



# Islamabad POST

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Detailed News On Page-08

**Iran FM admits sending drones to Russia**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Gerrard Pique says goodbye to Barcelona**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Fresh Biden quip offends Afghans**

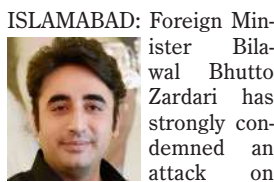
NEWS DESK



WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has now irked Afghans by repeatedly disparaging their country as a "Godforsaken place," causing Kabul's Taliban rulers to claim that the American leader was doing so out of frustration. Last month, President Biden annoyed Pakistanis when he described their country as "one of the most dangerous nations in the world" that possessed nuclear weapons without any "cohesion". On Friday, he targeted Afghanistan. "A lot of you have been to Afghanistan. I've been to every part of it."

**FM condemns attack on police party**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned an attack on police party by criminals at Kacha area in Ghotki. In a statement issued from Media Cell Bilawal House on Sunday, he expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of five police officials including the DSP and two SHOs in the incident. He saluted to martyrs DSP Abdul Malik Bhutto, SHOs Deen Muhammad Laghari and Abdul Malik Kamangar and two policemen Shaheed Salim Chachar and Shaheed Jatoti for sacrificing their lives in the line of duty.

**Kenyan police statement contradicts with locals**

DNA



KENYA, NAIROBI: The mystery around the murder of senior Pakistani journalist and anchorperson deepens as the investigators fail to find a solution while contradictions in the facts stated by the Kenyan police and media also surface. Arshad Sharif was shot dead by the Kenyan police on the night of October 23 in a "mistaken identity" case while he was travelling to Nairobi from the country's Magadi town in Kenya.

## Qureshi to lead march PTI resumes long march from Tuesday

**What will judicial commission do when people I named are ones who will head probe: Imran Khan**

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Addressing a press conference from the hospital, PTI Chairman Imran Khan said that "slave nations cannot rise". "My first point is what will the judicial commission do when the three people I named are the ones who will head the investigation," said Khan. He added that he sought the interior minister, prime minister and a military official's resignation as he wants "transparent investigations because there is an entire pattern". "First, video surfaces that I'm committing blasphemy, it should be probed in the investigations. The video is then highlighted by a journalist affiliated with a political party. After this, a press conference is held by Maryam Safdar, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Javed Latif and they say that I committed blasphemy," said the PTI chief. He added it was a pity that despite having a government in the Punjab they were not able to lodge an FIR of the Wazirabad shooting. The PTI Chairman said some quarters were even above the law that is why no FIR can be registered against them.



**Deadlock persists over Wazirabad incident FIR**

DNA

LAHORE: The controversy surrounding the first information report (FIR) of a gun attack on ex-premier Imran Khan deepened on Saturday when his party raised questions over alleged police reluctance to register their complaint, while the police denied having received any application from party leaders two days after the Wazirabad shooting. Amid a deadlock between Punjab's ruling coalition partners – PTI and PML-Q – over the ex-premier's reported insistence to book a senior army officer, the prime minister and interior minister in the case, rumours had it that the provincial government was going to transfer Inspector General of Police (IGP) Faisal Shahkar over his reluctance in this regard. A PTI worker died and

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

## Romania provides funding for Pakistan floods flash appeal

**Romanian FM Bogdan Aurescu says well-being of children top priority**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Romania has voluntarily donated 75,000 Euro to the UNICEF Floods Flash Appeal in response to the devastating flooding that hit Pakistan in 2022. The Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bogdan AURESCU, stated in a Tweet that the well-being of the children lies at the very heart of Romania's official development assistance efforts. The Ambassador of Romania in Pakistan, His Excellency Nicolaie GOIA, stated that "Romania has always been close to Pakistan and our common efforts together with the European Union are supplemented by this voluntary contribution to UNICEF Floods Flash Appeal. Romania works closely with its partners in order to improve stability in Pakistan's most vulnerable impacted areas". It is hurtful to see that a country like Pakistan which contributes less than 1% of the world's carbon footprints is suffering so much devastation from the global warming," the Ambassador added. Through the EU measures, which have now raised a total of 135.8 million euro, Romania is also part of Pakistan's recovery from the devastating floods.

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## The UK's Presidency of COP26 ends as leaders meet in Egypt

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: One year on from hosting COP26 in Glasgow, the UK has handed over the Presidency of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to Egypt as world leaders, including the UK's PM, Rishi Sunak, meet at Sharm el Sheikh for COP27. The UK's Presidency of COP26 made progress on each of its four goals of: mitigation (reducing emissions), adaptation (helping those already impacted by climate change), finance (enabling countries to deliver on their climate goals) and collaboration (working together to deliver even greater action). Most importantly, if countries which agreed the Glasgow Climate Pact deliver on their commitments to phase down coal power, halt or reverse deforestation and speed up the switch to electric vehicles, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees is still possible. This will be critical for preventing devastating climate impacts and protecting vulnerable countries like Pakistan. At COP26 the UK pledged £55m in financial support to Pakistan to assist with building climate resilience and tackling climate change.

**PM in Egypt for COP meeting**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left for Egypt on a two-day visit on November 7. Prime Minister will attend the COP-27 conference starting on November 7 in Sharm el-Sheikh, she said in a statement. The minister said that 197 member countries were participating in the conference. Pakistan attached great importance to COP-27, she said adding the conference will consider the need for urgent action on climate change as well as climate justice issues. She said that the PM will present Pakistan's position on important issues in his address to the heads of state during the World Leaders Summit. The PM will also meet United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the occasion of the conference in

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

**Indian hackers 'snooped on Pak politicians, generals'**

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: AN India-based computer hacking gang targeted Pakistani politicians, military officials and diplomats to eavesdrop on private conversations at the behest of Indian secret services, claimed an expose by The Bureau of Investigative Journalism and the Sunday Times. The revelations based on the leaked documents and undercover work in India by the reporters of the said organisations revealed that private British investigators, through the hacking gang based in India, were spying at the behest of "autocratic" rulers on dozens of high-profile individuals. According to the report, former military dictator General Pervez Musharraf was "the most famous Pakistan-related target". On Jan 10 this year, the email account of Fawad Chaudhry, who was serving as information minister at the time, was hacked and the hacker also "took a screenshot of Chaudhry's inbox" seen by the Sunday Times and The Bureau.

Continued on Page 06

## Imran Khan wants 'false FIR' in firing incident: Marriyum

**Info Minister says "The foreign funded Fitna has the audacity to hurl allegations on PM, Minister and an ISI officer"**



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chief Imran Khan wanted registration of a "false and illegal" First Information Report (FIR) in the Wazirabad firing incident. Imran Khan, who was a foreign funded "Fitna", had been pressurizing the Punjab administration as well as police for the purpose, the minister said in a news statement. She said the goons of PTI had attacked a police station in Gujrat to ensure registration of an FIR in accordance with the will of Imran Khan. The minister said Imran Khan was adamant to get the FIR registered as per his own will because he wanted "rule of might" in the country.


Continued on Page 06

## 'PTI's long march has failed': Fazl

DNA

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F chief Maulana-FazlurRehman Sunday deemed the PTI's long march a "failure" and said that it cannot be revived now. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Fazl – who is also the chief of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) – asked the coalition government to "not show any mercy to PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his party" following the turn of events in the wake of the assassination attempt on Khan. "I ask the government to be strict. No one should be allowed to toy with Pakistan. There will be no leniency with them now," the PDM chief said, adding that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah is ready to deal with PTI. Speaking about the assassination attempt on Khan, Fazl said: "A new drama was plotted."

Continued on Page 06




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### Inside...

Pak-China trade in local currency to stabilize reserves  
– Page 02

Pakistan incurs \$14b damages from flood devastation  
– Page 03

Pakistan seafood exports to China increase 34 percent  
– Page 04

Imran Khan needs to rise to the occasion  
– Page 05

Pakistan down Bangladesh to qualify for semi-finals  
– Page 06

Trade officers asked to join hands with private sector  
– Page 07

Italian artists steal the show by mesmerizing performance  
– Page 08



# Pak-China trade in local currency to stabilize reserves

ISLAMABAD: As the central banks of Pakistan and China have agreed to make Rupee-Yuan clearing arrangements to reduce dependence on US dollar, the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has hailed the decision, saying it would stabilize foreign exchange reserves and strengthen the rupee against the greenback.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the establishment of the RMB clearing arrangement in Pakistan will further boost usage of RMB for cross-border transactions among Chinese and Pakistani enterprises and financial institutions. This will also promote bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, he added. Beijing and Islamabad conducted bilateral trade in Chinese currency worth RMB30 billion in the fiscal year 2020-21 under the currency swap agreement. He said that China increased financing in Chinese currency by an additional RMB10 billion under the CSA during the premier's visit this week. Accordingly, Pakistan has now made available a total RMB40 billion to clear its import payments in the current fiscal year 2023, saving \$6 billion in foreign reserves. APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that the establishment of an RMB clearing unit in the country means that Pakistan may no longer

have to use its precious reserves of US dollars to trade with China. Moreover, when funding China-backed mega projects in the country, China too will not have to rely on sending Pakistan US dollars. Ibrahim Qureshi said the decision will make bilateral trade between the two countries more competitive and avoid the lengthy process of routing dollar settlements through New York.

Syed Maaz Mahmood observed that the major benefit of this agreement would be that Chinese products that will come to Pakistan or the Pakistani products that will go to China will be more competitive due to transactions in our own currencies, he said. Most dollar base payments and settlements conducted by local banks are cleared in New York for international payments. From there, the currency is sent to the respective bank for its conversion into local currencies. At present, the process is a bit complex. Pakistani customers make payments to local banks, which then transfer money to New York where settlements take place. From there, the money flows to the respective Chinese bank where the US dollars are converted into RMB. We will be able to avoid this long procedure and the settlement would be made by both

banks, so this is very good for trade. The APBF President said that the trade between Pakistan and China is heavily tilted in Beijing's favor, comprising more imports and fewer exports. Overall, exports from Pakistan to China have increased by 2 percent to \$2.57 billion during the first nine months of the current calendar year. The bilateral trade volume remained at \$20.19 billion with 3 percent growth when compared to the same period in 2021. At present, the emerging markets demonstrated a low elasticity of demand for US dollars. The currencies of developing countries will inevitably depreciate as a result of a possible negative spillover effect caused by a surge in USD interest rates and a monetary tightening cycle. He stated that the agreement will also help boost the country's foreign exchange reserves significantly this year and appreciate the rupee to below Rs200 against the greenback. He said that China stands as Pakistan's single largest trading partner, as Islamabad imported goods and services worth \$18 billion from Beijing last year, of which import payments worth \$4.5 billion were made in Chinese yuan, meaning Pakistan's reliance on greenback was cut down by \$4.5 billion last year.—APP

## Kaira asks world community to take cognizance of genocide in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD :Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Qamar-u-Zaman Kaira has said that India was engaged in planned genocide of Muslims in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and demanded the world community to take cognizance of the act. In a statement issued here on Sunday on the eve of Jammu Martyrs Day, he recalled that on this day in 1947, Dogra forces and Hindu extremists turned the Muslim majority of Jammu into minority by killing more than hundred thousand people and forcing millions to migrate to Pakistan. He said that the darkest night of op-

pression and atrocities by the Indian forces were continuing for the last 75 years in IIOJK and the oppressor was making nefarious efforts to alter the demography of the Muslim majority valley of Kashmir. Kaira further said that in a bid to strengthen its illegal occupation, India unilaterally and illegally repealed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 05, 2019 and more than hundred thousand of domiciles had been issued to non Kashmiris. Besides this, he said that through delimitation and increase in special seats, India was trying to turn Muslims into minority in the assembly and other representative forums

which he said was a clear violation of international laws, UN resolutions on Kashmir and 4th Geneva convention. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were determined to achieve the goal of right to self-determination and India despite oppression, killing uncountable people and unprecedented atrocities, could not let down the Kashmiri people from the demand of right to self determination. Kaira renewed the pledge that Pakistan would continue full support to the demand of right to self-determination of Kashmiri people and their voice was being raised effectively at all international forums.—APP

## IG refuses to work under Punjab govt

DNA

*IG Shahkar has been appointed as the UN Police Adviser in DPO by UN SG António Guterres on Nov 1*

LAHORE: Punjab Inspector General (IG) Faisal Shahkar has refused to work under the Punjab government requesting the establishment division to let him serve under the federal government. Punjab Inspector General (IG) Shahkar wrote a letter to the establishment division and requested immediate transfer. In his letter, the IG stated that it is difficult for him to continue his current assignments under the Punjab government. He cited personal reason behind his decision. Meanwhile, the establishment division has received IG Shahkar's letter. Sources in establishment division revealed that the federal government would accept Punjab IG's request. It is pertinent to mention here that IG Shahkar has been appointed as the United Nations Police Adviser in the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) by UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Nov 1. He will soon join the UN post.

