. In this difficult time, the Chinese company, after surveying the disaster site, sent rescue teams with excavators and other large mechanical equipment to

clear collapsed sections of the roads and backfill the foundation of irrigation canals. After four days of all-out repair, the team cleared the 8-kilometer road and repaired the "paralyzed" irrigation canals, protecting the villagers from a secondary disaster. "The more difficult it is, the more responsibilities we must take," said an employee of PowerChina Diamer Basha Project. "Our ability might be limited, but we are striving to do something for this country. A brother in need is a friend indeed." Such stories of timely help for locals are innumerable at CPEC projects. In Kaghan

Valley, Mansehra District where SK Hydropower Project is located, several parts of the Karakoram highway, a vital communication line in northern Pakistan, were cut off due to rockfall from concessional torrential rains and mud-rock flows, leaving local people stuck in the inner land.

To restore traffic in time and ensure smooth transportation of relief materials, Chinese engineers assisted their Pakistani counterparts to repair Uchar Bridge and Bailey Bridge that link the Karakoram highway and provided mechanical equipment to clean up the road. "We've been working here

for nearly 15 years, and Pakistan is a second home for us. We feel deeply sorry for our iron brothers and sisters suffering from the disaster, and would provide what we can to help them pull through," a Chinese manager at the project said.

In response to Pakistan's appeal for dealing with the aftermath of the flood, China has sent an 11-member delegation of experts to conduct field surveys on the flood-hit areas and provide knowledge and experience in post-disaster reconstruction. As of October 1, China's continuous relief efforts have exceeded RMB 644.1 million (equivalent to US\$90.2 million).

Chairman NADRA calls on Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Tariq Malik called on Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs and National Heritage and Culture, Engr Amir Muqam here on Thursday to discuss the NADRA's performance in provincial departments. During the meeting, NADRA's performance was discussed in general and the performance of NADRA in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular. Adviser to the Prime Minister, Engineer Amir Muqam expressed satisfaction on the overall performance of NADRA and directed further steps for improvement particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.—APP

Sehar Khan expresses gratitude as 'Farq' gets nod of approval

ISLAMABAD: Budding Pakistani actress Sehar Khan extended overwhelming gratitude at the brilliant response and appreciation she has received for her on-going drama serial 'Farq'. Starting her acting career from drama serial 'Sanwari', the diva managed to grab audience attention for all the right reasons. After 'Sanwari', Khan landed many back-to-back hit projects and wowed fans with her charismatic personality and phenomenal acting skills. Recently, Khan took to her social media handle and shared few of her adorable clicks while thanking audience for loving her on-going serial 'Farq'. "Grateful and thankful to all of you for showering so much love on our Farq" Khan captioned. The starlet also spilled the beans on what's next in much-talked-about tale "Keep showing love, there is so much more to come in the upcoming episodes". Furthermore, the veteran actor Faysal Qureshi also took to his official Instagram account and dropped the gripping poster showing the current record breaking TRP of much-loved serial.—APP

Nine held; over nine kg narcotics recovered

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police arrested 9 suspects and recovered more than 9 kg of drugs from their possession while taking action against suspected drug dealers. A police spokesperson said that Rawat police arrested Haider for possessing 2420 grams of heroin, Asif for possessing 1420 grams of hashish, and Murtaza for possessing 220 grams of hashish. Pirwadhai police arrested Imran on recovery of 1390 grams of charras while Waleed was sent behind bars for carrying 1200 grams of charras. Gujjar Khan police arrested an accused, namely Numan, and seized 2440 grams of charras. He further said that other accused were also arrested for drug possession. The spokesperson said that separate cases had been registered against all suspects while further investigations were underway. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers, and other lawbreakers.—APP

Police arrest PO wanted in murder case

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police here on Thursday arrested a proclaimed offender (PO) wanted in a murder case registered in Pirwadhai police station. According to a police spokesman, police managed to arrest a PO named Jamal, wanted in a murder case registered at Pirwadhai police station. The accused had allegedly killed a citizen, Muhammad Rafique, over a monetary dispute in September this year. Pirwadhai police on the application of the victim's brother registered a case and managed to get the PO while his father namely Qudratullah who was also allegedly involved in the murder was challenged earlier and sent behind the bars.

He said that Rawalpindi district police were taking strict action in accordance with the law against the lawbreakers, adding the operations would continue and all the POs would be sent behind the bars.—APP

LSM witnesses nominal growth in September

ISLAMABAD: The production of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) witnessed nominal growth of 0.01 per cent on year-on-year (YoY) basis during the month of September 2022 as compared to the same month of last year.

According to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here, the LSMI index went slightly up from 115.01 points in September 2021 to 115.02 points in September 2022. On a month-on-month basis (MoM), the industry grew by 0.1 per cent during the month under review as com-

pared to 114.9 points during August 2022. However, overall the Large-Scale Manufacturing Sector has shown a decline of 0.4% during July-September (2022-23) as compared with the same period of last year. The LSMI during the first quarter of the current fiscal year was recorded at 113.4 points as compared to 113.8 points during July-September (2021-22). The main contributors towards overall negative growth of 0.4% were, garments (5.0%), petroleum products (1.4%), cement (1.4%), pharmaceuticals (1.8%), iron &

steel products (0.2%) and automobiles (1.5%). The major sectors that showed positive growth during July-September (2022-23) included beverages (0.2%), wearing apparel (5%), leather products (0.1%), paper and board (0.6%), chemicals (0.3%), iron and steel products (0.2%) and furniture (1.9%). The commodities that witnessed decline during the period under review included food (0.8%), tobacco (0.8%), textile (0.7%), coke and petroleum products (1.4%), pharmaceuticals (1.8%), non-metallic mineral products (0.9%), fabricat-

ed metal (0.1%), electronic equipment (0.1%), machinery and equipment (0.2%), automobiles (1.5%) and other transport equipment (0.4%). It is pertinent to mention here that the provisional quantum LSMI indices have been developed with the base year 2015-16 on the basis of the latest data supplied by the source agencies including Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC), Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP), Ministry of Commerce and Provincial Bureaux of Statistics (PBS).—APP

Need stressed to curb smuggling, illicit trade

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group (UBG) Thursday demanded the government that smuggling and illicit trade in counterfeit products needs to be curbed without further delay to protect the organised industry and consumers.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Chaudhary Ghulam Mujtaba MD Vital Tea, UBG Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik said every country in the world is grappling with the issue of parallel economy and Pakistan is not alone in this scenario. He said there is no right way of accurately measuring the undocumented part of the economy. Hence, the size of Pakistan's shadow economy is estimated to be in range of 30-50pc of the nation's total reported GDP by various studies using different methodologies. He said the shadow or informal economy refers to economic activities taking place outside the tax and regulatory system, and may or may not have any backward or forward linkages with the organised sector. He said the problem with Pakistan is that the size of the unreported economy has grown so high that it is now bearing down on formal sectors, penalising taxpayers, undermining tax collection, intensifying market distortions and creating an uneven field for organised businesses. He said the existence of unregulated economic activities across almost every segment of business underlines poor governance, weak tax administration, corruption and lack of political will to take action against shadow economy mafia. Leader of the delegation Chaudhary Ghulam Mujtaba said the size of unregulated economy was not the single issue Pakistan was currently dealing with. He said black economy, smuggled and counterfeit products are now snatching a bigger market slice from the organised sector, besides fostering further growth in illicit trade at the expense of consumers and industry. He said this is in addition to the government forfeiting large revenues through uncollected taxes that could have been used to build economic and social infrastructure to boost productivity, generate employment opportunities and create surplus for exports. He said it is, indeed hard to document every unregulated sector, however many informal micro and small businesses linked to organised sectors will always exist and continue to indirectly contribute to economic growth, therefore they need not to be regulated vigorously but unchecked smuggling and illicit trade must be curbed without any further delay to strengthen the national economy.—APP

Business Community worries over political polarization

RAWALPINDI: The country's current political and economic uncertainty is disconcerting, and if urgent steps are not taken timely, it will further worsen the country's economy. President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Sagib Rafique, talking to APP, urged all political parties to sit together and find a solution to pull the country out of the political crises so that trade activities could be restored. He said uncertainty had stagnated businesses and the entire economic system, with protests, sit-ins and long marches. RCCI former president Sohail Altaf said that political mistrust and polarization had led the country to such a point that if timely measures were not taken, it would be impossible to return, "we have to think for the country beyond political affiliation."



