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Danish PM resigns to form coalition govt after election win

Detailed News On Page-07

British PM to attend COP-27 in Egypt

Detailed News On Page-07



Saudi envoy meets HEC Chairman

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Army Chief visits ASFC HQ

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa Wednesday visited Headquarters Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC). During the visit, he interacted with officers and troops and appreciated their professionalism and high state of morale, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, Lieutenant General Muhammad Ali.

Marriyum lambasts 'bloody march'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said innocent people were losing lives due to the "bloody march" of Imran Khan, "who is bent upon creating chaos and anarchy to satisfy his ego in achieving ulterior motives". "The people are fully aware that Imran Khan is a thief, dacoit, liar, incompetent and foreign-funded Fitna," she said in a news statement while reacting to Imran Khan's addresses to the long march. She said the "foreign funded Fitna" had admitted that he was in pain for not getting an opportunity to appoint the new army chief.

Sherry to seek 'Climate Finance'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said the country being the worst impacted due to unprecedented natural calamities would flag the urgent need to mobilise the unmet global pledge of climate finance and a dedicated loss and damage funding stream at the COP-27 international moot to be held in Egypt.

Will support Pakistan in stabilizing economy: Xi

The Chinese president and PM Shehbaz discussed "broad-based co-op in economy and investment"

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China will continue to support Pakistan in stabilising its financial situation, state media quoted China's President Xi Jinping as saying on Wednesday. China and Pakistan should move forward more effectively with the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as well as accelerate the construction of infrastructure for the Gwadar Sea Port, state media reported Xi as saying. The Chinese president made the remarks in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during which the two leaders agreed to strengthen the strategic partnership between Islamabad and Beijing, as well as multilateral cooperation in various areas, including the CPEC. The bilateral consensus between the two leaders was reached as PM Shehbaz called on Xi at the People's Great Hall of China.

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PM, Premier Li discuss CPEC

DNA

BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang here where in the two side agreed to expand the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) besides ensuring the early completion of the CPEC projects. The meeting was held at the Great Hall of the People as the prime minister was on maiden two-day official visit to China, along with a high level delegation. On his arrival at the venue, the prime minister was warmly received and

Continued on Page 06



BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pose for a photo before their meeting. - DNA

Movement to continue for 10 months: Imran

Asks establishment what makes them to delay elections if they are apolitical

OUR CORRESPONDENT

GHAKKAR: PTI chairman Imran Khan has said that his movement for "haqeeqi azadi" will continue for the next 10 months. Addressing participants of the party's long march, he said: "Nobody should think our movement will end in Islamabad, it will continue for the next 10 months until we don't have elections." The former premier asserted that he would not accept the incumbent government "at any cost" and would rather die than "bow down before these thieves". PTI Chairman Imran Khan has said that he has "no doubt" that the turnout for the party's long march in Islamabad and Rawalpindi will "break all records of public gatherings in Pakistan". Imran Khan asked the institutions that if they were neutral what was stopping them from holding "free and fair elections". "In the press conference, it was said that we are neutral and

Continued on Page 06

SC seeks explanation from Imran

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan sought an explanation from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on the events related to previous long march by PTI on May 25. A five-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial heard the contempt petition against Imran Khan, in which President Supreme Court Bar Ahsan Bhawan and

Continued on Page 06

'Doors for talks open through Alvi'



DNA

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that the doors were open for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan to hold talks with the incumbent government through President Dr Arif Alvi. Talking to a news anchor, the minister stated that the government is ready for talks between it and the PTI if the president wanted to play a role. He added that President Alvi had a constitutional position and should be active again. Alluding to the establishment, Iqbal further said that it was "not a good tradition" to involve non-political organisations in politics. He maintained that the doors for talks were open if Imran wanted to have discussions while staying within the bounds of democracy. He revealed that some members of the PTI had allegedly contacted and spoken to the coalition government but had expressed their reservations about talks, claiming that the PTI chief did not listen to them either.

Cabinet approves 7-year jail over spreading hate on social media

FIA has been authorised to take action against such individuals

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Wednesday approved an amendment imposing seven-year imprisonment for those spreading hateful content on social media. Under the amendment, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has been authorised to take action against such individuals. The proposal has also recommended the inclusion of Section 505 of the Pakistan Penal Code in the FIA Act. Once the amendment is approved, FIA will also have the authority to take action on any kind of fake news and rumours on social media. The cabinet approved the amendments in the

Continued on Page 06

Sanaullah says will consult stakeholders

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday decided to consult journalists and other stakeholders regarding an amendment imposing seven-year imprisonment for those spreading hateful content on

Continued on Page 06

Nepal, Pakistan can cooperate in tourism sector: envoy

Says Nepal and Pakistan have been helping each other during hard times

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari has said Nepal is a global tourist destination. It is a hub of mountain and adventure tourism. We have trained manpower in these spheres. 'We have the best hospitality industry in South Asia. It has the best and authentic restaurants of different delicacy of the world and most open and vibrant society. Mountain, culture, people, religion, jungle safari are the main areas of tourist attractions in Nepal'. He expressed these views while giving an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad POST. The Ambassador further said, tourism was a main component of the economy and provides economic opportunity, employment and revenue. It is expanding day-by-day. It provides cultural cooperation opportunities where different culture meets and interacts. Tourism is a soft power of the country. He said they wanted to show culture, tradition and other tourism products to our friends across the world and the Government of Nepal announced to organize Visit Nepal Year 2020 to show Nepali hospitality. In the mean-



time, the Covid outbreak completely impacted the plan and you are aware how much the travel, airlines and tourism industry suffered by it. Tourism industry has not reached the pre-Covid level. 'But I believe the time won't be the same again and we will come with more vigor to show Nepal, Nepali culture and Nepali hospitality. Pakistan is a big market of tourism. Every year a large number of people visits different countries for tourism from Pakistan. Being in the neighborhood, simple visa regime, friendly environment, hospitable people, I believe Pakistani people will enjoy their visit in Nepal. Moreover, every year Nepali mountaineers are visiting Paki-

stan for mountaineering and tourism with foreign guests. They are sharing their skills and knowledge with local Pakistani mountaineers. I believe continued cooperation between Nepali and Pakistani mountaineers will make a difference to both countries, making it the center of mountain tourism, he added. Talking about floods in Pakistan Ambassador Tapas said, the massive Monsoon floods caused a huge impact in Pakistan. Many precious lives were lost and a large number of houses, public property, farmlands, crops were completely destroyed or damaged. 'We are deeply touched by the death and damage by the floods. As close friend, we are fully with the Government and people of Pakistan and express our deepest condolences to them'. He said, Nepal and Pakistan have been helping each other during such times. Nepal sent a flight containing food, clothes and medicines on 13 September 2022. Since both countries are prone to natural disasters induced by various factors such as climate change, we should continue and enhance our cooperation at bilateral, regional, and global levels to adapt and mitigate these impacts, the ambassador concluded.

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Yutong Master donates ration

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's Yutong Bus and Pakistan's Master Motors donated 200 tents and 1,400 ration bags for flood victims in Sindh province.

According to Gwadar on Wednesday, it was disclosed by Yutong Master, a joint venture between China's Yutong Bus and Pakistan's Master Motors.

More than 33 million people have been affected by monsoon floods across Pakistan since June, 2022. The flood killed more than 2,000 people and destroyed homes, crops and livestock. At least 30 million people are in need for food, medicine and shelter, the JV said.

With the spirit of 'Hands in Hands against Hardship', Master Motor Pakistan and Yutong Bus China took an initiative of donating 10 trucks of ration and tents to flood victims.

Mr. Robin, Middle East Head of Yutong Bus China along with Faisal Meraj, Director Marketing and Sales of Master Motor handed over 40 tons of aid including 1,400 ration bags and 200 tents to Sharjeel Inam Memon, Minister for Transport and Information, Sindh.

The ceremony was held at the Minister's office in Karachi, where both company representatives pledged to continue the support for rehabilitation of flood victims. It is relevant to mention that Chinese enterprises operating in Pakistan are at the forefront of the country's flood relief efforts while the Chinese government is also contributing generously for post-disaster rehabilitation.

Korean delegation visits NUST SECS

ISLAMABAD: The First Secretary of the Republic of Korea Embassy in Islamabad, Mr Lee IY visited the China-Pakistan Intelligence System Lab based at NUST School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences (SECS) on Wednesday. The lab has been developed with the collaboration of NUST China Study Centre (CSC) and China Academy of Science, Principal SECS Dr Muhammad Ajmal Khan, SI(M) along with his team and CSC staff and faculty received the Korean delegation at the SECS. The visit included a tour of the lab and the facilities being utilised by the researchers at the China-Pakistan Intelligence System Lab. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani presenting bouquet to the Turkish artists who performed on the occasion of gala event held at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. —DNA

Tetra Pak donates PKR 22m to PRCs for flood victims

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Tetra Pak Pakistan has also stepped forward to donate a generous sum of PKR 22 million to support the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in response to their emergency appeal to maximize flood relief efforts across the country to tackle the alarming situation. The donation cheque was presented by Mr. Misbah Burney, Finance Director of Tetra Pak Pakistan, to Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Mr. Sardar

Shahid Ahmed Laghari at PRCs National Headquarters in Islamabad here on Wednesday. During this engagement, both representatives discussed in detail regarding current challenges faced by the flood victims and the need for all stakeholders to work together and expand the scope of relief efforts. Misbah Burney recognized this relief assistance as a firm commitment from Tetra Pak to help protect the communities it operates in. He said, "The massive havoc and wreckage caused by

these floods have shattered these communities, driving millions out of their homes and into the open to face danger and disease like never witnessed before. For an efficient capacity building of relief efforts, we believe in serving our part by supporting a major humanitarian actor such as the Pakistan Red Crescent which has been actively involved in driving relief efforts across the country with great financial diligence and use of local capacity."

Chairman PRCs, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, said, "We are heartbroken by the tragic loss of so many lives, and the misery and hardship these floods have brought to people across Pakistan who are now trying to seek safety and shelter to protect their families. Red Crescent relief operation is ongoing in the flood-affected areas and our relief teams are on the ground and working round the clock, providing relief and rescue services to the distressed people". He said PRCs is grateful for the generous relief support from Tetra Pak Pakistan which will help us in mobilizing thousands

of people to safety and providing them with critical relief and much-needed assistance. The assistance immediately required by flood victims is life saving, however, the impact of this flooding will be long-term. The significant loss to the livestock and agriculture sector will not only impact the livelihoods of those affected by it but also the food security situation of the country in the medium and long term. There is a dire need for all stakeholders to work together and adopt smart solutions.

Experts highlight impacts of IMO conventions

Shujaat Hamza ISLAMABAD: "The government of Pakistan wants to promote Ship Recycling industry by resolving its outstanding issues in line with the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan for sustainable economic growth and United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development", said the Chief Guest Mr. Mathar Niaz Rana, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA) while addressing the webinar titled "Implications of IMO Conventions (Particularly HKC) in National and International Context and the Way Forward" - organized by National Institute of Maritime Affairs on 27 October, 2022. He emphasized that

the geographical location of Pakistan's ship recycling yard and the nature of the beach have a competitive advantage over other recycling yards in the region, for which compliance of international obligation is critically important. Director General NIMA Vice Admiral (R) Abdul Azeem HI(M), in his welcome remarks highlighted the significance of International Conventions particularly HKC which offers avenue for green ship recycling by ensuring safe and environmentally sound practices. On the occasion, the keynote speaker Mr. Moin Ahmed, Director General International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

briefed about the evolution of Hong Kong Convention its needs and preparedness requirement. He added that there is a need for improved infrastructure and capacity building. Mr. Jun Sun, technical officer, IMO deliberated HKC's requirements, status, foreseeing and IMO's efforts towards its promotion. He apprised that HKC offers a pragmatic, realistic and gradual way to improve safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships. Prof. Dr. Raphael Baumber, World Maritime University (WU), Malmö, Sweden added that there is a need to develop curriculum including mandatory safety training programme.

Long march turns as stop march

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Wednesday said that the so-called long march of Imran Khan has become a stop march. "The arrival dates of the long march, led by Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan, at Islamabad are continuously changing. The so-called long march has become a stop march which starts at noon and ends in the evening", he said during a presser flanked by Pakistan People's Party leaders, Senator Palwasha Khan and Akhunda Chhattani. He said that Imran Khan is waiting for a telephone call, the way he was waiting for the call of United States President, Joe Biden in the past. He said that Pakistan People's Party has defeated PTI in Karachi and Multan during the recent by-elections. "Imran Khan has accused PPP of rigging in Karachi while PPP is ready to contest again on that seat", he added. He said that on one hand, Imran Khan and his supporters say that they believed on supremacy of parliament while on the other hand they are waiting for a call from establishment. PTI's long march is aimed at harming Pakistan's economy, targeting state institutions and dividing people, he said. Faisal Kundi said, "Our coalition party formed a committee for having dialogue with PTI leadership. —APP

CDA carries out operations against illegal constructions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis, Enforcement Department and Building Control North Directorate carried out operation on Wednesday in sector E-11 against unauthorized buildings. As a result of these operation, many buildings were sealed and unauthorized constructions were also demolished. 6 trucks of equipment were also confiscated. According to the details, Chairman CDA Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis in a high-level meeting issued instructions to launch a special campaign against unauthorized buildings in Islamabad. Acting upon directions of Chairman comprehensive operation has

been started against the violations of Islamabad Building Control Regulation-2020 and the construction of buildings without permission. ICT officers and Islamabad police also provided assistance in this operation. As a result of this operation, several buildings built in Sector E-11 were not only sealed, but the ongoing constructions were also demolished with the help of heavy machinery, while 3 trucks of equipment were also confiscated from the spot. Moreover, in F-10 Markaz, a comprehensive action was taken against encroachments, during which dozens of stalls on the sides of the road, public passages and footpaths were removed and 2 trucks of the encroachment material were also confiscated.