## World powers must focus on human survival instead of wars



ISLAMABAD :The world powers must focus on the survival and security of human beings and resolve the issues with dialogues instead of opting the option of wars. These views were expressed by the leaders of faith at a three-day global interfaith conference, titled 'Bahrain Forum for Dialogue: East and West for Human Coexistence', hosted under the patronage of Bahrain King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at Al-Fida' Square of Sakhr Royal Palace in Manama. Besides the holy father Pope Francis, Sheikh Al-Azhar Ahmed Al-Tayeb and other world-renowned religious leaders and scholars, Prime Minister's Special Representative for Inter-

faith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor, Council of Islamic Ideology Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz participated in the moot. They were of the view that Russia and Ukraine should stop the war and initiate the process of negotiation to settle down all the issues for the survival and security of the humanity in the region. "Prosperity and development are possible only through inter-sects and inter-religious dialogues in the world," they opined. They said western countries must play their significant role in coping with climate change challenges and increasing poverty across the

world. They believed that all religions on earth taught love and peace. After the conclusion of global interfaith forum, Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) told APP on Sunday that the leadership of Bahrain had taken the step in the right direction and it would help bring the people of various faith closer and remove their differences. Expressing gratitude on the active participation of Bahrain King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and religious scholars of other religion and sects in the forum, he said it had given a strong message of love, peace and brotherhood to the world.—APP



**LAHORE:** Additional Secretary Shrines Rana Shahid Saleem received the Sikh Yatraes at Wagha Border as a large number of Sikh Yatraes arrived in Pakistan through Wagha Border to participate in religious rituals on the occasion of 553rd Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak at Nankana Sahib. —APP

## 3,000 Sikh Yatraes arrive in city

LAHORE:About 3,000 Sikh yatraes from India arrived here on Sunday via Wahga Border to participate in the 553rd birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak at Nankana Sahib. Additional Secretary (Shrines) Rana Shahid Saleem along with Pradhan Sardar Amir Singh, Sardar Satwant Singh and others received the pilgrims. Speaking on the occasion, Sikh leaders including Sardar Preet Singh, Sardar Diljeet Singh, Sardar Manjeet Singh and Sardar Jagjeet Singh expressed their happiness after reaching in Pakistan. They said that they had received special love from the land of their 'Gurus'. Additional Secretary Shrines Rana Shahid told the media that Janumasthan had been decorated tastefully. The ETPB had made foolproof security arrangements besides accommodation and travelling facilities for Sikh yatraes. Special marquees have also been installed for them, he added. On the directions of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Chairman Abdul Rehman Ghilani, the officers and employees of the Board would remain busy day and night to serve the guests. Pradhan Sardar Amir Singh and Sardar Satwant Singh said the Trust Board had completed all the arrangements in consultation with the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (PSGPC). The main ceremony will be held at Janumasthan Nankana Sahib on November 8 (Tuesday) in which, leaders from various religion and political parties would participate. —APP

## RPO inaugurates new park for cops

FAISALABAD:Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dr Moeen Masood here on Sunday inaugurated a new park for police officials near Police Lines. A police spokesman said here on Sunday that the park was named after first SP of Faisalabad, Sir Lionel Linton Tomkins and it would provide recreational facilities to the police officials. Later, the RPO also inaugurated newly constructed CPO complex at Police Lines' parade ground and distributed cash prizes and commendation certificates among the elite force Jawans who had arrested the accused of a double-murder case from district kutchery.—APP

## Pakistan exhibits its products at CIIE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan exhibited its products at China International Import Expo (CIIE) 2022 for fifth consecutive year in a big way, it was reported by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday. This year the CIIE in Shanghai is scheduled to take place till November 10. This is one of the largest exhibitions in China that provides a platform for local and international enterprises to display their products and enhance trade with China and globally. The report says, Jewelry, salt lamps, blankets, marble ..... Five years ago, when these distinctive Pakistani-style products debuted at the first China International Import Expo (CIIE), they struck Chinese buyers as unfamiliarly new, rare and exotic but evoked some concerns about the quality during purchase. However, five years later at the fifth CIIE, Pakistani products have already garnered a large following of repeat customers and hardcore buyers. "Of the consumers who buy our products, the percentage of re-pur-

chase within a year is as high as 60%, and another 30% of customers make a third or more purchase within a year," said Li Long proudly, a four-time Pakistani jewellery exhibitor at CIIE.

On the booth stands out a girly pink gemstone with the largest size. "This pink morganite originates from Pakistan. This is the first of its kind exhibited at CIIE and it is part of the Mughal series. 150-carat pink morganite is very rare even in Pakistan." In this year's CIIE, Li Long brings emeralds, morganites, tourmalines and chrysoprases, which originate from the northern mountains of Pakistan. He said expectantly, "This year, our booth is specially decorated for brand image display, and we hope to meet more quality buyers." Large exhibitions such as CIIE are the major means of product promotion as Pakistani exhibitors make their foray into the Chinese market. However, such exhibitions only last a few days each year. — APP

## Minorities' rights have always protected, respected: Mayor

PESHAWAR :Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali Sunday said that the rights of all minorities have always protected and respected and all such problems of the Christian colony and other minorities would also be resolved on priority basis. He said this while addressing the Christian community and public in an open court held here. The problems of Christian colonies would be resolved on priority basis and for this the local government allocated funds for minorities. He said "we have always protected and respected the rights of minorities,

they are not less than brothers and sisters for us because they are also citizens of Pakistan like us. I am sorry to hear about the problems of Subhanabad and Shaheedabad areas that no one has paid any attention to these areas, but as a mayor I will take every practical step to solve these problems as early as possible." Residents of these areas, informed the Mayor about their problems being faced by them like unscheduled load-shedding of electricity and gas, overbilling, electricity poles and hanging wires etc. The residents also

complained that there was no adequate arrangement for clean drinking water while health facilities were also non-existent in these areas. Haji Zubair Ali said that we have always prioritized the rights of minorities and provided them all possible support like our brothers and sisters which will be continued. He said, full seriousness would be shown in solving the problems of the Christian colony and the condition of the churches would also be improved very soon so that the Christians do not face any problem in their worship.—APP

## Legal Forum for Kashmir hold in-house discussion

ISLAMABAD: The Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) hosted an in-house discussion titled "75 Years of Horrendous Genocide in IIOJK" to commemorate the November 1947 Jammu Massacre, also referred to as the 'Jammu Genocide,' which was carried out by armed forces under the command of Dogra ruler Hari Singh in the winter capital of the disputed territory. According to an estimate by Kashmiri human rights organisations, the number of casualties ranges between 200,000 and 300,000, and the magnitude of the slaughter of Muslims on a mass scale in Jammu between August and November 1947 has been labelled as a Holocaust of the East.

During the in-house discussion, the panellists elaborated on the horrifying planned genocide of Muslims that resulted in the conversion of Jammu's Muslim majority into a minority. One of the panellists cited a report from The Times of London dated August 10, 1948, which detailed the Jammu Genocide, "237,000 Muslims were systematically exterminat-

ed ... by the forces of the Dogra State headed by the Maharaja in person and aided by Hindus and Sikhs. This happened in October 1947, five days before the Pathan invasion and nine days before the Maharaja's accession to India." Another panellist emphasised how Indian Hindu extremists were complicit with the Dogra ruler, and how a convoy of 70 trucks loaded with Jammu city Muslims left for Suchetgarh on November 6, with the Dogra ruler promising safe deportation to Pakistan. However, a few miles outside of town, the trucks were stopped, attacked and burned by armed jathas of Sikhs and Dogra state forces, leaving all the people burned beyond recognition. After 75 years of Mass genocide in Jammu, the Indian government is executing a similar pincer by settler colonial machination in IIOJK. Since Aug 05 2019 when India robbed the Special status of disputed territory, they have normalized the settler colonial project by bringing a massive change in constitution and other

laws which paved the way for non-Kashmiris to settle & seek job in Muslim majority region. Online Speakers from IIOJK said India is doing similar thing in Kashmir to change the demographic status of Muslim majority into minority. Even the question of genocide is never far from discussion of these brutal settlements for example white settlers wiped out indigenous Tasmanians by executed genocide against the tribes. The UN genocide watch issue alert Post August 05 2019 for occupied Kashmir, in which it identified the genocidal process, based on Dr Stanton's 10 stages of Genocide. According to Dr Stanton the persecution of Kashmir's Muslims has increased significantly on Prime Minister Modi's watch. "So many of the early stages of genocide are already present. We don't wait until it is a full out mass killing campaign to declare genocide. There are early warning signs of genocide now and that's what we believe is the sit-

uation in Kashmir. The participants agreed unanimously that India's atrocity crimes in IIOJK, such as the Jammu genocide, necessitate an independent and impartial international investigation to reveal the actual amount of lives lost, the number of rapes, the extent of torture, and the multitude of plundered properties. They went on to say that the status and number of survivors/refugees, as well as their current conditions, must be assessed in order to evaluate the true miseries and sufferings endured by Jammu Muslims and hold perpetrators accountable for horrendous crimes. The attendees paid honourable homage to those who were martyred in the Jammu Genocide because of their religious identity and affiliation at the hands of Dogra ruler and Hindu extremists. The panellists among other experts included Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan, Former UN Judge, Honorary Chairman - LFK; Mr Nasir Qadri, Executive Director - LFK; Musab Malik Program Coordinator, Nayeem Hurrah, Zain ul Abideen and Fayaz Mehar attended IHD.—DNA



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For further information please contact the following.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

Nov 01 / Algeria

National Day

Nov 04 / Italy

Armed Forces Day

Nov 07 / Russian Federation

Socialist Revolution

Nov 09 / Cambodia

National Day

Nov 11 / Poland

Independence Day

Nov 14 / Jordan

Birthday of King Hussein

Nov 15 / Belgium

Kings Day

Nov 15 / Brazil

Republic Day

Nov 15 / Northern Cyprus

National Day

Nov 18 / Morocco

Independence Day

Nov 21 / Bangladesh

Armed Forces Day

Nov 22 / Lebanon

Independence Day

Nov 25 / Suriname

National Day

Nov 28 / Mauritania

National Day

Nov 28 / Albania

Flags Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133

Marriott.....051- 2826121

Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance..1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police....9266044

Motorway Police..9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIAFlight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International.4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

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Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Pak incurs \$14b damages from flood devastation

## Minister underlined that federal government will also launch rehabilitation plan in coming days that will cover key aspects of revival efforts to ensure sustainable relocation of the affected communities

ALI JABIR

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan has witnessed the havoc of an unprecedented torrential rain floods that inundated almost a third of the whole country under rainwater breaking all records of mega floods with cumulative damages of \$14.906 billion. The country needs \$16.261 billion to recover from the devastation. The relief efforts had largely focused on the provision of shelter, safe drinking water, food items, and health interventions amidst supply chain disruptions. The total damage so far is estimated at Rs 3.2 trillion (US\$14.9 billion), total loss at Rs 3.3 trillion (US\$15.2 billion), and total needs at Rs 3.5 trillion (US\$16.3 billion). The sectors that suffered the most damage is housing at Rs 1.2 trillion (US\$5.6 billion); agriculture, food, livestock, and fisheries at Rs 800 billion (US\$3.7 billion); and transport and communications at Rs 701 billion (US\$3.3 billion). The transport and communications sector have the highest reconstruction and recovery needs at Rs 1.1 trillion (US\$5.0 billion); followed by agriculture, food, livestock, and fisheries at Rs 854 billion (US\$4.0 billion), and housing at Rs 592 billion (US\$2.8 billion). The provinces of Sindh and Balochistan account for approximately 50 percent and 15 percent of recovery and reconstruction needs, respectively. The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has prepared a detailed Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Report through its Flood Coordination Cell, with the assistance of Asian Development Bank, the European Union, the United Nations donor agencies particularly with technical support of the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank whereas financial and technical support was from the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. According to the PDNA Report, a mix of torrential rains with a combination of riverine, urban, and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in the country between June and August 2022. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has reported around 33 million people affected due to the floods leaving one in seven impacted along with some eight million people displaced from the flood-hit areas. Over 1,700 people, one-third of which were children perished during the floods. Moreover, the rain-induced floods, speedy glacial melt and causing landslides that destroyed millions of homes and key infrastructure, sinking entire villages and affecting livelihoods. The report said, "As per the preliminary estimates amid direct outcome of the floods, the national poverty rate will increase by 3.7 to 4.0 percentage points, pushing between 8.4 and 9.1 million people into poverty." Some 94 districts have been declared as "calamity hit," making it over half of all districts in the country. "The majority were in the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Out of the 25 poorest districts in the country, 19 were calamity-affected." "In the summer of 2022, the country experienced its wettest August since 1961. Sindh and Balochistan provinces witnessed an unparalleled rainfall, outstanding average monthly totals by six and seven times, respectively. Attribution research has shown that the five-day maximum rainfall, which is a measure of heavy precipitation, of these two provinces was around 75 percent more intense than it would have been had the climate not warmed by 1.2°C. The floods came on the heels of a severe heatwave — previously a 1-in-1,000-year event — and drought emergency during which temperatures continuously remained above 45°C, resulting in crop losses, power outages, and forest fires." The extraordinary magnitude and protracted duration of the prevailing catastrophe demanded a strategic coordination to amicably manage humanitarian response to recovery. The government while leading humanitarian response set up a National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC) to supervise the national response to the monsoon rains and floods. The Centre comprises of federal stakeholders, provincial governments, and the Pakistan Armed Forces and it has been organizing the national-level government assistance. The Armed Forces and civil administration have been providing search and rescue, logistics, and engineering support, while the NDMA is procuring relief supplies and coordinating bilateral in-kind donations for distribution through the Army, which has been mobilized under constitutional provisions. As per the PDNA Report, the flood devastation would explicitly bring some 2.2 percent decline in GDP of FY22. However, among the mega sectors, agriculture sector value added is projected to decline the most at 0.9 percent of FY22 (fiscal year 2022), with the most losses to cotton, dates, sugarcane, and rice crops. Around 1 million livestock are estimated to have perished. The government after embracing huge devastation in floods has come up with an inclusive and resilient recovery through a "Whole of Pakistan" approach, leading to sustainable development for the people and country. The recovery plan was based on three key pillars "and an underlying foundation". The underlying foundation comprised of three approaches namely, "build back better; people-centered socioeconomic recovery; and developing systemic resilience against natural hazards and climate change impacts—all of which must be applied across the board." The recovery strategic plan builds up its foundation on three pillars of restoration of jobs and livelihoods; recovery and reconstruction of critical assets, services, and infrastructure; and strengthening governance and stakeholder capacity for reconstruction, especially communities. Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman was of the view that the recent floods had destroyed 4,410 million acres agricultural land that required Rs 854 billion for its reconstruction of the agriculture sector. She said, "About Rs 1,986 billion are estimated collective losses of the agriculture sector." Senator Sherry Rehman said, "Sindh and Balochistan provinces had been affected more in the floods, and the government was paying heed on the rehabilitation process and rebuilding the damaged areas. The complete economic loss related to the aforesaid sector is approximately over \$9 billion." The Minister underlined that the federal government will also launch the rehabilitation plan in the coming days that will cover the key aspects of revival efforts to ensure sustainable relocation of the affected communities. She said the fact sheet clearly stated that one out of seven Pakistanis were affected by the recent monster floods whereas four million children were out of health services.