President Markazi Anjuman Tajran Shahid Ghafoor Paracha said that business activities were in decline, and there was a need to take the country out of confrontation. Showing grave concerns over the instability, he appealed to all stakeholders to realize their responsibility.—APP

IRSA releases 94,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 94,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 63,300 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1518.87 feet and was 120.87 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 26,700 cusecs while outflow as 48,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1145.55 feet, which was 95.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 13,600 cusecs and 23,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 58,500, 39,100, 33,900 and 13,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 13,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera.—APP

President terms martyred troops an asset to nation

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday vowed to eliminate terrorism from the country and said that soldiers who laid their lives in the line of duty were an asset to the nation. In his statement on the martyrdom of soldiers as a result of the firing of terrorists in Bajaur, the president strongly condemned the incident and paid tribute to the personnel of the Pakistan army. President Alvi prayed for the elevation of the ranks of martyred's souls and for the grant of patience to their families.—APP

Gwadar to send 8000 tons of fertiliser to Kabul

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As a fresh impetus to the Gwadar transhipment drive, a consignment of 8000 tonnes of DAP fertilisers is all set to be shipped via road to Afghanistan marking a first Afghanistan-bound fertiliser shipment during the ongoing current year. According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, during the last 10 months and 13 days in 2022, Gwadar did not handle or ship any Afghanistan-bound fertiliser stuff.

It processed and shipped hundreds of tonnes of DAP for Afghanistan trade in 2021. Eventually, the operation resumed after a mega vessel owned by AP Sveti Vlaho that carried 8000 tons of DAP fertilisers, docked on November 14 at Gwadar Port. Since its operation, the port has begun to play a new role as an efficient transit stop and time-saving trade port for land-locked

Afghanistan. Its shipments of fertiliser started in January 2020.

Gwadar International Terminal Limited (GITL) operator official said that after off-loading process is completed and the fertiliser will be loaded on trucks and then will be sent to Afghanistan as per the stipulated programme and schedule.

AP Sveti Vlaho is the first company that has been engaged with the Gwadar Port Authority. This new interaction has prompted a deep sense of confidence shown by international companies in Gwadar port observing its rising reputation to handle enormous consignments as per international standardisation.

It is imperative here to mention that a fertiliser factory is under construction which will start its production by February 2023. With this development, a number of fertiliser producers and importers have expressed

their desire to utilise Gwadar port and Free Zone for this purpose.

In 2021, a total of 500 tons of fertilisers were shipped out of the port's warehouse by a fleet of Pakistani trucks.

In April, 2020, the federal government allowed the import of fertilisers at the Gwadar Port and onward transit to Afghanistan through bonded carriers-insured and sealable trucks having a tracking device.

The Ministry of Commerce (MoC), on the request of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), the Gwadar International Terminals Limited and other stakeholders, has issued an Office Memorandum (MO) titled 'Implementation of the import and export policy orders through shipping procedure and instructions for operation-

alisation of the Gwadar Port'. The petitions of all stakeholders were examined in the light of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTITA), 2010 Article 21(1)(c) of the APTITA, 2010 that allows the transit of "bulk cargo (not imported in containers - like shipload) in open trucks or other transport units. Economist Shahid Hussain told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan can reach its true potential for transhipment when China, Afghanistan and other Central Asian economies are connected with Gwadar through land routes. "A trickle of Chinese products continues to flow into Afghanistan through Pakistan, improved by CPEC infrastructure, though trade has been mostly done through the Port of Karachi, one of South Asia's largest and busiest deep-water seaports that handles about 60 percent of Pakistan's cargo," he added.

G20 and support to Ukraine

V LADIMIR Putin's absence from the G20 summit in Bali, and the wave upon wave of missiles that struck Ukraine on Tuesday night, are both testament to the Russian president's failure. Moscow remains diplomatically isolated by a large part of the international community, and its troops continue to lose on the battlefield – most recently evidenced by last week's retreat from Kherson, the only major city that they had managed to capture. Mr Putin lost his gamble that he could defenestrate the Ukrainian government in February, and he is still losing. His response is to terrorise civilians once more. Putting Sergei Surovkin, the man who oversaw the destruction of Aleppo and other Syrian cities, in charge of this war emphasises that the strategy is to maximise suffering and grind down morale. As the foreign secretary, James Cleverly, told MPs on Wednesday: "We know what Putin intends to do – to starve and freeze the Ukrainians into submission." Russia's deliberate targeting of the energy infrastructure has stepped up as the bitter winter weather sets in: more than 40% of it – including transmission lines, power stations and pipelines – has been damaged or destroyed already. Though air defences have helped to shield some facilities, and Ukraine is carrying out repairs at remarkable speed, the impact has been severe, with millions living with rolling blackouts or long-term loss of power. Its strikes were in part a riposte to Volodymyr Zelenskyy's speech to what he called the "G19". He sought to portray himself as a man who wanted a deal – but stressed that a ceasefire would only be possible when Russian troops left Ukrainian soil. That followed reports that the US has urged Kyiv to at least signal an openness to negotiations, reflecting Washington's concern about "donor fatigue" in Europe, and public remarks by Gen Mark Milley. But the attacks also ensured that the crisis dominated a summit which the host, Indonesia, had originally hoped would focus on climate breakdown and on the broader issues of food and energy security. India has grown more critical, and China appears to be edging away from Russia in some regards – or at least seeking to give the impression of doing so – but fundamentally, Beijing is still trying to straddle irreconcilable interests. It will not turn its back on its partner. The missiles were a clear challenge to Kyiv's supporters: are you really willing to keep pouring your money into a war that shows no signs of ending, with costs mounting as your own citizens face spiralling prices and the threat of energy blackouts? Russia's brutal air war persists because its original strategy failed, and failed not only due to extraordinary Ukrainian resilience, but also to the remarkable levels of support that Kyiv has received from outside. Those standing against Moscow's aggression should not allow Mr Putin to distract them, but stay on course.



China's shining diplomacy at G20 summit

LEADERS of many countries and heads of international institutions have delivered speeches at the G20 Summit successively. Everyone touched upon the severe challenges facing humanity's peace and development in their opening remarks. This is a basic judgment of the international community, and there is no dispute about it. As for the causes, responsibilities and solutions to the challenges, the views of different countries differ given their own perspectives. This is normal. But it is crucial to work together in order to deal with these global challenges. In Bali, the participating countries arranged a number of multilateral and bilateral meetings, with long-awaited handshakes, rather than competitive atmosphere, between the East and the West, and between the developed and developing countries. It shows that, more than ever, the international community needs to bridge divergences and form a joint force to overcome the difficulties. This is the big picture of international situation in which all humanity live today and cannot be avoided. What is particularly eye-catching is that on November 15 Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered an important speech entitled, "Working Together to Meet the Challenges of Our Times and Build a Better Future." Xi underscored the need to make global development more inclusive, beneficial to all, and more resilient. He said that it is imperative that all countries advocate peace, development, and win-win cooperation. All countries should replace division with unity, confrontation with cooperation, and exclusion with inclusiveness. Leaders of different countries have a strong desire to have face-to-face talks with the Chinese head of state, and important consensus has been reached in each meeting. More and more countries have realized that both global governance and their own development are inseparable from maintaining good communication and interaction with China, and that China is an indispensable partner of cooperation worthy of trust. This is not only the result of China's major-country diplomacy, but also the diplomatic foundation for further opening up the situation. During the talks between President Xi and leaders of many countries, "openness," "pragmatism," "cooperation" and "mutual respect" are high-frequency buzzwords, which are supposed to be the basic principles in engagement among countries and the way that is comfortable and beneficial to all peoples at the same time. However, in recent years, due to the complex changes in the international situation, the rise of isolationism and protectionism, and the sudden tension in the geopolitical situation, these most basic norms have been impacted. How can the international community not be worried? Leaders' meetings usually play the role of steering and guiding. The meetings between President Xi and leaders of other countries not only promote the concepts of peace, development, cooperation and win-win, but also make the value of independent diplomacy more prominent. China is a peace-loving country, and it has always been making friends and forming good ties. Through participation in the summit and interaction with leaders of other countries, the Chinese head of state has sent a signal to the outside world to firmly promote true multilateralism, which is also an important political support for the Southeast Asian country hosting the summit.

Only loss and damage fund can address climate disasters

Ishtiaq Ahmed



Group of 77 plus China, a negotiating bloc for developing countries, insists on establishing a dedicated loss and damage financing facility. The US and other rich Western nations disagree, arguing that current Green Climate Fund for mitigation and adaptation is enough to address climate disasters. This sticking point may defy consensus by Friday, when COP27 ends. Ultimately though, justice is not possible without settling the loss and damage issue. Since climate destruction is happening now, mostly in poor countries, it cannot be tackled through mitigation, adaptation strategies alone