Chinese delegation visits PCJCCI

LAHORE: A Chinese delegation, led by Gao Qiang, Vice President of Sinovac Global, met SM Naveed, chairman Special Economic Zones/ former president Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Salahuddin Hanif at the Chamber's Secretariat, here on Wednesday. SM Naveed said that Punjab chief minister had assured that Sinovac Company would be provided land on a priority basis in CPEC Industrial Estate Faisalabad. All the required facilities would be provided to the company in Punjab, he said and added that the project would not only benefit Punjab but the whole of Pakistan and it would be carried forward on a fast-track basis to ensure early completion. He added, "We thank Sinovac Company for supplying vaccines to Pakistan during the corona epidemic. Planning a factory to manufacture plasma medicine products in Punjab is a big step, and we hope that the project will definitely help save lives of people at massive scale. —APP

Qatari envoy lauds services of PSH

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani Wednesday met with the children of Pakistan Sweet Home and said that it was best work to educate the orphan children and make them stand at their feet. According to a press release issued here, the ambassador said that he did not know Pakistan was looking after orphan children at such a large scale. He said the courage, passion, and confidence of the children had inspired him. The ambassador said Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Home Zamarud Khan and his



team were fulfilling a great mission of serving humanity and the country. He also assured that the government of Qatar would be ready for any possible cooperation in that regard. On this occasion, Zamarud

Khan said that Qatar had always been striving for the welfare of Pakistan and played a role for the education and training of orphans. The children of Pakistan Sweet Home entertained the audience

with a colorful performance of Pakistani culture. Head of Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamarud Khan, and the children presented a commemorative shield to the Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

KP Tourism falls decline due to long march

PESHAWAR: Like others socioeconomic sectors, tourism was also affected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where significant decrease in arrival of tourists, mountaineers and trekkers from Punjab and Sindh provinces were witnessed due to blockage of roads owing to the long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Once flooded of eco-tourists, mountaineers and trekkers besides adventure sports enthusiasts, Nathiagali and Ayubia, the most scenic tourist resorts of Hazara division were almost deserted these days due to lack of tourists from Punjab due to massive traffic jams on GT Road near Gujranawala and adjoining districts. As a result, the hotels and tourism related business were badly affected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab besides making hundreds of labourers, transporters, poachers, horse & camels riders and waiters jobless. "A sharp decrease in arrival of tourists have been witnessed at Nathiagali, Ayubia and Thandiyani after the start of long

march and many make-shifts hotels and restaurants were closed," Ehtisham Khan, an owner of makeshift hotel at Nathiagali told APP. Prior of the long march, he said a rented room in an ordinary hotel was available at Rs7000 to Rs10,000 per day against Rs3000 to Rs4000 during these days. He said hotels at Nathiagali, Ayubia, Thandiyani, Kaghan and Naran were largely depending on families tours packages from different districts of Punjab and Sindh whose were currently facing great financial losses. He said that arrival of tourists from Central Punjab including Lahore, Gujranawala, Gujrat, Jehlum and Lala Mosa were also declined. "I have earned about Rs5,000 to Rs7000 per day from horse riding of tourists between ancient tracks of Nathiagali and Ayubia prior to longmarch that was now slashed to below Rs2000 per day," said a local horse-rider, Ali Jadoon while taking to APP. He said famous 11.44 miles long colonial era Miranjani-Nathiagali hiking trail that once

flooded of horse riding lovers and trekkers was almost deserted. Tasting bites of Peshawar's famous Chappli Kabab and Shawarma with bottle of water, Khayam Khan, a resident of Nowshera said that he came to Nathiagali for honey moon after spending nearly six hours to reach here from Abbottabad due to lack of transport. "Last year, when I came to Nathiagali and Ayubia there was great hustle and bustle of tourists mostly arrived from Punjab, Azad Kashmir and Sindh where hotels owners had earned double but now most of hotels were empty," he said. Tourism related business at Dongagali, Harnoi, Bagnotar and Kanspoo in Hazara and Kalam, Malam Jabba, Bahrain, Mahudhand, Margozar and Kalam in Swat were also affected. Zahid Khan, President All Swat Hotels Association claimed decrease in arrival of tourists in Swat from Punjab and Sindh due to closure of roads and traffic jams in Punjab. He said destruction of about 50 ho-

tels and 150 restaurants in recent floods had caused about Rs 25 billion economic losses to tourism. Zahid said that approximately Rs 70 billion financial losses were incurred only to tourism-related businesses in Malakand division. Akhtiyar Wali Khan, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz KP Spokesman and Member Provincial Assembly said that long marches, sit ins and agitation politics were making negative effects on tourism and transport sectors. He said travels and hotels industries in KP and Punjab were marred by the Imran Niazi long march. Despite PTI leadership tall hue and cry, he said that no significant progress on Integrated Tourism Zones (ITZs) at Mankiyal Swat, Thandiyani Abbottabad, Ganol Manshera and Madaklasht Lower Chitral were made and practical work were yet to be launched. He said the proposed projects of fish jumping and disappearing in River Kunhar and tulip gardens in Mansehra were put into cold storage. —APP



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

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

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Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092

Alvi urges overseas Pakistanis to contribute to Pak progress

Ceremony was attended by the Chairman of Welfare Society for Overseas Pakistanis Rights, Mr Dawood Ghaznavi, a large number of prominent overseas Pakistanis and others

DNA
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called upon the Overseas Pakistanis to contribute more to the progress and prosperity of the country by sharing their knowledge, experience, intellect and expertise in the relevant fields, adding that online platforms have made it easier to share their knowledge without being physically present here. He made these remarks while addressing the ceremony held today to recognize the invaluable contributions of Overseas Pakistanis. The Ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Welfare Society for Overseas Pakistanis Rights, Mr Dawood Ghaznavi, a large number of prominent overseas Pakistanis and others. Addressing the ceremony, the President said that Pakistan desperately needed educated, trained, refined and highly productive human resources, which was a fundamentally essential element for ensuring the progress and prosperity of the country. He called upon all stakeholders, government and private sector to take concrete and meaningful steps to create enabling conditions for the retention of productive human resources as the physical resources of a country remained unexploited due to a shortage of trained manpower in the past which adversely impacted the development and progress of the country. He said that he had been making efforts to get voting rights for Overseas Pakistanis which could easily be possible with the help of technology or I-voting. He



holders, government and private sector to take concrete and meaningful steps to create enabling conditions for the retention of productive human resources as the physical resources of a country remained unexploited due to a shortage of trained manpower in the past which adversely impacted the development and progress of the country. He said that he had been making efforts to get voting rights for Overseas Pakistanis which could easily be possible with the help of technology or I-voting. He

said that since the majority of Overseas Pakistanis could not opt for postal ballot due to laws of their host countries or could not physically travel to Pakistan for casting their votes, therefore, a credible, verifiable and technology-based electronic voting system was the best possible solution. He said that the world was making progress by leaps and bound with the help of technology, unfortunately, we were lagging behind in adopting technology in our country. He called upon the stakeholders to continue

deliberating upon the adoption of technology-based solutions to provide voting rights to Overseas Pakistanis. The President said that there was an increasing trend amongst the Overseas Pakistanis to resettle in Pakistan with a view to provide their children acceptable social and cultural environment which, he said, was a welcoming trend and should be leveraged to utilize their high-quality learning, knowledge and expertise to bring about marked improvement in the quality of our products and services. He also

called upon the government to take all necessary steps to adjust and employ qualified, educated, knowledgeable and high-quality Human Resources of Pakistan which was currently needed to catalyze growth and progress in all sectors of the country's economy. He further said that the dignity of our people and our country would improve proportionally by uplifting our economic and financial outlook, improving the quality and quantity of trained and educated human resources, applying the law in a fair

and just manner, creating transparent, verifiable and practical business processes and by bringing more transparency in our business transactions. He acknowledged the valuable contributions of Overseas Pakistanis towards strengthening the country's economic and financial outlook by sending their hard-earned sizeable remittances to Pakistan. He said that there were around 10 million Pakistanis living abroad and they all were ambassadors of Pakistan. He requested them to use formal banking channels for the transfer of remittances so that their hard-earned money could properly be used for the progress and development of the country. Chairman Welfare Society for Overseas Pakistanis Rights, Mr Dawood Ghaznavi, said that it was the first time in the history of Pakistan that we were celebrating the successes of the Overseas Pakistanis and recognizing their invaluable contribution. Later, the President also gave awards to Overseas Pakistanis who earned their name in different fields abroad.

Online passport fee app launched to facilitate citizens

ISLAMABAD: Directorate General Immigration and Passports (DGIP) on Wednesday launched an online passport-free app all across the country to enable millions of citizens to pay their fees without having to stand in bank queues. In this regard, the head of the prime minister's (PM) Strategic Reforms, Salman Sufi tweeted, saying Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah inaugurated the app under "Passport Fee Asaan" initiative. He claimed the service was one of many other facilities that would be launched in the coming months. The app has been activated for public use and is available on both PlayStore and Apple Store. In addition, the citizens can also pay their passport fees through DGIP's web portal, PayMaster. The online payment facility was previously available for Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Lahore, and was scheduled to be launched in Karachi this month. However, the ministry has activated it all across the country prior to its proposed launch in financial capital.—APP

Pakistan earns \$179m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$179.940 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first two months of current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. This shows growth of 104.55 percent as compared to \$87.970 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of fiscal year (2021-22), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 516.60 percent, by going up from \$10.120 million last year to \$62.400 million during the months under review. Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services increased by 621.75 percent from \$5.930 million last year to \$42.800 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services also increase by 367.78 percent from \$4.190 million to \$19.600 million current year, the PBS data revealed. The exports of air transport rose by 49.44 percent by going up from \$75.890 million last year to \$113.410 million during July-August (2022-23). Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services increased by 53.47 percent, from \$49.490 million to \$75.950 million.—APP

Zainab Nawaz wins bronze award in essay competition 2022

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Zainab Nawaz, Grade 8 student, wins Bronze Award in international essay competition "The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2022" representing Pakistan. The competition was held under the aegis of Royal Commonwealth Society, London among the young creative writers of commonwealth nations and was participated by 36300 students this year in junior and senior category. Zainab, who is an avid reader, clinched this prestigious award in junior category expressing her creative innovations and writing skills. The essay topic was "Imagine you are a grandparent in 2022. Tell your grandchildren a bedtime story about an inspirational person". Her essay centered around two iconic figures of Pakistan late Benazir Bhutto and Malala Yousafzai.



680 apartments' grey structure near completion

ISLAMABAD: A senior official of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has said the grey structure of 680 apartments in the Life Style Residency project was near completion whereas a block of 468 apartments was under construction. "As soon as civil work on the remaining apartments gets into small tangible shape, balloting for the entire lot of 1,148 apartments will be held collectively, to avoid any chances of discrimination amongst the members," he told APP on Wednesday. Commenting on the balloting of 'C' category apartments, he said no member ever made full payment till 2015, as the payment schedule concluded on March 31, 2021. He noted that every member had agreed to the terms and conditions of the project, wherein it was clearly mentioned in the Provisional Offer Letter (POL) that "In case of any delay in handing over possession of apartment on account of unavoidable unforeseen circumstances.—APP

FPSC announces CSS competitive exams 2023

ISLAMABAD: Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) on Wednesday has announced Written CSS Competitive Examination 2023 for the interested candidates who wanted to prove their mettle in challenging field of civil service of the country that offers a thrilling job experience in multi-faceted domains. According to the official sources from FPSC, the interested candidates may apply online well before 14th November 2022. However, they may also deposit hardcopy of online application form along with requisite documents. All candidates who have qualified MCQ Based Preliminary Test (MPT) for CSS CE-2023 and intend to appear in written part of CSS Competitive Examination, 2023 may furnish online application to FPSC by 14 November, 2022. The written part of CSS Written Competitive Examination-2023 will commence from 1st February, 2023 on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the examination will be held in 19 cities as mentioned vide Rule 3 (3) of CE Rules, 2019, while the number of vacancies will be filled on the basis of CSS Written Competitive Examination-2023 will be announced later.—APP

Kissan package to bring agriculture revolution

This was stated by Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis.

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government's unprecedented Kissan package of Rs 1.8 trillion will bring agricultural revolution in the country and help meet ever increasing food requirements of a growing population. This was stated by Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis. Addressing a delegation of women psychiatrists from University of Kohsar led by Shaista Mobeen, he said that for the first time since the creation of Pakistan such a huge incentive had been offered to farmers to meet their needs without cumbersome procedures, according to a press release issued here on Wednesday. The FTO coordinator said that it was high time that growers took full advantage of the package and ensure timely cultivation of crops for better yields. "The Kissan package covers provision of subsidized electricity and fertilizers, free seeds in flood hit arable areas, and interest free production loans," he added. "It is the government's responsibility to ensure timely distribution of the offered package throughout the country, irrespective of any political alignments," he said. The phenomenal package would pay dividends in the days to come when Pakistan would export its surplus agriculture produce global markets, he added. "Agricultural sector plays a strategic role in the process of economic development of a country and it has already made a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of advanced countries. Hence, its role in the economic development of less developed countries is of vital importance," he stressed. He further said that countries with low per capita real income were focusing on agriculture and other primary industries. Describing agriculture as the backbone of national economy, Meher said it was also very important for the socio-economic development of the country. Leader of the delegation Shaista Mobeen said the package would definitely help poor peasants to meet their requirements, especially those in the flood-hit areas. It would not only boost production, but also better their living standards.

The coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presents the historic

KISSAN PACKAGE

Rs. 1800 billion agricultural loans	Reduction of Rs. 2500 per bag in price of DAP Fertilizer	Rs. 30 billion subsidy on urea	Easy loans for rural youth worth Rs. 50 billion	Relief on import duty of used tractors	Duty on tractor parts reduced to 15%	Interest-free loans to convert 3 lac tube wells to solar	Provision of gas on reduced rates to fertilizer factories	Fixed power tariff of Rs. 13 per unit
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For Flood Affected Areas

Rs. 5 billion interest free loans for landless peasants

Distribution of 12 lac bags of wheat seed

Prosperous Farmer - Prosperous Pakistan



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Briefs

Drop in mercury increases demand for 'warm cloths'

ISLAMABAD: With the onset of the winter seasons, the demand of warm clothes has witnessed a sharp increase where crowds of people belonging to all walks of life can be seen in various markets, shopping malls and weekly bazaars.

According to customers, shops of winter clothes are remained busy to cater the needs of customers. Many people were also visiting weekly and lunda bazaars to buy clothes on cheaper rates. The ongoing cold wave in the country, we should be extra cautious in case of our children and ensure they wear warm cloths specially going to schools", said a mother while talking to a private news channel.

"There is no other option to buy winter clothes to beat the cold waves of morning and evening", said a bike rider.

The cases of cold cough, sneezing and temperature among kids are on rise and doctors advising parents to take early precautionary measures to avoid any such conditions, said a mother.

A citizen also complained of higher prices that the prices of these items were much higher and the quality of stuff are rough.

Roadside vendors are also doing a roaring business of warm-apparel and expect to do much better business in the next couple of weeks, said a vendor on capital city road. Shopkeepers claimed that they are doing quite a good business these days and it is going to gain further momentum in the days to come.—APP

Railways retrieved 955 acres land to earn revenue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has retrieved as many as 955 acres of its land worth Rs19, 603 million during various anti-encroachment operations across the country in the last five years. "Around 476 acres retrieved in Punjab, 133 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 327 acres in Sindh and only 19 acres in Balochistan acres land had been retrieved by the Pakistan Railways," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said that about 3,287 acres in Punjab, 832 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh, and 687 acres of land in Balochistan were being encroached.

The official said that in the light of orders of the Supreme Court, the anti-encroachment operations for retrieval of encroached railway land all over the Railway network were initiated and a joint procedure order was issued to all Divisional Superintendents for retrieval of Railways land from encroachment. "The anti-encroachment schedules, on a three months basis, are being prepared and sent to all concerned in line with the joint procedure order," the official added.—APP

Chairman IESCO's BoD chairs maiden meeting

ISLAMABAD :Chairman of Board of Directors (BoD), Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), Engr Qumar-ul-Islam Raja chaired maiden meeting held here Wednesday at IESCO Headquarters. Chief Executive Officer Dr Muhammad Amjad Khan briefed the board about IESCO's performance and ongoing projects, said a press release.

The chairman said that IESCO was a prominent power distribution company of Pakistan in terms of performance, but it could still be improved. He further said, "A satisfied customer is the proof of the institution's performance and to achieve this goal, the electricity related problems of the customers should be solved on priority basis."

Timely issuance of new electricity connections, delivery of electricity bills at accurate address should be made 100% possible, he added. He asked the chief executive to ensure the availability of electricity meters, transformers, cables, poles and other materials in stores.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Khurram Dastgir, Quarter Master General Pakistan Army Lt. General Asim Muneer and Ambassador of Japan confer on the occasion of the Self Defence Forces Day of Japan. — DNA

Kyrgyzstan culture show enthralls audience at PNCA

Secretary of National Heritage and Culture Fareena Mazhar and the Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan were also present on the occasion

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A fashion and cultural show by Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan featuring dance performances from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enthralled the audience here on Wednesday at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

The Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Pakistan, National Heritage and Culture Division Pakistan organized a mega event on Education, Culture and Tourism at PNCA to highlight academic opportunities for Pakistani students at Kyrgyzstan, exposure to Kyrgyz traditions and culture, travelling and tourism

opportunities to Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyz models in beautiful traditional and vibrant attires of Kyrgyzstan presented their fashions for the audience of Pakistan while Pakistani performing artistes from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in their cultural attires presented Khattak dance mesmerizing the audience from both countries.

A documentary was shown featuring the culture, rituals, traditions, lifestyle, nature, local cuisine, landscape and nightlife of Kyrgyzstan to create people-to-people contact between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. While tourism experts from both sides gave presentations on the potential of tourism in Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Adviser to Prime Minister for Political

and Public Affairs and National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam was the chief guest of the event, who termed the event as an "opportunity to understand the cultural similarities and tourism" from both sides.

"I have visited Kyrgyzstan so many times that I believe it has become my second home. It is beautiful and I ask all of you to visit it once in your life. I expect the same from the Kyrgyz people", he said.

He said Pakistan was blessed with natural beauty and there was much to discover by the world. From the ranges of mountains in the north to the beautiful coastal lines, Pakistan was full of scenic beauty. "I strongly believe that tourism is a great

tool in promoting peace and fighting terrorism," he underlined.

Secretary of National Heritage and Culture Fareena Mazhar and the Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiaev spoke on the importance of holding such events for the Kyrgyz-Pakistani bilateral relations and focused on the future of the mutually beneficial cooperation emphasizing the "role of economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation as a connecting element between the friendly countries".

Drop in mercury increases demand for 'warm cloths'

ISLAMABAD: With the onset of the winter seasons, the demand of warm clothes has witnessed a sharp increase where crowds of people belonging to all walks of life can be seen in various markets, shopping malls and weekly bazaars. According to customers, shops of winter clothes are remained busy to cater the needs of customers. Many people were also visiting weekly and lunda bazaars to buy clothes on cheaper rates.

With the ongoing cold wave in the country, we should be extra cautious in case of our children and ensure they wear warm cloths specially going to schools", said a mother while talking to a private news channel.

"There is no other option to buy winter clothes to beat the cold waves of morning and evening", said a bike rider.

The cases of cold cough, sneezing and temperature among kids are on rise and doctors advising parents to take early precautionary measures to avoid any such conditions,

said a mother. A citizen also complained of higher prices that the prices of these items were much higher and the quality of stuff are rough.

Roadside vendors are also doing a roaring business of warm-apparel and expect to do much better business in the next couple of weeks, said a vendor on capital city road.

Shopkeepers claimed that they are doing quite a good business these days and it is going to gain further momentum in the days to come. Another shopkeeper said that winter stuffs including wool caps, gloves and mufflers are high in demand.

A customer in Lok Virsa said that the demand of hand-made traditional cultural dresses also reached to its peak in chilly winter season as these warm cultural dresses were made from sheep wool where a large number of national and foreign visitors come to this market and take keen interest in cultural dresses shopping.—APP

1st ever Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights

ISLAMABAD :Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf Wednesday constituted 1st ever Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights under the conensorship of Member National Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary on Law & Justice Ms. Mehnaz Akbar and MNAs, Shaza Fatima Khwaja, Mohsin

Nawaz Ranjha, Saad Waheed, Naz Baloch, Qadir Khan Mandokhail, Asiya Azeem, Dr. Muhammad Afzal Khan Dhandla, Muhammad Abubakar, Shahida Akhtar Ali and Ms. Mohsin Dawad as its members. The Parliamentary caucus on Child Rights constituted in pursuance of unanimous resolution adopted by National Assembly during its session held on 20th October 2022. This resolution was adopted to ensure provision of

fundamental rights to all Children as the bright future of the country is interlinked with growth and development of children. The resolution was tabled by Parliamentary Secretary on Law & Justice, Mehnaz Akbar Aziz. It is also pertinent to mention that first-ever Children's Parliament of the Diamond Jubilee Parliamentary Convention held on August 12, 2022, also adopted resolution for formation of Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights.—APP

AIU announces results of MA, M.Sc

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the results of the four master's degree programs offered in the autumn semester 2021. These programs include M.Sc Sustainable Environmental Design, M.Sc Public Nutrition, MA Special Education and M.Ed Special Education. Results have been provided on CMS portals of students. Results of 7 different masters programs had been announced last week. It is pertinent to mention here that the Vice Chancellor AIU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum introduced the Academic Calendar to organize the academic activities of the University. All the relevant departments were directed to conduct and arrange the academic activities according to the schedule provided in the calendar. These results have also been announced as per the schedule given in the calendar of annual activities. It is an important step to overcome the complaints of students regarding delays in results.—APP

CPEC, B2B coop highlighted

ISLAMABAD: "The 11th CPEC Joint Cooperative Committee (JJC) [has] reviewed and consolidated the recent progress [of CPEC]. We're now on [the] course to inject fresh [elements] into our CPEC cooperation," said Pakistani prime minister Shahbaz Sherif in the China-Pakistan Business Forum held here on Wednesday, according to Gwadar Pro. The forum is part of the activities for his China visit following his arrival in Beijing on Tuesday (Nov 1) night for a two-day official visit. Addressing a group of more than 400 Chinese enterprises who participate in the conference online, the prime minister noted that he had very "productive" meetings this morning with the Chinese side, adding that "we would focus on the ML-1 project from Peshawar to Karachi" and the Karachi Circular Railway under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Shahbaz also invited Chinese enterprises to invest in solar and other green energy, agriculture, IT and AI under CPEC. "Unlike other coal-based power projects under CPEC, the mechanism of a solar project will be different," said the premier, because "there will be the sovereign guarantee, G2G (government-to-government) companies or G2G investments and the payments to investors remain and guarantee within 60 days, and without it going to [the] third party." In a recent interview with Chinese media, Shahbaz Sherif emphasised that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a boon to the international community and that BRI and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have helped upgrade Pakistan's infrastructure and energy structure, adding that BRI and CPEC are expected to play a bigger role in the region. Before his departure for the state visit, Shahbaz said on Twitter that he will focus on revitalising CPEC during the visit and that the "2nd phase of CPEC promises to usher in a new era of socio-economic progress that will uplift the quality of our people's lives." In response to a question on the prime minister's visit at a November 1st daily briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that during Shahbaz's visit, "the two sides will definitely sign a series of outcome documents."—DNA

Female artists visualize feminine sensitivity

These artists have used various mediums including Gouache and gold leaf on paper, etching and oil on canvas to create images that combine both figurative art and symbolism to visualize their messages

ISLAMABAD :A group of four female artists here Wednesday displayed their art works featuring figurative art and symbolism to visualize the feminine sensitivity on canvas. "The Spark", a group show of paintings by Aimen Manzoor, Amna Rahman, Khadijah Rehman and Zara Asgher, was put on display for general public and art lovers at Satrang Art Gallery under the banner of cultural diplomacy to promote art and artists. The paintings explored the body and its invisible energetic force uniting it with its surroundings. The exhibition considers the ancient knowledge that the body retains the energetic response of individuals connecting to each other, environments, ideas or even themselves. Aimen Manzoor explores the relationship to the ordinary or seemingly mundane. The compositions and stark colors of her paintings warp these otherwise simplistically realistic or banal scenes, drawing attention to her subjects engaged in habitual and repetitive activities. A figu-

rative painter by interest, Manzoor likes to play with scale in her paintings. A contrast can be seen in her work regarding this- on one hand she works on large scale canvases in oils and on the other, she works on small scale illustrative portraits, rendered in watercolors.

"My work characterizes itself as mostly figurative by nature. I take inspiration from the everyday happenings and experiences. My work revolves around translating compositions I find interesting from my observation of everyday into paintings.

"The figurative nature of my work is complemented by a few odd characteristics such as breaking the traditional way of painting a landscape horizontally, I have resorted to painting it vertically. "Moreover, a very odd saturated color of the sky and a very off perspective makes the paintings somewhat surreal but also portrays how I connect to my surroundings," Aimen commented on her work. Khadijah Rehman also explores the

familiar - often the familiar or fictitious, delicate moments captured within her intricate paintings. She borrows from family photographs which she embellishes with vivid patterns, minute details and traditions of Persian and Mughal miniatures. The deliberate inclusion of unlikely elements such as exotic motifs, the placement of animals and other dreamlike imagery create staged and layered tableaux, exploring relationships and interactions. Khadijah - a Lahore based visual artist has displayed her work locally and internationally, and works in both traditional and digital mediums. Her work delves into the otherworldly quality of night-time introspections, particularly dreamscapes, caught within reminiscences of everyday moments of love, longing and solitude.

Amna Rahman and Zara Asgher, both highlight the careful navigation of the body, primarily the female body, within a patriarchal male-centric society. Amna's figures, painted within spaces she deems as "safe"

are completely at ease, engaged in conversations, comfortable with themselves and their surroundings. "The paintings are a narration of my lived experiences of multiple realities, depicting the traits of female beings, their complexities and how they persist in the searing heat of a myriad of emotions. Recurring themes in my work draw on personal memories charged with emotions, duality, subconscious machinations of the human psyche as well as self-reflection," Amna shared her experience. Zara's work explores the gendered quality of her surroundings, particularly highlighting how public spaces in Pakistan are heavily occupied by male bodies. Her drawings of repeating patterns of bodies highlight the structures of hierarchies she has seen. These artists have used various mediums including Gouache and gold leaf on paper, etching and oil on canvas to create images that combine both figurative art and symbolism to visualize their messages.

Protection of journalists rights Govt's top priority: Speaker NA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf in his message on international day to end impunity or crimes against Journalists said on Wednesday that the protection of the rights of the journalist community is the government's top priority.

