



Islamabad POST

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Elections will be held as per the schedule : Shehbaz

Detailed News On Page-01

Korean music night provides feast to Islos

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WC; Morocco defeat Belgium in a thriller

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Briefs

COAS lauds Fauji Foundation role in healthcare

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief Of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday visited and inaugurated various healthcare projects of Fauji Foundation. The COAS was briefed regarding newly constructed projects including Artificial Limb Centre (ALC) which is a most modern facility offering modern solutions in its field and about Foundation University Nursing College which has the capacity to accommodate 396 students, an ISPR news release said

Physical remand approved

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A court in Islamabad on Sunday approved Senator Azam Swati's two-day physical remand after he was presented before the magistrate following his arrest today morning for controversial tweets against senior military officers. Magistrate Waqas Ahmed Raja announced the verdict he had reserved after hearing arguments from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Swati's lawyers. The FIA had requested Swati's physical remand for eight days but only two days were granted.

Dawar stopped at airport

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Democratic Movement (NDM) MNA M o h s i n Dawar was stopped Sunday at Islamabad International Airport while leaving for Tajikistan to attend the Herat Security Dialogue. As per the details, the lawmaker was stopped by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) before international departure. Meanwhile, Dawar said that his name has been removed from the ECL for two months.

PM rules out early elections

Says his government came into being through a constitutional process and enjoys mandate of the people

NEWS DESK

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the next general elections in the country "will be held on time," that is after August 2023. "Let me make it absolutely clear that the next elections will be held on time," PM Shehbaz told Turkish News Agency in an interview. He was responding to questions about his predecessor and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's demand for early elections. "This government came into being through a constitutional process and enjoys the mandate of the people of Pakistan," he added. "The term of the current National Assembly will end in August 2023 to be followed by the establishment of an interim government that will hold elections," the prime minister explained. The present coalition government has "representation of all political parties of the country except the PTI and is busy dealing with the issues of great importance." Notably, PTI chief Imran said on Saturday his party has decided to resign from all provincial assemblies, a move seen as a fresh bid to push the government for early elections in the country. PM Shehbaz, who was elected prime minister in April after his predecessor Imran Khan lost a vote of confidence, said Pakistan's economy "was facing multiple global and

Continued on Page 06

Will dissolve PA on Khan's call: Elahi

ALI HAMZA

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Perviz Elahi said Sunday he won't "wait for a minute" to dissolve the provincial assembly if PTI Chairman Imran Khan asks him to. "Imran Khan entrusted the Punjab government to [me]. We stand with those whom we support," the chief minister — whose party, PML-Q, is an ally of the PTI — said in a video statement. The chief minister of Pakistan's biggest province warned the Shehbaz Shari-led coalition government in the Centre that in case PTI and its exit the country's assemblies, then their "government, which expands over a mere 27kms, won't last for the next 27 hours". The PML-Q's senior leader added that Khan's plan entered its "decisive round" during the Rawalpindi jalsa on Saturday and that once the PTI and its allies start resigning from the assemblies, the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) government would start falling on its own. Elahi's statement came after Khan — who has ended the long march .

Belarus FM Makei dies suddenly

Makei promised that there would be no attack on Ukraine from the territory of Belarus

DNA

MINSK: Belarus's long-standing foreign minister has died suddenly, the state news agency Belta reported on Saturday, two days before he was meant to meet his Russian counterpart. "Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei has passed away suddenly," Belta reported without giving further detail. Makei had held his post since 2012. Makei, 64, attended a conference of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) — a military alliance of several post soviet states — in Yerevan earlier this week and was due to meet Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on Monday. Before the presidential elections and mass anti-government protests in Belarus in 2020, Makei had been one of the initiators of efforts to improve Belarus' relations with the West and had criticised Russia. However, he abruptly changed his stance after the start of the protests, saying they were inspired by agents of the West.

Imran attitude undemocratic says Ahsan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said coalition parties would not allow Imran Khan to dissolve the provincial assemblies for the "sake of his ego". "Imran is continuously adopting an undemocratic attitude," he added. Talking to a private news channel, the minister said that Imran's announcement to dissolve the provincial assemblies was just for political pressure, and even his own party members would not agree with his decision. Castigating the PTI chief, the federal minister said Imran Khan was never a democrat as "he destroyed the political and social virtues in the country". Ahsan Iqbal held that in Imran's era the political victimization was at its "worst".

Gen Sahir assumes charge of CJCSC

Simple but impressive ceremony held at the Joint Headquarters



RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamsad Mirza assumes charge as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, on Sunday, during a simple but impressive ceremony held at the Joint Headquarters. — DNA

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In an impressive ceremony held at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi, General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, HI (M) assumed the appointment of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, today. Besides large number of serving and

retired officers from tri-services, the ceremony was attended by former Chairmen Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. A smartly turned out Joint Services guard presented salute as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee arrived at the venue. General Sahir Shamsad Mirza, HI (M) reviewed the guard of honour and March past .

N. Korea plans 'world's powerful' nuclear force

Kim said North Korea had demonstrated to the world "the confident, ever-victorious future of our state advancing toward the goal of building the world's strongest army."

NEWS DESK

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is planning to build "the world's most powerful" nuclear force, state news agency KCNA reported on Sunday. The "ultimate goal" behind North Korea's nuclear program was to possess an "absolute force, unprecedented in the century," Kim said Saturday as part of an order promoting dozens of military officials, the agency reported. The order comes after what North Korea said was a "test firing of a new kind" of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on November 18. The missile was a Hwasong-17, according to KCNA, a huge rocket that is theoretically capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the United States mainland. Kim commended the officials who developed the new missile in his comments. He called the missile "the world's strongest strategic weapon" and said it represented "a wonderful leap forward in the develop-

ment of the technology of mounting nuclear warheads on ballistic missiles." With the development of the new ICBM, Kim said North Korea had demonstrated to the world "the confident, ever-victorious future of our state advancing toward the goal of building the world's strongest army." In a letter sent to Kim recently, scientists from North Korea's Academy of Defense Science said the test firing marked a "great historic victory" for the country and demonstrated North Korea's sovereignty. Kim himself attended the launch with a child believed to be his daughter, Ju Ae. Pyongyang also released a video of the missile launch, only the third time it has done so since 2017, according to Ankit Panda, senior fellow in the nuclear policy program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. While the test did show Pyongyang can launch a large ICBM and keep it aloft for more than an hour, North Korea still hasn't demonstrated the ability to place a warhead atop a long-range ballistic missile — projectiles.

Pak concerned over BJP's role in Gujrat riots

World urged to take note of the aggravating situation of Islamophobia in India

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday expressed grave concern over the confirmation of BJP leadership's direct involvement in anti-Muslim violence during the horrific Gujarat riots of 2002 that led to the killing of over two thousand Muslims. Pakistan also urged India to immediately constitute an independent commission of inquiry to bring the culprits of the horrific Godhra incident, as well as the Gujarat riots, to justice. "The recent statement by the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shantersinh Vaghela, has confirmed Pakistan's long-standing assertion that the BJP-led government under the incumbent Prime Minister — who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the time of anti-Muslim riots in Godhra — was directly responsible for fomenting violence and massacre of Muslims," Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. This has been further corroborated indirectly by the Indian Home Minister, who recently claimed that those responsible for the Gujarat riots had been "taught a lesson" and "permanent peace" had been established in Gujarat by BJP's

decisive actions. Pakistan also stressed upon the international community, particularly human rights activists and defenders to take serious note of the aggravating situation of Islamophobia in India; and called on the Indian government to ensure that the rights of minorities in India, especially Muslims, were safeguarded and their lives protected, it was added. The spokesperson said "It is most deplorable that the crimes against humanity, targeting Muslims, were perpetrated solely for BJP's political gains. Regrettably, the BJP once again seeks to cash in on its divisive policies two decades after the Gujarat tragedy." Under BJP rule, India's treatment of its minorities, especially Indian Muslims, had been discriminatory, degrading, and full of hate and violence. In June this year, the Supreme Court of India handed a clean chit to the current Prime Minister, the then CM of Gujarat, for his role in the 2002 Gujarat riots. The Supreme Court shut down as many as 11 petitions, including one filed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India, seeking an independent probe into the 2002 Gujarat riots cases.

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Imran finally calls it a day; better late than never

Analysis

Ansar M Bhatti



PTI Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan announced in his public gathering on November 26 that PTI members will be resigning from all assemblies contending that there was no point in remaining part of the system that according to him had failed to dispense justice to the people of Pakistan. Let me borrow few lines from my article that published in this newspaper on November 8, 2022 titled Imran Khan needs to rise to the occasion, which reads, 'probably, he (Imran) wants to make a point here that there is no reason in accepting the government if a chief executive has no powers. Here lies a contradiction between what he says and what he actually practices. He had pointed out in his press conference that the actual authority in Punjab lied somewhere else. If it

would be a matter of weak control or no authority at all, then the non registration of his FIR was a good excuse for him to call it a day in Punjab. He would have got rid of the Punjab government soon after his own police refused to register his FIR. Ostensibly, his action would have earned him more respect and credibility'. Now finally he has decided to rise to the occasion by getting rid of the Punjab and KP governments albeit he has not announced yet as to when he actually plans to do it. During his speech Imran Khan said they will resign from the assemblies. It is believed by the PTI leaders that when he said resignations he meant dissolution of assemblies, which makes sense because mere resignations won't serve their purpose. The issue of their resignations from the National Assembly is still haunting them. Even if the PTI wants to dissolve the KP and Punjab assemblies, it has to do it rather quickly for if a no-trust move is tabled against the respective chief ministers then it will not be able to dissolve the assembly till the time the no-trust move is decided. The imposition of Governor's Rule is yet another possibility.

The government parties have also put their heads together to deal with the evolving situation because if the PTI dissolves KP and Punjab Assemblies and resigns from the Sindh and Balochistan assemblies then the Election Commission has to announce elections in more than 500 seats. By-polls on about 115 national assembly seats are still pending. So in this case a fully-fledge election drill has to be carried out. The situation may force the government to call general elections. Therefore, in this backdrop, the PTI move appears to be very smart and perhaps even the government was not expecting this from the PTI chairman that he would resort to this course. As I had mentioned in my earlier article published on November 25, 2022 titled 'Key appointments; all's well that ends well', that the PTI would like to mend fences with the new military leadership. The article reads, "One thing is for sure that the party has decided not to stage any sit-in Islamabad. The senior party leaders said that the PTI leadership will now try to have some political dialogue in order to pave the way for the elections. The senior leaders also told me that the Saturday's long march gathering

may not turn into a dharna, as earlier announced by the party leadership. It will be just a procession where Imran Khan would deliver his speech and announce his future course of action. My understanding is that Imran Khan will move cautiously on this issue and may not take a hard line regarding these (military) appointments. In his speech on November 26 he did not make any mention about the new military leadership. Even about the outgoing military leadership he chose his words carefully to delineate its role. But as regards the outgoing military leadership this is for sure he would take tough stance after November 29. According to his critics, Imran Khan perhaps has realized that he cannot enter the power corridors without the support of the local as well as the international establishment. However, it still seems to be a daunting task for the PTI leadership. It remains a fact that the present crisis can only be averted by forming a caretaker set at the first place and the ultimately holding of the general elections. The PML N, which is also the leading political party like PTI, probably cannot afford elections

at this juncture when its popularity has severely been dented by the incumbency factor. Though, the PML N may not be responsible for the political and economic woes the country is facing right now, yet being the leading ally the entire focus has shifted towards it. Even it is in the interest of the party to go for early elections simply because the mess that has been created in past 7 or 8 months would only aggravate with the ach passing day. Nevertheless, the party would wait until its supreme Nawaz Sharif returns, who is likely to come back to Pakistan next month or maximum in January. Analysts believe, once he returns, he is likely to get relief from the courts and thus become eligible to contest the next elections. In this case, everybody would have a level playing field. Endnote: The US and Chinese governments have congratulated the newly-appointed military leadership and expressed hope to work closely with it. The Saudi government is yet to extend its greetings but I believe it will also do so as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia relationship has to move forward and strengthen. It is in the interest of both peoples.