COP27, being held in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, started well. For the first time, the UN climate change conference's official agenda included the issue of a loss and damage fund, over which the developed world – that produces the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions – has dithered for decades. And some European nations last week pledged token loss and damage funds for the developing countries that are facing climate disasters caused by these emissions. The contentious issue of how to fund climate action has generated fierce debate among thousands of participating delegates, including government representatives and environmental activists. While there is unanimity among leaders and delegates about the magnitude of the climate threat and the need to tackle it urgently, the global divide on climate financing persists. The Group of 77 plus China, a negotiating bloc for developing countries, insists on establishing a dedicated loss and damage financing facility. The US and other rich Western nations disagree, arguing that the current Green Climate Fund for mitigation and adaptation is enough to address climate disasters. This sticking point may defy consensus by Friday, when COP27 ends. Ultimately though, justice is not possible without settling the loss and damage issue. Since climate destruction is happening now, mostly in poor countries, it cannot be tackled through mitigation and adaptation strategies alone. The reasons are too obvious. Each year brings worse news about the consequences of climate change. The latest UN global climate report reiterates that the past eight years are on track to be the hottest ever recorded. The proof lies in this year's heat waves in Europe, droughts in the Horn of Africa and, above all, devastating monsoon floods in Pakistan. Since climate destruction is happening now, mostly in poor countries, it cannot be tackled through mitigation and adaptation strategies alone. The 2015 Paris climate accord commits signatories to gradually reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, which cause so much of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In order to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, these emissions must be reduced by half by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. The problem is that the transition to renewable energy is hard and long, as clear from the current global energy crisis. This means mitigation strategies to cut down global emissions are unlikely to prevent global warming from hitting 2.4 C by the end of the decade. Adaptation is another strategy to combat climate change that the developed world champions. It involves adjusting policies and actions, ranging from

building flood defenses, setting up early warning systems for cyclones and switching to drought-resistant crops to redesigning communication systems, business operations and government policies. At COP15, the developed world promised to provide \$100 billion a year to developing countries for adaptation by 2020 – a pledge that remains largely unfulfilled. Developing countries also have to compete hard and wait a long time to secure even limited climate adaptation financing from the developed world. Since the rich nations are responsible for more than half of the global greenhouse emissions since the late 19th century, they must pay the loss and damage cost to the poor countries that are suffering the most from climate disasters they did not create. Adaptation may prepare these nations for the future impacts of climate change, but it cannot address their emergent needs in the face of current and persisting climate disasters. Only a loss and damage fund can cover the economic costs to livelihoods and property and non-economic costs to life, biodiversity and cultural heritage. The impacts from extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, as well as the slow-onset impacts that develop over time, such as the rise in sea level and melting of glaciers, are also beyond the scope of adaptation. There is a long backdrop to loss and damage, as small island states have been asking the high-emitting countries to compensate them for the rise in the sea level since 1991. The term "loss and damage" first appeared in the 2007 UN climate talks in Bali, which led to the launch of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage in 2013. As part of this mechanism, the Santiago Network was set up at COP25 in 2019 to provide developing countries with technical assistance and expertise for loss and damage solutions. When the group of 77 nations plus China pushed for the loss and damage fund at COP26 last year, the Glasgow Dialogue was initiated as a compromise solution. However, the US and its rich Western allies were reluctant to come on board during its debut meeting in June. They still are. At COP27 or before, only five European governments – Austria, Scotland, Belgium, Denmark and Germany – have committed to loss and damage funds worth \$241 million, with \$170 million of this coming from Berlin. This is too little, too little. Compare this to the staggering loss and damage being caused by extreme weather disasters in the developing nations. For example, this year's monsoon floods in Pakistan – a country that contributes just 0.8 percent of greenhouse gas emissions – affected

33 million people, a third of whom are at risk of being pushed into poverty. The loss and damage amount calculated by the World Bank and other international agencies is more than \$30 billion. At least \$16 billion will be needed for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Pakistan is among the 58 percent of the world's poorest countries that face the double jeopardy of being in debt distress and vulnerable to climate disasters simultaneously, according to the World Bank. The economic cost of loss and damage was previously estimated at \$290 billion to \$580 billion annually by 2030. The latest report states that these climate-stricken nations will need to secure \$1 trillion in external financing every year by 2030, and then match that with their own funds. Unfortunately, the US and other Western nations continue to evade climate responsibility by proposing lackluster solutions, such as the so-called Global Shield coordinated by the G7 and the Vulnerable Twenty group of countries, to strengthen insurance and disaster protection finance. They also try to pass the buck to disaster-stricken nations led by China, whose path to industrialization is relatively recent. The issue of loss and damage is also opposed on legal grounds, despite the fact that the Paris climate accord has in-built provisions against the liabilities of rich nations. The real issue here is about climate justice. The debate on loss and damage now occupies center stage in international climate discussions because a large part of humanity is facing existential danger. The Alliance of Small Island States, which pioneered the concept of loss and damage more than 30 years ago, has proposed setting up a response fund under UN auspices. COP27 can steer this course instead of wasting time on unworkable options such as securing private finance, taxing oil companies or sponsoring bilateral collaborations to tackle climate change. Going forward, ahead of COP28 in the UAE next year, loss and damage modalities can be worked out as to who should pay, how much and to which countries. Of course, the most deserving in this regard are the ones most suffering from both extreme weather events and slow-onset effects. Ultimately, the polluters have to pay the polluted according to the proportion of greenhouse emissions produced and the losses suffered and damage caused. – *Ishtiaq Ahmad is a member of the Planning Commission of Pakistan. A former journalist, he previously served as the vice chancellor at Sargodha University, Pakistan, and the Jinnah Chair at Oxford University in the UK.*

Samosa Caucus in US Congress and Pakistan

Imtiaz Gul

Let's first see how this influence spawns the American landscape. A key speechwriter for President Joe Biden is Vijay Reddy, an Indian American. Biden had, as of Sept 2022, appointed 130 Indian-Americans to key positions in his administration. This is the best representation thus far from a community that makes up around 1% of the 330 million American population. Two Indian-Americans, Manu Asthana and Madhu Beriwal, are part of Biden's 26-member National Infrastructure Advisory Council which...

IN the November 8 mid-term election to the US House of Representatives and the Senate, over 40 Indian-Americans made it to various offices across the country. Five of them – Shri Tanedar, Dr Ami Bera, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Pramila Jayapal – are now part of the 'Samosa Caucus' in the new-look Congress. What challenges does the 'Samosa Caucus' – they call themselves so – represent for a politically embattled and economically struggling Pakistan? What future does a country – where the elite have thrived at the cost of the dominant majority – have in view of the galloping Indian-American influence in the US political economy? Let's first see how this influence spawns the American landscape. A key speechwriter for President Joe Biden is Vijay Reddy, an Indian American. Biden had, as of Sept 2022, appointed 130 Indian-Americans to key positions in his administration. This is the best representation thus far from a community that makes up around 1% of the 330 million American population. Two Indian-Americans, Manu Asthana and Madhu Beriwal, are part of Biden's 26-member National Infrastructure Advisory Council which advises White House on how to reduce physical and cyber risks, and improve security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure sectors. Another Indian-American, Ajay Jain Bhutoria, is a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians

and Pacific Islanders. Prominent Indian-Americans who won in the mid-term election to various state legislatures include Arvind Venkat, Tarik Khan in Pennsylvania; Salman Bhojani and Suleman Lalani in Texas; Sam Singh and Ranjeev Puri in Michigan; Nabeela Syed, Megan Srinivas and Kavin Olickal in Illinois; Nabliah Islam and Farooq Mughal in Georgia; Kumar Bharve in Maryland; and Anita Samani in Ohio. The victors also include four Mayors. "Led by Sunder Pichai of Google and Satya Nadella of Microsoft, there are over two dozen Indian-Americans heading US firms. Among others are Shantanu Narayen of Adobe, Vivek Lall of General Atomics, Punit Renjen of Deloitte, and Raj Subramanian of FedEx. This is something to be proud of," said Raj Panjabi, a Senior Director for Global Health Security and Biodefence on the White House National Security Council at a celebration 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava' by 75 Indian-American organisations at the US Capitol. The theme for the celebration was Stronger Together: US-India Partnership. Panjabi underlined that "the US-India Strategic Partnership is grounded in our shared commitment to the rule of law and the promotion of human freedom and dignity." Whether or not such slogans would pass the test of principles and morality, the expansion of the Samosa Caucus in the US Congress stands out as the irreversible

rise of the Indian-American influence in the power corridors. This represents an incredulous upward mobility of the Indian diaspora in the US, where as many as 82 Muslims also made it to various representative positions in the mid-terms. This must indeed be worrisome for Pakistan, as the PDM government and the establishment struggle to douse flames from Imran Khan's rhetoric on the "consequences of the regime change", the quest for rule of law and 'haqeeqi azaadi', it is becoming increasingly problematic for Islamabad and Rawalpindi to make a case in Washington. Khan's latest vow for "good relationship with all including the US in future" sounds good but the key question is whether detractors would agree to 'move on' instead of repeatedly using the 'conspiracy narrative' that Khan had woven since March 27. Pakistan will certainly not perish without good relations with the US. But it will not either move forward if it continued to radiate hostility towards Washington, where policy-making currently is directly or otherwise influenced by the dozens of Indian-Americans around Biden. An intrinsic dislike – if not hatred – of Pakistan is natural for these key advisers. Our ruler elite will push the country into even deeper crisis and global isolation if they refuse to acknowledge the weight of the Indian-Americans in White House, State Department and the US Congress.

Briefs

Pakistan participation in Moscow...