### 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 the 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 a nominal fee of Rs 20,000. After submitting the online application form, routine procedures would take around two to three working days, following which a provisional registration certificate would be issued, he explained. Ali said most of the call centres in twin cities were working on marketing projects with the objective of cold calling. The outbound call centres contacted the businesses and customers in other countries with an alias name and local number, he added. Explaining the working of call centres, he said that after registration a business would be permitted to make calls internationally using the internet, adding that the calls made over the 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. Answering a question, Mumtaz said that the size of a call centre varied from investment to the nature of work, but the ideal size would be 10 seats. "Employees of a small call centre are easy to train and risk factor is also minimum", he added. He said that anyone with a "good business plan along with existing knowledge of offshore business" might set up his call centre, but "patience and good links within the industry" would be key to success. —APP

### Seven criminals held; drugs recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital police apprehended seven criminals and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha had ordered all divisional police officers to curb the crime in their respective areas and arrest those involved in looting innocent people. Following these directives, the Tarnol police arrested an accused namely Abdul Sattar and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Khanna police arrested an accused namely Shahbaz and recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from his possession.



ISLAMABAD: Women attended the Italian music gala, at Islamabad Serena Hotel.—DNA

## ICCI urges businesses to focus on healthy lifestyle of workers

DNA

ISLAMABAD Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the private sector to focus on the healthy lifestyle of workers to achieve sustainable business growth. He said this while speaking as Guest of Honor at the 3rd International Lifestyle Medicine Conference 2022 organized by the Rifah Institute of Lifestyle Medicine, a press statement said here Saturday. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that many people at workplaces normally suffer from some common diseases including sugar, high blood pressure and stress, the main cause of which is their inactive lifestyle as most of them remain sitting for hours without any physical activity. He stressed on the employers to focus on adopting the principles of workplace wellness to keep their employees fit and healthy. He emphasized that the employers should develop health protection, health promotion and disease prevention programs and policies to reduce health risks and improve the quality of life of their workers that would reduce direct and indirect costs such as absenteeism and improve the productivity of workers for companies. He said that employers should provide their workers easy access to health fitness facilities, organize for them seminars and workshops on health education besides arranging health insurance coverage for appropriate preventive screenings. He said that healthy workers would contribute more effectively to the growth of businesses and organizations by enhancing productivity and reducing healthcare costs.

## CCP asks firms to refrain from deceptive marketing practices

DNA

ISLAMABAD The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) held a learning and awareness session with the members of Overseas Investors Chambers of Commerce & Industry (OICCI) hosted by one of its members, Unilever Pakistan. The purpose of the session was to sensitize OICCI member firms on the importance of fair marketing practices and the repercussions of violating Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010 for consumers, businesses, and the economy in general. The Chairperson, CCP, Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan, who was accompanied by CCP Member, Mr. Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi, and other senior officers, addressed the session while the General Secretary, OICCI, Mr. Abdul Aleem, and CEO of Unilever Pakistan, Mr. Amir Paracha, along with his senior team members, and member undertakings of OICCI attended the session. Addressing the session, the Chairperson said that deceptive marketing practices have a direct impact on consumers and businesses and therefore, firms that are engaged in the business of marketing and selling consumer goods and services must avoid deceptive marketing practices while advertising their products and services. The objective of the Office of Fair Trade at CCP is not merely deterrence but encouraging compliance and corrective behaviour in enforcing the provisions of Section 10. The Chairperson shared that guidelines in light of the Commission's decision/precedence will be issued shortly to lend clarity and help understand the precautionary principles relating to deceptive marketing. Responding to several questions from the participants, the Chairperson informed that under the Act, the undertakings can seek advice and clarity from CCP on any actual competition matter where any potential violation is apprehended to avoid such violation. She urged businesses to come forward and flag all aspects where any practice or policy is resulting in competition infringement or market distortions as CCP is committed to provide fair play to businesses. Speaking to the marketing firms, she particularly highlighted that undertakings must refrain from entering into arrangements of retail price maintenance (RPM) as it is a form of price fixing and globally, in the majority of the jurisdictions (EU, China, UK, Australia, and various States in America), it is taken to be by object/nature anticompetitive, and, unless exempted for any particular efficiency grounds, it is generally taken as violative of competition law. She referred to the recent case of RPM amongst electronic home appliance manufacturers where CCP imposed a total penalty of more than PKR 1 billion.

## Biomass gasifier to provide cheap energy solutions

ISLAMABAD :Gasifiers are synthetic gas producers that convert biomass such as wood chips, wood pallets, wood shavings, grass, tree leaves, branches, cow dung and vegetable waste into cheap and environment-friendly synthetic gas. Talking to APP here, a local producer of Biomass Gasifier Muhammad Siddique

Malik said that gasification plant was based on established technology around the world that could benefit Pakistan as an agricultural country. He said Pakistan had been producing immense biomass that could be converted into gas with a minimal cost of around Rs 50 per kilogram. "The produced gas can be used in stoves and to run the generators for producing electricity", he added. Discussing the features of Biomass Gasifier, the manufacturer said that produced gas could be stored in especially designed gas balloons for several days. He said indigenously manufactured Gasifiers provide solution for heating, electricity generation and hot water

production for residential and commercial scale. He highlighted that the synthetic gas was composed of carbon monoxide and hydrogen due to which it was safe and eco-friendly. Answering a question, Siddique said that gasifier plant could be designed according to the need, availability of biomass and requirement of the consumer at local level. He said different designs of gasifier work multiple types of biomasses including rice husk, cotton stick, banana tree waste, date palm tree, wheat straw, bagasse, maize sticks and wheat husk. He said gasifier could become a free energy supply in rural areas where biomass sources would be available.—APP

## PCSIR to provide funds to research institutions

ISLAMABAD: In order to promote research culture in the country, the PCSIR has announced the provision of financial support to the research entities in the country for instrumental access under a development programme "Data Repository of Scientific Instrumentation". According to an official source, the objectives behind this initiative include providing funds for instrumental access to the research institutions, universities, Research and Development organizations and strategic research centers of Pakistan to carry out sample analysis.—APP



## Briefs

**Railways outsourced commercial management of 14 trains**

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Railways has outsourced the commercial management of 14 trains to private parties under public private partnership through fair and transparent bidding process. The basic purpose to outsource the trains is to provide better facilities to the passengers and generate more revenue for the department, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Sunday. Pakistan Railways has privatized the trains included Mehr Express, Fareed Express, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Mehran Express, Sir Syed Express, Badar Express, Ghauri Express, Mianwali Express, Mohenjo Daro, Thal Express, Tezgam Express, Subak Kharan, Rawal Express and Ravi Express. The official said that the trains had been awarded through transparent procedure of tendering under Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules through advertisement in the leading newspapers. He said that only those trains were awarded whose bids had been received over and above the Pakistan Railways earning. The official said the trains had been awarded with the objective to increase earning and reduce losses of Pakistan Railways, improve cleanliness and provide better food facilities to passengers.—APP

**05 stolen motorcycles recovered**

RAWALPINDI:Police have arrested a two-member gang involved in motorcycle theft and recovered 05 stolen motorbikes and mobile phones from their possession during crackdown, informed a police spokesman. Police have also recovered weapons used in crime. During the course of action, Wah Cantt police arrested the two-member gang identified as Bilal and Sajjad. Police registered separate cases against both arrested accused and further investigation was in progress, the spokesperson added. SP Potohar Tariq Mehboob appreciated the performance of the police team, adding that other facilitators of the accused would also be arrested. “Those depriving citizens of their valuable assets cannot escape the grip of law”, he added.—APP

**Speed limits on motorways reduced**

ISLAMABAD:In a bid to lessen traffic accidents and save precious lives of the people, the Motorway Police has taken a very good initiative to reduce speed limits on motorways. According to details, the decision was made after a detailed research and analysis on the accidents occurred on motorways. As part of the initiative, the speed limit of Light transport vehicle (LTV) has been decreased from 120 to 100km/h between Thokar Niaz Baig and Ravi Toll Plaza. The speed limit of Heavy transport vehicle (HTV) on M2 between Thokar Niaz Baig and Ravi Toll Plaza has been decreased from 100 to 80km/h. The speed limit has been decreased from 120 to 100km/h between Pindi-Bhattian to Multan Motorway M4 and 120 to 100km/h on Lahore-Sialkot M11. The HTV speed limit on M4 from Pindi Bhattian to Multan Motorway has been decreased from 100 to 80km/h and LTV on Lahore-Sialkot M11 from 120 to 100km/h. Meanwhile the HTV between Lahore-Sialkot M11 has been decreased from 100 to 80km/h. The LTV speed limit on Hakla Dera Ismail Khan Motorway M14 has been reduced from 120 to 100km/h while the HTV limit has been decreased from 100 to 80km/h. However, the speed limit has not been changed on Motorway M2 Lahore-Islamabad, M3, M4 and M9. — APP

# Pak seafood exports to China increase 34 percent

He added that Pakistan’s fishery processing industry needs to advance a lot to enhance its export, although due to the 2nd Free Trade Agreement more than 313 items are now enjoying duty-free access to China including fisheries

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s seafood export to China topped \$ 141.57 million, an increase of 34% in the month of January-September year-on-year, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday quoting the China’s General Administration of Customs. According to the Customs’ data Administration of Customs, the trade of flours & meals of fish, used in animal feeding commodity code (23012010) from Pakistan to China crossed \$ 49.48 million. In terms of volume in January-September more than 43549.19 tons were imported from Pakistan while last year in the same period

it was 28486.12 tons. Data showed that in 2021, the total fish meals used in animal feeding, imported from Pakistan was 40654.92 tons, worth \$ 40.53 million . Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has increased significantly. Pakistan’s export to China stood at \$ 2.57 billion in the first nine months (January- September) of FY22, up 2 percent from \$ 2.51 billion in the same period of the previous year, which has grown for three consecutive years. According to the data, Pakistan’s export of frozen fish (commodity code 03038990) to China crossed \$ 37 million, while the

frozen cuttlefish (commodity code 03074310) crossed \$ 16 million whereas frozen flat fish and scabard fish topped \$ 6 million, and \$3 million respectively. Khurram Naseeb, from A-One Fishmeal, based in Karachi told Gwadar Pro that “the rise in the international price of alternate protein sources like soya bean, rapeseed meal, etc. contributed to an increase in demand for Pakistani fishmeal in China. As fishmeal is also used in the aqua feed, Chinese aquatic farmers this year favored a further demand for fishmeal,” he stated. He further said that the Chinese currency (RMB) was strong at the start of the year making imports

favorable for the Chinese. He added that Pakistan’s fishery processing industry needs to advance a lot to enhance its export, although due to the 2nd Free Trade Agreement more than 313 items are now enjoying duty-free access to China including fisheries. Dr. Omer Mukhtar Tarar, Principal Scientific Officer, Food Technology & Nutrition Section, PCSIR Labs Complex, Karachi told Gwadar Pro that Pakistan is blessed with plenty of aquatic resources. Fish meal is a product of the fishery industry and is highly valuable for local consumption as well as for export purposes. To fulfill the

buyer’s requirements, the quality of fish meals should meet global standards. “Moreover, maintaining the cold chain during the transportation of fish to a processing unit, TVBN reduction strategies in fish meal, and adoption of a strong quality assurance mechanism at processing units are the few steps which are being carried out presently,” he mentioned. He further said that seafood including fish meal industry as well as public organizations are striving to achieve all advanced international standard and facilities, adding that efforts are underway to maintain the supply chain in fishing boats for meal-grade fish.

**Railways will receive 46 new coaches from China on Dec 15**

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Railways would receive the first batch of 46 new coaches from China on December 15 which would not only upgrade the current rolling stock but also provide modern traveling facilities to the passengers. “Out of the total 230 coaches, 46 will be provided as completely built units and the remaining 184 to be manufactured in the county by the department’s engineers and technical staff under the supervision of the Chinese experts,” an official told APP. He said the coaches would have the capacity to run at the train’s speed of 160 kilometres per hour and the teams of Pakistan Railways were in China for the inspection of the prototypes of the coaches as well as the modern high-capacity wagons. The official said the experts of China were also proving training to the technical staff of Pakistan Railways on the manufacturing of such rolling stock.