Balochistan pavilion displays rich cultural heritage

ISLAMABAD: The rich culture and traditions of Balochistan displayed at Lok Mela is the center of attraction for visitors to enjoy the arts and crafts of the province along with the display of cultural materials of other provinces. The organisers have allocated a spacious place to all the provinces for showcasing their indigenous folk culture in a creative and interactive manner. The Balochistan Culture Department catches the visitors' eye with presentation of the richness of Balochi culture, arts, crafts, folk music, rituals, traditions, cuisine and folk entertainment. The Balochistan pavilion is located at the centre of the festival grounds. When one enters Balochi pavilion through the beautifully designed gates showing typical Balochi culture and architecture, it feels that they are in Balochistan. The Balochi contingent includes craftspeople, folk artists, folk musicians and folk dancers. Master artisans are Kaneez Fatima, Shakar Bibi and Arzi Khan, Fazal Kakar in Balochi embroidery, Rozi Khan in Balochi shoes and Arzi Khan in wood work and musical instruments making. Among them, female craftsman in embroidery Kaneez Fatima, 48, is an educated lady. She stands out not only for her excellence but also in her tireless propagation of this traditional art by imparting it to the future generations. Some of her apprentices have reached high professional levels which practicing their art. She has been participating in Lok Mela for the last 23 years and had been awarded several times with cash prizes and certificates. —APP

QAU's alumni demands redressal of concerns

ISLAMABAD: The alumni of Quaid-I-Azam University (QAU) has expressed annoyance over ignoring concerns of QAU faculty and other stakeholders on Barakahu Bypass Project which has been started on QAU land and it will split the university's land into two non-communicating parts. The core committee of QAU Alumni Association, in its emergent meeting reviewed the situation, a press release said. In the light of continued contacts and discussions with President Academic Staff Association (ASA) QAU, it was pointed out that QAU, being prestigious higher education institution, has been ranked continuously among the top 500 higher education institutions by Times Higher Education and other reputed global ranking agencies. But, instead of declaring it flagship institution through provision of required financial resources and resolving long pending land encroachment issue, its precious land is being further possessed for a new project without addressing the reservations of the concerned stakeholders. The core committee decided that like the previous occasions, the alumni would protect the precious land of alma mater in close coordination with all the stakeholders including ASA QAU and no compromise would be made in this regard. They fully supported the legal stance of QAU faculty at Islamabad High Court and vowed to play an effective and an important role to protect legitimate interests and land of their alma mater. —APP



LAHORE: Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi posing for a group photo along with officers of Rangers during his visit to Wagah Border.—DNA

Punjab CM assures to clear newspaper dues

APNS Executive Committee members meet Ch. Pervez Elahi; APNS to meet PM over ads quantum and rate increase issues

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Chaudhry Parvez Elahi Chief Minister Punjab has assured to clear the dues of newspapers in one month, implementation of 25% quota and release of colour ads to regional newspapers and review of Punjab advertising policy in consultation with APNS. He was speaking to a delegation of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society comprising President APNS Sarmad Ali, Mujeeb ur Rahman Shami, Jamil Ather, Naz Afreen Saigol, Shahab Zuberi,

Khushnood Ali Khan, Umar Mujib Shami, Mumtaz Tahir, Awais Khushnood, Mumtaz Ali Shah, S M Munir Jilani, Humayon Gulzar, Humayon Tariq, Sajjad Bukhari, Bilal Mahmood. The Chief Minister was apprised about the problems and issues being faced by the newspaper industry in general and Punjab based publications in particular. Ch Parvez Elahi assured that his government appreciates the importance of print media and would address the problems of newspapers on top priority. He advised the DGPR Punjab to clear the

outstanding dues of newspapers within one month. On request of APNS, the Chief Minister announced that henceforth 25% quota for regional newspapers will be implemented for all provincial government advertisements including colour ads. He was apprised on the concerns of APNS on Punjab's advertising policy. Ch Parvez Elahi decided to form a committee of stakeholders comprising the representatives of the Information Department and APNS to review the advertising policy and suggest changes in the policy. Principal Secretary to CM Punjab Muhammad

Khan Bhatti, secretary information Punjab Asif Bilal Lodhi and DGPR Punjab Afraz Ahmed were also present in the meeting. Later the Executive Committee of the APNS held its meeting. The Executive Committee noted that the Federal government despite its various assurances given to APNS have not been implemented to clear long outstanding dues of the print media. The federal government has also not announced an increase in the government advertisement rates and quantum as promised by the Prime Minister

in his meeting with APNS and the Federal Information Minister in her interactions with the Society. It was agreed that the APNS will apprise the Prime Minister of this delay and request him to address the above problems faced by the newspaper industry. The Executive Committee was also apprised that the KP government has not cleared the long outstanding dues of over Rs 1.5 billion relating to provincial government advertisements. It was decided that office bearers of APNS will take up the matter with the KP government on urgent basis.

IVWF, KBM Care join hands for humanitarian endeavors



DNA ISLAMABAD, Nov 26 (dna): In a landmark development a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Inner Voice Welfare Foundation and KBM Care Foundation to jointly work in the field of education, health, emergency relief, women empowerment and youth development. The MoU was signed at a ceremony held at IVWF office that was signed by Voice Chairman of KBM CARE Voice Chairman Mohammad Azmat Hanif and Inner Voice Secretary Ahmad Khan. The ceremony was witnessed by IVWF

Chairperson Raheela Khan and KBM CARE Chairman Khalid bin Majeed. Speaking on the occasion, IVWF Chairperson Raheela Khan said that the MoU aims to establish and serve as a joint platform for both organizations to coordinate, cooperate and jointly implement and resolve welfare programs as per respective primary objectives and expertise in education and health care, emergency relief, women empowerment and youth development. She said that both organizations will execute their roles as implanting partners for respective projects on joint platform. Speaking on the occasion,

KBM CARE Chairman Khalid bin Majeed said that the aim of the MoU is to enhance cooperation between the two organizations and create an understanding how the global demographical social changes provoked by world-wide inflation flows affect changes in all issues related to education and health care. The MoU aims to safeguard the confidentiality of any information or document. Either organization at any time may request assistance from the other in the missions related to its operational activities, with a view to ensuring and facilitating as may be relevant collaboration

between the organizations in the planning, implementation and evaluation stages of mutual projects. Both the organization will be represented at sourced sessions of education, health care, and relevant opportunistic events where both will have equal say in prospective projects and opportunities with mutual terms. Both organizations have agreed to designate the undersigned official representatives to for the implementation of this MOU. Execution of all matters will be governed and managed by the designated officials with final decisions finalized by the principal founders.

PM thanks Azeri president over five-year tax exemption

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday thanked President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for approving a five-year tax exemption on the import of rice from Pakistan. "I am thankful to Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, for approving the tax exemption on the import of Pakistani rice for five years. Our two brotherly countries will work to promote economic cooperation and

connectivity through road, rail and Gwadar Port," the prime minister wrote on Twitter. The prime minister's tweet came in response to Azeri president's remarks that the decision to import rice from Pakistan with a tax exemption of five years was the outcome of his meetings with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held in the last couple of

months. Ilham Aliyev, addressing an international conference at ADA University, Baku, the other day, said during these meetings, they discussed the agenda of their bilateral relations. The president of Azerbaijan was responding to questions raised by Executive Director of Center for Global and Strategic Studies of Pakistan Khalid Taimur Akram, as a participant.—DNA

ICCI rejects hike in interest rate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has shown great concerns over the 100bps hike in the SPB key policy rate as it would play havoc with the cost of doing business and cause the closure of many industries leading to further slump in the already fragile economy. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that businesses were already struggling for survival due to multiple challenges including massive rupee-dollar fluctuation, hike in utility tariffs & POL Products and increasing energy shortages. In these difficult times, instead of taking measures to promote the ease of doing business, the government has made an

unprecedented hike in the policy rate that would prove destructive for the business and economic activities. He said that on the one hand the government has announced to promote interest-free banking in the country and on the other hand, it is hiking interest rates, which is contradictory. He said that the interest rate in Thailand is 1%, Taiwan 1.63%, Singapore 2.65%, Malaysia 2.75%, South Korea 3.65%, China 3.75%, Indonesia 5.25%, Bangladesh 5.75%, India 5.9%, Vietnam 6%, but in Pakistan it has been raised to 16%, cumulatively increasing it by 625bps in 2022. He said that due to the

recent hike, the policy rate has jumped to a 24-year high level in the country as it was only in 1998 that the policy rate was over 16 percent. He said that after adding Kibor, the policy rate would go up to 18.50 percent while after including bank profit and insurance it would go up to 22 percent. He said it would badly affect business and investment in the country as who will borrow at such high borrowing cost. He stressed that the SBP should withdraw the recent hike in policy rate and bring it to single digit level to reduce production cost and improve the competitiveness of our exports.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Vice President ICCI said the SBP has further tightened the monetary policy on the plea to address the higher inflation and contain the risk to financial stability. However, they said that it would prove counterproductive as the manufacturers would pass on the burden of costly loans from the banks to the consumers by raising the prices of their products and the common man would face more inflation that would make his life miserable. They said that the business community is already in crisis due to gas shortages & load shedding while letters of credit are not opening. They urged that the SBP should review its decision and withdraw the hike in policy rate to save businesses from further troubles.



MISMO organises Maths Olympiad 2022

ISLAMABAD: More than 17000 students from grades four to eight across the country, have participated in Maarif Inter-School Maths Olympiad (MISMO) the biggest and most comprehensive mathematical competition in Pakistan. According to the details, this is an initiative of Pak-Turk Maarif International Schools and Colleges, which is aimed to bring out Mathematical intelligence and skillfulness among Pakistani young Mathematicians. MISMO applications regularly open in September every year and the competition is held on the last Sunday of November. This year, Pak-Turk Maarif organized this mega Olympiad in 65 Olympiad centers in 35 different cities of Pakistan where more than 17000 students participated. Pak-Turk Maarif believes in providing equal opportunity, therefore, MISMO applications are accepted from the students of Public and Private Schools across Pakistan.—Agencies

Ashrafi congratulates newly appointed army chief

LAHORE: Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman and Special Representative for Prime Minister Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi congratulated the newly appointed Army Chief General Asim Munir on Sunday and said the appointment had elevated the status of Pakistan in the world especially in Muslim countries. Addressing a press conference at Baitul Aman here, he said that it was welcoming news that a Hafiz Quran had become the chief of army in Pakistan. He lauded services of General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Ashrafi condemned the language used by Azam Sawati against the state institutions.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

Nov 01 / Algeria	National Day
Nov 04 / Italy	Armed Forces Day
Nov 07 / Russian Federation	Socialist Revolution
Nov 09 / Cambodia	National Day
Nov 11 / Poland	Independence Day
Nov 14 / Jordan	Birthday of King Hussein
Nov 15 / Belgium	Kings Day
Nov 15 / Brazil	Republic Day
Nov 15 / Northern Cyprus	National Day
Nov 18 / Morocco	Independence Day
Nov 21 / Bangladesh	Armed Forces Day
Nov 22 / Lebanon	Independence Day
Nov 25 / Suriname	National Day
Nov 28 / Mauritania	National Day
Nov 28 / Albania	Flags Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051-2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

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

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....555489
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

Ethiopian PM to attend ICCI BOC in Addis Ababa

Zafar Bakhtawari, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Imtiaz, Muhammad Saeed Khan and others were also present in the meeting

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Jemal Bekker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia welcomed the ICCI proposal to organize a Business Opportunities Conference (BOC) in Ethiopia and said that the Prime Minister of Ethiopia would join the event as Chief Guest while he would provide full support to make it successful. He said that his country is a gateway for African countries and Pakistan can enhance its exports with the African region by developing closer cooperation with Ethiopia. He said that Ethiopia has made reforms for ease of doing business and is now a manufacturing hub in Africa, therefore, Pakistani investors should set up manufacturing units in Ethiopia to export their products to the African region. He said that Ethiopian Airline is going to launch direct flights between Ethiopia and Pakistan, which will help Pakistani entrepreneurs to explore Africa for business and investment.



He said that Pakistan and Ethiopia have the potential to increase bilateral trade up to US\$ 300 million. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The Envoy said that many products of Ethiopia including tea, coffee, meat, metals can enter Pakistani markets. Similarly, Pakistan can

export rice, chemicals, food products, sports goods, surgical instruments, medicines, IT products, technology etc. to Ethiopia. He said that both countries can cooperate in intercontinental trade, energy and tourism sectors. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that said

that the annual imports of Ethiopia are over US\$ 18 billion and annual exports around US\$ 8 billion, however, the current volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Ethiopia is just around 21 million, which is not matching with their actual potential. He said that Pakistan and Ethiopia should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations to explore new areas

of trade promotion. He said it is encouraging that Ethiopia intends to start direct flights with Pakistan, which will improve people-to-people and trade ties between the two countries. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is producing good quality surgical and pharmaceutical products and Ethiopia is importing most of these products. He stressed that Ethiopia should lower

the registration cost of foreign pharmaceutical products to enhance exports of these products from Pakistan to its market. He said that Pakistan can also export cement to Ethiopia and to other African countries. Zafar Bakhtawari, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Imtiaz, Muhammad Saeed Khan and others were also present in the meeting.