FROM PAGE 01

At early years, almost US led allies who remained partners in war against Soviet Union from the soil of Afghanistan remained one and same but later they adopted strategies of its choices-mostly conflicting with each others. And such conflicting strategies has no posing adverse impacts on no other than Afghanistan and its people, now considered 'victims of an unwanted war or turmoil. No doubt to mention that at once, US was distancing from Tehrik Taliban Afghanistan after erupting of infighting amongst self-styled commanders of Peshawar made Jehadi groups and factions. But later, Talibanisation enabled the US to return and embark on so-called War on Terror from the soil of Afghanistan. The US later made a successful attempt of getting "entrance" into Taliban project, thus materializing its dreams eliminating Al Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden on one side and getting access to Pakistan modus operandi through Quetta Shura of TalibanTehrik on the other.

Though the US in the light of guerrilla type resistance soon after commencing of war on terror, went for revision of its policies but it got the final touches after ending of Republican President George W Bush tenure. Rifts or divisions amongst the Afghan leadership especially between President Ghani and Karzai, enabled the US strengthening its links with Taliban through its trust worthy Qatar, considered second most loyal and close to the Americans after Saudi Kingdom. All couldn't disagree with the fact that through guerrilla war, Taliban had failed in capturing a single inch in any part of Afghanistan but they succeeded in building up pressure against President Ghani through Doha Accord. Ex-President Hamid Karzai had also helped in mounting of pressure against Ghani by attending all sort of parlay in Doha, Moscow and Turkey. Now when Taliban succeeded in establishing its rule over Afghanistan, its top leaders especially those called as Qandaharis are distancing from Pakistan. Besides others, tension, clashes and shutting on Chaman and Torkham crossing points are order of the day. Alleged US drone attack on August 1st 2022 last, targeting Al Qaeda chief Dr. Aiman Al Zawahiri has made disheartened no other than the Haqqanis. Reshuffling in military establishment made in beginning of second week of August has also posed bad impacts on links between Taliban and Pakistan.

Likewise, is Pakistan's disappointment over violation of women rights and girls education as pointed out by Sadiq Khan, "despite assurances by the Interim Afghan Government, the rights of women and girls also appear to have regressed, not progressed." He further said, "the footprint of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, has yet to be fully eradicated." But he also pointed out failure of international community as saying, "this 'cascade' of unmet expectations, has unfortunately meant that critical support needed by Afghanistan to stave-off a grave humanitarian crisis, prevent an economic meltdown and to combat terrorism, have also faltered." Insisting on global community's early support, Pakistan special envoy said, "millions of Afghans are in desperate need of urgent humanitarian support including food, medicine and essential life supplies. The advent of the Afghan winter has exacerbated an already dire situation - the World Food Programme has already warned that over half the Afghan population could face a 'winter of famine' this year."

Though Sadiq Khan as an experienced diplomat made well explained presentation in Moscow Format but internally Kabul is unhappy on stock of issues. Like of 90's when Mullah Omar Akhund and the then acting Prime Minister Mullah Rabbani have refused to sign Pakistani documents regarding Durand Line, similar is the response of present set up in Kabul. Almost top Taliban leaders in their internal meetings and chats are showing sever resentment over Pakistan policies. The Taliban soldiers are in wait of opportunities for erecting the fenced warr, installed with financial support at different points of Durand Line.

12th Pak Mountain Festival set to kick off from Dec 1

The outcome will serve as a framework for mainstreaming of mountain heritage and culture with a focus on women's role in socioeconomic development, she said

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: All set to kick off a two-week long 12th edition of Pakistan Mountain Festival with a live painting competition on December 1. Other events include Trail-5 cleanup and an interactive session on mountain wildlife and biodiversity, Pakistan Mountain Youth Forum, and an exhibition of paintings. The grand event including a conference on "Cultural Heritage in the Changing Climate, Food Security and Mountain Women" and awards will be organized on December 9-12 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) under the patronage of National Heritage and Culture Division at Pakistan Pover-

ty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) are also supporting the grand event and conference. Speaking at a press briefing on Thursday at PNCA, the Federal Secretary National Heritage and Culture Division and chairperson of the grand event Fareena Mazhar said: Usually, we see the impact of climate change on life, livelihood and as a stress on the ecosystems and natural resources. This year, Ministry of National Heritage and Culture with the support of experts and communities representatives will be reviewing the impact of climate change on our heritage and culture in the changing times. Cultural heritage in the changing climate has been undermined in our country. Not

much is done. Even we didn't thought of taking up the mountain heritage conservation and promotion vigorously. Ms. Mazhar said "We are living in the era of climate change, evidently supported by science. Even those nations and sectors of industry who were in the state of denial have now accepted that climate change is happening and very fast. Pakistan is one of the most climate vulnerable countries, and in Pakistan, mountains and its women are the most neglected and vulnerable". The grand event will significantly highlight the challenges confronting mountain heritage and culture, women's socioeconomic empowerment. The outcome will serve as a framework for mainstreaming of

mountain heritage and culture with a focus on women's role in socioeconomic development, she said. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder of Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed said: The festival was founded in 2005 to raise awareness on the climate challenges being faced by the mountains of Pakistan and its communities. Promotion and mainstreaming of the mountain products, eco-tourism and culture is the backbone of the mountain economy. The festival is successfully providing the mountain communities market linkages downstream by promoting their goods and services. Munir Ahmed said: Pakistan needs to review its national and regional policies and programs

concerning the conservation of mountain resources. Mainstream of best practices in the realm of biodiversity conservation, environment and climate change, and highlighting the importance and marketing of the mountain ecosystem services shall be on the priority of the national and sub-national governments. Senior Joint Secretary National Heritage and Culture Division Abdul Sattar Khokahr said PNCA is preparing a genuine kalash dance that will be launched at the closing ceremony of the grand event. It is one of the effort to preserve the diminishing cultural heritage. Many initiatives are in pipeline under the guidance and supervision of a very proactive Federal Secretary Fareena Mazhar.



ANTWERP: Pakistan ambassador to Belgium, Asad Majeed Khan meets Pepin De Vreese, Chief Officer International Trade of the Port of Antwerp-Bruges and discussed ways to build partnerships in areas of mutual interest. - DNA

"Govt to bring in 'protective' Army Chief"

FROM PAGE 01

going to lodge cases against the Pakistani corrupt rulers in London and Dubai for carrying out "propaganda" against him and his party on the Watch issue. The PTI chairman added that the sitting rulers were trying to accuse him of wrongdoings the same which they had committed in the past. He criticized the government for its anti-masses economic policies and the current inflationary situation in the country and said the rulers should

pay attention on inflation instead of hiding its corruption and getting NRO on corruption charges. Meanwhile, Former prime minister expressed the fear that those who want him dead may try again as he said that the 'true' attacker was still at large. He said this on Thursday in an interview to French news outlet France24. In the interview, he said that his attackers may still feel that the job is not done, which is why he is now taking precautionary measures. "They think that the only way to

get me out of the way is actually [to] eliminate me. So I think that there is a threat, still," he said. Imran reiterated his accusation that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and a senior military official as being responsible for the November 3 Wazirabad attack because they feel threatened by him. The former prime minister added that the suspect apprehended soon after the attack in Wazirabad was just a 'decoy' the divert attention away from the real attacker who remains at large. He contested the official view that there was just a single attacker by maintaining that

he was shot at from two separate directions pointing to the presence of two attackers. Imran reiterated that he only trusts an investigation helmed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court to hold transparent investigations into the attack. He argued that any other investigation, especially one involving the country's powerful intelligence agencies could be influenced or tainted by the federal government. Despite the lingering threat, following which a bulletproof cubicle was erected atop his princely container, Imran vowed to rejoin his party's march in person when it reaches Rawalpindi later this month.

Macron says World Cup in Qatar 'should not be politicized'

Elysee said Macron will go to the Qatar if the country's national team reaches the semifinals, specifying that French president "wrote them a message"

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that "sports should not be politicized," days after it was announced - to criticism - that he would attend the World Cup in Qatar if France reaches the semifinals. Speaking in Bangkok, Macron said issues about Qatar's human rights record and the environment were "questions you have to ask yourself when you award the event." Qatar won the hosting rights for this year's tournament in a FIFA vote in 2010. The World Cup has sparked multiple controversies - from the living conditions of migrant workers to the impact on the environment of air-conditioned stadiums and place of LGBTQ people, women and minorities. First World Cup to be held in an Arab country opens on Sunday. On Monday, the presidential Elysee said Macron will go to the Qatar if the country's national team reaches the semifinals, specifying that French president "wrote them a message" to this effect. Last month, city of Paris said it will not broadcast World Cup matches on giant screens in public fan zones amid concerns about Qatar's human rights record. It follows similar moves by other French cities, despite France being the defending champion. - APP

North Korea threatens US with 'fiercer military counteraction'

DNA

PYONGYANG: North Korea threatened the US on Thursday with a "fiercer military counteraction" to its bolstered offer of extended deterrence to South Korea and Japan. Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui strongly reacted in a statement to the recent meeting of the leaders of the three countries in Cambodia, saying it will eventually result in the Korean Peninsula entering an unpredictable phase. "I clarify a serious warning stand toward the fact that the U.S., Japan and South Korea held a three-party summit a few days ago and talked about a 'bolstered offer of extended deterrence' and 'strong and resolute counteraction,' describing the DPRK's legitimate and just military counteractions, incited by their war drills for aggression, as 'provocation,'" said North Korean top diplomat said in that statement published by the state-run



Korean Central News Agency. US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit on the weekend.