**IRSA releases 101,900 cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD :Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 101,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 56,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1524.95 feet and was 126.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 29,700 cusecs while the outflow as 50,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1154.35 feet, 104.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded 9,500 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa , Guddu and Sukkur was recorded at 56,500, 45,300, 30,800 and 9,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,000 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera.—APP



ISLAMABAD: CEO Monal Luqman Ali Afzal, his wife, Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and Umer Riaz posing for a picture on the occasion of Italian fund raiser event-DNA

## Chinese hybrid canola seeds being sowed on 80,000 hectares of land

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: About 80,000 hectares of canola seeds developed by China have started to be sowed in Pakistan, which will help reduce the burden on Pakistan’s strained foreign exchange, it was reported by China Economic Net (CEN) on Saturday. According to Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, about 90% of Pakistan’s edible oil relies on import. The newly-provided canola seeds, mainly sowed in Sindh and Punjab on an area that nearly doubled that of last year, are bringing vigor and verdancy to the flood-ravaged land. For every acre of

approved double zero canola cultivation with Government subsidy for seeds, farmers can earn Rs.14,000 to 17,000 more than their local varieties. And this year, the government plans to give more subsidy in the future for promotion more canola sowing. “There is more demand than supply”, Mr. Zhou Xusheng, Pakistan Business Director of the company, highlighting the health value of the hybrid seeds. Overcoming the disadvantages of prevailing rape mustard in Pakistan which is low in oil yield but rich in erucic acid and glucosinolate and the vulnerability to pod splitting and lodging of Chinese varieties, the hybrid ver-

sion lowers erucic content to less than 3% and the glucosinolate content to less than 30 micromoles per gram. Plants are shorter and more resilient to gusts, and growth period is shortened by 8 to 10 days. According to Mr. Ghazanfar Ali, General Manager of agriculture services provider Eyoil Group, there was a 10% difference in the price of True Canola varieties compared with Raya last year. “The planting area is still expected to be doubled next year since govt. intends to reduce cooking oil imports that stands at \$2.7 billion annually”, he said. As the canola-planting area is growing, Mr. Zhou suggests

contract farming be applied. “The downstream processing factories should be better informed of the benefits of the hybrid canola, and then they can place orders on farmers directly instead of through the agents, which will be beneficial for both sides”, he said. Meanwhile, considering the ever-increasing extreme weather in Pakistan as well as around the globe, the company will invest more on the R&D of seeds on to improve their performance under abnormal conditions. “More tests will do to enhance their anti-heat, anti-stress, anti-disease capabilities”, Mr. Zhou told CEN.

## 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. He said Pakistan Railways had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups, and even business organizations who were using it for residential, commercial, and agriculture purposes for decades. “The encroachment operation will be launched with the assistance of Railway Police and district administrations of the relevant provincial governments,” he added. He said the government was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including a detailed survey being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation by various government departments. The official said that First Information Reports (FIRs) were being lodged and cases were registered and sent to PR Judicial Magistrates for expeditious trial. The issue regarding illegal occupation and possession of PR’s land by government departments and institutions has also been taken up with the concerned departments, he added.

## Railways restores more passenger trains

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Railways has restored more passenger trains after repair and maintenance of railway tracks which were badly affected by heavy rains and subsequent floods. “The decision was taken on the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique to facilitate the passengers who were suffering a lot due to non-availability of trains,” an official told APP on Sunday. He said that the repair and maintenance work of the tracks could not be fully completed but the teams were working day and nights to restore the damage tracks. Before restoration of passenger trains on any track, he informed that a trial run of an inspection train was managed to check maintenance and repair work of the track. He said that the minister had directed the authorities concerned to complete technical work and carry out fumigation in passenger coaches as soon as possible. “Before resuming the train operation, he said that the technical maintenance of the passenger bogies.—APP

## FGEHA trying to provide modern residential facilities

ISLAMABAD: The pace of different development projects, being executed under the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), has accelerated significantly to provide modern residential facilities

to employees in the shortest possible time. “There are 3,432 apartments in Chaklala Scheme while the Skyline Apartments comprise a total of 3,945 units,” an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. He said Minister for Housing and Works Maulana Abdul Wasay was also taking a “keen interest to provide housing facilities to the employees” and directed the officials concerned to expedite the ongoing projects under the umbrella of FGEHA including Kashmir Avenue Apartments, G-13 Chaklala Heights and

Skyline Apartments. The official said the minister directed the staff on the site to ensure “quality and timely completion”, adding construction works on both schemes were going at an accelerated pace. He assured that the Authority was striving hard to provide residential facilities to the allottees in the shortest possible time. Besides those projects, the FGEHA was also launching other housing projects for employees and other segments of society, he added. For this purpose, he said the advertisement for expression of interest for land

sharing had “already been published in various leading newspapers” of Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Faisalabad, Multan, Quetta, and Peshawar. Responding to a question, he said the ministry had issued over 1,652 Provisional Offer Letters (POLs) of apartments to the government employees for the Kashmir Avenue apartment scheme, G-13, Islamabad. Out of the total, 796 POLs were of the A-Category, while 857 were of B-Category while the provisional allotment of 184 houses had been canceled due to non-payment of dues.—APP

## New cameras will improve law and order situation

ISLAMABAD: Installation of new cameras will increase coverage of important locations and help improve law and order situation in city: IG Islamabad Police Sector I -9 Dory Port Road is closed every day due to parking of large vehicles on the road, suitable measures should be taken to keep the traffic flow in running: Zikria Akbar Zia. Police patrol should be increased in industrial areas and markets. “President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Management committees should be formed in the police stations of the industrial area and separate rooms should be allotted for the committee and the problems can be solved at the police station: M. Akram Farid. (Islamabad) Inspector General of Islamabad Police (IGP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan visited Islamabad Industrial Area on the invitation of Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA). In

the meeting, President Islamabad Industrial Association Zikria Akbar Zia, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Former President IIA Mian Akram Farid, Senior Vice President ICCI Fahad Waheed and senior members were also attended they have the apprised IG Islamabad about the problems of the industrial area and fruit & vegetable Market. President Islamabad Industrial Association Zikria Akbar Zia has explained the IG Police that due to the parking of trailers and big vehicles on the road on I-9 Dory Port Road, the road is closed every day and the citizens and visitors have to wait for hours. This issue should be resolved immediately. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that police patrolling in industrial areas and markets should be increased to make the capital a crime-free city. ICCI will fully cooperate

with the police. , and Islamabad Chamber ready to provide motorcycles to police for better surveillance/ petrolling and Market and industry. Former President of Islamabad Industrial Association Mian Akram Farid have told to IG Islamabad Police that any measures taken by the police for the improvement of the industrial area should be continued permanently. He

further said that the roads of Islamabad should not be closed due to long march or any political protest in the coming days, and before taking any such steps, the business community of Islamabad should be taken into confidence. Beggars on the roads, which many times the business community of Islamabad raised their voice against and for remedy, which had ended

due to the actions of the Islamabad police, are again on the roads of Islamabad. are also present and are seen demanding on road signals. Therefore, Islamabad police should take steps to remedy this immediately. And in the police stations of industrial area, the maintenance committees should be formed and every room within the police station should be allocated for the committee,

ex. Vice President FPCCI Karim Aziz Malik said that check dis In the case of FIR registration takes a lot of time, so the FI of check dishonor should be registered immediately. There is a lot of problem. And Afghans from Rawalpindi come to the vegetable market and its adjacent areas and commit various crimes in the vegetable market and industrial area and go to Rawalpindi. Actions should be taken to remedy them.—APP

## Four illegal arm holders arrested

RAWALPINDI :Police have arrested four illegal arm holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during operation here on Sunday, informed police spokesman. During course of action, Race course police arrested Rizwan Aziz and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his possession. Morgah police arrested two accused Qadeer and Saghir while conducting the operation and recovered 02 pistol 30 bore from their possession. While, Patriata police nabbed Zubair and recovered 01 pistol 30 bore from his custody. Police have registered separate cases against all the accused and further investigation was in progress.—APP





## Imran Khan needs to rise to the occasion

PTI Chairman Imran Khan’s press talk on November 6, 2022 can be taken as a classic example of politicians’ helplessness they have been faced with perhaps ever since the creation of this country. Despite being the head of the leading political party and a former prime minister he has not been able to get his First Information Report Registered (FIR) hitherto. The irony of the fact is that he had to face this unseemly situation in the province where his own party happens to be at the helm of the affairs. However, after this episode it has become quite evident for Imran Khan and his party that Ch. Pervez Elahi appears to be the Chief Minister sans authority. As pointed out by the PTI Chairman in his press conference, the actual authority lied somewhere else. This also remains a fact the situation was still the same when Imran Khan was the prime minister but since at that time he and his government were enjoying the benevolence of ‘powers-that-be’ therefore all was going well. The PTI used to take pride in the fact that it was on the same page with the Establishment, a nexus which, according to it, had brought ‘peace and stability’ in the country. Now they are at daggers drawn simply because the same page arrangement is not available anymore. Imran Khan, ever since his ouster, has been selling the idea that he won’t accept a weak government and would prefer to sit in the opposition if he does not get a two-thirds majority in the coming elections. Probably, he wants to make a point here that there is no point in accepting the government if the chief executive has no powers. Here lies a contradiction between what he says and what he practices. If it would be a matter of weak control or no authority at all, then the non registration of his FIR was a good excuse to prove him a man of words by getting rid of the Punjab government. Ostensibly, his action would have earned him more respect and credibility. But he has not risen to the occasion simply because he knows the success of his long march largely depends upon the Punjab government. If he loses Punjab, it means he loses the entire battle. All said and done, there are some encouraging aspects of Imran Khan’s resistance as well. For sure, he will be remembered for putting up stiff resistance to the forces of the status quo. He needs full marks for becoming the voice to those who could never dare to challenge such forces. Many genuinely believe that something good will come out of what is happening these days. But there is no dearth of people who are of the view that once the ‘same page’ arrangement stands revived, the forces of status quo shall again prevail and life would then go on as usual. At one point, nobody could even imagine that Nawaz Sharif and his party could come to power again. Same goes for the PPP as well. Both these parties are not just in power but they are sharing power, which is not less than a miracle keeping in view past animosity between these parties. So who knows that after some time PTI shall again be calling the shots and PML N and PPP would be on roads demanding justice for them!! Unfortunately this very vicious circle has been impeding Pakistan’s march towards self-reliance and progress.

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## Unpredictable Pakistan Cricket Team

OMAR IFTIKHAR

Nothing can ever be said with surety about the Pakistan Cricket Team. No matter how great it plays in a tournament, we, the spectators and audience, always doubt something will go wrong. Their performance in the T20 Cricket World Cup 2022 is no different. Pakistan lost to India by 4 wickets and was then defeated by Zimbabwe by 1 run. Hopes for the Pakistan team to advance into the next stage were grim. Pakistan won its match against The Netherlands by 6 wickets and then beat South Africa (DLS method) by 33 runs. Still, the chances were not bright for Pakistan to qualify for the semi-finals. Once again, the cricket fans had a strange equation in front of them. Pakistan had to defeat Bangladesh and The Netherlands had to beat South Africa. The unthinkable upset happened when The Netherlands defeated South Africa by 13 runs on November 6. Later on the same day, Pakistan defeated Bangladesh by 5 wickets. Whatever doubts we, the spectators and audience, had, were washed away as Pakistan cruised to the top of Group B with 6 points. Babar Azam’s team of eleven has to win two more matches to emerge as the T20 World Cup Champions. Some may doubt the Pakistan Cricket Team. But truth be told, no one can ever predict the team’s performance. Pakistan team perhaps plays its matches according to how it sees fit. There are instructions from the management and coach, there is a target to achieve depending on the performance of the opponents, and there are the views and prayers of the Pakistani fans. In the end, it is the Boys in Green who, to be honest, do not comply with the circumstance but create their history. All the best Team Green!