Youth development program launched by PML-N: Marriyum

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that Youth Development Program had been started during the previous regime of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz which provided zero tax incentives to the young generation. Delivering her speech at the launching ceremony of "Economic Affairs" magazine here, the minister said that in its previous tenure, the PML-N government created employment opportunities for the youth through this program, she said. The minister said that in the program projects such



as equipping the youth with technology were included. Besides, facilities were also provided to the youth in small businesses, Marriyum Aurangzeb maintained. "When the previous government came to power, it

changed the name of the program to Kamyab Jawan Program", she said. About 66% of Pakistan's population consists of young people under the age of 30 and youth were a precious asset of the nation,

she said. She expressed the confidence that with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Charter of Economy, all institutions be strengthened. She said that "Economic Affairs" Magazine was being launched in connection with Pakistan's 75th-anniversary celebrations and it covered seventy-five years of Pakistan's economic achievements. She said that details of economic ups and downs in the history of Pakistan were also included in this magazine. She said that the "Economic Affairs" magazine should also be available online including on social media platforms. "The magazine highlights

developments in the industry, textiles, small and medium enterprises, banking and other sectors", she said, adding that banks should support such periodicals. The presence of this magazine in the libraries of universities and colleges should be ensured, she said. The information minister appreciated the efforts of the team associated with the magazine. Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid, Principal Information Officer Mubasher Hassan and other senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were also present on the occasion.

Baba-e-Sahafat 'Maulana Zafar Ali Khan' remembered

ISLAMABAD: Eminent writer, poet, journalist and leader of the Pakistan Movement Maulana Zafar Ali Khan was remembered on his 66th death anniversary where people from all walks of life pay him rich tributes for his matchless services to the country. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan known as Baba-e-Sahafat (father of journalism) was born in 1873 in Sialkot. After graduation, he was appointed Secretary to Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk who was then in Bombay. He fought the freedom movement with his pen and used it as a unifier for burgeoning the required nationalism in the Muslim community which would be remembered as the father of Urdu Journalism, PTV news reported. Later he worked for some time as a Translator in Hyderabad Deccan, rising to the post of Secretary Home Department.—APP

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Muhammad Riasat Ali Naib Tehsildar Gujrat

Title: Habib Ali Versus Khan Muhammad etc.

Notice to: Khan Muhammad, Ahmed Khan, Walayat Khan, Muhammad Muddassar, Inayat, Mehdi Khan, Mian Khan, Muhammad Akram sons of Daswandi Khan, Muhammad Azam S/O Muhammad Hayat, Muhammad Azam S/O Nawab Khan, Suleman Nawaz S/O Muhammad Nawaz Caste Paswal Gujjar, Muhammad Azam, Muhammad Arif Sons of Nawan Khan, Muhammad Azam S/O Muhammad Hayat Resident of Chechi Pindi, Manzoor Ahmad S/O Muhammad Khan, Fazal Ahmad S/O Bhag Din, Manzoor Ahmed S/O Muhammad Khan deceased through, Kaneez Bibi widow, Muddassar Iqbal, Uzma Shaheen, Farah Bibi daughters, Nemat Bibi widow of Barkat Ali, Muhammad Ashraf, Mian Khan sons of Bashir Ahmed, Zainab Bibi, Razia Begum, Irshad Begum daughters of Barkat Ali, Lal Khan, Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Khan, Mian Khan sons of Jewan, Said Begum widow of Barkat Ali, Aamna Bibi widow of Barkat Ali, Muhammad Zaman, Muhammad Aslam sons, Rasheed Begum, Razia Begum daughters of Barkat Ali, Muhammad Hayat S/O Meer Bakhsh, Fazal Ahmed S/O Allah Ditta, Fatima Bibi, Bibi, Sakina Bibi daughters of Nawab Khan, Fazal Begum widow of Jewan, Muhammad Azam husband of Zareena Bibi, Aroora S/O Niaz Ali, Bashir Ahmed S/O Rehmat Khan, Asghar Ali S/O Niaz Ali Caste Chechi Gujjar Residents of Village Chechian (Baru), Tehsil & District Gujrat Application for separation of Agriculture land Village Chechian (Baru) Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 28-11-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Increasing encroachments destroying businesses

RAWALPINDI: The city traders have expressed agony about the ever-increasing road encroachments and demanded from the district administration to remove these illegitimate encroachments to end frequent traffic jams affecting their business. President Traders Welfare Association, Punjab Sharjeel Mir told APP that illegal car parking was "the standard even in the presence of traffic officials", creating massive traffic jams and causing accidents. He said that illegal motorcycles parking around the Moti Bazar, Raja Bazar, China market, bara Bazar and other areas of the city had made the situation so bad that even a pedestrian or women with children could not

move. After taking charge, Mir added that Commissioner Rawalpindi had assured the trade bodies that the city would be cleared from the encroachers, but no action had been taken so far. "It is the need of the hour to construct parking plazas in city markets at the earliest, and strict action must be taken against the encroachers," he demanded. President Moti Bazar Chaudhary Muhammad Iqbal urged the metropolitan corporation and traffic police to play their due role in removing the encroachment from the city's busiest roads and demanded the government devise a plan to shift wholesale markets from the city to the proposed

ring road to ease traffic congestion. He said that for the past few months, the vegetable vendors had occupied half the road by placing vegetables in front of their shops in the Bansa Bazar and Raja Bazar areas, hindering traffic flow. Meanwhile, earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench had also sought a report from Chief Secretary Punjab on a petition over illegal encroachments in Nullah Lai and Swan river on November 3. The petitioner, Ahsan Ali, had argued before the Court that the abundance of encroachments around the Nullah Lai and the Swan River had put the "lives of residents of the twin cities in danger".—APP

World AIDS Day to be observed on Dec 1

ISLAMABAD: World AIDS Day will be observed on Thursday (December 1) across the globe including Pakistan to show support for those living with the disease and to remember those who have lost their lives. The 2022 theme is "Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV", said a report aired by a private news channel. Since 1998, organizations

and individuals across the globe bring attention to the HIV epidemic and endeavor to increase HIV awareness and knowledge. HIV continues to be a major global public health concern, having affected more than a million people worldwide. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of the plague and support progress in HIV/AIDS preclusion, treatment and care across the globe. Several activities would be arranged by various public and private organizations to mark the day, including awareness walks, seminars and discussions to educate people about the disease. The purpose of

these events will raise awareness amongst young people about HIV/AIDS as well as promote tolerance, and acceptance for people living with the disease. The Government of Pakistan has been maintaining a sustained response to the HIV epidemic since the late-1980s to the early 1990s through national and provincial AIDS control programmes, with support from United Nations (UN) agencies such as WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA, as well as bilateral and multilateral donors, and a large number of nongovernmental and community service organizations.—APP

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PIM OFFERS PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS IN KARACHI

<p>CERTIFIED SUPPLY CHAIN PROFESSIONAL (CSCP): STUDY GROUP</p> <p>Timings: 6 pm to 9 pm</p> <p>Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1 – Supply Chains, Demand Management, and Forecasting Module 2 – Global Supply Chain Networks Module 3 – Sourcing Products and Inventory Module 4 – Internal Operations and Logistics Module 5 – Forward and Reverse Logistics Module 6 – Supply Chain Relationships Module 7 – Supply Chain Risk Module 8 – Optimization, Sustainability, and Technology <p>Duration 5 Months Days Tue & Thr Commencement of classes December 1, 2022</p>	<p>HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Timings: 10 am to 4 pm</p> <p>Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations of HRM Personnel and HRM Job Analysis, Recruitment, Interviewing & Selection Orientation and Socialization Training and Employee Development Performance Management System Strategic HR Planning & Pay Plans Ethics, Justice & Fair Treatment Global Human Resource Management <p>Duration 4 Months Day Sunday Commencement of classes December 4, 2022</p>
<p>AMAZON VIRTUAL ASSISTANT</p> <p>Timings: 3 pm to 7 pm</p> <p>Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to E-Commerce Market & Amazon Amazon Product Research Tools Order Management and Customer Support Sourcing, Logistics and Listing creation Cases, Reports Handling and Advertising Product Launch and Rank Working as a Virtual Assistant on Upwork and Other Platforms Business Ethics for Amazon Business <p>Duration 2 Months Day Sunday Commencement of classes December 4, 2022</p>	<p>MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Timings: 11 am to 4 pm</p> <p>Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Management Communication and interpersonal skills Time management and change management Controlling tools and team leading Management function of planning Decision making and problem solving skills Finance essentials for managers Planning of human resources <p>Duration 3 Months Day Saturday Commencement of classes December 10, 2022</p>

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Briefs

Chairman Senate welcomes new budget airline

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani expressed delight over the launch of the new budget airline, 'Fly Jinnah' in Pakistan while boarding the new carrier's flight from Islamabad to Karachi on Sunday. The Chairman Senate had hosted H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Thani of Air Arabia Group back in September 2021, where the plan to launch this airline was announced. Chairman Senate wished the United Arab Emirates-based Air Arabia and its local partner, Lakson Group all the success in this venture. He further said, "Pakistan's aviation industry has great potential and instilling competition will ensure better service standards and flight experience."—APP

Week-long anti-Polio drive from Nov 28

RAWALPINDI: A week-long anti-polio drive would commence in the entire district on November 28 (Monday). Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of District Health Authority Dr Ansar Ishaque told APP that as many as 3,787 polio teams would go door-to-door and administer polio drops to 917,285 children less than five years of age in all tehsils and union councils of the district during the campaign. He said 243 Union council medical officers and 858 area in-charges would also participate in the drive.

In addition, 320 fix centers had been set up to administer drops. Ansar further informed that anti-polio drops would also be administered at 182 transit points while "teams have also been deputed at toll plazas" so that no child could miss immunization. The CEO highlighted the objective of regularly conducting anti-polio campaigns was to keep children safe through protective drops and increase their immunity. He urged the citizens, particularly the parents, to come forward and play their role in eliminating the crippling disease from society. "The parents should cooperate with special teams so the set target can be achieved."

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Shoaib directed the official concerned to improve anti-polio activities through coordinated communication by nominating focal persons for the week-long drive. He assured that foolproof security would be provided to polio teams.—APP

Transport equipment exports witness 62.25 percent increase: PBS

ISLAMABAD: Transport equipment exports during the first four months of fiscal year of 2022-23 increased by 62.25 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July 22-Oct 22, Transport equipment worth US\$ 4,407,000 were exported as compared to the exports of US\$ 2,716,000, during the same period of last year. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Other electrical machinery increased by 62.73 percent, worth US\$ 16,523,000 as compared to exports of US\$ 10,154,000 during the same period, last year. Meanwhile, Electric fans also increased by 25.75 percent as the exports recorded during the current fiscal year were US\$ 8,865,000 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which were US\$ 7,050,000. During the period under review, Engineering goods exports increased by 23.63 percent, worth US\$ 85,816,000 in current fiscal year, as compared to the exports of US\$ 69,412,000 during the same period of last year.—APP

China-Pak trade, RMB-Rupee begins de-ollarization

He requested that Chinese investors be allowed to maintain accounts in RMB in Gwadar Free Zone without getting their invested money converted into Rupees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "With the implementation of new financial currency arrangement by converting Chinese currency 'RMB' directly into Pakistan rupee without involving the US dollar, Chinese investors can save 0.5 million Pakistan rupee on every transaction of Rs. 10 million," said Liao Longtai, General Manager (GM) of Hangeng Trade Company in Gwadar.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, he said "the new mechanism has boosted our confidence and more investors will pour in to invest in Pakistan in general and Gwadar in particular". "In the previous financial system, Chinese traders and investors had to first convert RMB into the US dollar and then into the Pakistani rupee. Owing to the volatile value of the US dollar, exchange rate damage had to be borne out by Chinese traders that used to keep them upset. The new RMB-Rupee direct conversion mechanism has finally ended the loss for Chinese investors," he added. In Pakistan, hundreds of Chinese companies are working in the sectors of energy, telecom, automobile, agriculture, medicine, transport, infrastructure, industry, and many more. Hangeng Trade Company GM Liao Longtai is among thousands of Chinese officials who have termed the development a watershed moment that is going to catalyze Pakistan-China trade. The breakthrough has also quashed a sense



of reluctance among potential Chinese enterprises interested to pump fresh investment into CPEC projects. In the past, one of their major concerns was financial damages due to the unpredictable exchange rate in Pakistan. According to the Memorandum of Cooperation between the People's Bank of China (PBOC) and the National Bank of Pakistan, PBOC has decided to authorize the Karachi Branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) to act as the Pakistani RMB clearing bank, PBOC announced last week. It will undertake supervisory and regulatory responsibilities. Officials from ICBC along with senior officials from the Chinese Consulate Karachi and Bank of China visited Gwadar this week to review the progress on CPEC projects. Mr. Luo Jianxue, President of the Lahore