Choe accused the US and its allies of staging large-scale war drills one after the other, warning that it would lead to greater instability for Washington and its allies. "They failed to contain the DPRK's overwhelming counteraction and, on the contrary, it resulted in increasing their security crisis," said the foreign minister. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have risen further following recent joint military drills by South Korea, and the US, as well as North Korean missile tests. Earlier on Thursday, North Korea fired another short-range ballistic missile into the East Sea. The missile launch was the first in slightly over a week, with the last missile fired by Pyongyang on Nov. 9. "The US will be well aware that it is gambling for which it will certainly regret," the North Korean foreign minister said, warning that increased military activity in the region would pose a more serious, realistic, and inevitable threat to the US and its vassal forces.

Australia cruise to six-wicket win over England

SPORTS DESK

OVAL: A superb Dawid Malan century was in vain as Australia cruised to a six-wicket win over England in their first one-day international at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday. Malan hit a stylish 134 as England made 287-9, but it never looked enough on a flat batting track that offered nothing for the bowlers. Australia were largely untroubled as they reached the target with 3.1 overs remaining. "It was a fantastic, team performance," Australian captain Pat Cummins said. "We came in here really fresh and keen to get back into it." The Australian openers had made light work of the England attack and were in control from the outset as both David Warner and Travis Head launched an all-out assault. They brought up the century partnership in just 88 balls, with only Ollie Stone able to contain the two left-handers. Neither looked in any danger until Head pulled a short ball from Chris Jordan straight to Phil Salt at deep square leg to fall for 69. Warner appeared headed for his first century in almost three years until, on 86, he pulled David Willey in the air and was well caught by Sam Billings at deep

backward square. But Steve Smith, who finished not out 80, was untroubled as he guided Australia home despite losing Marnus Labuschagne for four and Alex Carey for 21 along the way. "We've got plenty of Test cricket coming

up, to see Smithy play like this was really pleasing," Cummins said. Cummins won the toss and chose to bowl, and England were soon in trouble at 20-2 after four overs before Malan strode to the crease. When he departed, they were 259-8 with the next

highest score Jos Buttler's 29. The England captain, who four days ago lifted the Twenty20 World Cup trophy at the MCG, said he wasn't concerned at the result. "It's all about the character we showed," he said. "We wanted to play with intent. Dawid Malan played a fantastic innings and to get to that score from the position we were in was brilliant." Malan's 134, his second ODI century after the 125 he scored against the Netherlands in June, came off 128 deliveries, including 12 fours and four sixes. Cummins, playing his first match as captain following Aaron Finch's retirement, would have been delighted by Australia's start to the innings. They tied down the English opening pair with some tight line and length bowling, then made a double breakthrough. Cummins had Phil Salt caught at second slip by Smith on the last ball of the fourth over, and two balls later Mitchell Starc bowled the recalled Jason Roy with a beautiful delivery that swung back late. The Australian captain then put his side on top when James Vince edged to wicketkeeper Alex Carey. At 31-3 England were struggling but Malan stayed calm, starting slowly and then picking up the pace as the shine went off the ball.



Time to welcome Romania...

FROM PAGE 01

They have the tools, structures, and procedures in place to manage external borders, including possible security threats. They have highly trained and dedicated staff, state of the art infrastructure and knowhow. Bulgaria and Romania invited a fact-finding mission last month with 17 experts from MS together with experts from the Commission, and from our agencies Frontex, Europol and Fundamental Rights Agency. They assessed the developments of the legal framework, governance, and tools to manage effectively the Schengen area. This was an answer to some remaining questions from some Member States. This mission, not only reported very positively, but also reaffirmed the two countries readiness to join Schengen. They have reinforced the application of the acquis. For Croatia I would like to emphasize that, already last year, it was the first Member State to set up an Independent Monitoring Mechanism to guarantee the protection of fundamental rights at external borders. Only two weeks ago the Croatian Government signed an agreement to renew and reinforce this mechanism. The wait has been long, I should say too long. Expectations are high, rightly so - from authorities and at least from citizens. The European Parliament has adopted several resolutions to support enlargement. Overwhelmingly voting to support. Now, the Czech Presidency plan to have it on the agenda on the Home Affairs Council on 8 December. This will be a truly European decision. Schengen has survived the turbulence of recent years. These challenges have been surmounted because of a shared European spirit. And this spirit must continue - in our modern world. Because today Schengen is something very different from when it was created. We will soon introduce interconnected large scale IT systems, VISA information System, Schengen information system, we have Europol, we have Frontex.

And this is needed: we must have smart, strong, and interconnected control at our external borders. And intensive cooperation between law enforcement agencies and authorities. Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia are ready join, and I should say the European Union is ready to welcome. I expect MS to take this important, historical, positive decision. A moment of great pride, for the citizens of these countries. And most importantly a decision in all our interests, she added.

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SC dismisses petition...

FROM PAGE 01

the government had made any mechanism to regulate the protests. Justice Athar Minallah remarked that it was a matter for the executive and advised the petitioner to approach them. He said that the judiciary could intervene only in exceptional circumstances. He asked why should the court interfere when the administration could control the situation? Senator Kamran Murtaza said that the matter had gone too far as one person was killed in PTT's long march. Justice Ayesha Malik inquired that PTT's long march has been going on for a long time, had he approached the administration? She asked what was haste in the case of long march and what was the negligence of the administration? Senator Kamran Murtaza said that an entire province had been paralyzed due to the long march. - APP

US says Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01

candidate of a party versus another," Patel said, adding, "We support the peaceful upholding of democratic, constitutional, and legal principles." When the correspondent pressed for comments that Imran Khan had backed out of his narrative of holding the US responsible for his ouster, the spokesperson said, "We will not let propaganda, misinformation, and disinformation get in the way of any bilateral relationship, including our valued bilateral partnership with Pakistan. "As we've previously said, there has - there is not and there has never been a truth to these allegations, but I don't have anything additional to offer," Patel added.

Briefs

Xi, Kishida to meet as N. Korea fires missile

FOREIGN DESK

BANGKOK: The leaders of China and Japan will hold their first face-to-face talks in three years on Thursday, after North Korea fired the latest in a record-breaking missile blitz that has sent nuclear fears soaring. Chinese President Xi Jinping flies in to the talks in Bangkok from a G20 meeting in Bali where US President Joe Biden pressed him to use his influence to rein in Pyongyang's activities. As Xi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida prepared to meet, North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile and warned Washington and its allies to expect a "fiercer" military response. The pair will meet on the sidelines of a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) focused on pandemic recovery and the global economic turmoil unleashed by the war in Ukraine. Kishida's office condemned the latest launch by the North, which adds to a flurry that began earlier this month and has included an intercontinental ballistic missile. Seoul and Washington have warned the North could be preparing to carry out a nuclear test - which would be its seventh. Biden held a three-way summit in Phnom Penh last week with allies Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol to discuss the latest drama with the North. The trio issued a joint statement warning that any new nuclear test would be met with a "strong and resolute" response, without giving further details.

China calls Canada's manner condescending

BEIJING: A Chinese spokesperson on Thursday accused Canada of acting in a "condescending manner" following a tense exchange between President Xi Jinping and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that underscores the depths to which the bilateral relationship has fallen. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning's comments came after Xi chastised Trudeau at the G-20 summit on Wednesday over media reports on an earlier meeting during which Trudeau expressed concern about Chinese interference in Canada's internal affairs. The apparently spontaneous exchange with a translator present was captured on video. Mao denied China had ever interfered in the internal affairs of other nations and said Canada was responsible for the downturn in ties. "Canada should take concrete actions to create conditions for the improvement of China-Canada relations," she said at a daily briefing. - Agencies

Filipino families to flee amid typhoons

TACLOBAN: After Typhoon Haiyan's towering waves flattened scores of Philippines villages, Jeremy Garing spent days helping with recovery from the historic storm that left more than 7,300 people dead or missing and inflicted billions of dollars in damage. "I keep helping other people, but then at the end, you find out that all of your family is gone," Garing said, recalling those terrible times in 2013. "It's so painful." He and his wife Hyacinth Charm Garing lost seven relatives to the typhoon, including parents, siblings and their 1-year-old daughter. Holding up a cell phone photo of her smiling daughter Hywin, the 28-year-old mother still finds it hard to believe she is gone. Part of the wave of 5 million people displaced by the typhoon, the couple now lives in an inland community about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the coast in a community that was created by the government in response to the death and devastation of Haiyan. Days after the powerful typhoon, officials knew rebuilding wasn't an option because the historic storm wouldn't be the last. They announced a \$3.79 billion reconstruction plan that included housing for tens of thousands of storm survivors. - APP