# Maneuvering minefields: China’s Xi contemplates visiting Saudi Arabia

James Dorsey

The optics of Mr. Xi bypassing Iran because of sustained anti-government protests may distort the reality of a continued Chinese effort to strike a balance in its regional relationships. If anything, US and European sanctions against Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine have magnified Iran’s importance as China, and Central Asian, and Caucasian nations put flesh on efforts to create a viable transport corridor to Europe that circumvents Russian territory.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi hit all the right cords when he spoke virtually with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal Bin Farhan, at a meeting of the China-Saudi Arabia High-Level Joint Committee last month. Mr. Wang told Mr. Bin Farhan: “China attaches great importance to the development of China-Saudi Arabia relations and puts Saudi Arabia at a priority position in China’s overall diplomacy, its diplomacy with the Middle East region in particular.” Mr. Wang’s statement came amid Saudi reports, yet to be confirmed by China, of a pending visit by President Xi Jinping to the kingdom before the end of the year. Mr. Xi will likely meet Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at a Group of 20 summit in Bali later this month. The Saudi reports did not mention the Chinese leader stopping in other countries, particularly Iran. The reports’ focus on the kingdom and Mr. Wang’s remarks boosted Saudi hopes that Beijing may abandon its balancing act between Saudi Arabia and the Islamic republic. “This statement has been what the Saudis sought for at least ten years. The Saudi leadership quietly but persistently urged Beijing to decide which ally was more important – Riyadh or its biggest rival Iran,” said Steve Rodan, author of the China in the Middle East newsletter. That may be jumping to conclusions. The timing of a possible Xi visit to exploit strains in Saudi-US relations makes perfect sense. However, the optics of Mr. Xi bypassing Iran because of sustained anti-government protests may distort the reality of a continued Chinese effort to strike a balance in its regional relationships. If anything, US and European sanctions against Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine have magnified Iran’s importance as China, and Central Asian, and Caucasian nations put flesh on efforts to create a viable transport corridor to Europe that circumvents Russian territory. Moreover, the potential timing of a Xi visit also takes on added significance after Saudi Arabia shared intelligence with the United States that warned of an imminent Iranian attack on targets in the

kingdom and predominantly Kurdish northern Iraq. In response, the US and other Gulf countries have raised the level of alert for their military forces. Saudi officials said the attacks would bolster Iran’s contention that the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel had instigated the more than six-week-long protests that have rattled the regime in Tehran. Last month, Iran said it had arrested nine European nationals for their alleged role in the protests. Iranian security forces have cracked down on protesters most brutally in the Kurdish and Baloch provinces of the countries where ethnic tensions have long simmered and alleged past foreign support hoped to spark unrest that would destabilize the regime. In the past two months, Iran has launched missile and drone attacks on Iranian Kurdish targets in northern Iraq. In one instance, a US warplane downed an Iranian projectile headed toward the Iraqi Kurdish city of Erbil. In September, Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, warned Saudi Arabia to rein in coverage of the protests by a Saudi-backed, London-based, Farsi-language satellite news channel, Iran International, which is widely followed in Iran. Iran International broadcasts on its television shows and social media handles videos of Iranian protests and the crackdown by security forces that have so far failed to quell the unrest. Iran has demanded, even before the eruption of the protests, that Saudi Arabia close down Iran International. “I warn the Saudi regime to control your media, or the smoke will go in your eyes,” Mr. Salami said as he attended military drills in Iran’s East Azerbaijan province. The commander added, “this is our last warning because you are interfering in our internal affairs through these media. You are involved in this matter and know that you are vulnerable.” Mr. Salami also intended to dissuade Saudi Arabia from tightening its security ties with Israel. Saudi Arabia has refused to follow the

United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco in formally recognizing Israel as long as the Palestinian problem is not resolved but has forged close informal relations with the Jewish state. “You are relying on an Israel which is collapsing, and this will be the end of your era,” Mr. Salami thundered. Mr. Salami’s warning contrasted starkly with comments the same week by a top advisor to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Velayati called for the reopening of embassies to facilitate a rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh. “We are neighbours of Saudi Arabia, and we must coexist. The embassies of the two countries should reopen to solve our problems in a better way,” Mr. Velayati said. Saudi Arabia and Iran closed their embassies in each other’s capital after a mob ransacked the kingdom’s mission in Tehran in protest against the execution of a prominent Saudi Shiite cleric. Beyond signalling potential splits in the regime, Mr. Velayati’s remarks appeared designed to salvage Iraqi-sponsored efforts to manage deep-seated Saudi-Iranian differences encouraged by both China and the United States. Concern that Iran could attack Saudi Arabia is, at least partly, grounded in an assumed Iranian belief that the US-Saudi rift means that the United States may not be willing to defend the kingdom. Relations became even more strained after the kingdom, in the wake of US President Joe Biden’s pilgrimage in July to Saudi Arabia, backed a cut rather than an increase in OPEC+ oil production. The strains created an opportunity for China, which has so far gone out of its way to remain aloof from the Middle East myriad conflicts.China’s ability to do so may be shrinking. Mr. Xi is certain to want to exploit the most recent spat in US-Saudi relations. His problem is that the spat highlights the opportunity and the minefield the Chinese leader has to navigate.If experience is anything to go by, Mr. Xi risks becoming the latest leader to be sucked into Middle Eastern conflicts, irrespective of whether they wanted to get involved.

## Is World War III Imminent?

Muhammad Sayed Anwar



The cold war hadn’t stopped with the abrogation of the Soviet Union. Putin along with its allies is attempting to transfer the unipolar world to a multi-polar and that mechanism already started with the adversities of various regions throughout the world. Invasion in Ukraine is a major among them. NATO for the last few decades swiftly expanded its territory toward Eastern Europe. It is a ‘security dilemma’ for a rival country like Russia.

The cardinal reason behind the two cataclysmically surpassed global wars was the imperial sentiment of the big powers. The break between the two world wars was just an interval. The termination of the second didn’t yield the world of a strife-free atmosphere, featuring the cold war, a race of ideology between capitalist and communist troupes. During those long 45 years, the world for the first time after Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombardments saw the threat of a nuclear war, the Cuban Missile Crisis, endured the Korean War, Vietnam War, Afghanistan War, Iraq-Iran War, Arab-Israel War, India-Pakistan War, and China-India war and so on. But after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, America handled the proprietorship of the world, delineated by many wars and conflicts. Currently, a new world order, namely multi-polar, has emerged with several nuclear powers. The Post-covid19 era could be highlighted by several tensions and conflicts. The Ukraine-Russia war is a major among them, while others are such as the China-Taiwan crisis, the Korean ballistic missile crisis-22. In recent times, the relations between the nuclear power India and Pakistan should be in reconsideration. The antagonism between the two nation’s masses is overwhelming. Even, based on a cricket match between the two countries, cyber bully outspread. India is ruled by far-right superstitious and extremist BJP party, whose religious fanaticism is spreading all across the country while in Pakistan a lot rests on the caprice and whim of the powerful military. In last March, a missile capable of carrying nuclear weapons was fired from India toward Pakistan. Although it was uttered to be an accident by the Indian side, it is not like flicking a switch and the missile is launched but executing a long chain of command and following intricate processes where various perplexing passwords are used. On the other hand, Iran continues to strive to be turned into a nuclear power. Israel, at the other end, is prepared to take any kind of perilous decision to deter and keep Iran in a relatively weak position. This blistering explosive circumstance could lead to a nuclear war at any

time. Taiwan could be another ground for turning the world into a ticking time bomb. The USA is supporting Taiwan desperately for the survival of its hegemonic influence in the Indo-Pacific region vis-à-vis China. We shouldn’t forget China being one of the major nuclear powers in the world and its recent frequent military rehearsals near Taiwan’s aquatic frontiers. North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on 3 November, for the second time in a month, as a testing activity. South Korean and US militaries have exercised large-scale joint aerial drill in the peninsula. Again Biden says to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of South Korea and Japan. Last month, South Korea launched a missile toward the North but mistakenly plopped it down in their territory. The provocative fraction from each side is seen for the last few years. Nowadays, it has been more explosive that war can start at any time. North Korea mobilized 180 warplanes and South Korea scrambled 80 steal jets. The preparation for a full-fledged war is already shaped. The cold war hadn’t stopped with the abrogation of the Soviet Union. Putin along with its allies is attempting to transfer the unipolar world to a multi-polar and that mechanism already started with the adversities of various regions throughout the world. Invasion in Ukraine is a major among them. NATO for the last few decades swiftly expanded its territory toward Eastern Europe. It is a ‘security dilemma’ for a rival country like Russia. Russia had no other choice but to discharge its national interest, as well as survival. The war is by degree going out of feasibility toward negotiation. Furthermore, Putin’s military strategy has gone to the ‘point of no return’ with the expansion of the southern part of Ukraine. What will happen if the west wins? Russia will then again turn into a feeble and fragile state and have to compensate for war crimes. Putin not only will be dethroned but also be under

trial for the accusations of crimes against humanity. Putin will never want such an avalanche without using nuclear weapons. If Russia wins, there will be no existence of Ukraine. The USA and its allies will be incapable of facing China and the hegemony of the west shall be broken into slices. The same thing is happening that commenced the previous world wars. None is relinquishing. The world is again dividing into two pools. Some military giants are turning against the hegemony of the west. Military and economic contention is shaping a new world order. But the West shall never withdraw from it. They have also participated in the game and it’s normal. Many people are saying that World War will not crop up. But we can not give such an assurance of whether happen or not. The world is walking through an inflamed flame. No one anticipated the First World War or Second World War. Nothing is certain. Anything could happen. The rise of new fascists and imperialists could do anything with this world. The only thing that we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history. History repeats itself! The world is suffering from the outrageous impact of the European War-22. The succeeding world war will not be akin to former wars but a war of mass destruction, nuclear weapons, and high-range missiles conducting vast destruction to human lives. Even if a small fraction of tin he nuclear weapons stockpile possessed by the powerful countries is used, the world will truly become a slaughterhouse. Then no one will be safe from this danger. The political leaders and policymakers who have control over all the weapons of mass destruction must be more visionary, tolerant and pacifist to save this world from making a death valley. The United Nations, international human rights organizations, and the Non-Aligned Movement should be updated and vigilant in this project. —Student of the Department of IR Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh



## Briefs

## PTI resumes long march from Tuesday

FROM PAGE 01  
He added, when they approached the police for FIR, the police simply refused saying it cannot register FIR against one person. The Police were ready to register FIR against the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister. He further said long march will arrive in Rawalpindi in next 10 days, depending on the speed of the march and from Rawalpindi he would lead the march to its final destination. He urged the Chief Justice of Pakistan to form a commission to probe what happened with Azam Swati. He said Azam Swati and his fellow Senators would stage a sit-in in front of the Supreme Court in order to seek justice. He also requested the CJP to form high level commission to investigate the murder to journalist Arshad Sharif adding Arshad knew it very well who wanted to kill him.

## Deadlock persists over Wazirabad..

FROM PAGE 01  
14 others, including Mr Khan and PTI leaders, were injured in the firing incident at Wazirabad's Allah-wala Chowk, where the party's 'Haqeeqi Azadi' march against the federal government had stopped on its way to Islamabad. While the Punjab Police took into custody at least three suspects linked to the shooting, they denied having received any application from the PTI for an FIR. On the other hand, Mr Khan's nephew Advocate Hassaan Niazi told Dawn they had submitted the application at the police station, but the personnel did not provide them with any receipt for the same. He said they "left the application on the table" and came back. Later, he tweeted, "SHO Wazirabad and DPO Wazirabad refuse to even take the application. 48 hours gone. Police refusing to take applications. Telling applicant Zubair Niazi (PTI Lahore General Secretary) to take out that ONE name. They say the crime minister's name is fine."

## The UK's Presidency of COP26...

FROM PAGE 01  
This support is in addition to £26.5m provided by the UK Government and £30m donated by UK citizens to provide relief following this year's devastating floods. Having handed over the Presidency, the UK is maintaining its ambitious goals on climate change. This year the UK is launching the 'Accelerating to Zero Coalition' which will promote the use of more electric cars worldwide. The UK is also initiating the 'Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership' to halt and reverse forest loss and will be working with developed countries to increase the availability of climate finance to countries such as Pakistan. Development Director at the British High Commission, Islamabad Jo Moir, said the following: "This year's floods are a stark reminder of impact climate change is having on our lives. Globally, we will face more climate catastrophes, and climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan face enormous challenges. Business as usual is not enough. At COP27 we need to make further progress on ensuring countries which have been affected by climate related disasters have the necessary tools to build-back smarter. The UK will be a leading voice on this."

## 'PTI's long march has...

FROM PAGE 01  
When the news first came, we were worried and expressed sympathy. But now we've realised that [Imran] has left Shahrukh Khan and Salman Khan behind in acting," JUIF chief added that the PTI chairman has lost sympathy after the drama he staged. He questioned the number of bullets fired at Khan, those that hit him, whether he was hit on both legs. "Fragments of bullets were hit. Where did these fragments come from?" Fazl said while highlighting details of attack as explained by PTI.

## Pakistan down Bangladesh to qualify for semi-finals

A Shadab hat-trick was averted by Afif Hossain. Shakib's wicket seemed to affect the Bangladesh batsmen, who suddenly looked out of sorts

## SPORTS DESK

ADELAIDE: Pakistan have qualified for the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup by defeating Bangladesh by five wickets. Chasing a target of 128 runs, Pakistan reached home in 18.1 overs for the loss of five wickets. Pakistan struggled to get going in the run-chase, with Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam taking 10.3 overs to score 57 runs. However, Pakistan upped the ante after the openers departed in a space of five balls. Azam took 33 balls and scored 25 runs, meanwhile Rizwan notched up run-a-ball 32. Mohammad Harris was the star of the show with the bat as his 18-ball 31 put Pakistan on the path to victory. Shan Masood also chipped in with an important contribution of 24 unbeaten runs in 14 balls. Earlier, Bangladesh had set Pakistan a target of 128 runs during the crucial T20 World Cup 2022 clash on Sunday. Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi took four wickets as Pakistan held Bangladesh to a modest total with a place in the semi-finals on the line. Shaheen, who returned his T20 best fig-



ures of 4-22, struck early for Pakistan as the left-arm quick sent back Liton Das for 10 after Bangladesh elected to bat first.

Das, who gave India a scare with his 27-ball 60 in a narrow defeat at the Adelaide Oval, looked dangerous with a six off

Shaheen but three balls later gave away a catch at gully. Najmul Hossain Shanto capitalised on a reprieve when the usually safe Shadab Khan dropped the left-handed batsman on 11 at short extra. The opener went on to top-score with 54. Shanto put on 52 runs with Soumya Sarkar, who came out attacking. Soumya hit 20 off 17 before an attempted reverse paddle sweep cost him his wicket off Shadab, who struck again on the next delivery, albeit amid controversy. Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan was given out lbw but he reviewed the decision and it appeared from replays that the ball grazed the bat before it hit the pad, but the third umpire upheld the on-field call. Shakib looked stunned, waved his hands and didn't want to walk off. A Shadab hat-trick was averted by Afif Hossain. Shakib's wicket seemed to affect the Bangladesh batsmen, who suddenly looked out of sorts. Off-spinner Iftikhar Ahmed bowled Shanto soon after the batsman reached his second T20 fifty. Bangladesh lost regular wickets and Shaheen struck twice in one over and then picked a fourth for the first time in his T20 career. Afif Hossain hit an unbeaten 24.