Overseas Chinese Association said that direct exchange of Chinese and Pakistani currencies can reduce the links and save the cost of capital exchange and will no longer be affected by the change of the US dollar exchange rate. Chinese Consulate Lahore Commercial Counsellor Yan Yang said that on July 13, 2021, China and Pakistan renewed the bilateral currency swap agreement with a scale of 30 billion RMB (Rs. 730 billion). It augurs well that Pakistan has entered into the RMB settlement club as China's RMB settlements with Belt and Road countries stood at 5.42 trillion yuan (763.4 billion U.S. dollars) in 2021, up 19.6 percent year on year. It accounted for 14.8 percent of China's total cross-border use of RMB in 2021, said a report released by the People's Bank of China. By the end of 2021, China had signed bilateral currency swap agreements with 22 countries along the Belt and Road and established RMB clearing arrangements in eight countries along the Belt and Road. The Pakistani government had been weighing up an option for CPEC investors, especially companies in the Gwadar Free Zone, to operate in RMB to save them from financial losses being incurred by the downward spiral of Paki-

stani currency against the US dollar. The matter rose to prominence when COPH-CL Chairman Zhang Baozhong briefed Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif during Federal Steering Committee on Gwadar initiatives a few months back about concerns that deter Chinese investment in Gwadar relating to currency devaluation. He requested that Chinese investors be allowed to maintain accounts in RMB in Gwadar Free Zone without getting their invested money converted into Rupees. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to convene meetings with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Bank of China for the use of RMB/ PKR for bilateral trade between China and Pakistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz gave the instructions to SBP during a meeting with the Chinese businessmen held on May 30 this year. For the promotion of trade in the Chinese currency, a pilot project encompassing the introduction of 'RMB pricing' will be introduced in the first phase. In the second phase, RMB settlement and financing policies will be focused on. The exchange rate for the currencies of both countries will be set in the China Foreign Exchange Trading System (CFETS) and in authorized banks declared as cross-border currency markets in China and Pakistan, according to the official details.

PR expedites work to improve services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is going to expedite work to improve services in the passenger trains as well as at the major railway stations by involving the private sector which would help address growing issues, especially related to cleanliness. "The department was of the view that the cleanliness-related services in trains and at major stations, including Lahore, Faisalabad, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Peshawar, Khanawal, Sukkur, Sahiwal, Multan and Bahawalpur were not satisfactory," an official in the Ministry told APP. He said that if services of the private sector were hired under a fast-track policy, the hygiene conditions at stations and in trains could be improved which would also restore the confidence of passengers in the department. The official said Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique also asked the officials to accelerate efforts to bring uniformity in the design and signboards of stalls at the major railway stations under a policy. He said that Saad Rafique was also curious to quickly devise a policy in a bid to bring uniformity in the design of all the stalls—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bosnia Sakib Foric presenting book on Bosnia to Shaza Fatima Khawaja on the occasion of National Day reception.—DNA

Strict action demanded against violators on motorways

ISLAMABAD: By Vincent David/Aftab Zahoor Constructed in the 1990s as the country's one of flagship projects, the Pakistan motorway had presented a plausible travelling facility to commuters, nagged by full of a hassle travelling on Grand Trunk and other roads over the decades. No horns, no screeching and no lane violations had been the hallmark of Islamabad-Lahore (M-2) and Islamabad-Peshawar (M-1) motorways as the specially raised force always stood on toes to ensure quality policing. But, in recent years especially the last half of the decade, the situation gradually deteriorated with most often seen violations on these marvellous roads including speeding, mobile phone using, lane violations.—APP

PFC to take part in single-country expo in South Africa on 1st Dec

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a single-country expo in South Africa starting on 1st December to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products. PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq, while talking to a delegation of industrialists led by CEO of Marvel Cables Ch Zeeshan Elahi Arain, on Sunday said that PFC along with ChenOne would be participating in the mega event and conference being held by the Ministry of Commerce. He said ChenOne would also exhibit its high-quality international standard products to capture its share in the global market. He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pakistani products and develop business deals with international buyers. He said a delegation comprising around 225 exhibitors and business delegates from Pakistan representing 20 major sectors, including pharmaceuticals, tractors, agriculture machinery, engineering and sports goods, and chemicals would be visiting Johannesburg to participate in the exhibition.—APP

FUUAST job fair on November 29

ISLAMABAD: In order to develop linkages between industry and academia, the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) Islamabad is organizing a job fair at its main campus here on Tuesday, November 29. The university had been organizing job fairs every year to bring industry and academia together for mutual benefits, said a press statement issued by FUUAST here. The fair provides the industry an opportunity to interact and exchange experiences with faculty and students, whereas on the other hand, it opens avenues for students to receive firsthand experience by interacting with industry representatives. According to the statement, the job fair also offers employers with an excellent opportunity to deal with their active and future staff requirements.

The statement said, FUUAST has been according highest preference to student development activities, adding the Placement Bureau, FUUAST regularly organizes such seminars, workshops, industrial visits and internships for students. It has also been promoting Industry-Academia Linkages in order to enhance existing curriculum, faculty development and student employability potential. Meanwhile, the university's Department of International Relations and Mass Communication has also arranged a lecture on "United Nations Day for Violence Against Women: Role of Media in Creating Awareness" on Wednesday, November 30.—APP

FPCL signs MoU with SECMC for utilizing Thar coal

ISLAMABAD: The FPCL Power Co. Ltd. (FPCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) for the use of Thar coal in the company's power plant in Karachi. According to Gwadar Pro, it was stated by the two companies in separate statements. In Karachi, FPCL operates a 118-megawatt coal-fired power plant next to the Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Ltd. (FFBL) Fertilizer Complex. The MoU is a significant step forward in harnessing indigenous resources to achieve better energy prices while reducing the burden on foreign exchange, according to FPCL. This reflects the company's commitment to economic development and strengthening the national economy

through reduced reliance on imported energy. The FPCL power plant provides up to 60 MWs of electricity to K-Electric, the company is in charge of supplying electricity to Karachi. According to the company's website, the remaining electricity is supplied to the FFBL Fertilizer complex. SECME operates Pakistan's first open-pit lignite coal mine in the Thar desert, with an annual capacity of 7.6 million tons. The company is a collaboration between the Sindh government, Engro Group and its partners, and China Machinery Engineering Corp (CMEC) under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative. SECME currently supplies coal to four mine-mouth power plants with a combined capacity of 1,320 MW.—APP

28 percent of Railways' locomotives in non-functional condition

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railway is faced with technical challenges as only 72 percent of its 461 diesel-electric locomotives are in a functional condition which is not sufficient to run the entire operations of the department.

An official of the Ministry of Railways told APP that the railways had only 332 locomotives in a running condition out of a total of 461, while 129 (28 percent) diesel-electric locomotives were non-functional. Of 129 locomotives, around 41 were under normal overhauling schedules and maintenance, the official said, adding that the locomotives would be rolled out after routine schedule maintenance turn by turn. He said that 11 locomotives met with an accident on various dates and locations, and fabrication work and procurement of spares were under process for these locomotives.

The official said that 69 DPU class diesel-electric locomotives were held up for repair and need major modification while eight locomotives were temporarily deleted and under condemnation process due to overage.

To a question, he said that Pakistan Railways was planning to procure as many as 25 diesel-electric locomotives for various shunting points across the country which would help to replace outdated locomotives that were to be scrapped very soon. The project for the procurement and manufacturing of 25 shunting locomotives would be implemented in three years at an estimated cost of Rs 14 billion, he added. Currently, he said, only 51 locomotives were being operated for this service against the 98 shunting points at various railway stations across the country. Additionally, most of the old locomotives would be discarded due to high maintenance costs. He said the project was aimed at procuring and manufacturing 25 shunting diesel-electric locomotives of 2000-2200 horsepower HP to replace the overage and uneconomical locomotives. The official said the old locomotives consumed excessive fuel and in most cases, high horsepower locomotives were under-utilized during shunting operations. He said with the addition of the new locomotives would enhance the capacity of Pakistan Railways by removing the bottlenecks during the shunting of heavy-load freight trains and the placement of freight loads at departure yards in Karachi, Lahore, and other places. "The role of specially designed shunting locomotives was considered the backbone of train formation and train rake replacement at the platform as well as the removal of train rakes from the platform to the washing line and sick lines," he added.—APP

Admin to utilize all available resources for facilitating tourists in Murree

RAWALPINDI: Murree District Administration, on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan, would utilize all available resources to facilitate the tourists. According to the MDA spokesman, a control room had also been established in Jinnah Hall Murree and the tourists in case of any emergency could contact the control room at 051-9269015, 051-9269016, 051-9269018. He said the administration had set up 13 facilitation centres at different points in Murree to provide assistance.—APP

SAARC Chamber felicitates new COAS, Chairman JCOSC

ISLAMABAD: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday felicitated the newly appointed Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir and Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee as the top command has been entrusted to the most truly highly competent professional soldiers of the international stature. In a press statement issued here today he said ever since the creation of Pakistan, the Armed Forces have played a crucial role in ensuring its integrity and promoting nation-building. He said in the early years, it was largely due to the professional competence and high morale of the Armed Forces and the support of the people that they enjoyed thwarting Indian designs to destabilize Pakistan. He said the Armed Forces have always been at the forefront to assist in national efforts during man-made crises or natural calamities. He said their role during the devastating earthquake in 2005 of 7.6 magnitude that struck the Himalayan region of Northern Pakistan and Kashmir, and other calamities were exemplary. The sacrifices of military personnel in defending the border, braving the punishing weather and taking positions on the heights of Siachen or in the desert of Thar are living proof of their dedication and professionalism he added.—APP

Delegation of leather industry for Indonesia

ISLAMABAD: An 11-member delegation headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of the National Productivity organization (NPO), an attached department of the ministry of industries and production, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry has left for Indonesia here on Sunday for exploring business opportunities for the Pakistani leather sector. The delegation is comprising of leather manufacturers (tanners), representatives of leather garments and footwear, industrial trade bodies and training institutes, said a press release issued here. The delegation is arranged by the NPO. The visit is fully sponsored

by APO Japan along with partial funding from WWF Pakistan. The representatives of trade associations (STGAL, PLGMEA, PGMEA) comprising the delegation will be able to develop better linkage and communication in Indonesia and exchange information on new techniques and technologies in leather tanning. Pakistan needs to learn from the Indonesian leather model and benchmarks to promote the leather product exports of Pakistan. The knowledge and information gained from Indonesia will help Pakistani leather manufacturers (tanners) about benchmark models of productivity and resource management in the domain of

input raw material, energy, water, and waste and transforming layouts of local tanneries to international standards. The overall Pakistan leather sector's exports are stagnant as the leather tanneries mostly rely on conventional processes and technologies leading to lower productivity, mediocre product quality and a significant impact on the ecosystem. After a comprehensive need analysis, the revival of this sector was targeted through the implementation of best practices learnt from the leaders in the leather sector. The leather industry in Indonesia is one of the biggest sectors which contributes well to the Indonesian economy.—APP

PTI options

After being disappointed with the Supreme Court and establishment for not facilitating to hold early general elections, PTI Chairman Imran Khan has changed his strategy where in he has decided to quit from all provincial assemblies.

If that happens, then the PTI's governments in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa will also come to an end. Quitting legislatures is not a new practice for the PTI.

It had left the National Assembly by submitting resignations in 2014, when the PML-N government was reluctant to form an inquiry commission to probe the alleged rigging in the 2013 general elections.

The PTI again left the assembly in April this year when it was ousted from power.

Instead of engaging with the political leadership, the PTI gave full attention to the institutions for holding early general elections since April but its strategy remained unsuccessful.

Now, a debate has started as to why Imran had announced leaving the assemblies and would this strategy be successful.