EU, Kazakhstan address challenges with mutual trust

According to Tokayev, the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between EU and Kazakhstan marked the beginning of a new stage of deepening cooperation in all areas

NEWS DESK

ASTANA: The European Union (EU) and Kazakhstan address common challenges with mutual trust and respect, said EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell at a Nov. 17 meeting with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, reported the Akorda press service. "I am glad that the EU and Kazakhstan are good partners. My visit coincided with the start of a serious reform process to transform the country and make it more open, inclusive, and democratic," said Borrell, highlighting positive dynamics in the development of relations between Astana and Brussels. During the meeting, the sides discussed prospects for strengthening economic and investment ties between Kazakhstan and the EU. Welcoming Josep Borrell, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted the importance of his visit to Astana from the viewpoint of strengthening the Kazakhstan-EU interaction. According to Tokayev, the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Kazakhstan, which entered into force in March 2020, marked the beginning of a new stage of deepening cooperation in all areas. "We welcome high-level contacts between Kazakhstan and the EU. I think we have reached an agreement on many aspects of our cooperation. In this respect, I would like to praise President of the European Council Charles Michel's very productive visit and



my discussions with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. I would also like to welcome the pact signed in Egypt by Kazakhstan's Prime Minister and Ursula von der Leyen. This is a very concrete step toward cooperation," Tokayev said. In turn, Josep Borrell thanked Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for a warm welcome and emphasized positive dynamics of the EU-Kazakhstan relations development. "I am pleased to note that EU

and Kazakhstan are good partners. We speak about common challenges with mutual trust and respect. My visit takes place in a very important period, when you have launched serious reforms and transformations, to make your country more open, more inclusive and more democratic," the EU High Representative said. While answering the question, "What do you hope to achieve during this visit to Kazakhstan?" Josep Borrell said, "This year has been a

challenging one for Kazakhstan, the European Union and globally. My visit is a timely opportunity to reaffirm the EU's commitment to Kazakhstan as a valuable partner. We support President Tokayev's ambitious socio-economic and political reform programme aimed to make Kazakhstan more open, inclusive, and democratic. My wish for Kazakhstan is that it implements these reforms, approved by referendum in June, with determination and steadfastness, and to

continue with further democratic reforms. I welcome that OSCE/ODHIR has been invited to observe the upcoming Presidential election.

The upcoming elections are an important opportunity for Kazakhstan to demonstrate its will to embark on a new model of governance. I also continue to encourage Kazakhstan to conduct an independent and transparent investigation into the tragic events of January this year. In order for Kazakhstan to turn the page there must be justice and accountability. On a regional level, we look forward to the EU-Central Asia Connectivity Conference to take place in Samarkand, 18 November, and the commitment on both sides to strengthening cooperation, develop green energy and sustainable connectivity. In the follow-up to the COP27 climate conference held in Egypt, we also hope to reinforce our cooperation on sustainable energy, including on methane reduction, in order to jointly combat climate change, while highlighting the importance of EU - Central Asia connectivity conference in Samarkand, he said. The goal of the EU-Central Asia Connectivity Conference Global Gateway is to develop a joint vision of the participants' contribution to sustainable connectivity among Central Asian countries and between the EU and Central Asia. The Samarkand Conference provides an opportunity work together to deliver sustainable connectivity that offer us greater prosperity and higher living standards while supporting the transition to a de-carbonised, green economy.

Pakistan has taken steps to improve business environment

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has taken a number of steps to enhance the ease of doing business, Ambassador Masood Khan has told Pakistani-American businessmen in Los Angeles, California, urging them to become part of the country's economic transformation. "Pakistan is an ideal destination for U.S. investors and businesses due to its unique geo-economic position and impressive demographic cohorts", he said at a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Pakistan-American Chamber of Commerce (PACC) on Wednesday. The event was also attended by a select group of businessmen working in textile, banking, logistics, solar and fintech sectors as well as healthcare professionals.

Speaking to the participants, the Pakistani envoy appreciated the work done by the Chamber to promote trade and investment ties between Pakistan and the U.S. While bilateral trade between the two countries jumped from US\$ 8.5 to 12 billion last year, there was potential to increase it further by enhancing economic cooperation in targeted areas such as technology, IT, tourism, extractive industry, oil and gas exploration, manufacturing, healthcare and agriculture. The Ambassador also underscored the need for growing trade ties with the State of California, which has a GDP of US\$ 3.5 trillion. Pakistan and California were important trade partners. In the past year, Pakistan's exports to California were

US\$ 457 million, whereas Pakistan's imports were US\$ 138 million, with a surplus of US\$ 319 million in Pakistan's favor. The overall volume of trade between Pakistan and California was US\$ 600 million, which was significant but needed to be scaled up given growing investment in IT and services sectors. Despite being a big market, he said, Pakistan's economy was undervalued and underestimated. Eighty U.S. companies and enterprises were successfully doing business in Pakistan for decades and making substantial profits. Masood Khan urged the members to have confidence in Pakistan's economy and scale up their businesses in Pakistan as this would encourage others to invest. While noting their concerns regard-

ing the regulatory regimes in Pakistan, the Ambassador said measures have been taken to streamline taxation, enforce intellectual property rights, liberalize business visa regime and implement cyber laws. As a result, he said last year out of US\$ 257 million FDI from U.S., a total of US\$ 203 million profits had been repatriated. A number of companies from France, China, Germany, Singapore, South Korea and Japan were investing in Pakistan, particularly in the IT sectors. Masood Khan also encouraged the Chamber members to closely work with U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) which were investing in bankable projects in Pakistan particularly in the alternate energy sector. -APP

Rising temperatures boost olive growing

LJUBUSKI: Winemaker and olive grower Jure Susac's land in Bosnia used to be blanketed with frost or even snow by autumn's end, but years of rising temperatures now mean balmy weather late into the year. It was 28 degrees Celsius (82 Fahrenheit) as his family and friends used plastic rakes to help harvest olives in the last days of October, under a radiant sky. Man-made global warming has amplified extreme events like destructive floods and droughts on Earth, but in Bosnia's southern Herzegovina region olive growing is booming in its warmer weather. "The climate has changed here," Susac, 68, told AFP. "Winters are no longer extreme, neither is the spring. We practically have no more ice." Locals said the region last saw snowflakes in February 2012. The higher average

temperatures give olive trees the conditions they need to grow, and from 2015-2020 the Balkan country's production more than tripled to 985 tons, official numbers show. "Olive trees are not at risk of being frozen in winter and damaged," said Susac, who plans to double his number of trees to 400. He was encouraged to expand after an extremely good harvest - five tons of olives, which should yield around 16 litres of oil per 100 kilograms (220 pounds). Back in 1989, Susac was among the first in the region to dare to plant a few olive trees. "I sought advice from some elderly neighbours who told me that it was never done here, they even mocked me a bit." "But, I proved them wrong," said Susac who with his wife runs a three-hectare property, 30 kilometres. - APP

UK pledges to help vulnerable during crisis

LONDON: U.K. Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt has pledged help to the most vulnerable weather Britain's cost-of-living crisis, even as he announced a raft of spending cuts and tax increases designed to mend the country's battered finances. Hunt promised Thursday to spend billions pounds on programs including welfare benefits, government pensions and help for low-income residents struggling to pay their energy bills. He says that while difficult decisions are needed to restore Britain's economic credibility those who rely on the government should not suffer. Pensioners also were protected. Britain's inflation rate accelerated to 41-year high in October, fueling calls for the government to do more to ease the impact of rising food, energy and housing prices. Those demands come as government finances are being squeezed by slowing economic growth and pressure to begin reducing public debt built up over the last 15 years as Britain battled the global financial crisis, coronavirus pandemic and the fallout from the war in Ukraine. Saying the U.K. faces "unprecedented global headwinds," Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt is unveiling tax increases and spending cuts in a speech to the House of Commons in a bid to tame double-digit inflation and rein in a growing deficit. He says the budget will "tackle the cost-of-living crisis and rebuild our economy. - Agencies