He said freedom of the press is essential for stable and strong democracy in the country and therefore the government value press as the fourth pillar of the state.

He presented tribute to the journalists who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and said that their sacrifices will not go waste.

He said the parliament believed in freedom of the press therefore all necessary steps would be taken to protect the lives and property of the journalist community. He also lauded the services of journalist Arshad Sharif who was killed in Kenya last week.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durani in his message emphasized the need to promote freedom of the press in the country to strengthen democracy.—APP

APPSCA to protest against Regulatory Authority

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association (APPSCA) Malik Abrar Hussain, has threatened to protest and close all private schools in the province against the announcement of Punjab government for the creation of a new regulatory authority for private educational institutions.

According to the details, Punjab Government has announced creation of a new authority named Punjab Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PPEIRA) for the management and regulation of private educational institutions across the province.

All matters like classification of schools, salaries of teachers, education, building, facilities, fees will be subject to the approval of this authority.

The chairman of the authority will be the provincial education minister while eleven members including MPs will join. However, sub-committees of this authority will be formed in each district.

Keeping in view the announcement of authority, All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association has expressed a strong reaction to the said authority's finalization without consulting the stakeholders and has threatened to close down all private educational institutions across the Punjab province.—APP

Bilingual workforce helps call centre business

ISLAMABAD: Offshore call centre business is trending in twin cities due to availability of bilingual human resource and easy registration procedures of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB). Talking to APP, owner of a private call centre Mumtaz Ali said that a call centre could be registered online with PSEB by paying nominal fee of Rs 20,000. He said that after the completion of the application form, routine procedures would take around two to three working days, after which a provisional registration certificate would be issued.

He said most of the call centres in twin cities were working on the marketing projects with the objective of cold calling. The outbound call centres contacted the businesses and customers in other countries with alias name and local number, he added.

Explaining the working of call centres, Mumtaz said that after registration a business would be permitted to make calls internationally using internet, adding that the calls made over internet worked on 'Voice Over Internet Protocol' and such calls were cheaper than the traditional telephone calls.

The success of the offshore call centres, he said, was in using the local numbers as clients were not able to differentiate between local and offshore calls.—APP

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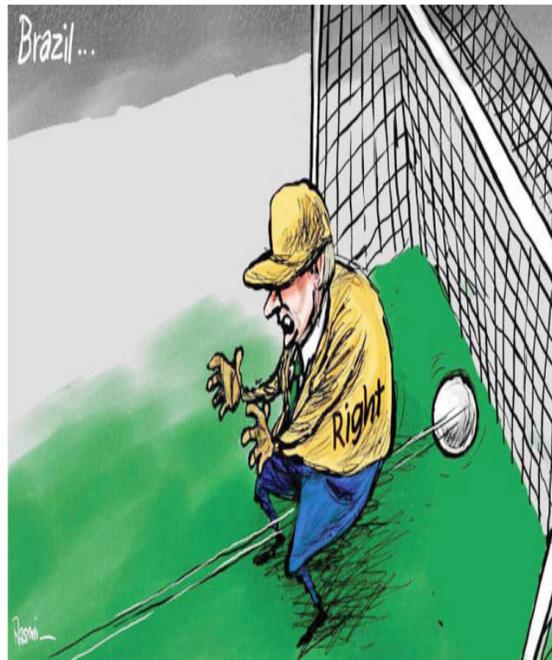
Elon Musk's Twitter takeover

Elon Musk is a fan of the science fiction writer Isaac Asimov. When his spacecraft company SpaceX successfully sent its Falcon Heavy rocket payload into orbit around the sun in 2018, the cargo included a digital copy of the author's classic work: the Foundation trilogy. One of the main protagonists in that series is the Mule, a mutant, megalomaniacal telepath who uses his powers to inspire fanatical loyalty, upend history and conquer the galaxy. No one could miss that Mr Musk has a Mule-sized desire to own the future. His plan to make humanity a multiplanetary species includes nuking Martian polar ice caps to release carbon dioxide, warm the red planet and make it more hospitable for human life. Yet Mr Musk has a history of making promises he has never delivered on. His disease-curing "brain-machine interface" is way behind rivals. In his defence, the billionaire inventor has disrupted the car industry with his Tesla electric vehicles to save the planet.

Mr Musk has a large ego and billions of dollars to burn, and inspires such fervour in devotees that his utterances cause stampedes into often worthless investments such as bitcoin. The world's richest man possesses such self-belief that he seems willing to bet his own fortune on his instincts. Such loyalty has its perks. Deals, however illogical, are more celebrated than interrogated. But Mr Musk is testing the fidelity of the faithful with his \$44bn takeover of the social network Twitter. About a quarter of that sum was lent by Wall Street banks – and the rest is cash from Mr Musk and his co-investors. But to what purpose? Twitter is a minnow compared to Google and Facebook in terms of revenue and users. He has now named himself Chief Twit, but he had already earned that sobriquet in 2018 when he tweeted – falsely – that he was taking Tesla private. Mr Musk was fined \$40m for misleading investors and stepped down as Tesla's chair.

More recently, Mr Musk's "free speech maximalism" has led to him tweeting a fringe conspiracy theory, calling for Ukraine to give up occupied land for peace, and pledging to reverse Donald Trump's Twitter ban. None of these bode well for democracy.

Mr Musk says "buying Twitter is an accelerant to creating X, the everything app". But this sounds like another prophecy destined to remain unfulfilled. Many worry that that may be what Mr Musk is largely about. Tesla is the foundation of his vast fortune. Yet shares in the company are down 40% from last year. Competition from Chinese companies threatens Tesla's bottom line, but so does Mr Musk's inability to satisfy regulators that its cars can be used safely without someone at the wheel. Self-driving cars remain today, like many of Mr Musk's ambitions, more fiction than fact.



US' understanding of China

Telephone conversation between State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is being widely viewed as a positive signal that both Beijing and Washington are trying to keep the channels of communication open at a time when the world's most important bilateral relations have encountered severe difficulties and challenges. Relations between the two sides have been foundering as the US has singled out China as a strategic rival and has been endeavoring to suppress China's development. Constant and exacerbating US provocations in relation to China's core interests, especially its brinkmanship on the Taiwan question, have aroused global concerns of a head-on conflict between the two countries. Given this, it is hoped that the phone call acts as a sedative to calm the fraught situation. Blinken once again said that the US stands ready to cooperate with China, but with the caveat that the two sides explore the basis of their relations, reiterating that they need to responsibly manage their competition. But a sense of responsibility is exactly what the US is bereft of. The US needs to refrain from creating new obstacles for bilateral relations and stop distorting China's development goals. To this end, Wang proposed that the US side carefully study the report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China to fully understand China's modernization path and objectives. The report not only highlights the consistency of China's foreign policy, including toward the US, but also delivers the important message that while pursuing its peaceful development path, China will not submit to blackmail, pressure tactics, blockades or containment. The report makes clear that China will continue to promote the development of a human community with a shared future and stand firm in protecting international fairness and justice on the basis of true multilateralism. Even though it is forced to defend its interests in the face of the US' provocations, China still views its relations with the US within the larger global picture and remains committed to pursuing stable and constructive relations with it. As Wang pointed out to Blinken, China's development brings new opportunities to the world, which is a source of stability amid the turbulent international situation. The congress report makes China's domestic and foreign policies open and transparent, and its strategic intentions open and above board. This not only means that any attempts to distort them are doomed to failure, but it also reveals the intentions behind such efforts. Meanwhile, US politicians can acquire a clearer, deeper and correct understanding of China by carefully reading the report. This will ensure that they avoid making any policy mistakes based on misunderstandings and misjudgments. Almost all the misgivings US politicians harbor about China stem from their pathological Cold War mentality. Reading the report, they would realize that healthy China-US relations serve the interests of both countries.

Russia vetoing EUFOR in Bosnia may not be a bad thing

Hamza Karčić

In early July 1995, commander of the Bosnian Serb rebel forces Ratko Mladić launched his attack on the UN-designated safe area of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. For the previous three years, Srebrenica and its defenders had resisted repeated attacks, protecting the thousands of Bosniaks who had fled the advancing Serb forces and found refuge there. Mladić and his troops marched into Srebrenica on July 11 and before TV cameras, he promised "a revenge on the Turks", referring to Bosniaks. Fleeing the marauding Serb forces, thousands of Bosniaks sought refuge.

On November 3, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) members will gather to discuss extending the mandate of Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under this name, the European Union has maintained a force, known as EUFOR, in the Balkan country

since 2004 to help maintain peace after the end of the Bosnian war.

Amid the war in Ukraine, there are concerns that Russia, a permanent UNSC member, may decide to act as a spoiler and veto the extension. Its aim may be to put more pressure on the EU and the US to stop supporting Ukrainian resistance to its military aggression.

While on the surface such a move may seem like a dangerous precedent that could destabilise Bosnia and by extension the rest of the Western Balkans, a Russian veto of EUFOR may actually turn out to be a good thing for the country.

When Bosnians think of their security needs today, they often consider what happened during the war and the genocide.

In early July 1995, commander of the Bosnian Serb rebel forces Ratko Mladić launched his attack on the UN-designated safe area of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. For the previous three years, Srebrenica and its defenders had resisted repeated attacks, protecting the thousands of Bosniaks who had fled the advancing Serb forces and found refuge there. Mladić and his troops marched into Srebrenica on July 11 and before TV cameras, he promised "a revenge on the Turks", referring to Bosniaks. Fleeing the marauding Serb forces, thousands of Bosniaks sought refuge in a UN base in Potočari near Srebrenica, hoping the Dutch battalion stationed as part of the UN peacekeeping mission (UNPROFOR) there would protect them.

But it did not. The refugees were handed over to Mladić's troops. The men and boys were separated from the women and summarily executed. Seeing the writing on the wall, thousands of Bosniaks tried breaking out of the siege in an effort to reach Bosnian government-controlled territory. Bosnian Serb forces shelled them and conducted mass executions of those who they captured.

The Bosnian genocide taught Bosnians a lesson: not to trust the Europeans for protection and not to rely on international institutions, such as the UN. Self-sufficiency and self-reliance needed to be established, but until then, the country needed strong protection from foreign forces.

That came in December 1995 in the form of NATO's Operation Joint Endeavour launched as part of the Dayton Accords. It deployed a multinational force of 60,000 troops – of which 20,000 were American – to implement the peace deal.

Unlike previous or subsequent US interventions, there was no single casualty as a result of hostile fire. The US-led interventions in Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s have been seen as the most successful in the post-Cold War period.

From late 1995 to 2004, this robust military presence, and particularly the deployment of US troops, ensured Bosnian security and stability, which allowed for state-building. Then, in 2004, the Bush Administration decided to hand over the mission to the European Union and its EUFOR. At the time, a large number of US troops was enmeshed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and Bosnia was considered safe.

This withdrawal from Bosnia had long-term implications for the country's security.

The absence of US troops left a security vacuum. All actors in Bosnia knew full well that the US presence embodied a commitment to a functioning Bosnia. Without it, the US influence was bound to wane and those who opposed a stable Bosnia would be empowered.

In fact, two years later, in 2006, hardline Bosnian Serb politician Milorad Dodik came to power in Republika Srpska, one of the two entities established by the Dayton Accords, and has been an undisputed leader in this part of the country since. He has consistently undermined the unified Bosnian state institutions and functions and along with other Bosnian politicians pursuing self-interest, have sabotaged the building of a strong Bosnian army that could defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country. Furthermore, the forces the EU deployed to substitute the NATO contingent have been inadequate. To many Bosniaks, these troops brought back memories of UNPROFOR, the UN Protection Force which did not protect.

Today, 18 years after EUFOR took over, Bosnians are still not feeling safe. Fears about Bosnia's security have been on the rise since Dodik undertook serious political and legislative steps towards secession in 2021. In response, the US and the UK imposed sanctions on the separatist politician. After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Dodik, who sided with Moscow, said his plans for secession were put on hold.

Another Russia sympathiser, Bosnian Croat leader Dragan Čović, has also said he is seeking "territorial reorganisation" of the country. Many analysts in Bosnia concur that Čović's ultimate objective is

to split the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the two entities within the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and establish a "third entity" – essentially, a Bosnian Croat version of Republika Srpska. In pursuing this goal, Čović is backed by Croatia's President Zoran Milanović, who has voiced his support for Croat self-rule in Bosnia.

With its clients – Dodik and Čović – in place, Russia may seek to destabilise the Western Balkans. One way to do that may be to veto the UNSC's decision to extend the EUFOR's mandate.

Many have seen EUFOR as a reassuring presence in the country. However, EUFOR in Bosnia currently has just 1,100 troops from 20 countries. This is a far cry from the overwhelming force of 60,000 deployed to Bosnia in the immediate aftermath of the war. In other words, today's EUFOR is unsuited to deal with any real security challenge. It has claimed success so far because it has – thankfully – never been tested and in fact, provides a false sense of security.

In this context, Russia's veto of EUFOR may not be all bad news. Such a step would be a clear sign to Washington and NATO to pay more attention to the Balkans. An end to EUFOR could mean the resurrection of the NATO mission in Bosnia, which would definitely be a boost to the country's security and stave off secessionist ambitions.

It is quite telling that Dodik went to Moscow in September to ask Russian President Vladimir Putin not to veto the EUFOR mandate renewal. He may also be worried about a much larger peacekeeping deployment, especially US-led NATO redeployment, were the European forces to go.

It is clear that the way forward for pro-Bosnian political leaders is to step up cooperation with NATO and tirelessly advocate in Washington and Brussels for a speedy accession to the Alliance. That should be the primary goal of the next Bosnian government.