First, Imran wants early elections because of his popularity among the people and it will be easy for the PTI to win the majority of the seats at present.

Secondly, the sword of disqualification is hanging over the PTI chief in several matters, especially the Toshakhana and prohibited funding cases.

An estranged PTI leader said if the PTI quit the Punjab Assembly then the PML-N might form its government in the province.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah while speaking on a private TV news channel said a resolution would be submitted immediately to the Punjab Assembly for a no-confidence vote against Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, a PML-Q stalwart.

In case of the submission of a no-confidence resolution against him, the CM cannot dissolve the assembly.

Chaudhry Moonis Elahi, the chief minister's son, has announced that whenever Imran asked, the Punjab Assembly would be dissolved immediately.

However, political analysts say that if 'powerful circles' oppose the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly, then the CM might also act upon their advice as he has a long-term association with them.

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Did nationalism doom the ISS?

Orbiting the Earth since 1998, the International Space Station (ISS) is a multilateral project involving five space agencies from around the world.

It has conducted thousands of experiments and helped superpowers keep corridors of communication open, even when relations on Earth have been frosty.

However, it's unclear if the ISS will even reach NASA's proposed 2031 end-of-life date.

Key partners are threatening to pull out over rising tensions and costs at a time when the ISS is more needed than ever.

So, why won't we see another internationally constructed space station on this scale, and what does the ISS's demise tell us about rising conflict in space?

The world's first space station, Salyut 1, was launched by the Soviet Union in 1971. The US followed suit in 1973 with its manned Skylab. However, decades of Cold War and space race antics ended with the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union and in 1991 former rivals came together to work on the ISS.

Dr Mariel Borowitz, an expert in space policy issues and Associate Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, argues that building and deepening international relations was probably the most important goal of the ISS.

She says a driving reason for the ISS was "working with allies on a big, highly visible, scientifically and technically advanced project, but then also engaging with Russia specifically on this kind of peaceful cooperation".

Borowitz stresses that this international cooperation was also accompanied by scientific benefits and advances in technology and capabilities for human exploration in space.

The project also lowered the costs for participating nations by pooling their resources.

Dr Dimitrios Stroiikos, Head of the LSE IDEAS Space Policy Project and Editor-in-Chief of Space Policy, highlights a further strategic reason for the inclusion of Russia in the ISS project.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, he believes it was a way for the Americans to keep Russian scientists and engineers engaged and prevent the sharing of sensitive technology with rival states.

The Hindutva fascist regime: An overview

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



In an attempt to mitigate the growing popular influence of gau raksha activists, the government enacted the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules (2017) which prohibited the 'sale and purchase of livestock, including cows and buffaloes, for slaughter on live cattle stock markets' a regulation that government critics claimed was a covert move to impose a national ban on cow slaughter. These campaigns were often accompanied by increased levels of violence against.

Hindutva is an ethnic form of nationalism. Since 1925, the right-wing Hindu nationalist paramilitary organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has been its staunchest supporter. The RSS is essentially far-right, hierarchical, authoritarian and based on Hindu supremacy. Hindu nationalism seeks homogeneity through the imposition of the Hindi language, Hindu religion, Hindu mythology, and unquestioning loyalty to the nation. At various levels, it seeks to suppress dissenting views and exclude religious pluralism and secularism from political discourse.

The current right-wing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an active member of the RSS, is famous for his involvement in the post-Godhra riots. Modi has claimed that the 2002 train fire that killed 59 Hindus was an act of Islamic terrorism rather than an outbreak of communal violence. Under Modi's leadership, India is fulfilling the Hindutva mission of the RSS to make India a Hindu nation. Once a secular state, India has become an electoral autocracy, with Hindutva as its unofficial ideology.

After the election 2014, the gau raksha (cow protection) to ban cow slaughter and processing of associated products also garnered media attention. Vigilance groups were activated to try to enforce a ban on cow slaughter, leading to many cases of public lynching of cow traders and those who traded in meat products. In an attempt to mitigate the growing popular influence of gau raksha activists, the government enacted the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules (2017) which prohibited the 'sale and purchase of livestock, including cows and buffaloes, for slaughter on live cattle stock markets' a regulation that government critics claimed was a covert move to impose a national ban on cow slaughter. These campaigns were often accompanied by increased levels of violence against religious minorities where the BJP faced state elections: Delhi, Haryana, UP. Incidents of communal violence and resulting deaths have increased annually since 2014 in both

BJP-ruled and non-BJP states, although there are some indications that in the latter, before the election, BJP activists had an incentive to encourage community violence. As the Human Rights Watch (2018) report on India noted, 'vigilante violence targeting religious minorities, marginalized communities and government critics, often carried out by groups claiming to support the ruling BJP, it became a growing threat in India in 2017.' But perhaps the main site of violence against minorities was Kashmir, where

hardline government policy instigated the current insurgency and the series of events that led to the Pulwama incident. Furthermore, despite formidable opposition, the BJP government has begun to erode the architecture of special regional and minority rights built into the constitution. An attempt has been made to amend Muslim personal law with a ban on triple talaq; and the Law Commission was directed to review the proposed Uniform Civil Code as part of its broader consultations on changes to minority personal law. Article 35A of the Constitution, which grants Kashmiri resident's special protection in terms of government employment, provision of services and land acquisition, is currently under review by the Supreme Court. Minority institutions (religious organizations, trusts, educational establishments) have increasingly become the object of control, infiltration, and new regulations. Religious minorities in India today, as the US Religious Liberty Commission (2018) concludes in its 2018 Annual Report, 'face challenges ranging from acts of violence or intimidation, to loss of political power, to a growing feeling of disenfranchisement and 'otherness'. Amnesty International echoed these conclusions and, in a comprehensive report on human rights, religious freedom, liberty and government inaction, summarized as follows: Minority religious groups, particularly Muslims, faced increasing demonization from hardline Hindu groups, pro-government media and some state officials... Authorities openly criticized human rights defenders and organizations, which contributed to creating a climate of hostility against them. Mob violence intensified, including by vig-

ilante cow protection groups. Freedom of the press and freedom of expression in universities were attacked. India did not respect its human rights commitments made before the UN Human Rights Council. The Supreme Court and High Courts handed down several progressive rulings, but some rulings undermined human rights..

The government's indifference to such transgressions led Ganguly (2015) to suggest that it "may well be seeking to usher in a new social order, one that privileges India's dominant Hindu community over all others." a desire to reshape state institutions in the image of Hindu nationalism. Government funded schemes have been renamed in celebration of Hindutva icons; education policy, especially at the state level in BJP-ruled states, has been used to revise curricula, textbooks, and extracurricular activities to instill a sense of Hindu nationalist pride; and the ceremonial functions of the state have been saturated with Hindu language and icons to undermine, if not obliterate, any claim to representation of a plural and secular form of government. Although the BJP has been prevented from completely changing the state and constitution by the absence of a majority in the upper house and an overwhelming majority in the lower house of parliament, this has not frustrated its efforts to use executive power to subvert or control power. The Supreme Court, for example, witnessed an unprecedented fight between the Chief Justice of India, who was allegedly complying with government orders, and four judges of the court over the allocation of politically sensitive cases which, according to the alleged, the Chief Justice was hiding his colleagues. Similarly, the independence and regulatory functions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been systematically undermined, notably through erratic policies such as demonetization and the use of RBI reserves to bolster the RBI's own government balance.

The Central Surveillance Commission, which oversees the CBI and the central administration, was headed by a BJP loyalist accused of being involved in high-profile

corruption cases. University governing bodies and other academic institutions, traditionally bastions of dissent and radicalism, including Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), have been filled with BJP/RSS ideologues, with the clear aim of reshaping the aims of educational institutions. These efforts to control independent state institutions that play a vital role in maintaining impartiality reflect a desire to limit, if not erase, autonomous institutions and spaces. In the past the appeal of Hindu nationalism rested mainly in the sphere of culture, since 2014 the BJP has ensured that, by building a system of government in its own image, the power of the state is fully used both to consolidate the process as to marginalize its opponents. Thus, in giving a broader sense of this development, to Hindu nationalism in power, rather than focusing on the gap between the party's manifesto and its achievements, a more relevant exercise is offer interpretive analysis of how the experience can be better understood. It is to these conflicting explanations that we turn now. However, the open resistance to Hindutva is evident in different forms and at different levels. Farmers, students, intellectuals, religious minorities, India's main opposition party and members of civil society have risen up to protest against the policies of Modi's Hindutva government.

Even among Hindutva supporters, an invisible opposition to Hindutva fascism is also taking shape in private discourse. Hindutva may be dominant, but it has begun its gradual decline.

In 2005, the United States banned Modi from entering India after he failed to take action against anti-Muslim riots in India. However, when Modi became prime minister in 2014, Western leaders treated him with a red carpet, presumably to further business interests. Once Hindutva gained respectability in the West, he raised the morale of his followers and discouraged resistance. If Western nations really want to save liberal democracy, they should isolate authoritarian leaders like Modi and condemn his illiberal policies. Doing so is the only way to save a dying democracy like India.

Effective strategy to overcome flood crisis in Pakistan

Gul Ayesha Bhatti



Public has seriously helpless of health conditions; however, access to essential medical facilities are not available to those who live in flood-affected areas. Water-borne illnesses like diarrhea, cholera, malaria, typhoid fever, hepatitis A and E, air-borne illnesses like asthma (due to air humidity), fungal infections (due to moisture), and vector-borne illnesses like yellow fever, West Nile fever (WNF), dengue fever, etc. have spread by floods. Floods may indirectly contribute to a rise in water-borne illnesses that afflict the local populace. Malnutrition is the second most prevalent illness that is mostly disseminated under these circumstances (stunted growth). Poor nutrition, recurrent infections, and a lack of psychosocial stimulation all impede children's growth and development. These diseases have lead towards the decline of the health of the victims and can even be the cause of death.

In Pakistan, the floods have devastated Sindh, Baluchistan, and Southern Punjab. Infrastructure has been severely damaged as a result of the floods. More than 5 million people have simply lost their houses and the floods have been the worst, causing a serious humanitarian calamity. The roads and bridges entirely destroyed that had been providing access to numerous distant settlements. The work on Swat highway has delays as the result of flooding. Due to flooding, many hotels tourist and visiting points in Swat are impacted and ruined.

Due to the destruction of highways in Sindh, Baluchistan, and southern Punjab, it is incredibly challenging to relief supply the affected areas. Floods, which have also severely damaged our infrastructure, are also responsible of the destruction of offices, businesses, and warehouses in addition to the loss of homes, roads, and bridges. The entire economic loss and cost of reconstruction have been estimated at about US\$ 13 billion, with more increases likely as the full extent of the damage becomes clear as the water level recedes.

Public has seriously helpless of health conditions; however, access to essential medical facilities are not available to those who live in flood-affected areas. Water-borne illnesses like diarrhea, cholera, malaria, typhoid fever, hepatitis A and E, air-borne illnesses like asthma (due to air humidity), fungal infections (due to moisture), and vector-borne illnesses like yellow fever, West Nile fever (WNF), dengue fever, etc. have spread by floods. Floods may indirectly contribute to a rise in water-borne illnesses that afflict the local populace. Malnutrition is the second most prevalent illness that is mostly disseminated under these circumstances (stunted growth). Poor nutrition, recurrent infections, and a lack of psychosocial stimulation all impede children's growth and development. These diseases have lead towards the decline of the health of the victims and can even be the cause of death.

Flood has inflicted far more damage than just diseases and infrastructural damage. It has awakened the evil in form of crimes and insurgencies. An empirical rise is being observed in crimes related to thefts, burglaries and child kidnapping. Financially deprived victims are compelled to avert vicious actions which are adding to the overall crime rate in Pakistan. Moreover, insurgencies are also rising following people's despair and sense of being left alone by the government. Mental frustration and financial stress have evoked a rebellious mindset in victims, who are turning to the streets bearing arms. In an effort to defuse the situation and stop potential riots, it has also been claimed that flood victims are organizing protest rallies and damaging police vehicles. However, the flood itself, which is said to have claimed roughly 1500 lives, remains the most serious culprit. During the visit of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, the Sukkur police claimed to have filed a first information report (FIR) on terrorism charges against over 100 unidentified individuals for allegedly attacking police officers, throwing stones at vehicles, causing damage to both public and private property, and inciting flood victims outside a relief camp. Although the government is making every effort to resolve this crisis and provide aid to those affected by the flood but failed due political instability. Even our Pakistani Army and Pakistani Air Force have helped diligently to support flood victims and provided them the comedies of life. For instance, the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force have established rehabilitation facilities at their respective bases so that the local medical staff may help the flood victims in every manner possible, including providing them with shelter, clothing, food, rations, medication, money, and other necessities. The government has dispatched at least 6,500 soldiers to help civilian authorities in relief and rescue efforts around the state. The Prime Minister also has visited the flood-affected areas to encourage the

victims and give them hope and confidence. The Government also launched the Flood Relief Fund to help and support the victims in these poor circumstances. The Flood Response Plan (FRP) was jointly launched by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations which focuses on the needs of 502 million people, with US\$ 160.3 million in life-saving response activities covering food security, agricultural and livestock assistance, shelter and non-food items, nutrition programs, primary health services, protection, water and sanitation, women's health and education support.