Myanmar releasing 4 foreigners in prisoner amnesty

WEB DESK

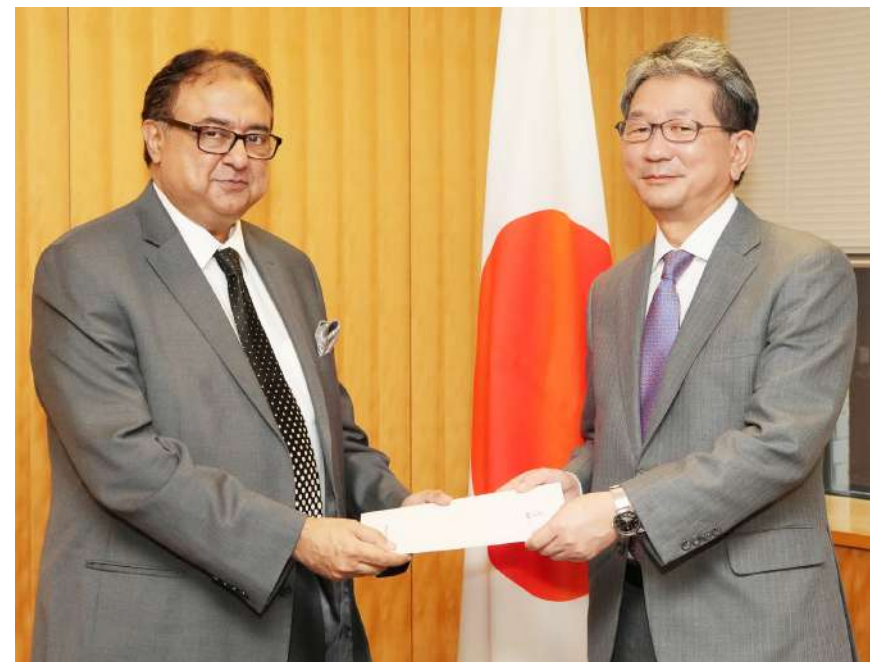
BANGKOK: Myanmar's military-controlled government announced Thursday it was releasing and deporting an Australian academic, a Japanese filmmaker, an ex-British diplomat and an American as part of a broad prisoner amnesty to mark the country's National Victory Day. Australian Sean Turnell, Japan's Toru Kubota, Briton Vicky Bowman, and American Kyaw Htay Oo, as well as 11 local Myanmar celebrities, were among a total of 5,774 prisoners who were being released, Myanmar's state-run MRTV reported. The imprisonment of the foreign nationals had been a source of friction between Myanmar's leaders and their home governments, which had been lobbying for their release. According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a rights monitoring organization, 16,232 people have been detained on political charges in Myanmar since the army ousted the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February last year. Of those arrested, 13,015 were still in detention as of Wednesday, the AAPP reported. Additionally, at least 2,465 civilians have been killed by security forces in the same period, the group says, though the number is thought to be far higher. Amnesty International Australia's Tim O'Connor welcomed the decision to release Turnell, saying like many others, he should never have been arrested or jailed.

Eurozone annual inflation hit record 10.6%

ANKARA :Euro area annual consumer inflation hit a record high of 10.6% in October, below forecasts, according to Euro stat data released Thursday. The figure was up from 9.9% in September and 4.1% in October 2021, Euro stat said. Provisional data had projected a 10.7% annual hike in consumer prices for the month. The rise mainly stemmed from higher prices for energy, up 41.5% year-on-year in October. Food, alcohol and tobacco followed with a 13.1% jump from a year ago. EU annual inflation came in at 11.5% in October, up from 10.9% in September. The highest annual rates were seen in Estonia (22.5%), Lithuania (22.1%), and Hungary (21.9%), while the lowest were seen in France (7.1%), Spain (7.3%). -APP

Kazakhstan holds snap polls after deadly riots

ALMATY: Kazakhstan will hold snap presidential elections Sunday expected to cement the incumbent Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's grip on power, months after deadly unrest spurred a historic power shift in the Central Asian country. Leading up to the vote, Tokayev has promoted himself as a reform leader capable of bringing the country together after earlier this year authorising law enforcement to "shoot to kill" anti-government protesters. His vast, ex-Soviet country is precariously perched geopolitically, with historic economic and military ties with Moscow and Beijing emerging as a regional power broker. The 69-year-old has vowed to build "a new Kazakhstan," including by liberalising the judicial system and tackling corruption in the oil-rich country. But deep social inequality that was at the origin of the January protests - which left more than 230 people dead - remains a problem in Kazakhstan and a potential political threat for the incumbent. Tokayev became leader in 2019 and has since stymied opposition to his rule and consolidated power by sidelining his authoritarian predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev. He is facing five little-known challengers as he seeks a seven-year term in the early vote he initiated in September, saying he needed a "new mandate of trust from the people." Elections were initially scheduled in December 2024, but in March, he introduced constitutional reforms to curb the powers of the president and boost the role of parliament, spurring the early ballot. International observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have criticised Kazakhstan's failure to meet electoral recommendations, including on "conditions of eligibility and registration of candidates." "There is no credible candidate. There is no real choice. I'll be voting against all of them," said Asset Terigaliyev. - APP



TOKYO: Raza Bashir Tarar, Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Japan handed over copy of his credentials to Takeo Mori, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Black Sea grain export deal extended

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: An agreement had been reached to extend the Black Sea grain initiative by 120 days, as confirmed by President Recep Tayyip Erdo an and the United Nations, with parties stressing the importance of Türkiye's mediator and guarantor role in enabling the grain and foodstuff to leave war-shadowed Ukraine ports. "As a result of four-way talks hosted by Türkiye, the Black Sea Grain Corridor Agreement was extended for 120 days as of Nov. 19, 2022, in line with the decision taken between Türkiye, the United Nations, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine," said Erdo an on Twitter. Erdo an thanked U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "for their willingness to extend the agreement." The announcement came as Erdo an flew home from Indonesia where he attended the G-20 summit. Speaking to reporters, Er-

do an said Ankara's role of mediation in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, from prisoner exchange to the grain deal, was appreciated by the international community. The export of more than 11 million tons of grains in the last four months has shown the deal's importance for global food security, Erdo an also said. Amid soaring food prices, Türkiye has spoken with Russia about sending grain to several African countries free of charge, Erdo an also said. "The most important topic Mr. (President Vladimir) Putin brought up was sending this grain to African countries free of charge, to countries such as Mali, Djibouti, Sudan and Somalia." "We will also contribute to its free delivery," Erdo an said he told Putin. He also said that during the meeting in Bali with US President Joe Biden, Biden thanked him for Türkiye's role in starting and continuing the landmark grain corridor deal Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov initially announced the extension

of the deal with parties were set to release a joint statement. "This decision was just taken in Istanbul. The United Nations and Türkiye remain guarantors of the Initiative," Kubrakov said in a Twitter statement. "We officially appealed to the partners with a proposal to extend the Initiative for 1 year and to include the Mykolaiiv port in it. It is also important to ensure the effective operation of the JCC (Joint Coordination Centre). We submit our proposals for solving existing problems," he also wrote. The Ukrainian minister added that they "are waiting for official announcement from the leaders of the United Nations and Türkiye." Zelenskyy later said in a Twitter statement: "Grain Deal will be prolonged for 120 days. Ukraine together with (U.N. Secretary-General) Antonio Guterres and (Turkish President) Recep Tayyip Erdo an made key decision in the global fight against the food crisis. Waiting for official announcement from partners - Türkiye and U.N." Russia's Foreign Ministry

also later confirmed the extension of the deal for 120 days starting from Nov. 18, without any changes to the current one, it said in a statement on Thursday. The United Nations secretary-general said on Thursday he welcomed an agreement by all parties to extend the Black Sea grain deal to facilitate Ukraine's agricultural exports from its southern Black Sea ports. "I welcome the agreement by all parties to continue the Black Sea grain initiative to facilitate the safe navigation of export of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukraine," U.N. Secretary-General Guterres said in a statement. Guterres said the U.N. was also "fully committed to removing the remaining obstacles to exporting food and fertilizers from the Russian Federation" - a part of the deal Moscow sees as critical. Top European Union officials have hailed the development. "This is good news for a world that badly needs access to grain and fertilizers," European Council President Charles Michel tweet-

ed, praising the work of the United Nations. Touting EU initiatives to help Ukraine export grain, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen praised U.N. Secretary General António Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo an. Von der Leyen said the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative "helps avoid global food shortages and brings down prices despite Russia's war." The initial deal reached in July has helped stave off a global food crisis by allowing the export of food and fertilizers from several of Ukraine's Black Sea ports that had been blockaded by Russia. The JCC with officials from the three countries and the U.N. has also been set up in Istanbul to oversee the shipments. So far, some 11.08 million tons of agricultural products have been shipped, including 4.5 million tons of corn. Shipments of wheat have reached 3.2 million tons, or 29% of the total. Other commodities shipped include rapeseed, sunflower oil, sunflower meal and barley.

Briefs

South African Defence Force Chief calls on CJCSC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya who is on official visit to Pakistan, called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Nadeem Raza here at Joint Staff Headquarters. During the meeting, both sides deliberated upon various areas of interest, bilateral cooperation including security, counter-terrorism and prevailing regional environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The dignitaries dilated upon measures to enhance the level and scope of military engagements between both countries and reaffirmed to continue to forge deeper ties. The CJCSC said that Pakistan was keen to expand its existing bilateral military to military cooperation with South Africa. The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism.

Torkham: Bid to smuggle huge foreign currency foiled

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Customs officials have foiled the two smuggling bids of foreign currency at Torkham border and seized an amount of \$40,000 from two passengers traveling to Afghanistan during the last five days. According to the Customs department, the organization was carrying out strict vigilance on specific information on the smuggling of foreign currency through borders. During the last five days, the department made two seizures totaling \$40,000 - \$20,000 each from two passengers during the body search and luggage scanning at the Torkham border crossing point. As per details, the Customs staff of Enforcement intercepted an Afghan passenger namely Aqdas Aerial, daughter of Gul Muhammad having Passport No. P00149377 on Thursday.