But even if a NATO deployment does not materialise, EUFOR's demise should not be lamented. Its role in Bosnia has been overrated. A weak foreign force deployed ostensibly to maintain security in the country can adversely affect the judgement of Bosnian decision-makers and the general population. For my generation of Bosniaks, it is far more preferable to have no illusions than to have a false sense of security.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Israel's farcical elections and fictional democracy

Marwan Bishara

Cruel violence is likewise predictable during election season as we have witnessed in the past. In a ritualistic projection of machoism and bravado, Israel has bombarded the besieged Gaza, invaded and re-invaded Palestinian towns and refugee camps in the occupied West Bank, killed and imprisoned thousands of Palestinian civilians, destroyed countless homes.

Israel's powerful military and booming economy are undeniable facts, but its much-celebrated democracy is utter fiction. Israel claims to be a Jewish and democratic state. In fact, it is neither. It boasts of being "the state of the Jewish people" everywhere, when less than half of the world's Jews live in the country. Today, Israel rules over 15 million people between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, half of whom are not Jews; most can't vote in Israel.

Israel does not even recognise "Israeliness" as a nationality and rejects the liberal democratic concept of a "state of all its citizens". Instead, the Jewish state recognises two strata of people: Jews who are entitled to full rights and Palestinians who must be content with fewer or no rights. These Palestinians are grudgingly tolerated as second-class citizens, occupied and repressed as colonial subjects, or are kept away as undesirable refugees, whose inalienable right to return would destroy the "Jewish state".

And if that's not enough to raise eyebrows, consider the fact that there is no consensus in the "Jewish state" as to "who is a Jew". Orthodox, Reform and secular Jews have different – even conflicting – interpretations of Jewishness. It is a religious question that is dependent on power politics, as this old Israeli satirical sketch illustrates quite well.

Nevertheless, the legal and political rationale in apartheid colonial Israel privileges the Jews living on all territories between the River and the Sea in all important spheres of life, including citizenship, housing, land rights, language, culture, mobility, and so on.

In that way, Israel/Palestine is no different from apartheid South Africa, where privileged whites also enjoyed a degree of communitarian democracy. But Western hypocritical elites, who refer to "the one and only democracy in the Middle East", never spoke of "the only democracy in Africa". Tomato, tomatito. To compensate for the lack of true democracy, Israel holds elections – spectacular elections. The more elections it holds, the crueler and more fragmented they become. As I wrote after the last election, "personal ambition trumps politics, and politicking outweighs ideology" in today's Israel.

The fragmentation gives the country an allure of plurality and diversity, especially in contrast to the first three decades of the Israeli state, when Labour predictably won every election. But in recent years, the Right has become dominant as Labour was, albeit with more screaming, slights and slurs.

Cruelty has become Israel's national sport. Indeed, "Israel's politics is crueler than most", according to Benjamin Netanyahu. He should know; he's the champ. Cruelty comes in

two strands: political vitriol and racist violence. Both flare up like fireworks with each election season, which comes as often as spring or summer these days.

It is no surprise then, that as the November 1 election approached, the fifth in four years, the country's political discourse turned poisonous. Where Israel's racist leaders fall short on political disagreement, they make up for it in personal insults and character assassination. "Scum of the human race", "pathological liar", "assassin", and "fascist" are some of the milder language animating Israel's electoral spectacle.

Even accusations of Nazism and anti-Semitism have been hurled again and again by fanatics from the religious and secular camps. It is these types of accusations the Netanyahu camp whipped up in the mid-1990s that led to the assassination of then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for daring to advance the peace process without a clear Jewish majority in the Knesset.

Crude racism against the Palestinians is as certain to accompany the election season as winter cold and summer heat. But there is an exception to the rule – if or when Palestinians betray their conscience in return for table crumbs; these "good Arabs" are appreciated like the house slave. Stephen Warren, in Quentin Tarantino's film *Django Unchained*.

Cruel violence is likewise predictable during election season as we have witnessed in the past. In a ritualistic projection of machoism and bravado, Israel has bombarded the besieged Gaza, invaded and re-invaded Palestinian towns and refugee camps in the occupied West Bank, killed and imprisoned thousands of Palestinian civilians, destroyed countless homes, and terrorised an entire people under the pretext of combating terrorism.

And so, a year after Netanyahu's minions took over from him, their coalition government has proved just as bad, if not worse. Naftali Bennett and Avigdor Lieberman, who in the past served as Netanyahu's chiefs of staff, Gideon Sa'ar, who was his cabinet secretary, and Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz, who were ministers in his cabinet, have repeated Netanyahu's crimes and follies in the occupied Palestinian

territories. The apples do not fall far from the tree. Their government bombarded Gaza, reinvaded West Bank cities, expanded illegal settlements and blocked all paths to a negotiated settlement.

The "moderate" Gantz, who bragged about flattening whole residential neighbourhoods in Gaza when he was the military chief of staff, was at it again in 2021, overseeing more devastation, this time as Israeli minister of defence. Most recently, he nominated an illegal settler as the new military chief of staff. If this is moderation, why not vote straight for extremism; it is at least authentic!

No surprise then, that "the prince of darkness and hate", Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to win a sixth term as prime minister, despite his indictment for breach of trust, accepting bribes, and fraud. If he does, Netanyahu is sure to form a "national immunity government" that ensures he stays out of prison. His alliance with far-right parties, like Itamar Ben-Gvir's Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Strength), might also try to weaken the supreme court and the judiciary by subjugating them to its parliamentary majority.

Former Prime Minister Ehud Barak has recently condemned the "unholy alliance between Netanyahu and Ben-Gvir and the messianic racists" as the "true threat to the State of Israel", and predicted that its victory may usher "a period of darkness". Cruel, perhaps, but merited. To be sure, Netanyahu has repeatedly slated Barak and worse. In his recently published autobiography *Moslems, Bibi, the spinner-in-chief* trashes many if not most of his predecessors, successors, and former partners and interlocutors. The book's 736 pages are full of lies, half-truths, and hyperboles, as well as conceit, self-importance and delusion, but I will leave that matter for another day. Such is the dreadful state of "Israeli democracy" today. Far right fanatics and bloody generals dominate the absolute majority of seats in the Israeli parliament and compete for the seats of the terribly shrinking Left. The more elections Israel holds the less democratic and more despotic it becomes towards the Palestinians, alas.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Will support Pakistan in stabilizing economy: Xi

FROM PAGE 01
During the meeting, the Chinese president and PM Shehbaz discussed "broad-based cooperation in economy and investment and exchanged views on regional and global developments". Xi said that the countries should work together to create conditions for the early implementation of the Mainline-1 railway upgrading project and the Karachi Circular Railway project. China welcomes Pakistan to expand high-quality agricultural exports to the country, and is willing to deepen cooperation in areas including the digital economy, e-commerce, photovoltaic and other new energy sources, Xi said. China will also export technology for a 160 km/h high-speed railway train to Pakistan, state broadcaster CCTV said. Separately, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the National Bank of Pakistan recently for the establishment of RMB clearing arrangement in Pakistan, in a bid to facilitate the use of RMB for cross-border transactions by enterprises and financial institutions in both countries.

7-year jail over spreading...

FORM PAGE 01
FIA act through a summary moved via circulation. The final approval of the amendment will be taken by Parliament. In February of this year, President Arif Alvi had approved an ordinance of a similar nature proposing amendments in the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, (PECA) 2016. The ordinance was signed by the president when the Imran Khan-led government's cabinet had approved it. The law, back then, proposed a five-year sentence for criticising state institutions, including the Pakistan Army, judiciary and others on electronic media. However, in April of this year, the Islamabad High Court had declared the ordinance "unconstitutional" and directed the federal government to probe abuse of the law and submit a report. The media bodies had challenged the "draconian law" in the IHC following country-wide protests. Journalist associations, including the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), the Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND) and some senior journalists of the country, had filed the petition through senior lawyer Munir A Malik.

Sanaullah says will consult...

FROM PAGE 01
social media. The minister said that if the amendment leads to restrictions on people's freedom of expression, then the government will withdraw the bill. "There are certain things on social media that need to be controlled," Sanaullah said, adding that social media platforms are being used to harm people's private lives. He further added that the issue was an important one, therefore, the government is hoping that the amendments will not create hurdles in the way of people's right to freedom of expression. Sanaullah said that there will be a discussion in the Parliament related to the transfer of powers to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) related to the social media amendment. Moving on to other matters, Sanaullah, while commenting on the PTI's long march, said that the issue of party chief Imran Khan's entry into Islamabad is under hearing in the court. "If Khan provides assurance to the Islamabad High Court, that the march would remain peaceful, he will be allowed to come here.

India beat Bangladesh to stand on brink of semi-finals

Needing 20 off the final over, Nurul gave them hope with a 6 and a 4 but left-arm quick Arshdeep held his nerve on the last ball to hand India their third win in four matches. It leave Bangladesh all but out of the semi-finals

ADELAIDE: Virat Kohli became the highest run-scorer in Twenty20 World Cup history Wednesday as India edged Bangladesh by five runs in a crunch rain-hit Twenty20 World Cup clash in Adelaide that went to the last ball. India got top of Group 2 and can clinch a semi-final spot with a win against Zimbabwe in their final Group 2 match on Sunday after Bangladesh faltered in their revised chase of 151 in 16 overs. Kohli's unbeaten 64 had steered India to 184-6 but Bangladesh had looked on course for victory after racing to 66-0 in seven overs when rain stopped play causing four overs to be lost. Opener Liton Das hit a 27-ball 60 but his run out after the 50-minute interruption heralded a Bangladesh collapse and ended on 145-6. Needing 20 off the final over, Nurul Hasan gave them hope with a six and a four but left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh held his nerve on the last ball to hand India their third win in four matches. It leave Bangladesh all but out of the semi-finals picture. Das gave the team a blazing start, reaching his fifty in 21 balls, but once he fell to KL Rahul's direct hit India came roaring back. Arshdeep struck twice in one over including the prize of captain Shakib Al Hasan for 13 to turn the tables. Hardik



Pandya took two wickets in the 13th over as Bangladesh slumped from 98-2 to 108-6 and despite Hasan's 14-ball 25, fell short of their DLS method target. It was Kohli, who hit an unbeaten 64, and

er in T20 World Cup history. Jayawardene set his mark from 31 innings but Kohli took only 23 to pass him. The in-form Kohli, who had already hit two match-winning half-centuries at this World Cup, reached his third fifty in 37 balls to bring alive the Indian-dominated crowd at the Adelaide Oval. Taskin Ahmed kept India pinned down early with an impressive opening burst of seam and swing bowling after Bangladesh elected to field. Rohit Sharma went cheaply for two but Rahul went on the counter-attack to regain his batting touch with a flurry of boundaries. Rahul, who had scored just 22 runs in the previous three matches, smashed two sixes and a four in a 24-run ninth over as the Indian run-rate soared. He reached 50 off Shakib but fell on the next ball from the left-arm spinner after hitting three fours and four sixes. There was no respite for the Bangladesh bowlers as Suryakumar Yadav joined Kohli to keep up the attack, nonchalantly hitting the ball to all parts before Shakib struck again when he had made 30 off 16 balls. Kohli anchored the innings and Ravichandran Ashwin enjoyed himself in a six-ball cameo for 13 that included a six and four in the final over.

China, Russia, India enabling Myanmar's military: Report

WASHINGTON: Support from China, Russia and India is enabling Myanmar's military to sustain itself and carry out human rights abuses despite its failure to consolidate power following last year's coup, a group of international legislators has said. In a report published on Wednesday, the parliamentarians said this "steadfast and uncritical" support, particularly from Beijing and Moscow, for Myanmar's military has come amid an "utter" lack of progress on a peace plan proposed by the country's neighbours in the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It is now time to abandon the ASEAN plan and take stronger measures to shore up support for Myanmar's democratic opposition, said the group of eight legislators, who with the help of ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) conducted a four-month long inquiry into the inter-

national response to the February 2021 coup. Most importantly, they said, countries that profess support for democracy must immediately recognise Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government (NUG) as the legitimate authority in the country and provide funding for the NUG and the ethnic armed groups with which it has allied itself. These actions should be taken urgently, they said, noting that the military has not been able to consolidate its power 19 months after the coup. Wide swathes of Myanmar are contested between the military and forces allied with NUG and other ethnic armed groups, with the continuing violence precipitating a "near collapse of the economy and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis", they said. Some 1.2 million people are now displaced in the country, while security

forces are reported to have jailed at least 15,000 people for political crimes and killed at least 2,371 other dissidents. The legislators' report noted that while international condemnation was swift in the wake of the power grab, with the United States and the European Union imposing sanctions that have isolated Myanmar's military, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing continues to hold on to power with the backing of his international allies, Russia, China and to a lesser extent, India. "The support and legitimacy granted by these governments have enabled the junta to sustain itself and carry out its numerous human rights violations and abuses, despite its failure to consolidate its coup," the report said. "This support has intensified in 2022, as junta allies increasingly see their interests in Myanmar tied to the SAC's success," it said, referring to the mil-

itary's State Administration Council. China and Russia have blocked any substantive action against Myanmar's military at the United Nations Security Council, it noted, while the country's security forces have reportedly used Chinese and Russian-supplied weapons to perpetrate human rights violations. China, despite its cautious statements in the aftermath of the coup, has now emerged as one of the military's "most potent enablers", affording it a "crucial lifeline in terms of legitimacy", the report said. Beijing has hosted the military-appointed Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin for talks and has since pushed other regional partners to make similar moves, it alleged. Witnesses told the parliamentary inquiry that Beijing's support had undermined ASEAN's ability to tackle the crisis and push for dialogue. - Agencies

Netherlands beat Zimbabwe for consolation win

WEB DESK

PERTH: Paul van Meekeren's three wickets helped the Netherlands claim their first victory of the T20 World Cup Super 12 stage Wednesday as their five-wicket win all but eliminated Zimbabwe. The Dutch bowled out Zimbabwe for 117 in 19.2 overs at the Adelaide Oval, led by Max O'Dowd's 52, achieved their target by reaching 120-5 with 12 balls to spare. "It's awesome," said captain Scott Edwards. "We came here to win some games at the Super 12. Good to get the ball rolling after a rocking start." Zimbabwe, who just have a one win from their four matches, need a mathematical miracle to make the semi-finals as one of the top two teams in Group 2, currently led by South Africa who next play Pakistan on Thursday. O'Dowd and Tom Cooper, who made 32, put on a second-wicket stand of 73 to guide the team home as the fans poured in for the evening match of the Adelaide double-header between India and Bangladesh. "I was quite scrappy at the start. It was important to adapt to the wicket," said player of the match O'Dowd. "Zimbabwe have some tall boys, so they have extra bounce. I took time to adapt but eventually adapted well to bat as long as I could." Stephan Myburgh fell to Blessing Muzarabani for eight in the fourth over before O'Dowd and Cooper began to score freely chasing a modest 118-run target. Luke Jongwe had Cooper caught out to end a 29-ball knock, which included two fours and a six. O'Dowd reached his second fifty of the tournament with two straight boundaries but soon got out to Muzarabani and Richard Ngarava sent back skipper Scott Edwards but Bas de Leede stood firm to hit the winning four.