The Public and NGOs are also playing a pivotal role to overcome the demobilization by floods. The public is helping the flood victims enthusiastically likewise the Government. The public reached out to the different flood-affected areas and facilitated the victims by providing them with shelter, ration, and clothes. They have also created flood relief funds on social media to provide aid to the victims. They have used social media in a very beneficial way which helped the victims globally. Many telethons were conducted by social activists and public figures. Edhi, Ehsaas, and Chhpa welfare associations also cooperated in providing relief to flood victims.

Likewise, some of prominent international figures and celebrities visited Pakistan for emotional and financial support to the victims. In addition, Angelina Jolie, the Oscar winner, met the flood victims in southern Pakistan; she emphasized the importance of providing immediate assistance to victims as well as long-term solutions to the growing issues caused by climate change. Likewise, Islamic scholar Mufti Ismael Menk visited flood-hit areas in Pakistan to highlight the plight of flood victims and raise funds to support them. International organizations like UNICEF and UN Women are responding with the Government and partners, helping to deliver safe drinking water; lifesaving medical supplies; useful food supplies; and hygiene kits to

children and families. They are also establishing temporary learning centers and supporting the protection and psychosocial well-being of women and children affected by these devastating floods.

Although, Pakistan has received financial aid from the US, UN, UK, UAE, Turkey, World Bank, etc. For instance, The World Bank agreed in a meeting with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly to provide \$850 million in flood relief for Pakistan. Similarly, UN secretary general António Guterres visited Pakistan to assist the victims and to have a look at the situation. However, this financial provision should not be considered as aid, but rather reimbursements by other countries since this flood is their creation first-hand because of the global emissions and climate change. In wake of this time of crises in Pakistan, World being a global village should lend its hands in overcoming the repercussions of the flood. Developed and Industrialized states should accept this disaster as a result of their ill practice of polluting the environment, which is ironically forcing developing countries to pay the price. By giving relief to Pakistan in matters of taxes and loans, a lot of damage can be covered.

The government must take a significant role in handling this challenge. It must take adequate steps to recover these damages as soon as possible to give relief to the flood victims. In this regard, government should work on concrete action plan so that in the coming years this situation may be managed appreciably and dealt with accordingly. The Government should construct dams in potential target areas. The storing of this water may benefit to produce electricity which could satisfy the energy needs of the country. Nature-based solutions like green infrastructure (plantation) may regulate the flow of water and prevent from the future flood damages.

The writer is PhD scholar of International Relations

Briefs

PM rules out early elections...

FROM PAGE 1

domestic challenges" and was "on the verge of financial collapse" when he assumed charge. "The economic policies of the previous government were not pro-growth and led the economy to multiple challenges, "Pakistan's economy was facing excessive monetary tightening, supply-side shocks, lingering pandemic effects, waning investors' confidence, high inflation, and the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict," he said. However, Shehbaz said his administration had adopted a "mix of policies to tackle the economic downturn by accepting the fact that we have a very short time to step back from the edge of bankruptcy and financial collapse." "No doubt, some of our policy options, like the withdrawal of untargeted subsidies, had added to the cost to the economy in the short term. But, most of our policies are more likely to offer benefits in the longer term," he said. "This was a matter of policy choices and political will. Although such a tough decision requires huge political capital, we took the risk of taking these decisions by reverting the untargeted subsidies. "We are also aware of the fact that our current course of action is hurting the most vulnerable and marginalised in society but we are taking care of them by announcing targeted subsidies and other relief measures," the prime minister said, he premier said the revival of the IMF programme and "active engagement with bilateral and multilateral partners" had eased the pressure. To tackle the economy, he noted that his government took measures to reduce the import bill, current account deficit, and pressure on the Pakistani rupee. The "continuous decline in imports" helped improve the current account deficit during the first four months of the 2023 financial year, he added.

Six die, 7 injured as jeep plunges into ravine in AJK

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: At least six women died and seven others – including the driver – suffered injuries when a jeep carrying voters fell into a deep ravine in Azad Jammu and Kashmir's (AJK) Neelum Valley on Sunday. According to police, the ill-fated jeep with female voters on board skidded off the road and fell into a deep ravine in Dudhial area of the valley. After being informed, the police launched a rescue operation immediately and shifted the injured and the bodies to the hospital, said the officials. Six female voters succumbed to their injuries on the spot, the police said, adding that among the injured, six were in critical condition at the hospital. AJK Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic accident which resulted in the death of six women and injuries to seven others. He termed the accident as "heart-wrenching".

Winter delights in demand

ISLAMABAD: The demand of traditional winter delights has sparked in the twin cities as the citizens experienced foggy and chilly weather. The people have started enjoying the traditional local winter items like Doodh Jalebi, "Gajar ka Halwa", chicken corn soup, Kashmiri tea, fried fish, "Samosa", "Pakora", hot coffee, and other items which are high in demand particularly nowadays. Scores of temporary stalls have also been set up by vendors where winter food items are being sold. The demand of fish has increased manifold and fish outlets in different areas were crowded with customers. Men, women, and children come to these outlets to beat the cold with fried fish which is their favorite dish of everyone but it becomes more popular in the winter season.

Messi magic gives Argentina hope at World Cup 2022

Mexico, who have now lost all four World Cup clashes with Argentina, have one point and must beat Saudi Arabia, on three, to have any chance of continuing their run of making the last 16 in the last seven World Cups, but even that might not be enough

SPORTS DESK

DOHA: Lionel Messi's dream of matching late great Diego Maradona's Argentina legacy lives on as the seven-time Ballon d'Or-winning forward thumped in a 64th minute goal and Enzo Fernandez added another fabulous strike late in the game to give Argentina a 2-0 victory over Mexico in their World Cup Group C match on Saturday and reignite their tournament hopes. Messi, who equalled Maradona's Argentina record of 21 World Cup matches, was nowhere to be seen for more than an hour before picking up an Angel Di Maria pass, finding just enough space and rifling in with his left foot from 20 meters (65 feet). Substitute Fernandez made sure of the three points when he curled a superb shot into the top corner in the 87th minute. The result restored order for the Argentinians in Group C after their shock opening 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia. Argentina, on three points, can guarantee progress with a win over Poland, top on four, in their



final game on Wednesday.

Mexico, who have now lost all four World Cup clashes with Argentina, have one point and must beat Saudi Arabia, on three, to have any chance of continuing their run of making the last 16 in the last seven World Cups, but even that

might not be enough. With the prospect of an Argentina elimination, tensions were high on and off the ball in a scrappy first half but with the two sets of fans creating an electric atmosphere in the stadium. The opening period did not live up to the match's bill-

ing with neither team wanting to commit too many players forward and apart from a free kick by Mexico's Luis Chavez in the ninth minute that sailed past the goalmouth, there were few chances. Mexico's high pressing game stifled most of their opponents'

attack and Argentine talisman Messi, struggled to find any space to manoeuvre in a congested midfield. Apart from a Lautaro Martinez effort that was well off the mark and another from Messi, Argentina were toothless up front. But in a major blow to Mexico, skipper Andres Guardado, a veteran of five World Cups who until then had been a commanding presence in midfield, had to be taken off injured in the 42nd. The Mexicans still carved out two more chances before the break with Alexis Vega first curling a free kick over the wall for keeper Emiliano Martinez to save and minutes later thundering a shot over the bar. The South Americans looked more determined after the break but had no real chance before their 35-year captain dragged them out of trouble with his second goal of the tournament. The stadium erupted in cheers once more with Fernandez's late strike which sealed Argentina's first win in the tournament and rekindled Messi's hopes of a first ever World Cup title.

Amb. Sajjad participates in investment forum in Belarus

DNA

MINSK: Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan participated in the XIII International Investment Forum "Mill of Success" held in the city of Mogilev. The Deputy Minister of Economy of Belarus and Deputy Chairman of Mogilev Regional Executive Committee were amongst the keynote speakers. The representatives of around 15 countries, including government bodies, businesspersons, investors and members of the diplomatic corps attended the event. The Ambassador also visited the exhibition of the enterprises of Mogilev region



held on the side lines of the Investment Forum. Addressing the businesspersons during the plenary session of the Investment

Forum, the Ambassador expressed his gratitude for the invitation and the visits to JSC "Shagovita", a leading footwear manufacturer and

JSC "Mogileviftmash", largest manufacturer of lifts/elevators and components as part of the visit and appreciated the quality of products being manufactured.

The Ambassador also highlighted the developing friendly ties between the two countries and invited the participants to benefit from the trade & investment opportunities between the two countries. Highlighting the boom in the construction sector of Pakistan, the Ambassador invited the Belarusian companies to participate in one of the construction exhibitions held in Pakistan to explore further opportunities.

High fuel prices to kill more Europeans than war

LONDON: More people will die in Europe this winter because of energy costs than those who have perished on the battlefield in the Ukraine war, according to the British weekly newspaper The Economist. The research said the current cost of energy will likely lead to an extra 147,000 deaths if there is a typical winter. The British newspaper modeled the impact of a sharp increase in electricity prices in Europe on deaths during the winter. In case of mild temperatures using the warmest winter during the past 20 years for each country, this figure would fall to 79,000, a 2.7% increase. And with frigid ones, using each country's coldest winter since 2000, it would climb to 185,000, a rise of 6.0%. The analysis named the severity of the flu season and temperatures and energy prices as the main factors that affect how many people will die in Europe outside Ukraine this winter. The model forecasts deaths based on weather, demography, influenza, energy efficiency, incomes, government spending and electricity costs, which are closely correlated to prices for a wide variety of heating fuels. Italy is predicted to have the most deaths, owing to a nearly 200% rise in electricity costs since 2020 and a big ageing population. Across Europe, 28% more people aged at least 80, who account for 49% of total mortality, die in the coldest months than in the warmest ones. On average, in a winter 1°C colder than normal for a given country, 1.2% more people die, according to the Economist statistics. – Agencies

Corruption

MUHAMMAD SOHAIB

CORRUPTION is like a ball of snow, once it's set a rolling it must increase." (Charles Caleb Colton) The simple meaning of corruption is to get work done by means of illegal gratification. It is described as the destruction of purity, honesty or moral principle. Corruption is also explained by the World Bank and Transparency International as "the misuse of public office for private gain." Bribery, oppression, favoritism, patronage, and fraud are the example of corruption. Corruption is not considered any sign of defame it has been so deeply interlinked into our social fabric that no one thinks much about it. This day the virus of corruption has penetrated in to all the countries of the world. Pakistan is in dreadful situation. Every department is corrupt and no one bothers to perform his duties honestly. Thus, people cannot get their basic rights. The funds and money instead of spending on public welfare are wasted in corruption. Corruption remains a substantial obstacle for Pakistan where it is still perceived to be widespread and systemic. The judiciary is not seen as independent and considered to be shielded corrupt political practices from prosecution. The 2016 Panama papers that were leaked, brought to light the corrupt activities of then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Allegations related to his family's ownership of properties in Central London, which all had an unclear money trail background, were bought into question. The Supreme Court voted unanimously for his disqualification from serving as the PM on the 28th of July 2017. A well-functioning Judicial System is essential for addressing corruption effectively, but judicial institutions are themselves cancerously corrupt. The Military has been widely perceived as the most qualified, efficient and a highly disciplined organization, yet some of its officers have been connected to corruption cases. Corruptions has many bad effects in the lives of common people. It gives birth to many evils in the society. – The writer is a student

Costa Rica beat Japan to hand Germany lifeline



DOHA: Costa Rica stunned Japan 1-0 thanks to a late goal at the World Cup on Sunday to blow Group E wide open and hand a potential lifeline to Germany. Japan, who shocked four-time champions Germany 2-1 in their opener in Qatar, could have taken a giant stride towards the last 16 with a win. Instead they laboured for large parts of the match against a Costa Rica side who were hammered 7-0 by Spain, then defender Keysher Full-

er scored in the 81st minute with a deflected strike. It was Costa Rica's first shot on target at this World Cup and could be of huge benefit to the Germans. The result left Spain, Japan and Costa Rica all on three points. Spain face Germany later Sunday in another crucial contest. Japan made five changes to the team which shocked Germany in their opening match as coach Hajime Moriyasu made full use of his 26-man squad.