## Japan PM Kishida pledges to boost military capacity

SAGAMI BAY: Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged Sunday to beef up Japan's naval and military capacity, warning that nations must prepare to face aggressors. Kishida also condemned Russia's war in Ukraine and denounced North Korea's recent blitz of missile tests, one of which flew over Japan for the first time since 2017 and prompted a rare evacuation warning. "We must prepare ourselves for an era when actors emerge to disobey rules and use force or threats to destroy the peace and safety of other nations," Kishida said as he addressed Japan's international fleet review. The leader's remarks come as Tokyo is drafting security plans that may call for doubling the nation's defence spending within five years. That would represent a sea change in Japan, where the pacifist constitution limits its military capacity. "We will accelerate realistic discussions on what's needed to defend our people by keeping all options on the table," Kishida said. "The enhancement (of Japan's naval capacity) cannot wait, including construction of new naval ships, bolstering our missile defence capacity and improvement of the work conditions and compensations for our (military) personnel," he said. He did not name China but said that "the national security environment surrounding our nation is growing more severe including the East China Sea and South China Sea," where Beijing has taken assertive positions in territorial disputes with countries including Japan. Kishida added that Japan will ensure transparency of its military spending. "Japan will maintain our way as a pacifist country as we have done so since the end of (World War II)," he said. - APP



## NATO, Türkiye agree on supporting Ukraine

## DNA

ANKARA: NATO and Türkiye agree on the "importance of supporting Ukraine to end this war of aggression by Russia," said NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. Stoltenberg, who arrived in Türkiye on a three-day visit on Thursday, praised Ankara's role during the ongoing conflict. Speaking to Anadolu Agency on Saturday, a day after meeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul, he said: "I commended Erdogan and Türkiye for what they have done, both in providing support to Ukraine, but also in facilitating the deal enabling the export of grain from Ukraine." "This is important for the whole world, especially the poor world, and it helps reduce food prices. Türkiye has played a key role in making that possible," he said. Stoltenberg reiterated that the Ukraine conflict is a "war of choice." "This is Russia, President Vladimir Putin invading an-

other country ... We have to understand that President Putin started this war. This is a war of choice, and he can end this war tomorrow," he said. Emphasizing Ukraine's "right to defend themselves" and reclaim its territory, Stoltenberg said: "If President Putin and Russia stops fighting, then we'll have peace. If President (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy and Ukraine stops fighting, then Ukraine will cease to exist as an independent and sovereign nation." He said the international community has the "responsibility to support Ukraine to enable them to defend themselves." "Of course, I believe that I hope that this war also at some stage will end at the negotiating table. But we also know that what Ukraine can achieve around that table in negotiations is absolutely dependent on the strength on the battlefield," he added. "So if we want Ukraine to prevail as a sovereign independent nation, then we need to provide military support to Ukraine to

strengthen their hand and to maximize the likelihood for an outcome in all negotiations which is acceptable for Ukraine." Stoltenberg also criticized Russia's "reckless" and "dangerous nuclear rhetoric." "Russia must understand that nuclear war cannot be won and ... will have severe consequences for Russia," he stressed. "The probability for any use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine remains low, but at the same time, the consequences are so big and so devastating. So we need to take the risk seriously," said the NATO chief. Stoltenberg's Türkiye visit came after Russia announced last week that it was pulling out of the grain deal, accusing Ukraine of attacking its Black Sea fleet with drones. However, Türkiye and Russia announced Moscow's return to the deal's implementation on Wednesday, following mediation from Ankara and the UN. Türkiye, the UN, Russia, and Ukraine signed the agreement on July 22 in Is-

tanbul to resume Black Sea grain exports, which were paused after the war began in February. A Joint Coordination Center with officials from the three countries and the UN was set up in Istanbul to oversee the shipments. Stoltenberg welcomed Türkiye's decision to extend an invitation to Finland and Sweden to join the alliance at the Madrid Summit on June 29. "Türkiye, Finland and Sweden agreed to a joint memorandum and now we have seen that Finland and Sweden have implemented their strengthened legislation on counter terrorism," Stoltenberg said. He also praised the decision by Finland and Sweden to lift all restrictions on arms and weapons export to Türkiye. "They're also committed very clearly to continuing to implement because they have formed a permanent mechanism structure where Türkiye and Finland will meet to exchange information, work together on counterterrorism or many other things," Stoltenberg said.

## Pak women beat Ireland to clinch ODI series

LAHORE: Sidra Ameen and skipper Bismah Maroof starred as Pakistan women beat Ireland in a one-sided clash to clinch the three-match ODI series at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Sunday. The win meant Pakistan go past South Africa and take the second spot in the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25. Opting to bat first, Ireland were bowled out for 194 runs, which the Pakistani batters chased down in 32.4 overs, thanks to a batting masterclass from Sidra and Bismah. Opening batters Muneeba Ali and Sidra helped the team get out to a 59-run start in their 195-run victory chase. Muneeba, who had previously achieved her first century, batted 33 balls for 27, hitting two fours, before being bowled out by Eimear Richardson in the 12th over. Sidra was joined at the crease by captain Bismah, and neither batter ever gave Ireland's bowlers a chance to settle in as they hit boundaries at will. Sidra, who struck a perfect 176 in the previous game, returned unbeaten on 91 from 93 balls, including 12 fours. In 70 balls, Bismah scored 69 runs, including 10 fours. For the second wicket, Bismah and Sidra put up an unbroken 136-run partnership, bringing the team home in the 33rd over. Earlier, Pakistan's bowling line-up led by Ghulam Fatima and Nashra Sandhu toppled the visitor's batting order, bowling them out for 194 runs in 47.2 overs. Leah Paul was dismissed for no score by pacer Fatima Sana on the second ball of the game. Aliya Riaz's excellent fielding allowed Gaby Lewis to be the next to depart for the pavilion after the visitors were reduced to 27 for 2 in 6.1 overs by a direct hit. The 59-run eighth-wicket stand between Mary Waldron and Arlene Kelly, which allowed the tourists to score 194 despite losing wickets often, was a major factor. - APP

## Pique says goodbye to Nou Camp with Barcelona win

LONDON: Barcelona legend Gerard Pique was given an emotional standing ovation as he made his final Nou Camp appearance in their 2-0 La Liga win over Almeria. He was replaced in the 84th minute and tearfully embraced all his team-mates, boss Xavi and the entire Barca bench. The 35-year-old will retire after Tuesday's trip to Osasuna, although it is not certain he will play in that. After the game he gave a speech on the pitch, saying: "I was born here and I will die here." He added: "When you get older, you realise that sometimes to love is to let go. I'm convinced that I'll be here again in the future. "I love Barca. That's why I consider it's the right moment to go. This is not a goodbye." There were several tributes to him on his farewell night at the Nou Camp. Pique, who was named captain, walked on to the pitch with his two sons, as all his team-mates wore shirts with his name and number three on the back. There was a huge banner on the pitch that said 'Semprr3' (For-



ever) and a video celebrating Pique's career was played on the big screen to the fans as well. Barcelona won an early penalty with their fans chanting

for Pique to take it. But the Spaniard pointed to Robert Lewandowski, who stepped up and hit the post. Pique, who scored 53 goals for Barcelona, headed a chance over the bar and had another saved by Fernando Martinez. Ousmane Dembele and Frenkie de Jong scored the second-half goals to take Barcelona top of La Liga. At full-time Pique came back onto the pitch to applaud the fans and was thrown into the air by his team-mates. The ex-Spain defender announced his decision on Thursday, despite having 18 months left on his deal, and his exit will help Barca with their wage bill. Pique won 30 trophies and made 616 appearances for Barca after joining in 2008 from Manchester United. Barcelona reportedly put Pique under pressure to leave to ease their financial issues. He was their fifth-choice centre-back this season, although has still played 10 times. As well as other business interests, Pique owns FC Andorra, who play in the Spanish second tier. - DNA

## Climate change is speeding up, warns major UN report

"All over our planet, records are being shattered as different parts of climate system begin to break down." Greenhouse gases accounting for more than 95 percent of warming are all at record levels, with methane showing the largest one-year jump ever recorded, WMO's annual State of the Global Climate found

SHARM EL SHEIKH : Each of the last eight years, if projections for 2022 hold, will be hotter than any year prior to 2015, the UN said Sunday, detailing a dramatic increase in the rate of global warming. Sea level rise, glacier melt, torrential rains, heat waves - and the deadly disasters they cause - have all accelerated, the World Meteorological Organization said in a report as the COP27 UN Climate Summit opened in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. "As COP27 gets underway, our planet is sending a distress signal," said UN chief Antonio Guterres, describing the report as "a chronicle of climate chaos". Earth has warmed more than 1.1 degrees

Celsius since the late 19th century, with roughly half of that increase occurring in the past 30 years, the report shows. Nearly 200 nations gathered in Egypt have set their sights on holding the rise in temperatures to 1.5C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), a goal some scientists believe is now beyond reach. This year is on track to be the fifth or sixth warmest ever recorded despite the impact since 2020 of La Nina - a periodic and naturally occurring phenomenon in the Pacific that cools the atmosphere. "The greater the warming, the worse the impacts," said WMO head Petteri Taalas. Surface water in the ocean - which soaks up more than

90 percent of accumulated heat from human carbon emissions - hit record high temperatures in 2021, warming especially fast during the past 20 years. Marine heat waves were also on the rise, with devastating consequences for coral reefs and the half-billion people who depend on them for food and livelihoods. Overall, 55 percent of the ocean surface experienced at least one marine heatwave in 2022, the report said. Driven by melting ice sheets and glaciers, the pace of sea level rise has doubled in the past 30 years, threatening tens of millions in low-lying coastal areas. "The messages in this report could barely be bleak-

er," said Mike Meredith, science leader at the British Antarctic Survey. "All over our planet, records are being shattered as different parts of the climate system begin to break down." Greenhouse gases accounting for more than 95 percent of warming are all at record levels, with methane showing the largest one-year jump ever recorded, the WMO's annual State of the Global Climate found. The increase in methane emissions has been traced to leaks in natural gas production and a rise in beef consumption. In 2022, a cascade of extreme weather exacerbated by climate change devastated communities

across the globe. A two-month heatwave in South Asia in March and April bearing the unmistakable fingerprint of man-made warming was followed by floods in Pakistan that left a third of the country under water. At least 1,700 people died, and eight million were displaced. In East Africa, rainfall has been below average in four consecutive wet seasons, the longest in 40 years, with 2022 set to deepen the drought. China saw the longest and most intense heatwave on record and the second-driest summer. Falling water levels disrupted or threatened commercial river traffic along China's Yangtze, the Mississippi in the US

and several major inland waterways in Europe, which also suffered repeated bouts of sweltering heat. Poorer nations least responsible for climate change but most vulnerable to its dire impacts suffered the most. "But even well-prepared societies this year have been ravaged by extremes - as seen by the protracted heat waves and drought in large parts of Europe and southern China," Taalas said. In the European Alps, glacier melt records have been shattered in 2022, with average thickness losses of between three and over four metres (between 9.8 and over 13 feet), the most ever recorded. Switzerland has lost more than a third of its glacier volume since 2001. - APP

## PM in Egypt for COP meeting

## FROM PAGE 01

Sharm el-Sheikh, she said. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif along with his Norwegian counterpart will also participate in a high-level round table conference. The Prime Minister will also participate in the "Middle East Green Initiative Summit" on November 7, she said. The conference is hosted by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman. She said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will also meet with several world leaders during his visit. COP-27 was being held at a time when millions of people in different parts of the world, including Pakistan, were facing the negative effects of climate change, she maintained. Pakistan will continue to play a positive role in discussions, negotiations and collective action on global climate change, Marriyum Aurangzeb opined. The delegation accompanied by the Prime Minister will represent Pakistan in all important committees of COP-27. The delegation will also discuss the threat faced by low-carbon countries in these committees, she added.

## Indian hackers 'snooped on Pakistan politicians, generals'

## FROM PAGE 01

TBJJ, Sunday Times report claims targets also included critics of World Cup in Qatar "Jain's team used malware to take over his computers and targeted the country's senior generals as well as its embassies in Beijing, Shanghai and Kathmandu in a similar way," it added. The hacking gang, which operated under the name WhiteInt, was being run from a fourth-floor apartment in a suburb of the Indian tech city Gurugram and its mastermind is 31-year-old Aditya Jain - an occasional TV cybersecurity pundit. As per the report, Mr Jain admitted that he had "hacked people in the past" but also claimed he "did not know some of the people named on his database and denied hacking the others listed". The report revealed that Mr Jain ran the network of hackers for seven years, who were hired by British private detectives to hack email accounts and take control of computer cameras and microphones of their targets. According to the expose, criminals targeted the private email accounts of more than 100 victims, including critics of Qatar who threatened to expose wrongdoing by the Gulf state in the run-up to this month's World Cup.