Spurs, Eintracht into UCL last 16

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg scored a 95th-minute winner as Tottenham Hotspur came from behind to beat Marseille 2-1 and reach the Champions League knockout stage on Tuesday, where they were joined by Eintracht Frankfurt after their victory at Sporting Lisbon. Liverpool ended Napoli's unbeaten start to the season with a 2-0 success at Anfield, but the Italian club did enough to finish top of Group A. Atletico Madrid crashed out of Europe altogether with a loss to Porto, while Bayern Munich made it six wins from six matches by beating Inter Milan. At a raucous Velodrome, Tottenham knew they would progress if they could avoid defeat by Marseille, although manager Antonio Conte had to watch from the stands after being red-carded in last week's dramatic draw with Sporting. Spurs were camped inside their own half for the majority of the first period and fell behind just before the break when Chancel Mbemba headed in Jordan Veretout's cross after a quickly-taken corner. The Premier League side were much improved after the restart and Clement Lenglet glanced in a 54th-minute equaliser. Former Arsenal left-back Sead Kolasinac nodded a glorious late opportunity to send Marseille through wide.

Swiatek cruises to win over Kasatkina

FORT WORTH: World number one Iga Swiatek opened her season-ending WTA Finals campaign Tuesday with a straight sets victory over Russia's eighth-ranked Daria Kasatkina. Polish star Swiatek, who has enjoyed a stellar year that included Grand Slam singles titles at the French and US Opens, eased to a 6-2, 6-3 victory in 1hr 22min at Fort Worth's Dickies Arena in Texas. The 21-year-old is the heavy favourite to add to her tally of eight tournament victories at this week's eight-player tournament. Against Kasatkina on Tuesday, the three-time Grand Slam champion was quickly into her stride, racing to a 3-0 lead after an early break of serve. Swiatek wrapped up the first set in just 37 minutes after securing another break of serve in the eighth game. The second set followed a similar pattern, as she grabbed an early break to take control for a 3-0 lead before closing out the

set. Swiatek is aiming to atone for her disappointing display at last year's finals, held in Guadalajara, when she failed to qualify for the semi-finals. "I'm pretty happy that I could start so solid," Swiatek said of her win. "I feel like it gave me confidence throughout the whole match. I knew it was gonna be hard to balance being aggressive and you know, not making a lot of mistakes, because she can really reset the rallies." Swiatek said working to improve her service game had been the key to her season of success. "I felt like sometimes last year, my serve was letting me down," she said. "And this season I can lean on it. Maybe it's not like I'm serving aces, but I feel more solid." In Tuesday's other group game, France's sixth-seed Caroline Garcia defeated fourth seed Coco Gauff in a repeat of their US Open quarter-final in September. Garcia, who reached the semi-finals



at Flushing Meadows before losing to Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, took 1hr 18min to defeat US hope Gauff 6-4, 6-3. The tournament features two groups of four players who play in a round-robin format, with the top two in each group advancing to the semi-finals. This year's tournament was moved to Texas due to pandemic-related issues with the Chinese city of Shenzhen, which was initially due to host the event, as well as the WTA's dispute with China over the status of player Peng Shuai. - Agencies

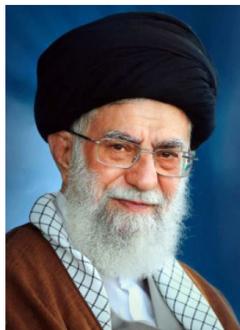
1953 coup 'starting point' in US-Iran row: Khamenei

The Leader then pointed to recent riots that erupted in mid-September after the unfortunate death of a young Iranian woman in police custody, saying joint statement of Iran's top intelligence bodies contained important information about the unrest

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has dismissed as a "lie" the US assertion that the 1979 takeover of their embassy in Tehran is what set off the ongoing dispute between Iran and the United States, saying the "starting point" of the row goes back to the CIA-orchestrated coup of 1953. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with students from across the country on Wednesday, ahead of the national Student Day and the National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance, which Iranians celebrate on November 4. "Some think that America is an untouchable power, but if we look at the events of this day (November 4), it turns out that no, it is completely vulnerable," he said. The Leader was making a reference to the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran, also known in Iran as the "Den of

Espionage," less than a year after the Islamic Revolution toppled the US-backed Pahlavi dictatorship in 1979. He said November 4 — the 13th of Aban — is a historic day which will not be forgotten. "Use these experiences. The future belongs to you," he told the students. "They say the reason the Americans stood against the Iranian people was the move you made in the embassy," he said. "That is, 'you attacked our embassy and a dispute emerged between us [which led to] a fight and an enemy.' They lie. This is not the case." Rather, he continued, the beginning of disputes between Iran and the US was August 19, 1953, when the Americans staged a coup against the national government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. "Mosaddegh's government was a national government. His problem with the Westerners was only the issue of oil. He neither was a Hojatoleslam (top Islamic cleric) nor did he promote Islam. The issue was just related to oil, which was



executed later, and some were imprisoned for many years." "Our dispute with the Americans started that day. Now, American politicians are hypocritically and shamelessly saying that 'we support the Iranian nation,'" Ayatollah Khamenei added. The Leader recounted atrocities committed by the Americans against the Iranian nation over the last 70 years, saying that the nation, to the Americans' chagrin, has thwarted all their enemies. He maintained that compared to the period of the 1953 coup, the Americans are now resorting to more complicated plots. "But we trust our youth and authorities and we know that they can overcome these complex methods." The Leader then pointed to recent riots that erupted in mid-September after the unfortunate death of a young Iranian woman in police custody, saying the joint statement of Iran's top intelligence bodies contained important information about the unrest and showed that the enemy had orchestrated de-

tailed plots for Tehran and other cities. Those who were linked to foreign powers and committed crimes across the country, unlike the provoked youth, must be dealt with, Ayatollah Khamenei said. He called the unrest part of the enemy's "hybrid war" against Iran rather than mere street riots. "The enemy, namely the United States, the Zionist regime, some insidious and malicious European powers and some groups, came to the field with all of their capabilities," he said, adding that they used their intelligence agencies, media capacity and the internet as well as their experiences in Iran and other countries to harm the Iranian nation. On the Shiraz terrorist attack last week, for which Daesh claimed responsibility, the Leader called for tough punishment for the perpetrators of the crime. Who are the people who commit these crimes and where do they get their orders from? Of course, these are definitely not our children and youth.

PM, Premier Li discuss CPEC

FROM PAGE 01
also given the guard of honour. In the meeting, both the leaders discussed bilateral matters as well as the ways to strengthen mutual cooperation. The two sides also held delegation level talks headed by the respective two leaders. Earlier, the prime minister also met Chinese President Xi Jinping in which the latter assured China's continued support for Pakistan's sustainable economic and strategic projects including the Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail track and announced an additional assistance package of RMB 500 million for the country's flood relief efforts.

Movement to continue for 10...

FROM PAGE 01
apolitical. My question is that if you have decided to be neutral then what is stopping you from fair and free elections? Let the nation decide," he said. The former premier urged people to "stand up for their rights", failing which they would "never get justice". He also invoked his death is better than slavery refrain. "I must say here that justice is given out only in a human society. You all have to support me. I tell you everyone that it's better to die than becoming slaves," he added. Faisal Javed then made people take the party's oath which was introduced ahead of the long march. He asked what led to "so much inflation in just six months". Imran Khan said the country's biggest issue is that corrupt leaders get to the top without any accountability. He commented that Singapore succeeded because they applied the system of the Prophet PBUH.

In his first speech of the day in Gujranwala, he said: "When we get government, I will try to make sure that the Hadith of the Prophet will be displayed in every school about destruction of nations who never punished crooks." Shehbaz was about to be convicted in Rs16bn graft cases and he was saved. He offered an explanation: "They got an NRO; all cases have been quashed. Maryam's papa is getting ready to come back, Shehbaz's cases have also been quashed. Zardari also has his cases settled." He said it appeared that "only small crooks will be caught and the rich will go scot-free". They have made laws that will lead to arrest of small crooks only, he said, adding his now-familiar refrain of "we are not sheep!" He then followed up by saying previously these people would be called "criminals" but now they say "we have given them NRO". Addressing participants of his party's long march in Gakhar, Imran said he wanted answers to some questions — who killed journalist Arshad Sharif, who inflicted torture on Azam Swati, who was threatening journalists in the country and who had imposed thieves over Pakistan. "Also tell us, who did US Ambassador address in the cipher," he added.

SC seeks explanation from Imran

FROM PAGE 01
Additional Attorney General appeared before the court. Additional Attorney General Aamir Rehman told the court that Imran Khan has asked for time for a detailed reply and has shown ignorance of any assurance. PTI Chairman has also expressed ignorance of the court order in his response. He added that lawyer Faisal Chaudhry stated that he could not get in touch with Imran Khan and the direction was taken from Asad Umar, while according to counsel Babar Awan Imran Khan's name was not taken by any lawyer.

The Chief Justice inquired that how much time difference is there between the first and second court orders? The Additional Attorney General responded that the first order was given at 11 am and the second at 6 pm. The Chief Justice expressed displeasure over miscommunication with the court. He remarked that the time between the two orders was for taking instructions. The court was not told from whom the instruction was taken. If no one was spoken to, why was the court not told? This needs to be explained, added Chief Justice.

Briefs

Kenya sends off troops to DRC

NAIROBI: Kenya on Wednesday deployed its troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo following a decision taken by regional leaders meeting in the Kenyan capital this June.

Recently elected Kenyan leader William Ruto met with the troops at the Embakasi Garrison in the capital Nairobi where he wished them a successful mission in Eastern Congo.

"We will not allow armed groups, criminals, and terrorists to deny us the potential for shared prosperity and the real chance of growing both our investments, our development, for the sharing in trade for the mutual benefit of not just East Africans but the entire region of our continent," said Ruto.

Ruto said that by sending the Kenyan troops, his country is also sending a signal to the world of Kenya's commitment to fulfill its obligations by contributing to the achievement and maintenance of peace and stability in the East African region.

"I have the honour to officially flag off the Kenya contingent to the Eastern DRC and wish you good luck and God's blessings as you execute the mission's peace support mandate under the East African Community regional force," he said.

Ruto said a prayer for the Kenya Defense Forces troops before they left, asking God to protect them and give wisdom to their commanders as they work with other regional forces.

The Kenyan troops are to play a key role in protecting civilians, providing security and neutralizing armed militia groups.—APP

France experiences the warmest October since 1900

PARIS: Last month was the warmest October in France since 1900, with average temperatures reaching 17.2 degrees Celsius (63 Fahrenheit) — 3.5C (38.3F) above normal — according to Meteo-France weather service. October 2001 was significantly warmer than the previous record month, with an average temperature of 16.3C (61.3F) — 2.6 C (36.7F) above normal — the agency said.

This was due to a large low-pressure area from the Atlantic that brought up hot air masses from the Maghreb, which were blocked by an area of high pressure over Eastern Europe.

The city of Mouthe in the Region Bourgogne, the coldest city in France, October ended without frost, for the first time in 140 years, Meteo-France noted. But it was not only in France that October was particularly warm.

"The month is not over yet, but we can already say almost for sure that it will be the hottest month (in Spain) since 1961," the Spanish meteorological agency AEMET reported last Friday.—APP

5 lions escape exhibit at Australian zoo

WEB DESK

SYDNEY: Five lions escaped from their enclosure at Sydney's Taronga Zoo that caused a brief emergency on Wednesday, officials said. According to local officials, one adult lion and four cubs were spotted outside their main exhibit. "The lions were observed in a small area adjacent to the main exhibit, where a six-foot fence separated them from the rest of the zoo," said the Taronga Zoo in a statement.

"All persons on site were moved to safe zones. Four of the lions calmly returned to their dens, and one cub was safely tranquilized. The cub is now awake and well," it added. According to the initial report, an integrity issue with a containment fence enabled five lions to temporarily exit their main exhibit, however, the situation was brought under control within minutes. "This is a significant incident, and a full review is now underway to confirm exactly how the lions were able to exit their main exhibit," said the statement.