In temperatures of 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit) at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, Japan immediately went on the attack and won a corner within 30 seconds to signal their intent. Costa Rica coach Luis Fernando Suarez had resisted making wholesale changes to the team thumped by Spain, dropping teenage winger Jewison Bennette and defender Carlos Martinez to the bench. Gerson Torres and 34-year-old centre-back Kendall

Waston took their place in an ageing XI which featured four players from the 2014 World Cup quarter-finals. But Japan's early promise melted in the Doha sun and the first shot at goal – a tame effort which sailed high and wide – did not come until 10 minutes from half-time through Costa Rica's 30-year-old Joel Campbell. A dreary first half came to a close with "Los Ticos" having had more of ball but neither side mustering a shot on target. – APP

Morocco defeat Belgium in a thriller

SPORTS DESK

DOHA: Morocco caused the latest shock at a World Cup that has been full of surprises by beating Belgium thanks to late goals by Abdelhamid Sabiri and Zakaria Aboukhalil. Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was at fault for the first goal, inexplicably allowing Sabiri's inswinging free-kick to beat him at his near post with 17 minutes to go. But the whole Belgium side paid the price for a ponderous performance, with Morocco capping a magnificent second-half display when Aboukhalil fired Hakim Ziyech's cutback into the roof of the net in stoppage time. That sparked wild celebrations in the stands of Al Thumama Stadium from thousands of Morocco fans, who had created a raucous atmosphere from the start. The result means Morocco move above Belgium to the top of Group F on four points, with Croatia and Canada meeting later on Sunday (16:00 GMT kick-off). Few surprises had seemed on the cards early on. After surviving a high-tempo and helter-skelter approach from Canada – their first opponents in Group F – Belgium's initial job this time was to break down Morocco's massed defence. They managed it within the first five min-



utes, when Thorgan Hazard sent Michy Batshuayi running clear, but he was denied by Munir Mohamedi, a late replacement in the Morocco goal after Bono was taken ill in the warm-up. It seemed that would just be the start of some sustained Belgium pressure, but

while they continued to dominate possession, further clear-cut chances were few and far between. Roared on by their noisy fans, who were bouncing all around Al Thumama Stadium in great numbers, Morocco comfortably kept them at bay and began to grow into the game themselves.

They thought they had taken the lead just before half-time when Ziyech's free-kick eluded Courtois, but the video assistant referee (VAR) showed Romain Saiss was offside and deemed to be interfering with play after running across the Belgium goalkeeper's line of sight. Roberto Martinez's side did not improve after the break, only managing shots from distance from the ineffective Eden Hazard and substitute Dries Mertens. Morocco, meanwhile, were becoming as lively as their supporters in the stands and went close to taking the lead when Sofiane Boufal cut in from the left and sent a shot bouncing wide. They kept coming forward and got their reward when Sabiri's clever free-kick found Courtois dozing at a set-piece again. This time, there was to be no VAR reprieve to save him. The closest Belgium came to an equaliser was when Jan Vertonghen headed wide, before Aboukhalil made sure of a stunning victory by finishing off a swift break. Belgium's stuttering win over Canada in their opening game means their route to the last 16 is still open, albeit less straightforward than was anticipated. But this was another reminder that the generation of players that reached the semi-finals of the World Cup four years ago are nearing the end of the road.

'I don't have Sharif's laptop': Murad

DNA

PESHAWAR: Former federal minister Murad Saeed has demanded that the investigation team that went to Kenya and Dubai to investigate the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif should present the evidence before the public. Saeed said that Arshad's laptop was not with him and those who went for investigation should "put the evidence they have brought before the nation". While addressing a news conference at the Peshawar Press Club on Sunday, the former federal minister said that he had not received any notice from the FIA yet and the team that went for investigation had all the equipment and evidence. The PTI leader said that Arshad had said about these people even before his martyrdom and he had a valid visa of UAE. "Now the question to ask is ... who are those people due to which Arshad left UAE?" The former minister said that some people held a news conference before Arshad's funeral. He said that 16 fake FIRs were registered against Arshad while he was also threatened. Saeed said that the chief justice of Pakistan should form a judicial commission to investigate the murder of Arshad and his killers should be arrested as soon as possible because neither Arshad's family nor "we have any confidence in the current fact-finding committee of the government". "All their narratives are based on lies," Arshad was shot dead on the outskirts of Kenya's Nairobi city on October 23. His death sent shock waves across rights organisations, the media fraternity and civil society and prompted calls for thorough investigation and disclosure of facts.

NA expresses solidarity with Swati

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Treasury members in the National Assembly, expressing solidarity with Azam Swati, demanded formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate the claims of the PTI about the leak of an objectionable video to his family. Dr Nafisa Shah of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Religious Affairs Minister Mufti Abdul Shakoor, who belongs to the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), said that violation of someone's privacy was a violation of the Constitution, adding that parliament must take notice of the incident. The National Assembly met with Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf in the chair. At the outset of the session, the house offered Fateha for departed souls of former caretaker prime minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari and martyred policemen from Ghotki. The passed a resolution condemning the arrest of former Punjab deputy speaker Dost Mohammad Mazari. The house was informed that the government would bear the fare of the students, using government school buses in the federal capital. Debating the Swati's video, Mufti Abdul Shakoor said that PTI senator had been made a scapegoat. He said that what happened to Azam Swati could happen to anyone else tomorrow. "Even it could happen to me also," the minister told the house. Taking the floor, Dr Nafisa Shah said that it was regrettable policemen and officers were martyred in Ghotki attack. She also condemned the political victimisation of Dost Mazari, saying that the PTI was still indulged in politics of revenge. Dr Shah also condemned attack on the PTI long march in Wazirabad last week. "An attack on a political gathering is an attack on politics," she said. The attack must be investigated. Long march was Imran Khan's Right," the PPP lawmaker told the house. She reminded the PTI that with rights, came responsibilities. She said that at the time of the martyrdom of late Benazir Bhutto, there could have been provocation.

Briefs

Turkish, Saudi trade ministers meet to discuss coop

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Türkiye's Treasury and Finance Minister Nureddin Nebati met with Saudi Arabian Trade Minister Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi in Istanbul on Sunday and discussed bilateral relations. Nebati, in a Twitter post, said the meeting with the Saudi trade minister was very productive. "During our meeting, we evaluated economic, commercial and financial cooperation between our countries," Nebati noted. "We agreed with the minister to further develop our cooperation in these areas," he added. Türkiye and Saudi Arabia have this year moved to mend ties following years of tension, which escalated especially after the 2018 murder of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Saudi Arabia's Istanbul Consulate. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan visited Saudi Arabia in April, the first high-level visit in years. His trip was followed by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's (MBS) trip to Türkiye in June. The two leaders also met last week on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. Nebati's meeting with the Saudi minister came as a large delegation led by Saudi Arabia's investment minister is expected to arrive in Türkiye next month. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye are currently discussing a \$5 billion deposit at the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye (CBRT), according to a recent statement by a spokesperson from the Saudi Ministry of Finance. "We are in final discussions to make a \$5 billion deposit with the central bank of (Türkiye)," the spokesperson said in an emailed response to a Reuters query.

China records over 31,000 new COVID-19 cases

BEIJING: China reported 31,709 new coronavirus infections on Saturday, while 1,893 patients were released from hospital care after fully recovering in the last 24 hours. Of total new cases, only 3,474 exhibited symptoms, the National Health Commission (NHC) said in a written statement, adding that over 11.4 million people had been "identified as having had close contact with infected patients." It noted that more than 1.6 million people are still under medical observation, while 12,624 asymptomatic cases were "freed from medical observation" on Friday. In Xinjiang, an autonomous territory in northwestern China, local officials said COVID-19 cases were cleared from the regional capital Urumqi at the community level and that order would be restored to the lives of residents in low-risk areas "in a phased manner," according to Global Times. While the officials said the city still contained high-risk areas, they said there were still about 100 daily confirmed infections over the past two days. High-risk areas revert back to the low-risk level once no new COVID-19 infections are identified for five straight days.—Agencies



RAMALLAH: Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmed Rabei and his wife visited Dura Al Amal Charitable Association during their visit to Palestine. They remained with the children for quite some time and appreciated the efforts of the management of the association for taking care the inmates.—DNA

SBP decision to raise key policy rate to ruin economy

Mian Anjum asks SBP to follow region to maintain markup to stimulate growth

DNA

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Sunday rejected the central bank's decision of jacking up key policy rate by 100 basis points, taking it to 16%, the highest since 1998, stating that Pakistan's interest rate was already very high in view of the regional countries markup rates. BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president Mian Anjum Nisar asked the SBP to follow regional countries, who have maintained their key policy rate at average 6.5% to attract investment and stimulate the economy. These countries can manage surging inflation through regulatory tools without throttling growth, so Pakistan should also take benefit of such approach, he added. He stressed the need for reduction in discount rate, arguing that low key policy rate is essential to make Pakistani exporting sector as well as the local industry competitive. In the absence of any stable at-

mosphere, the SBP's decision to raise interest rate will further ruin the economy, he said, adding this is why the businessmen had opposed the bill for SBP's autonomy. Mian Anjum Nisar also demanded the immediate reduction in electricity tariff especially for SMEs as a first step towards cut in production cost while the second and vital step toward this direction would be bringing discount rate to the regional level with a view to provide level-playing field especially to the export industry. The decision would have the same importance for the domestic industry too, as it has also been facing tough competition of cheaper imported merchandise in the country following FTAs with several countries, he added. While appreciating the central bank's role in sustaining economic growth through supporting trade and industry in past, he said that reduction in interest rate could have proved to be a vital relief to the business community. The BMP chief said that the authorities would have to reduce production cost of the industries

to avail this offer by the international buyers. He said that the central bank should announce an initiative related to loans for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as the SME sector has to show collateral to banks, which are always reluctant to offer them concessional credit. He said it is high time that government should revise interest rate to turn Pakistan into a production economy. He said our future lies in strengthening the production sectors, but that would require the government to make a decision and cut the cost of credit as there is no justification to keep interest rates that high particularly when this policy is unlikely to produce the desired results in the wake of cost-pushed inflation. Mian Anjum said that tight monetary policy has not produced desired results for the economy in past as the inflation rate on which the current policy is based, is once again surging despite increasing key policy rate. He said that the tight monetary policy is casting multiple negative effects on the economy as it has kept interest rate very high caus-

ing sharp fall in the value of rupee, squeezing credit for private sector and reducing domestic savings, investment, production and exports. He said it is right time that SBP should revisit its monetary policy to mitigate its harmful impact on the business and economy. He said that the country is passing through a difficult phase in view of massive rupee devaluation against the dollar which is bound to increase the cost of imported raw materials. Dark clouds are hovering on the stock market and there is a flight of capital from Pakistan. The SBP's decision to increase the interest rates looks untimely, he added. He said the central banks of various countries were lowering the interest rate while the SBP was going in the opposite direction. The SBP has raised the interest rate to reduce pressure on inflation. Pakistan's economy is import-oriented where exchange rate plays havoc with the commodity and raw material prices, he said. He opined that the prices of raw materials and finished products were already high and

they will further soar in view of the continuous rupee fall against the dollar which would push up the cost of doing business. Mian Anjum Nisar called for quick and serious measures to revive industrial growth, as the businesses have been facing severe financial crunch amidst, soaring fuel cost, delaying sales tax refunds and rising markup rate. He stressed the need for increasing ease of doing business, lowering cost of production, paying early refunds to the industry to solve liquidity crunch, relaxing import policy for industrial raw material, and equalizing the energy tariff across the country. BMP Chairman said that Pakistan's core issue is the high cost of doing business, which the government needed to bring down to bring the industry at par with global competitors. He warned the authorities that rising inflation can hurt economic growth in Pakistan and a careful policy is required to keep it in control, as the present rigid monetary policy stance of the central bank has failed to contain the hyperinflation in the country.