## Imran Khan wants 'false FIR' in firing incident: Marriyum

## FROM PAGE 01

She asked Imran Khan to get FIR registered as per law prior to holding a presser which would be full of allegations and lies. "Imran Khan can hold a presser for two hours to churn out lies and hurl allegations, but has not been able to get the FIR registered under his own government (in Punjab) despite the fact that the incident took place four days ago," she questioned. Marriyum took a dig at Imran Khan for failing to get the FIR registered despite having his own government in Punjab. She said the "foreign funded Fitna", who had vowed to get the nation "Haqeeqi Azadi" (Real Freedom), could not get the FIR registered in a police station of Wazirabad despite passage of four days. "The foreign funded Fitna has the audacity to hurl baseless allegations on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and an ISI officer regarding his assassination attempt, but cannot get the FIR registered in Wazirabad," she wondered.



## Briefs

## Thousands demand general elections in UK

LONDON: The huge "Britain is Broken" demonstration was organized by the People's Assembly, supported by groups including the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Unite, Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, to protest austerity and employment laws which restrict unions. Demonstrators marched in the rain from Embankment to Trafalgar Square where Mick Lynch, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) spoke, vowing to "strike and strike again" until a "fair deal" was brokered for rail workers. Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn also spoke during the anti-government demonstration and criticized the policies of the Conservative party, emphasizing that the government will "eventually be forced to listen". "The people out here are very determined. They're not going to see people with disabilities discriminated against, they're not going to see growing impoverishment in our society," he said. Many protesters in the march demanded general elections and an end to the Conservative government after former Liz Truss and current Prime Minister Rishi Sunak both went to office without a public vote in the last few months. Ramona McCartney, national organizer for the People's Assembly, said, "The government is in a deep crisis and the third Prime Minister in a matter of months was decided by a tiny elite." "We want to make this the biggest demonstration possible to force them to a general election," she said. She called on the working class to join the demonstration and take part in the fight against the new wave of austerity the government is forcing on its people. Agencies

## Baku denies Armenia's truce violation report

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry denied Armenia's statement about the shelling of its territories, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. The information spread by the Armenian Defense Ministry pertaining to the purported shelling of its territory by units of the Azerbaijani army is inaccurate and does not reflect reality. The Defense Ministry flatly denied the shelling of the alleged territories by military units in the area. Earlier, the ministry reported that on the night of November 3-4, units of the Armenian armed forces using various calibers of weapons subjected to five-hour fire positions of the Azerbaijani army, stationed in the directions of Yellija and Molabayramli settlements of Kalbajar District, from their positions in the directions of Azizli and Verin Shorzha settlements of Basarkechar region.—APP

## New season of 'The Crown' set to air

LONDON: The latest season of "The Crown" hits the small screen next week, with streaming giant Netflix adding a disclaimer after a furore over untrue storylines. Series Five, which airs on Wednesday just over two months after the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of her son King Charles III, sees the action move to the 1990s. Princess Diana's bombshell television interview, emotional turmoil and divorce from Charles are all documented, along with his affair with Camilla Parker Bowles and tensions with his mother. It was not clear, however, how the series deals with the death of Diana in a car crash in Paris in 1997 or if a disclaimer would be added before each episode. Following outrage from prominent figures including Oscar-winning actor Judi Dench and Britain's former prime minister John Major last month, Netflix added a description of the show as "inspired by real events" to its programme page.—APP

## Trade officers asked to join hands with private sector

The TDAP's trainee officers asked many questions from the members of the business community about business & economy and received satisfactory answers

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called upon the trade officers to cooperate with the private sector in promoting Pakistan's trade and exports. He said that Pakistan is facing a serious economic crisis and promoting exports is the only best option to improve the economy. He stressed that the public and private sectors should work together to identify new markets for Pakistani products to take our exports to the next level. He said this while addressing a delegation of TDAP's trainee officers who visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Dost Muhammad, Deputy Director, Trade Development of Pakistan. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that China's annual imports were over US\$ 2 trillion and Pakistan has great potential to increase trade with China. He said that TDAP should cooperate with ICCI in setting up a China Desk at Chamber that will help boost bilateral



al trade between the two countries. He informed the delegation that ASEAN and African countries offered good potential to Pakistan for exports and ICCI has established Facilitation Desks of ASEAN and African countries to facilitate the business community in promoting trade and exports with these countries. He urged that TDAP should develop market study reports of

various countries and share them with chambers of commerce so that the private sector could take advantage of potential business and investment opportunities in foreign markets. He said that Pakistan's trade missions in foreign countries should find new markets for enhancing Pakistan's trade and exports. He said that TDAP should share information about trade

opportunities and support the private sector's participation in trade fairs/exhibitions that can help boost Pakistan's exports. Dost Muhammad, Deputy Director TDAP said that his organization was making all efforts to help the business community in business promotion through its effective participation in the international exhibitions and foreign delegations. He said that

TDAP was trying to forge an effective liaison with the private and public sector stakeholders to help them enhance the trade of the country. Mr. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President and Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI briefed the delegation about the role of ICCI for resolving issues of business community and facilitating them business development. They said that the government should simplify

the rules and regulations regarding trade and exports and focus on promoting ease of doing business. They further stressed for improving information collection and dissemination about foreign markets and requirements for exports. The TDAP's trainee officers asked many questions from the members of the business community about business & economy and received satisfactory answers.

## RMB clearing arrangements to benefit Pakistan

DNA  
BEIJING: China's central bank has signed an agreement with the State Bank of Pakistan to establish RMB clearing arrangements in Pakistan. According to a statement on the People's Bank of China website on November 2, these arrangements will assist enterprises and financial institutions in both countries in conducting cross-border transactions using the RMB. A report published by China Economic Net (CEN) referred to the Bank's statement and stated, these arrangements will also facilitate bilateral trade and investment, according to the bank. At present, the emerging markets demonstrated a low elasticity of demand for US dollars. The currencies of developing countries will inevitably depreciate as a result of a possible negative spillover



effect caused by a surge in USD interest rates and a monetary tightening cycle. Indicated by a report titled '2022 RMB internationalization report', conducted by bank of China, about 78.8% of the surveyed global industrial and commercial firms are thinking about adopting RMB or growing its share in cross-border transactions. According to SWIFT data, in 2021, RMB made up 2.7% of all currency payments made by nations, recording an increase of 1% over the previous five years. Since the global COVID-19

pandemic, the RMB declined less than other major currencies other than the US dollar. The Japanese yen has decreased 48% from its peak since the pandemic, while the euro has decreased by 22%, following a 27% decrease in the UK pound, and the Korean won has decreased by 33%. The Yuan declined by 16%. As Europe and the United States' inflation and energy crises have eroded market confidence, and China's economy is the same size as the EU's, the RMB may become a future safe haven

for investors. Since 2006, annual trade between Pakistan and China has averaged 17.61 billion US dollars (Source CEIC). According to the joint statement released after the Pakistani prime minister's visit to China, the two are expected to enhance trade liberalization under the second phase of CPFTA and fully leverage overland trade and exchanges. Direct settlement and clearing in RMB between China and Pakistan can balance the possible trade fluctuations caused by changes in U.S.dollars. Moreover, RMB clearing can be a fast track for China and Pakistan to deepen industrial cooperation in financing and purchasing. The trade volume of Belt and Road countries has reached 11.6 trillion yuan in 2021. If RMB clearing and settlement is encouraged, trade efficiency in countries along the Belt and Road will improve, as will more extensive financial cooperation.

## German interior minister accused of manipulating refugee statistics

BERLIN: German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser is facing serious allegations that the numbers of refugees arriving in Germany since the start of the year have been manipulated, local media reports said Saturday. While Faeser claims only 57,647 refugees have entered German territory, the federal police have registered 101,900 foreigners since January. The data of the federal police covers merely four different regions of Germany - Berlin, Munich, Pirna, and Stuttgart. The minister's statistics on the number of refugees coming to Germany since January is therefore more than 40% lower than that reported by the country's federal police. In fact, the actual numbers are thought to be significantly higher as a result of a lack of data from other regions of Germany. Federal police union boss Heiko Teggatz told Germany's top-selling Bild newspaper that the much higher figures from the federal police "reflected exactly what my colleagues have been telling me for months." Meanwhile, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) has counted 154,557 people who have applied for asylum since the beginning of the year. That is even 2.7 times more than the Ministry of the Interior reports in its internal Migration Analysis Report. Faeser was recently criticized for not providing the Federal Police with the Migration Analysis Report for October. The numbers only go through September. It is speculated that they have jumped again in the past month. Last month, Faeser had expressed concern about the increased number of migrants entering Germany via the so-called Balkan route. She said it worried her, because the asylum seekers would have to be accommodated in Germany in addition to the approximately one million war refugees from Ukraine.—APP

## China, Saudi Arabia agreed to provide \$13b package

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said that China and Saudi Arabia have agreed to provide \$13 billion package to Pakistan. During an informal talk with journalists, the finance minister divulged that during current fiscal year, China apart from rolling over its loans, will provide \$8.8 billion financial support to Pakistan which includes \$3.3 billion loans from Chinese commercial banks and \$1.45 billion additional financing. Dar said that there was likelihood of additional \$4.2 billion financial assistance from Saudi Arabia which includes \$3 billion additional package and supply of Saudi oil on deferred payment. Saudi Arabia will also build a \$10-12bn petrochemical refining project at Gwadar, the finance minister said adding that the leadership in China and KSA assured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of their cooperation. Apart from this, Pakistan was also engaging the KSA in privatization transactions like in LNG power projects and shares in other entities to ensure non-debt creating foreign inflows. Dar said there was an understanding that both the countries would take care of the financial needs of Pakistan till June 2023. The minister said that China agreed to accelerate speed of work on the construction of ML-1 and Karachi Circular Railway. Pakistan is struggling with the low foreign exchange reserves, bad credit rating by the international financial agencies and the devaluation of its currency. During his talk, minister insisted that the rupee's real effective exchange rate (REER) was around Rs194 per dollar, even lower than Rs200. He hoped that the stakeholders would keep in mind the national interest instead of indulging in profitmaking.—APP

## Iran acknowledges sending drones to Russia before Ukraine war

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian acknowledged that Tehran provided drones to Russia, but said they were sent before the outbreak of the Ukraine war. Amir-Abdollahian made the comments to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the UN hosted by Tehran. He said "a limited number" of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), commonly known as drones, were provided to Russia in the months before the Ukraine war as part of a defense cooperation deal between the two sides. He, however, rejected reports about Iran planning to supply ballistic missiles to Russia to be used in the Ukraine war, which is



now in its ninth month. The top Iranian diplomat said the drones supplied to Russia were not meant for use in the Ukraine war, emphasizing that arming one of the sides in the war goes against the country's "principled policies". Tensions have heightened between Tehran and Kyiv amid accusations by

Ukrainian and American officials for Iran of supplying drones to Russia to be used in Ukraine. Some Western media outlets have in recent months published photos of what they claim are remains of Iranian-made drones, Shahed-136 and Mohajer-6, allegedly used in Ukraine by Russian forces. Re-

ports have also been doing rounds that Iran plans to supply surface-to-surface missiles to Russia, in addition to drones. Iranian officials, however, have denied the claims, saying they have a defense cooperation deal with Russia but are opposed to the war in Ukraine. Amir-Abdollahian said he agreed with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba in a phone call last week that any documentary evidence showing the use of Iranian drones in Ukraine should be provided to Tehran. He said the two sides had almost two weeks ago agreed to a meeting in a European country to discuss the issue but the meeting was canceled "at the last minute" after the Ukrainian team failed to show up. — Agencies

## No one will be allowed to blackmail state

To a question, the PML-N leader asked for probing into the Imran Khan's claims of his connections in agencies and army. "Who can be in contact with the person who malign state institutions", he asked.

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Javed Latif has said nobody will be allowed to blackmail the state institutions. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Saturday, he said we will defend the institutions which are working in accordance with the constitution. He regretted the allegations hurled by PTI Chairman Imran Khan without any evidence in the wake of Wazirabad incident. "There will be no one to remember Imran Khan's name once the court announces its judgment", Javed Latif said. He criticized Imran Khan for violating law and constitution and said, "Popularity doesn't mean that someone is above the law and

constitution". He said Imran Khan had been playing havoc with the country and by so he had exposed his real face but "violation of law and constitution of the country is not tolerable at all for the government and the people". He said patriotic people in the country and its institutions believe that the state could not run without the supremacy of constitution and law. The government had been working tirelessly for the last six months to bring investment back into the country but PTI leadership was trying to thwart these efforts by creating instability in the country which was unacceptable for any patriotic citizen, Javed Latif said. The handlers of PTI were terming Imran Khan as their red line

but "State is the red line for the 220 million people of Pakistan", he said. The PML-N leader said the video release of the accused statement, Imran Khan's act of hurling allegations at state institutions and individuals, Fawad Chaudhry's attempt to instigate public for violence and revenge, and attack by PTI workers on the sensitive building were the actual conspiracies against the state. Javed Latif condemned the attack on PTI long march and said the continuous blaming of state institutions by PTI's leadership was more condemnable than the incident. "Imran Khan has failed in his efforts to malign and divide the institutions", he added. "Public will know how Imran Khan is

playing with their sentiments to gain political mileage through blaming state and its institutions once the results of the investigation will go public", he said. He said those who were providing patronage to Imran Khan must realize that since his launch in the year 2011, the country had been facing severe unrest and destabilization. He said that Azam Swati and Shahbaz Gill get relief despite speaking against the state institutions, however, former deputy speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari, who faced PTI's revenge, was still in the custody of Punjab government and no one was raising voice for him. Javed Latif said those who were threatening Rana Sanaullah with their intentions to take re-

venge should know that the whole party was standing behind him. "We are silent in the larger interest of the state and its people but will not allow anyone to blackmail the institutions", he said. He said only 2937 people came out for protest on call of Imran Khan, burnt tyres and attacked people's houses under the leadership of PTI in two provinces. It was the responsibility of the government to make those accountable who were blaming state institutions without any evidence. To a question, the PML-N leader asked for probing into the Imran Khan's claims of his connections in agencies and army. "Who can be in contact with the person who malign state institutions", he asked.