ICCI calls for amending fire fighting regulations

He said that it was not possible to implement these rules in the existing industrial & commercial buildings as it needed a lot of changes in building structures

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad () Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry invited Syed Kashif Shah, Director, Emergency & Disaster Management, MCI and discussed with him the concerns of the business community on the firefighting rules of MCI. He briefed him about the difficulties being faced by the business community in implementing the firefighting rules of MCI in industrial and commercial buildings. He said that it was not possible to implement these rules in the existing industrial & commercial buildings as it needed a lot of changes in building structures. He stressed that MCI should implement these rules in new buildings and amend them in consultation with stakeholders to make them practicable for old and existing commercial and industrial buildings. He proposed that a Committee comprising



representatives of ICCI and MCI should be formed to review and amend the building codes and firefighting requirements of MCI to make them implementable in the existing industrial and commercial buildings. Syed Kashif Shah, Director,

Emergency & Disaster Management, MCI said that he was not authorized to amend the firefighting rules. However, he assured that he would convey the reservations of the business community on these rules to the relevant authority of MCI. He said

that MCI wanted to implement these firefighting rules in public and private sector buildings in a uniform way for the safety of occupants and assets. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President, ICCL, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari,

Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry and others also highlighted the difficulties being faced by the business community in implementing the firefighting rules of MCI and stressed for amending them to make them affordable and implementable for business community.

Saudis tell US that Iran may attack the kingdom: Officials

RIYADH: The United States has responded to reports of threats from Iran against Saudi Arabia by saying it is concerned and will not hesitate to respond if necessary. "We are concerned about the threat picture, and we remain in constant contact through military and intelligence channels with the Saudis," the National Security Council said in a statement on Tuesday. "We will not hesitate to act in the defence of our interests and partners in the region."

The Wall Street Journal newspaper first reported on Saudi Arabia sharing the intelligence with the US earlier on Tuesday.

Neither Saudi Arabia nor Iran has commented on the matter publicly.

Iran has alleged, without providing evidence, that Saudi Arabia and other rivals have been behind anti-government protests that have been ongoing in the country since mid-September. In October, the commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps warned Saudi Arabia to tone down coverage of the protests in Iran by Farsi-language satellite news channels, including Iran International, a Saudi-backed satellite television channel based in London.

"This is our last warning, because you are interfering in our internal affairs through these media," Major-General Hossein Salami said. "You are involved in this matter and know that you are vulnerable."

The heightened concerns about a potential attack on Riyadh come as the Biden administration criticises Tehran for its crackdown on the protests and condemned it for sending hundreds of drones — as well as technical support — to Russia for use in its war in Ukraine. One of the officials who confirmed the intelligence sharing to the Wall Street Journal described it as a credible threat of an attack "soon or within 48 hours". No US embassy or

consulate in the region has issued alerts or guidance to Americans in Saudi Arabia or elsewhere in the Middle East based on the intelligence. The officials were not authorised to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Asked about reports of the intelligence shared by the Saudis, Brigadier General Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said US military officials "are concerned about the threat situation in the region". "We're in regular contact with our Saudi partners, in terms of what information they may have to provide on that front," Ryder said. "But what we've said before, and I'll repeat it, is that we will reserve the right to protect and defend ourselves no matter where our forces are serving, whether in Iraq or elsewhere." US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said America was "concerned about the threat picture," without elaborating. The latest concerns come at a time of strained relations

between Riyadh and Washington after the Saudi-led OPEC+ alliance last month decided to cut oil output targets, which raised fears of a gasoline price spike in the US. The US and Saudi Arabia blamed Iran in 2019 of being behind a big attack in eastern Saudi Arabia, which halved the oil-rich kingdom's production and caused energy prices to spike. The Iranians denied they were behind the attack. The Saudis have also been hit repeatedly in recent years by drones, missiles and mortars launched by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. Saudi Arabia formed a coalition to battle the Houthis in 2015 and has been internationally criticised for its air attacks in the war, which have killed thousands of civilians.

In recent weeks, the Biden administration has imposed sanctions on Iranian officials for the brutal crackdown on demonstrators after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in September after her arrest by Iran's morality police. — Agencies

British PM to attend COP27 in Egypt

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced on Wednesday that he will go to Egypt to attend the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference, also known as COP 27, reversing his previous decision to skip it. "There is no long-term prosperity without action on climate change," Sunak said in a statement posted to Twitter. "There is no energy security without investing in renewables. That is why I will attend COP27 next week: to deliver on Glasgow's legacy of building a secure and sustainable future," he added, referring to the last conference in the series, COP26, hosted in the Scottish capital in fall 2021. Initially, Sunak said he would not go in order to focus on "other pressing domestic commitments," a nod to the difficult economic situation at home. A critical financial statement will be made by the government on Nov. 17. This decision was widely condemned, however, and he was urged to go to the UN climate conference. Ed Miliband, the opposition Labour Party's shadow climate secretary, said on Twitter: "The prime minister has been shamed into going to COP27 by the torrent of disbelief that he would fail to turn up. He is going to avoid embarrassment not to provide leadership." Green Party MP Caroline Lucas also said on Twitter: "Glad to see Sunak's screeching U-turn on COP27, but what an embarrassing mis-step on the world stage. Let this be a lesson to him — climate leadership matters. Now he urgently needs to increase UK ambition on emission reduction targets & pay what we owe to global climate funds." COP27 is set to start on Sunday, Nov. 6 and run through Nov. 18.—APP



Climate change causing infectious diseases

JAKARTA: The incidence of infectious diseases is increasing on account of climate change, according to an official from the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).

"Climate change has a huge impact on the environment, it directly affects the health sector. Research shows that the emergence of infectious diseases is increasing along with climate change," the head of BRIN's Genetic Engineering Research Organization, Ratih Asmana Ningrum, said here on Wednesday. She outlined some infectious diseases linked to the impact of climate change, such as zika, malaria, dengue fever, influenza, ebola, COVID-19, and mainly zoonoses that are vector-mediated. However, new infectious diseases may also become more dangerous in the future, she added.

Based on the literature, there are around 1.7 million viruses that have not been revealed in mammals and birds, and 827 thousand of them have the ability to infect humans, Ningrum informed. Therefore, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity will be crucial to preventing diseases and pandemics in the future, she said. "Ecosystem functions are similar to those of the human body. When they are healthy, they are more resistant to disease. But when forests and other natural ecosystems are damaged, wildlife is forced to come into closer contact with farm animals and people. This creates conditions for disease to spread rapidly," she explained. She said that the cause of climate change is also the reason for the emergence of diseases, especially infectious diseases. Thus, in this sense, the emergence of infectious diseases and even pandemics is entirely driven by human activities.—Antara

Germany to cap energy prices from 2023

BERLIN: Germany said Wednesday it planned to put a limit on energy prices from the beginning of 2023, the cornerstone of a massive 200-billion-euro (\$198-billion) package to ease inflationary pressure on households and businesses.

The major energy market intervention would see the price for a percentage of consumers' typical gas usage capped from January 1 for industry and March 1 at the latest for households, according to the position paper from the government.

Policymakers would "seek" to retroactively apply the price break for households from February 2023, the document said. A similar electricity price cap will apply from January, under the plans. The government will also make a one-time payment to cover heating costs for households and small and mid-sized businesses in December this year.—APP

Uzbek President received German FM

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a German delegation led by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock, who is in Uzbekistan on an official visit, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent. According to the press service of the Head of our state, at the meeting, the main attention was paid to the issues of further enhancing multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany. Views were exchanged on the current regional and international agenda. The importance of continuing productive exchanges and consultations at the level of the two countries' foreign ministries, the effective use of mechanisms to support joint business initiatives and business projects, and holding cultural and humanitarian events were noted. Satisfaction was expressed with the growth of indicators of mutual trade and investment. Since the beginning of this year, trade has grown by 45 percent.

China imposes Covid lockdown on area around iPhone factory

BEIJING: Chinese authorities on Wednesday locked down the area surrounding the world's largest iPhone factory after workers fled the facility to avoid a virus outbreak and the resulting restrictions. All people except Covid-prevention volunteers and essential workers "must not leave their residences except to receive Covid tests and emergency medical treatment", officials from central China's Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone said Wednesday. The move comes after images emerged last week on Chinese social media showing people breaking out of the facility, which is run by Taiwanese tech giant Foxconn and employs hundreds of thousands of workers. Employees were complaining online of poor conditions and having to flee the factory on foot to avoid Covid transport curbs.

China is the last major economy committed to a zero-Covid strategy, persisting with snap lockdowns, mass testing and lengthy quarantines in a bid to stamp out emerging outbreaks. But new variants have tested local officials' ability to snuff out flare-ups faster than they can spread, causing much of the country to live under an ever-changing mosaic of Covid curbs.

The district in Zhengzhou city said Wednesday that all businesses would be required to work from home, with only "key enterprises" in the district allowed to continue operating, without specifying which businesses fell under this category.—APP

the growing unaffordability of food. "This is quite an unexpected turnaround," said Andrey Sizov, head of the Russia-focused Sovecon agriculture consultancy. "We did not bury this deal, but we did not expect Russia's return to it so soon either, as it was not very clear what kind of guarantees Russia could get and how quickly it would happen. But, well, good job Erdo an." "Still, the deal remains shaky, as it is now back in guessing mode as to whether there will be an extension or not. With two weeks to go before the extension, the discussion around this topic will apparently continue," Sizov added. The pact is due to expire on Nov. 19 and a European diplomat briefed on the grain talks has told Reuters that Putin was likely to use the possible extension as a way to gain leverage and dominate next month's G-20 summit in Indonesia. Even after the call with the Turkish leader, the Kremlin had said Moscow would only consider resuming

Danish PM resigns despite win

FOREIGN DESK

COPENHAGEN: Despite finishing first in Denmark's election, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has decided to step down along with her Social Democratic government in an attempt to build a broader coalition across the political divide. Frederiksen's announcement on Wednesday came after a dramatic vote count in which the centre-left bloc that has backed her since 2019 retained its majority in the parliament by a single seat. In theory, the 44-year-old Social Democratic leader could have stayed in power as head of a minority government. But she said she would stick to promises made before Tuesday's election to try to form a wider governing coalition that includes parties on the



centre-right. "I am happy, proud, and grateful," Frederiksen said. "It has been a very difficult few years to be prime minister: first the pandemic, now inflation. A lot indicated that a sitting government would

not achieve reelection." Frederiksen handed her resignation on Wednesday to Queen Margrethe, Denmark's figurehead monarch. Frederiksen will remain as prime minister in a caretaking capacity

until a new government is formed. Frederiksen called the election last month amid fallout from her government's contentious decision to cull millions of minks as a pandemic response measure. The cull and chilling images of mass graves of minks have haunted Frederiksen since 2020 and eventually led to cracks in the centre-left bloc. On Tuesday, the Social Democrats won 28 percent of the vote, or 50 seats, in the 179-member Danish Parliament. Exit polls and early results had suggested the centre-left parties together would not gather the 90 seats needed for a majority. They were one seat short until the very end of the ballot count when the decisive seat flipped. Before that, former Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen appeared set to become kingmaker.

Russia rejoins grain deal in unexpected U-turn

FOREIGN DESK

KIEV: Russia on Wednesday announced it had agreed to return to a Turkish and U.N. brokered deal that allowed the shipment of vital Ukrainian grain exports through the Black Sea, just four days after suspending its role in the pact in a move that had threatened to exacerbate hunger across the world. President Recep Tayyip Erdo an was the first to announce Moscow's U-turn that followed his phone call with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Tuesday and after consultations between their defense ministers. Russia had pulled out of the grain deal over the weekend, citing allegations of a Ukrainian drone attack against its Black Sea fleet. Erdo an on Wednesday said that after his call with Putin, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu informed Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar that the deal for a humanitarian grain corridor would "continue in the same way as before" as of

the agreement after a "detailed investigation" of a drone attack on Saturday against its Black Sea Fleet, which it accused Ukraine of carrying out with support from Britain. Kyiv has not claimed responsibility for the attack and denies using the grain program's security corridor for military purposes. Britain has denied involvement and accused Russia of trying to divert attention from its military failures in Ukraine. Moscow had said on Monday it would be "risky" and "unacceptable" for ships to continue sailing through the humanitarian corridor set up under the grain accord, ships had continued to export Ukrainian grain, and a record volume moved on Monday. Despite the Russian move, ships continued to carry Ukrainian grain on the route, but that had been unlikely to continue for long because insurance companies were not issuing new contracts due to Moscow's move, according to industry sources.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier that the world should respond firmly to any Russian attempts to disrupt Ukraine's export corridor across the Black Sea, which was blocked after Moscow invaded Ukraine on February 24. In a late Tuesday night video address, Zelenskyy said ships were still moving out of Ukrainian ports with cargoes thanks to the efforts and support of Türkiye and the United Nations. "But a reliable and long-term defense is needed for the grain corridor," Zelenskyy said. "Russia must clearly be made aware that it will receive a tough response from the world to any steps to disrupt our food exports," Zelenskyy said. "At issue here clearly are the lives of tens of millions of people." The U.N. and Türkiye brokered separate deals with Russia and Ukraine in July to ensure Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia would receive grain and other food from the Black Sea region during Russia's war in Ukraine.