Swedish activists sue gov't over 'insufficient' climate policy

STOCKHOLM: Hundreds of Swedish activists on Friday held a rally to file a lawsuit against the government for failing to address climate change. Gathering in front of the parliament, 636 activists from environmentalist group Aurora, who sued the government, and hundreds others who took part in the demonstration to show solidarity, marched to a court. Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg also joined the rally in her 23rd week of school strike and said "See you in court!" "Today on Black Friday is the perfect day to sue the state over its insufficient climate policies. So that's what we did," she said on Twitter. Later, Aurora, a youth-led network, said 2,000 other activists and concerned citizens also hold a march in Stockholm to show solidarity with them.—Agencies

Amazon workers strike across globe over

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: Workers at Amazon sites across the globe have taken part in a "Make Amazon Pay" initiative as part of a walkout over pay and working conditions. Amazon workers in the United States, Germany and France, as well as Japan, Argentina, Ireland, South Africa, Israel, Bangladesh, Australia, and elsewhere participated in the industrial action held on Black Friday, targeting the online retailer on one of the busiest shopping days of the year. In the US, workers at an Amazon facility in St. Peters, Missouri walked off their jobs, while unions representing retail workers in New York City staged demonstrations outside Amazon owner Jeff Bezos's apartment building penthouse. Germany's Verdi union said strikes were planned at 10 warehouses in the country. It demanded the company recognize collective bargaining agreements for the retail and mail order trade sectors and called for a further collective agreement on good working conditions.

European Commission never considered ban on Russian gas

BRUSSELS: The European Commission has never considered a ban on Russian gas, the commission's chief spokesperson said on Friday, adding that there is no change in this regard. "We have taken measures related to oil, Russian oil transported to the EU by pipelines with some minor exceptions, ... but we have never announced any work on a ban on Russian gas and that has not changed," Eric Mamer told a midday briefing in Brussels. Asked about the latest situation on the Russian oil price cap, he noted that the discussions are ongoing as no agreement has been reached yet. The EU has so far failed to reach a deal to cap the prices for Russian sea-borne oil. Earlier on Thursday, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said members were working "full speed" on a ninth sanctions package and will "very soon" approve a global price cap on Russian oil with the G7 and other major partners.—Agencies



QUETTA: Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Dr Riina Kionka Dr Riina Kionka taking picture with children during an event. — DNA

Belarus foreign minister Makei dies suddenly

MINSK: Belarus' long-standing foreign minister has died suddenly, the state news agency Belta reported on Saturday, two days before he was meant to meet his Russian counterpart. "Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei has passed away suddenly," Belta reported without giving further detail. Makei had held his post since 2012. Makei, 64, attended a conference of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) - a military alliance of several post-soviet states - in Yerevan earlier this week and was due to meet Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on Monday. Before the presidential elections and mass anti-government protests in Belarus in 2020, Makei had been one of the initiators of efforts to improve Belarus' relations with the West and had criticised Russia. However, he abruptly changed his stance after the start of the protests, saying they were inspired by agents of the West. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in February, Makei, a supporter of close ties between Moscow and Minsk, said the West had provoked the war and that the Ukrainian authorities should agree to the Russian terms of peace. A few days before the start of the war, Makei promised that there would be no attack on Ukraine from the territory of Belarus. A few days later, Russian troops proved that he was wrong. "We are shocked by the reports of the death of the Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Vladimir Makei," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova posted in her Telegram channel. "Official condolences will be published soon." Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, who retained power despite the protests of 2020, also expressed his condolences.—APP

Pakistan permanent pavilion inaugurated at Shanghai FTZ

DNA

BEIJING: The establishment of the Pakistan Permanent Pavilion at the Global Hub, Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone (FTZ) is of great significance for enhancing the awareness of Pakistan's high-quality and branded goods and expanding its exports to China and other countries. This was stated by Hussain Haider, Pakistan's Consul General in Shanghai at the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan Pavilion, according to Gwadar Pro. Terming the

pavilion as an important sign of promoting the bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, the Consul General added that it would help create a better understanding of Pakistani products in a well-known global metropolis like Shanghai. He said that, "China is Pakistan's second largest export destination and the opening of national pavilions in different cities has created more channels between Pakistani products and Chinese consumers. With the passage of time, more Pakistani businessmen with a wider variety of products will find their way into the pavil-

ion and Chinese market." The CG further maintained that, "the Pakistani Consulate General will continue to build platforms for exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises, and will hold more docking meetings and activities at the National Pavilion in the future." The Waigaoqiao FTZ is China's first of its kind, with the highest economic aggregate. It benefits from pilot policies and professional trade service teams that can help cross-border and domestic trade. Li Chuxi, Vice General Manager of Shanghai Waigaoqiao International Trading Operation

Center Co., Ltd, congratulated Pakistan on the establishment of the Pakistan National Pavilion and welcomed more interactions with Pakistani businesses. Aqeel Chaudhry, who is in charge of the pavilion has been in China for over 20 years and has participated in the China International Import Expo (CIIE) for five years in a row. He believes that the Pakistan Pavilion will benefit from the spillover effect of the extended CIIE and turn the exhibits into commodities. He also invited more Pakistani businesses to display their wares at the Shanghai Pavilion in Shanghai.—APP

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Briefs

IG admits negligence in Parveen case

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Inspector-General Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon Sunday admitted negligence by the police in the high-profile Parveen Rahman murder case. Rahman, a renowned urban planner and director of the Orangi Pilot Project, was murdered in a drive-by shooting on her car at the Banaras flyover a few minutes after she left her office for home on March 13, 2013. She was killed as a result of a land dispute. Speaking with Geo News in an interview, the IG said: "In the Parveen Rahman murder case, there was negligence by the police. We are going to appeal against the decision." IG Nabi said that the police was trying to remove "defects from the investigation system" and also attempting to make appointments in every department on a permanent basis. Last week, the Sindh High Court nullified the life-imprisonment sentences, handed over to the accused individuals for Rahman's murder by the anti-terrorism court (ATC), following insufficient evidence.

Taiwan's President quits as party chair

DNA

TAIPEI: Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen has resigned as head of the governing Democratic Progressive Party after its poor showing in local elections. The opposition Kuomintang (KMT) won several major races on Saturday, including in the capital Taipei. The vote has drawn global attention as Taiwan becomes a bigger geopolitical flashpoint between China and the US. President Tsai had framed the election as a vote for democracy amid rising tensions with China. "The election results were not as expected... I should shoulder all the responsibility and I resign as DPP chairwoman immediately," Ms Tsai, who will continue as president of the self-ruled island, told reporters. The elections for local councils and city mayors theoretically have a domestic focus, covering issues such as crime, housing and social welfare, and those elected will not have a direct say on Taiwan's policy regarding China.

Italy declares state of emergency

ROME: Italy's government declared a state of emergency on Sunday after a landslide on the southern island of Ischia killed at least one person and left a dozen missing. A wave of mud and debris hit the small town of Casamicciola Terme early Saturday morning, engulfing at least one house and sweeping cars down to the sea, local media and emergency services said. A first tranche of two million euros relief funds was released at the end of an emergency cabinet meeting which declared the state of emergency, said Minister for Civil Protection Nello Musumeci. More than 200 rescuers are still searching for a dozen missing people, while hundreds of volunteers, and others, up to their knees in mud. - Agencies

Korean music night features Samulnori zone of music



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Suh Sangpayo hosted a grand Korean Music Night featuring Samulnori zone of music. The artists presented a spell binding performance. This was perhaps for the first time that this kind of music was introduced to Pakistani audiences that is why all and sundry enjoyed the performances and praised the great work exhibited by the artists. Ambassador of Korea on the occasion in his brief remarks welcomed the guests and assured his embassy would continue to presenting such performances even in the coming days. The guests were also served with traditional Korean cuisin. - DNA

Pak urges world to step up against climate change

DNA

MADRID: Shazia Marri, minister for poverty alleviation and social safety and chairperson of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Sunday urged the world to take some serious steps for resolving climate change issues. Addressing the 26th Socialist International Congress in Spain's Madrid, the minister said that 33 million people in Pakistan have been impacted by the devastating floods this year, leaving 650,000 pregnant women and four million children severely affected by the worst rains and floods in the country's history due to climate change. Marri, who was elected as vice-president of Socialist International Women from the Asia Pacific region, said that climate change poses the biggest threat to the planet and its residents.

FIFA probes Serbia over offensive map

NEWS DESK

LONDON: FIFA has opened disciplinary proceedings against the Serbian football federation after the team hung a controversial flag depicting Kosovo in their changing room before their loss to Brazil at the World Cup. "The FIFA disciplinary committee has opened proceedings against the football association of Serbia due to a flag displayed in their dressing room on the occasion of the Brazil v Serbia FIFA World Cup match played on 24 November," FIFA said in a statement on Saturday. The Kosovo football federation (FFK) filed a complaint with the governing body after photos showed Serbia's football team hung up a flag depicting Kosovo's borders with the Serbian flags' colours and stamped with the slogan "there will be no surrender"

ISPR rejects claims about Gen Bajwa, family's assets

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The military's media wing on Sunday rubbished the claims being made on social media related to the assets of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family, saying that the reports were "totally untrue and based on blatant lies". "Misleading data regarding the assets of army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family have been shared on social media. These misleading figures are exaggerated and based on assumption," said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement. The military's media wing said that a specific group has very "cleverly and dishonestly" associated the assets of General Bajwa's daughter-in-law's father and family with the army chief and his family. "An incorrect impression is being created that these assets were created by army chief General Bajwa's family during his six-year tenure. It is totally untrue, based on blatant lies and malice," said the ISPR. The military's media wing assured that all the assets of the army chief, his wife and his family have been declared to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). "Army chief and his family regularly file tax return. Like every citizen, the army chief and his family are accountable to the tax authorities for their assets," said the ISPR. Earlier this week, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar took notice of the "illegal and unwarranted" leakage of tax information of Gen

Bajwa's family members. "This is clearly a violation of the complete confidentiality of tax information that the law provides," a statement from the Finance Division had read. Given this serious lapse on the part of to-date unknown functionaries, Dar had directed Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha to personally lead the probe, affix responsibility, and submit a report within 24 hours. A day later, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had shared during a news programme that he had received the interim report related to the leak and traced some people involved in the act. Dar repeated that leaking the army chief's income tax returns were "illegal". He added that the government has found a few people behind the leak and the issue will reach its logical conclusion. The finance czar shared that one person involved in the leak is from Lahore and another from Rawalpindi. However, he added that there is a possibility that some of the individuals involved may have the authorisation to look at the income tax records as there is a "circle" in Rawalpindi where assessments take place. "These people are authorised to access [data] for their assessment," said Dar. The finance minister was of the view that if "illegal work" is allowed or a blind eye is turned towards it then a person will not be fulfilling their duty. "The law does not allow the release of army chief or anyone else's income tax returns without a court order," said the finance minister.

COVID rule protests in China

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Rare protests against China's strict "zero-COVID" policies continued in Shanghai and Beijing on Sunday afternoon, which had spread across the country after a deadly apartment fire in the northwestern city of Urumqi on Friday. Crowds stood and filmed as police started shoving at people who had gathered in the same street in Shanghai where police had cleared hundreds away with force just hours before. They shouted, "We don't want PCR tests, we want freedom!" according to a witness who did not want to be named for fear of retribution. Since Friday people have been protesting across China, where street demonstrations are extremely

rare. Public anger boiled over after 10 people died in a fire in an apartment building in Urumqi that many believe was caused by excessive lockdown measures that delayed rescue efforts. One social media post which translates Chinese media reports into English on Twitter posted a video of the fire. A crowdsourced list, posted on social media by the China editor of Singapore-based Intinium Media, said there were demonstrations in 50 universities. Videos posted on social media that managed to evade the censors were said to have been filmed in Nanjing in the east, Guangzhou in the south, Beijing in the north and at least five other cities. They showed protesters tussling with police in white Covid protective suits or dismantling barricades used to seal off neighbourhoods.

Online, videos from the scenes quickly emerged. Some of the most shared videos came from Shanghai, which had borne a devastating lockdown in spring in which people struggled to secure groceries and medicines and were forcefully taken into centralised quarantine. In the dark early hours of Sunday, standing on the road named after a city in Xinjiang where at least 10 people had just died in an apartment fire, protesters chanted "Xi Jinping! Step down! CCP! Step down," referring to the president and the ruling communist party. One protester who chanted with the crowd confirmed to Associated Press that people did shout for the removal of Xi Jinping, China's leader - words that many would never have thought would have been said aloud in one of China's biggest cities.