Pakistan and Russia seal road transport deal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Communications Minister Maulana Asad Mehmood met Russian Transport Minister Vitaly Savelyev. The duo sealed a road transport deal. The accord will facilitate easy transportation of goods and travel by road between Pakistan and Russia. Transport operations will be carried out on the basis of road transport permits and it was agreed that a joint working group would be formed to draw operational modalities and review implementation issues. - DNA

Korean govt donates USD 1.5 mn for Afghan refugees

The representatives of the UN agencies expressed their gratitude to the Ambassador, Govt of Korea and the Korean people for their steadfast support and humanitarian assistance to the plight of Afghan Refugees

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of the Republic of Korea in its commitment to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan Refugees in Pakistan donated \$1.5 million USD for the year 2023 to three United Nations Agencies on 17th November, 2022. A ceremony was held in this regards at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Islamabad, where the Korean Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Dr. Luay Shabaneh, the Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Palitha Mahipala, and the Deputy Representative of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Ms. Rathi Palakrishnan. Each of the United Nations Agencies received half a million USD aimed at providing lifesaving food assistance, continued healthcare to Afghan Refugees along with assisting specific Mother and Child, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) projects. Speaking at the ceremony, the representatives of the UN agencies expressed their gratitude to the Ambassador, Government of Korea and the Korean people for their steadfast support and humanitarian assistance to the plight of the Afghan Refugees.



Europe has expelled 400 Russian spies this year

ANKARA: A top British intelligence official said on Wednesday that European countries have this year expelled hundreds of Russian officials who are believed to be spies. "This year, a concerted campaign has seen a massive number of Russian officials expelled from countries around the world, including more than 600 from Europe - over 400 of whom we judge are spies," Ken McCallum said in a speech at MI5's headquarters. McCallum said that this is "the most significant strategic blow" against the Russian intelligence services in recent European history in addition to coordinated waves of sanctions. "We've continued to work intensively to make the UK the hardest possible operating environment for Russian covert action," he stated. McCallum also underlined that Britain also refused 100 diplomatic visa applications on national security grounds. "The UK must be ready for Russian aggression for years to come," he added. - APP

More Russian missile strikes, as fighting rages in eastern Ukraine

DNA

KYIV: Russia again unleashed missiles on Thursday against Ukrainian energy facilities, while its forces stepped up attacks in eastern Ukraine, reinforced by troops pulled from Kherson city in the south which Kyiv recaptured last week. NATO and Poland concluded that a missile that crashed in Poland on Tuesday, killing two people, was probably a stray fired by Ukraine's air defences and not Russian. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy contested this view in a rare public disagreement with his Western allies. As the winter's first snow fell in Kyiv, authorities said they were working hard to restore power nationwide after Russia earlier this week unleashed what Ukraine said was the heaviest bombardment of civilian infrastructure of the nine-month war. Explosions resounded in cities including the southern port of Odesa, the capital Kyiv, the central city of Dnipro and the southeastern region of Zaporizhzhia, where officials said two people were

killed. "Missiles are flying over Kyiv right now," Interfax Ukraine news agency quoted Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal as saying. Zelenskyy posted video footage, apparently shot from a car cam, showing a driver's journey through Dnipro being interrupted by a huge blast ahead that sent flames and black smoke pouring into the sky. "No matter what the terrorists want, no matter what they try to achieve, we must get through this winter and be even stronger in the spring than we are now, even more ready for the liberation of our entire territory than we are now," he said. At least 15 people were wounded in Dnipro, three were hurt in the northeastern city of Kharkiv and at least one was injured in Odesa, local officials said. State energy company Naftogaz said gas production facilities in eastern Ukraine had been damaged or destroyed. Other sites struck included the huge Pivdenmash defence plant in Dnipro. The United Nations' humanitarian office (OCHA) warned of a serious humanitarian crisis in Ukraine this winter, with millions facing "constant power cuts". On a happier note, a deal aimed

at easing global food shortages by facilitating Ukraine's agricultural exports from its southern Black Sea ports was extended for 120 days, though Moscow said its own demands were yet to be fully addressed. President Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, which helped forge the Black Sea grain deal, said he had been informed after U.S.-Russia talks in Ankara earlier this week aimed at reducing tensions over Ukraine that neither party would use nuclear weapons, according to a readout of his comments to reporters. The Kremlin later said that no Russian officials were considering the use of nuclear weapons. It also accused Kyiv of moving the goalposts regarding possible peace talks and called on Washington to push Ukraine towards diplomacy. Separately, Moscow said it would "examine" the opinion of a Dutch court that ruled that a Malaysian airliner was shot down over eastern Ukraine in 2014 by a Russian-made missile. The court also said Russia had "overall control" of the separatist forces in eastern Ukraine at the time.

Russia 'ultimately responsible' for Poland blast: Blinken

BANGKOK: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Thursday that Russia bore responsibility for a deadly blast in Poland, where an initial probe pointed to Ukrainian air defences. Addressing reporters at an Asia-Pacific summit in Bangkok, Blinken said that he had spoken again with his Ukrainian counterpart on the probe but added: "Whatever its final conclusion, we already know the party ultimately responsible for this tragic incident - Russia." "What we are seeing every single day now is Russia raining missiles down on Ukraine, seeking to destroy its critical infrastructure, targeting the ability that Ukraine has to keep the lights on, to keep the heat going, to allow the country simply to live and move forward," he said. "Ukraine has the right to defend itself and we are committed to supporting Ukraine." - APP

JIT starts probe into attack on Imran Khan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) has started the investigation process to probe the assassination bid on former Prime Minister Imran Khan in Wazirabad. According to the sources, the two members of the JIT reached Wazirabad and officially started investigations. Syed Khurram Ali Shah and Naseebullah investigated the crime scene. Additionally, spots were also identified to obtain more digital evidence from the crime scene. Sources also said that the members will hand over the task to the investigation team in Wazirabad. Accused Naveed will be presented before the court soon for physical remand.

Baghdad airport hit by second fire in three days

The premier also demanded a probe into the contract procedures for the automatic fire suppression system, which - the statement said - had not been functional since 2013

BAGHDAD: Iraq opened an investigation on Thursday after a second fire broke out at Baghdad airport within three days, prompting the prime minister to sack three airport officials. There were no casualties in the latest blaze, which damaged several airline offices in the two-storey Nineveh Terminal. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani travelled to the airport to be briefed on a probe launched following the fire, his office said. He relieved the director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, the director of Baghdad International Airport and the director of Airport Security of their duties, according to a press release from his office. The premier also demanded a probe into the contract procedures for the automatic fire suppression system, which - the statement said - had not been functional since 2013. He further demanded to identify the individuals responsible for the incident. The latest fire came after three people were lightly hurt on Tuesday when a blaze broke out in a refreshments area in the departures lounge of one of the terminals. Sudani emphasised the need for a thorough investigation "to find out the real reasons behind the recurrence of the fire". He also ordered a review of the airport's safety system, emergency precautions and security procedures. Conflict, neglect and endemic corruption have left Iraq's infrastructure in disrepair. Safety standards in both the transport and construction sectors are frequently flouted, and accidents are common. Baghdad airport has undergone no major renovations since it opened in 1980s under the rule of late dictator Saddam Hussein. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik presenting a souvenir to Lt. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, Commanding General of US Army Central. - DNA

PAF aircraft's cynosure attracts visitors at IDEAS 2022

ISLAMABAD: The 11th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar, IDEAS 2022 was in full swing, at Karachi Expo Center whereas the 3rd day of the event was marked with special interest of visitors in the static displays of 'Pride of Pakistan' JF-17 Thunder and Super Mushak Trainer Aircraft. A keen interest was shown by the foreign delegates and the military officials in the aircraft displayed at PAF's pavilion in the event. Whereas, the onlookers, delegates and foreign dignitaries were thoroughly briefed about the technical specifications of the aircraft, with a complete overview of their countless adjectives. The most modern aircraft at the display gathered appreciation for their cutting edge design and innovative technical features, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release here received said. The National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), being a project of National significance, remained the most appreciated and admired project at the event. The NASTP project as per CAS vision and his own initiative has materialized in record time. PAF personnel briefed the visitors about the NASTP project its core elements,

sub-projects and possible future prospects. The concept videos of various NASTP programs were shown to sketch the overall working of different wings established under the project. With the complete support of the government and under the patronage of the Pakistan Air Force, NASTP had been envisioned to set up a state-of-the-art Special Technology Zone (STZ), housing, high-tech aerospace technologies; design centres; public, private, national and international Aviation Industry; MRO facilities for commercial and military aircraft, aviation logistics, expo centres and advanced vocational training institutes. The broad contours of the project were admired by both national and international audience at the exhibition. The mega event will pave the way for future defence collaborations with friendly countries, specifically in projects like NASTP and would provide a perfect eco-system of essential elements required to nurture design, research, development and innovation in aviation, space and cyber domains. The exhibition will also attract potential buyers and developers in the international defence market for indigenously developed products. - APP

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Islamabad POST
11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165