## Russia, Ukraine exchange 214 prisoners of war

MOSCOW: Russia and Ukraine exchanged 214 prisoners, according to the Russian Defense Ministry and pro-Russia separatists. The ministry said a new exchange of war prisoners was conducted Thursday with Ukraine.

"On November 3, as a result of the negotiation process, 107 Russian servicemen who were in mortal danger in captivity were returned from the territory controlled by the Kyiv regime," the ministry said in a statement. The servicemen will be transported to Moscow via military transport planes where they will undergo treatment and rehabilitation at medical facilities of the Defense Ministry, it said. "All those released are provided with the necessary medical and psychological assistance," it added. "Today we are returning 107 of our fighters from Ukrainian dungeons," Donetsk separatist leader Denis Pushilin said on Telegram, adding that 65 of those were from eastern Ukraine's separatist territories. "We will give back the same amount of prisoners to Ukraine." In September, Russia and Ukraine exchanged 200 prisoners of war as a result of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's mediation and diplomatic traffic conducted with the countries' leaders. The swap was the biggest exchange between the warring sides since the start of Russia's invasion in February.—APP

## China posts 6-month high infections

BEIJING: Despite its strict zero-COVID policy, China on Sunday reported its highest number of new coronavirus infections in six months. The news comes a day after health officials said they were sticking with the strict coronavirus curbs. China recorded 4,420 new locally transmitted COVID-19 infections Saturday, the National Health Commission said, the most since May 6 and compared up from 3,659 new local cases a day earlier. While case numbers are extremely low by global standards, China has stuck with a zero-COVID approach nearly three years into the pandemic that involves lockdowns, quarantines, frequent testing and a drastic decrease in inbound travel. At a news conference on Saturday, health officials reiterated their commitment to the "dynamic-clearing" approach to COVID cases as soon as they emerge. China's anti-COVID measures are "completely correct, as well as the most economical and effective," said disease control official Hu Xiang. "We should adhere to the principle of putting people and lives first, and the broader strategy of preventing imports from outside and internal rebounds." Chinese stocks soared last week on rumors of a possible easing of the COVID curbs and media reports that some tweaks to policy could be coming soon. However, many analysts have said they do not expect significant easing to begin until after China's annual parliamentary session in March.—Agencies

## Protesters in Peru calling for president's removal

LIMA: Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of Lima on Saturday to call for the removal of President Pedro Castillo, the subject of an unprecedented six investigations for corruption. Opponents of Castillo's government marched through the capital's center until dozens of riot police used tear gas to prevent them from reaching Parliament and the government palace. "I come to the march to get that corrupt man out. Castillo must leave, that's what this march is for, to get him out," protester Nancy Huaracaya told AFP. "We are here representing millions of Peruvians. Peru can't take it anymore. We are on the edge of the precipice, economically everything has stagnated," Carola Suarez, holding a Peruvian flag, told media.—APP



## Briefs

Police demand  
action against  
PTI's Qureshi

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Police have demanded the government act against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi for insulting the uniform. Qureshi has denounced Punjab police over non-registration of a First Information Report for the Wazirabad attack on former prime minister Imran Khan during the long march. Taking to Twitter, a Punjab Police spokesman penned that the department has condemned Shah Mahmood Qureshi's "offensive remarks" against the provincial police. "For Shah Mahmood Qureshi to curse the uniform of thousands of martyrs of police is indeed very sad," the spokesman said. "The Wazirabad incident is regrettable and we sympathize with all victims that were killed and injured," he added. The spokesman asserted that "the police are performing their duties beyond political and group interests" and urged the government to "take notice of the desecration of the police uniform by the party leader". The spokesman said that "it is nothing new" for the police to "take such caution in cases related to sensitive national and political issues. "Similar restraint has been shown in the recent past on requests against various political and national leaders for charges of allegations such as insulting national institutions and religious sentiments," he said adding that PTI leaders are also included among these political leaders.

Muslim  
candidates key  
to outcome of  
US elections

NEWS DESK

CHICAGO: For President Joe Biden, a Democrat, the midterm elections are crucial and challenging. Traditionally, the party that controls the White House at this stage usually loses control of the House and the Senate. Now the Republicans are perched to take both from the Democrats in Tuesday's elections. Arab and Muslim Americans will play an important role in helping to define the outcome, reinforcing congressional seats they now control while expanding their community's role in local state and municipal offices. Here is an overview of some of the important contests to watch: In Pennsylvania's US Senate race, Dr. Mehmet Oz, a Muslim TV medical personality of Turkish heritage, is the Republican candidate. He faces Democrat John Fetterman, the state's lieutenant governor since 2019. Polling shows Oz leading Fetterman in the election, although Fetterman this week received an endorsement from TV powerhouse Oprah Winfrey.

Tanzania's  
Precision Air  
plane crashes  
into Lake  
Victoria

DNA

BUKOB: A Precision Air plane has crashed into Lake Victoria in Tanzania while attempting to land at an airport during bad weather, killing three people. An official said 26 people had been rescued so far on Sunday. Regional commissioner Albert Chalamila said 43 people – including 39 passengers, two pilots and two cabin crew – were on board the plane. "As we speak, we have managed to rescue 26 people who were taken to our referral hospital," Chalamila said. "The rescue operation is still ongoing and we are communicating with the pilots." State-owned Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation later reported three people had died. The plane departed from the commercial capital, Dar-es-Salaam, and "fell in the Lake Victoria this morning due to storm and heavy rains" in Bukoba. "We have managed to save quite a number of people," Kagera province police commander William Mwampaghele told journalists.

Italian artists steal the show  
by mesmerizing performance

Serena Hotels, Italian embassy join hands for a noble cause; CEO Serena Hotels appreciates the generous support of the Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted a fund-raising Opera Performance in collaboration with the Italian Embassy. The talented and world-renowned Performing Artist Mr. Rame Lahaj who was accompanied by Mr. Matteo Pais, gave outstanding performances, and engaged the audience with his well-known pieces. He has performed in prestigious Opera houses of the world. Among his most notable roles are Alfredo (La Traviata), Duke of Mantua (Rigoletto) and Rodolfo (La Boheme). Rame Lahaj is the first artist from Kosovo and has won the most prestigious and important prize "Operalia" in 2016 for his extraordinary performances. He was accompanied by Repetiteur who is the Artistic Coordinator at Arturo Toscanini Foundation in Parma and is a vocal coach and honored pianist who is well known for his international master classes to upcoming young artists. Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan H. E. Andreas Ferrarese in his remarks on the occasion said the purpose of holding the gala event was to help the flood affected families. He added, another purpose of the event was to introduce the famous opera music in Pakistan. The ambassador hoped that the event will contribute towards further promotion of cultural linkages between the two countries. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels appreciated the generous support of the Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese for joining hands with Serena Hotels in not only raising funds for the flood relief but for strengthening the bonding between Pakistan and Italy through such cultural exchanges, and he expressed, how such cultural exchanges are key in fostering great bonds between the two nations. This event is the 4th fundraising event organised by Serena Hotels in collaboration with different diplomatic missions and will continue to play the role in supporting the less privileged citizens by utilizing its hotels platform. It was an evening dedicated to building close cultural ties with the Italian Embassy, while creating an opportunity to generate funds for the flood victims.



ISLAMABAD: World-renowned Italian Artists Rame Lahaj and Matteo Pais perform at the fundraiser. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani, Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese, General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel Mr. Otto and others posing for a picture with the Italian artists. – DNA

US urges Ukraine to be  
open to Russia talks

WASHINGTON: The United States is privately encouraging Ukraine to signal an openness to negotiate with Russia, the Washington Post reported, as the State Department said Moscow was escalating the war and did not seriously wish to engage in peace talks. The newspaper cited unnamed sources as saying the request by American officials was not aimed at pushing Ukraine to the negotiating table, but a calculated attempt to ensure Kyiv maintains the support of other nations. U.S. and Ukrainian officials acknowledged that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's ban on talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin had generated concern in parts of Europe, Africa and Latin America, where the war's effects on costs of food and fuel are felt most sharply, the Post said. "Ukraine fatigue is a real thing for some of our partners," it quoted an unnamed U.S. official as saying. Zelenskiy signed a decree on Oct. 4 formally declaring the prospect of any Ukrainian talks with Putin "impossible" but leaving

the door open to talks with Russia. The White House National Security Council had no immediate comment on the accuracy of the report. A State Department spokesperson responded: "We've said it before and will say it again: Actions speak louder than words. If Russia is ready for negotiation, it should stop its bombs and missiles and withdraw its forces from Ukraine. "The Kremlin continues to escalate this war. The Kremlin has demonstrated its unwillingness to seriously engage in negotiations since even before it launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine." The spokesperson also noted remarks by Zelenskiy on Friday, in which he said: "We are ready for peace, for a fair and just peace, the formula of which we have voiced many times." In his nightly address to the Ukrainian people on Friday, Zelenskiy added: "The world knows our position. This is respect for the U.N. Charter, respect for our territorial integrity, respect for our people." – Agencies

Senate committee  
to probe Swati's  
alleged video leak

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday formed a 14-member special committee to probe the alleged "obscene video" of PTI leader Senator Azam Khan Swati. The committee includes Senators Azam Nazeer Tarar, Mohsen Aziz, Yousaf Raza Gillani, Molana Abdul Ghafoor Hyderi, and Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. Senators Faisal Subzwari, Tahir Bizenjo, Muhammad Shafiq Tareen, Mush-taq Ahmed, Muhammad Qasim, Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Hidayat Ullah, Kamil Ali Agha and Dilawar Khan are also part of the committee. A notification was issued today, according to which, the special committee will inquire into the video leak from every aspect. The notification also said that the members of the

committee will decide on the convener by themselves. The chairman of the Senate directed the special committee to submit a report within 30 days. In a press conference a day earlier, the PTI leader said that his wife was sent a video of herself and Swati on her phone without any number. "The video is of a stay at the Quetta Supreme Court Judicial Lodges," the senator said while incessantly shedding tears during the presser. He shared that his wife, daughter, and granddaughters have left the country since the video surfaced. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) declared the alleged video as "fake", stating that the video was analysed forensically as per international forensic analysis standards. The agency shared that the said video was made using "deep fake tools to create misunderstanding and defame the Honourable Senator". "Initial forensic analysis revealed that the video has been edited and different video clips have been joined with defaced faces. Further analysis, revealed that faces have been swapped in the images using photoshop," FIA stated in its statement on Saturday. – DNA

Pakistan, UAE agree to further  
deepen mutual cooperation

Both Foreign Ministers emphasized the vital importance of Pak-UAE relations and agreed to further deepen mutual co-op in all fields, including economy, trade, energy and investment

DNA

ABU DHABI: Pakistan and the UAE have agreed to further deepen mutual cooperation in all fields including economy, trade, energy and investment. The understanding was reached at a meeting between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and UAE's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the sidelines of the Annual Sir Bani Yas Forum in Abu Dhabi on Saturday. The two sides emphasized the vital importance of Pakistan-UAE relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a bilateral meeting with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on the sidelines of the Annual Sir Bani Yas Forum in Abu Dhabi today. The Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude to the UAE leadership for their generous support for the flood affected people of Pakistan. This was a manifestation of the deep and time tested brotherly ties between the two nations that have always stood by each other in hour of need. UAE was one of the largest donors of humanitarian assistance during difficult times. The Foreign Minister congratulated his UAE

counterpart on the successful hosting of the annual Sir Bani Yas Forum. Both Foreign Ministers emphasized the vital importance of Pakistan-UAE relations and agreed to further deepen mutual cooperation in all fields, including economy, trade, energy and investment. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized the need for increased volume of trade and investment between the two countries. The two leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and agreed to continue close collaboration between the two brotherly countries. The foreign minister also congratulated his UAE counterpart on the successful hosting of the annual Sir Bani Yas Forum.

Biden, Obama,  
Trump target  
key state

PHILADELPHIA: President Joe Biden, Democratic superstar Barack Obama and Republican firebrand Donald Trump all converged Saturday on Pennsylvania to push their parties to the finishing line in a race Biden said marks a "defining" moment for US democracy. The battle of the serving and two former presidents marked the start of a final crescendo before Tuesday when Americans will decide who controls Congress during the last two years of Biden's first term. Polls put Republicans well ahead in the fight for the House of Representa-

tives and also show them with momentum in the Senate as voters, already riled up by culture wars, seek to take out frustration over four-decades-high inflation and rising illegal immigration. With Pennsylvania one of the handful of swing states that will decide the overall balance of power, both sides brought out their big guns. Biden and Obama rallied in Philadelphia alongside Senate candidate John Fetterman and governor candidate Josh Shapiro. Trump – who was defeated by Biden in 2020 – flew to Latrobe to boost Fetterman's opponent, TV celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz, and Shapiro's far-right opponent Doug Mastriano. Speaking to thousands in a Philadelphia arena, Biden and the Democratic candidates labeled the Republicans as the party of the wealthy and emphasized their support for trade unions, social security and abortion access. – APP

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