Briefs

Putin seeks closer ties with Arab states

DNA

MOSCOW: Developing ties between Moscow and Arab countries is in the common interest of all sides, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. "The world is witnessing serious political and economic change. The formation of a multipolar system of international relations is gaining momentum, which is based on the rules of equality, justice and respect for each other's legitimate interests," Putin said in a message sent to a meeting of the Arab League on Tuesday. "Nations of the Middle East and North Africa, with a combined population of almost half a billion, play an increasingly significant role in this process," he added. Putin underlined that improving international conditions, countering current threats, and addressing today's challenges would require "a coordinated and collective effort," making multilateral institutions, such as the League of Arab States, all the more crucial. "Russia is committed to comprehensively developing further cooperation with the Arab League and all of its members, for the purposes of enhancing security at the regional and global levels," Putin said. He stressed that existing military and political problems in the Middle East and North Africa, including crises in Syria and Libya, as well as the conflict in Yemen and between Palestine and Israel, must be resolved on the basis of international law and a commitment to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries.

More Twitter staff leave, gutting top management

AGENCIES

CALIFORNIA: In an expanding exodus of Twitter's top management, officials including its advertising and marketing chiefs left the company in the past few days, according to statements and a person with direct knowledge of the matter. The departures come after billionaire Elon Musk's \$44 billion takeover of the company last week, followed by his firing of CEO Parag Agrawal, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal, and legal affairs and policy chief Vijaya Gadde, Reuters reported, citing sources. Sarah Personette, who was chief customer officer and ad boss, tweeted on Tuesday that she resigned last week, adding to advertisers' uncertainty over how the social media company will change under Musk.

IHC CJ stresses 'judiciary not scared of criticism'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah Wednesday maintained that criticism improves judges, but also spoke about its ineffectiveness on the judiciary. "We will also be accountable. We are not scared of criticism," the chief justice reiterated after inaugurating and laying the foundation of the Legal Facilitation Centre of Islamabad High Court's newly-constructed building. The ceremony was attended by the IHC chief justice, newly-appointed Law Minister Ayaz Sadiq, former law minister Azam Nazir Tarar, high court judges, and session judges. Justice Minallah admitted that the judiciary is facing several challenges. "We cannot change the 70-year-old system with a magic wand. There is a need to strengthen the justice system through reforms. I hope the state will fulfil its promise to provide inexpensive justice to citizens," he said, stressing on the need to change system

NATIONAL DAY OF ALGERIA CELEBRATED



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Senator Talah Mahmood, Minister for SAFRON, Ambassadors of Vietnam, South Africa, Algeria, EU, Brazil, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia cutting cake to celebrate National Day of Algeria. – DNA

Saudi envoy calls on Chairman HEC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said al-Malki called on Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed at the HEC Secretariat on Wednesday. The Saudi Ambassador and Chairman HEC agreed to expand bilateral collaboration and strengthen academic and research linkages among Pakistani and Saudi higher education institutions. They also discussed the facilities available for Pakistani and Saudi students studying in both the countries. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that HEC is committed to ensure maximum utilization of Saudi Government scholarships for Pakistani students.

Europe temperature rise more than twice average

GENEVA: Temperatures in Europe have increased at more than twice the global average over the past three decades, showing the fastest rise of any continent on earth, the UN said Wednesday. The European region has on average seen temperatures rise 0.5 degrees Celsius each decade since 1991, the UN's World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service found in a joint report. As a result, Alpine glaciers lost 30 metres (just under 100 feet) in ice thickness between 1997 and 2021, while the Greenland ice sheet is swiftly melting and contributing to accelerating sea level rise. Last year, Greenland experienced melting and the first-ever recorded rainfall at its highest point. And the report cautioned that regardless of future levels of global warming, temperatures would likely continue to rise across Europe at a rate exceeding global mean temperature changes. "Europe presents a live picture of a warming world and reminds us that even well-prepared societies are not safe from impacts of extreme weather events," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said in a statement. WMO splits the world into six regions, with the European region covering 50 countries and including half of the swiftly warming Arctic, which is not a continent in its own right. Within Antarctica - which is a continent but falls outside the six WMO-defined regions - only the West Antarctic Peninsula part is seeing rapid warming. The new report, released ahead of the UN's 27th conference on climate set to open in Egypt on Sunday, examined the situation in Europe up to and including 2021. It found that last year, high-impact weather and climate events - mainly floods and storms - led to hundreds of deaths, directly affected more than half a million people and caused economic damage across Europe exceeding \$50 billion. At the same time, the report highlighted some positives, including the success of many European countries in slashing greenhouse gas emissions. – APP

Russia agrees to rejoin Ukraine grain export deal

Russia's defence ministry says it received 'sufficient' guarantees from Kyiv on demilitarising the Black Sea corridor

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Russia said on Wednesday it would resume its participation in a deal freeing up grain exports from war-torn Ukraine, reversing a move that world leaders had said threatened to exacerbate global hunger. Moscow announced the sudden reversal after Turkey and the United Nations helped keep Ukrainian grain flowing for several days without Russian participation in inspections. The Russian defence ministry justified the u-turn by saying it had received guarantees from Kyiv not to use the Black Sea grain corridor for military operations against Russia. Kyiv did not immediately comment on that, but has denied in the past that it used the agreed shipping corridor as cover for attacks. "The Russian Federation considers that the guarantees received at the moment appear sufficient, and resumes the implementation of the agreement," the Russian ministry statement said.

The grain deal, originally reached three months ago, had dispelled a global food crisis by lifting a de facto Russian blockade on Ukraine, one of the world's biggest suppliers. The prospect that it could fall apart this week had revived fears of global hunger and pushed up prices. Russia suspended its involvement in the deal on Saturday, saying it could not guarantee safety for civilian ships crossing the Black Sea after an attack on its fleet. Ukraine and Western countries called that a false pretext for "blackmail" using threats to the global food supply. But Russia's suspension failed to stop shipments, which resumed on Monday without Moscow's participation, in a programme backed by Turkey and the United Nations. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu had told his Turkish counterpart that the deal would resume. "The grain transports will continue as agreed before as of 12 (pm) today," Erdogan said, appearing to read from a note that an aide passed to him as he addressed members of his AK Party.

The prices of wheat, soybeans, corn and rapeseed fell sharply on global markets following the announcement, which eased concerns about the growing unaffordability of food. Although Russia's suspension did not stop the flow of Ukrainian grain, insurance companies had paused issuing new contracts, raising the prospect that shipments could halt within days, industry sources said. But Lloyds of London insurer Ascot told Reuters after Wednesday's resumption announcement that it had resumed writing cover for new shipments. "This is quite an unexpected turnaround," Andrey Sizov, the head of Russia-focused Sovecon agriculture consultancy, said of Russia's decision. "Still, the deal remains shaky, as it is now back in guessing mode as to whether there will be an extension or not. With two weeks to go before the extension, the discussion around this topic will apparently continue," Sizov added. The deal runs out on Nov. 19 and a European diplomat briefed on the grain talks has told Reuters that Russian President Vladimir Pu-

tin was likely to use the possible extension as a way to gain leverage and dominate next month's G20 summit in Indonesia. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the resumption showed the importance of standing firm in the face of Moscow's demands. "This is an expression of how important it is that those who believe in the international order...stand together in these difficult times and do not allow themselves to be blackmailed by Russia," she told broadcaster Welt. A senior Ukrainian official who declined to be identified told Reuters that Moscow's decision was mainly the result of Turkish pressure on Russia. Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov expressed gratitude for the roles played by Erdogan and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier that the world should respond firmly to any Russian attempts to disrupt Ukraine's export corridor across the Black Sea, which was blocked after Moscow invaded Ukraine on February 24.

Ayaz Sadiq meets Netherlands' envoy Henny Fokel de Vries

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday met with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands Henny Fokel de Vries. The minister Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the warm and cordial relations between the Government of Pakistan and Kingdom of Netherlands in a meeting with the Ambassador of Netherlands, said a press release issued here. The minister stressed that the economic cooperation between the two countries needed to be more deepened and enlarged for the mutual benefit of the citizens of both countries. "Pakistan appreciates the Kingdom of Netherlands' timely and very valuable humanitarian assistance during the floods of 2010 and the recent devastating climate calamity," said the minister. He added that Pakistan's contribution to global emissions stood at less than 1%. However, Pakistan was a badly affected country figuring among the top five most vulnerable nations globally. He further remarked that Pakistan needed to be supported to fight the negative impact of climate, saving the most vulnerable and poor communities from the destruction of future disasters. Henny appreciated the cordial relationship between Pakistan and Netherlands and acknowledged the devastating impact of climate change on the country. She stated, "The Government of the Netherlands is trying to provide as much assistance as we can and we are ready to assist for long-term recovery programs." She said the climate was changing much faster than they expected. The world needed to be united to make sure every country was well protected, she added. While speaking on enhancing Pak-Netherlands' relations, the minister for Economic Affairs stressed on revamping government-to-government development cooperation. He stressed on reviving and allocating special seats in the Netherlands Fellowship Program & Scholarship. He highlighted the provision of Technical Assistance in agriculture, especially, water resources and irrigation along with support in horticulture especially berries, vegetables, seed production, livestock and dairy as the Dutch have world-class technologies in these areas. Dutch companies could be engaged to transfer their technology for seed development in Pakistan, the minister said. The ambassador assured complete assistance in the said areas and apprised the minister that the efforts on these programs especially on vocational training and technical exchange had already been started which was appreciated by the minister. – DNA

Netanyahu set to lead most right-wing govt ever

The two aspects underline the challenges facing Netanyahu as he begins preparations to form a govt where he will face pressure to award plum posts to Ben-Gvir and his partners while calming concerns from allies including the United States

TEL AVIV: Benjamin Netanyahu concluded his recent autobiography "Bibi: My Story" with a declaration that his time on the opposition benches, after an election loss in 2021, was a "hiatus" and that great tasks lay ahead. Published just before the fifth Israeli election in four years and on wide display outside voting stations on election day, the book is imbued with Netanyahu's confidence that he would retake top office soon. If preliminary counts hold, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, who has dominated the country's politics for more than a decade, is back and set to form what looks like being one of the most right-wing governments in Israel's history. Netanyahu has pledged to build on the achievement of his last term in office, the Abraham Accords with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, that opened the way for a possible normalization of relations with other Arab countries. But most attention has been focused on his alliance with the far-right Religious Zionism party and its co-leader Itamar Ben-Gvir, who was convicted in 2007 of

racist incitement against Arabs and who until recently was advocating expelling Palestinians from Israel. The two aspects underline the challenges facing Netanyahu as he begins preparations to form a government where he will face pressure to award plum posts to Ben-Gvir and his partners while calming concerns from allies including the United States. On trial for corruption over bribery and other charges which he denies, Netanyahu looks set to depend on support from Religious Zionism and two smaller religious parties. Those parties have been more willing to set aside Netanyahu's legal troubles and critics say that with help from the far-right, Netanyahu may seek radical judicial reforms that could potentially save him from conviction and imprisonment. In return, he may have to hand over ministries that have a direct hand in setting Israel's defence and economic policies. Netanyahu has been flanked on the right in previous governments and still managed to normalize ties with Arab states in the Gulf and, as a free-market champion, oversee impressive economic growth. – Agencies

NA speaker rejects reference against Zardari

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Wednesday rejected the question of disqualification filed against former President Asif Ali Zardari. The reference was filed by Syed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari, also known as Zulfi Bukhari, which was received by the NA speaker a couple of days ago. In the reference, it was requested that former President Asif Ali Zardari be disqualified as Member of the National Assembly under Article 62 and 63 of the Constitution and it should be referred to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The speaker rejected the reference under Clause (2) of Article 63 of the Constitution and sent the copy of decision to the (ECP). – APP

North Korea fires 23 missiles into sea
South Korean warplanes fired three air-to-ground missiles into the sea north across the NLL in response, the South's military said

AGENCIES

SEOUL: North Korea fired at least 23 missiles into the sea on Wednesday, including one that landed less than 60 km (40 miles) off South Korea's coast, which the South's President Yoon Suk-yeol described as "territorial encroachment." It was the first time a ballistic missile had landed near the South's waters since the peninsula was divided in 1945, and the most missiles fired by the North in a single day. South Korea issued rare air raid warnings and launched its own missiles in response. The missile landed outside South Korea's territorial waters, but south of the Northern Limit Line (NLL), a disputed inter-Korean maritime border. South Ko-

rean warplanes fired three air-to-ground missiles into the sea north across the NLL in response, the South's military said. An official said the weapons used included an AGM-84H/K SLAM-ER, which is a U.S.-made "stand-off" precision attack weapon that can fly for up to 270 km (170 miles) with a 360-kg (800-lb) warhead. The South's launches came after Yoon's office vowed a "swift and firm response". "President Yoon Suk-yeol noted North Korea's provocation today was an effective act of territorial encroachment by a missile intruding the NLL for the first time since (the two Koreas') division," his office said in a statement. When asked whether the missile was flying towards the South's territory and should have been intercepted, a senior presidential official said, "Strictly speaking, it did not land in our territory but in the Exclusive Economic Zone under our jurisdiction, therefore it was not subject to interception."

The United States condemned the North's missile launches and "its reckless decision to fire a missile below the de facto maritime boundary with the Republic of Korea," a State Department spokesperson said on Wednesday, using the South's official name. North Korea has continuously been launching missiles over the past year in violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield said. "It's unprecedented in the sense that there were so many," she said of Wednesday's launches. The missile that crossed the NLL

was one of three short-range ballistic missiles fired from the North Korean coastal area of Wonsan into the sea, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said. The JCS later said as many as 14 other missiles of various types had been fired from North Korea's east and west coasts. The JCS said at least one of the missiles landed 26 km south of the NLL, 57 km from the South Korean city of Sokcho, on the east coast, and 167 km from the island of Ulleung, where air raid warnings were sounded. "We heard the siren at around 8:55 a.m. and all of us in the building went down to the evacuation place in the basement," an Ulleung county official told Reuters. "We stayed there until we came upstairs at around 9:15 after hearing that the projectile fell into the high seas."