



# Islamabad POST

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**UN chief Guterres warns world is on path to 'climate hell'**

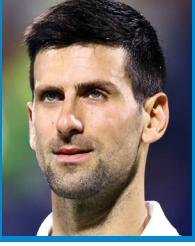
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**China keeping a close eye on Pak situation**

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**Rune upsets Djokovic to win Paris Masters**

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## Briefs

**Ukraine warns of more attacks**

DNA

KYIV/WASHINGTON:



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned against more potential Russian attacks on energy infrastructure, while the mayor of Kyiv urged residents to consider preparing to leave temporarily if the capital lost water and power supplies. In regular nightly remarks, Zelenskyy said Russia was "concentrating forces and means for a possible repetition of mass attacks on our infrastructure. First of all, energy." More than 4.5 million consumers were already without power, he added, amid concerns that support for Ukraine could waver as the war's impact on energy and food prices persists into winter.

**British HC calls on Ahsan Iqbal**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Islamabad Christian Turner Monday called on the Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in various fields. The Minister, while talking to the High Commissioner, said that Pakistan had long-standing historic ties with the United Kingdom and relations between the two countries needed to be further increased for the mutual benefit of the two sides.



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**Women play key role in development**

DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to KP Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Saif on Monday said that women can play a key role in development. Addressing the participants of a five-day electronic media workshop on "Freedom of Expression: Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists" that was organized by the Women Media Center in collaboration with the National Endowment for Democracy, USA.



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## Wazirabad incident SC intervenes for the FIR registration

FIR registered in Wazirabad City PS against arrested culprit; has no mention of PM, Interior Minister or Army officer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday directed Inspector General of Punjab Police Faisal Shahkar to register a first information report on the assassination attempt on PTI Chairman Imran Khan in Wazirabad. On Monday night, an FIR was registered in City Police Station, Wazirabad. According to sources, the FIR was registered against arrested culprit Naveed on murder and terrorism charges. However, the FIR did not mention names of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah or Army Officer, who Imran Khan and PTI have been alleging to have been behind the murder attempt. The orders were issued by the Supreme Court while hearing the contempt of court plea filed against the former prime minister by the government over his long march to Islamabad. At the outset of hearing, Justice Bandial condemned assassination attempt on Khan's life and asked his lawyer Salman Akram Raja whether an FIR was registered as of yet. "I am not aware about the FIR. An attempt was made to register an FIR but I don't think it has been registered as of yet," said Raja. At this, CJP Bandial lamented that it's been more than 90 hours since the attack took place and FIR was yet to be registered.

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## SC takes notice of Swati's leaked video matter

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has taken notice of PTI Senator Azam Swati's alleged video leak case. When Senator Swati reached Supreme Court on Monday to meet Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, he got involved in a verbal spat with police officials who tried to stop the senator from entering the court without permission. However, the CJP called for Swati and the latter went straight to the rostrum. Chief Justice of Pakistan Bandial told Swati that court's human rights cell was looking into his case. He remarked that everyone was sad on the leaked video issue. He said that the SC cell had started investigation on the matter. The top judge, however, asked Swati:

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## PTI revises long march schedule

Imran Khan urges President Alvi to 'act now' to stop abuse of power

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has changed the schedule of its long march for a third time, announcing that the march would resume on Thursday from Wazirabad - exactly from the point he brushed with death. PTI chief Imran on Sunday announced that his party will be returning to the streets to resume its long march on Islamabad, which was disrupted after an attempt on his life, from Tuesday (today). However, earlier Monday Imran announced that the march dubbed as 'Haqeeqi Azadi March' will resume on Wednesday, instead of Tuesday as scheduled earlier. Hours after his announcement, PTI leader Faisal Javed in a tweet announced that he party's long march will resume on November 10, Thursday at 2pm from Wazirabad. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, expressing his thoughts while meeting with the delegation of the journalists,

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## Protestors block Islamabad's entry-exit points

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protestors have closed the entry and exit points of Islamabad in protest against PTI chief Imran Khan's assassination attempt during a long march in Wazirabad. PTI workers have blocked the main highway in protest on the Motorway (M2) near the New Islamabad Airport. Protestors have closed Rawat, Shamasabad, Bakery Chowk, Khanna Pul, and Main Expressway near Koral and Thaalain by burning tires. While the Taxila road from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to Islamabad has

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# Imran Khan needs to rise to the occasion

COMMENT

ANSAR M BHATTI



PTI Chairman Imran Khan's press talk on November 6, 2022 can be regarded 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). 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. The Supreme Court of Pakistan then had to intervene to get the FIR registered. However, after this episode it became quite evident for Imran Khan and his party that Ch. Pervez Elahi appeared to be the Chief Minister sans authority. Or, he was playing on both sides of the wicket. 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 considered 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 reason in accepting the government if the chief executive has no powers. Here lies a contradiction between what he says and what he actually practices. He had pointed out in his press conference that the actual authority in Punjab lied somewhere else. If it would be a matter of weak control or no authority at all, then the non registration of his FIR was a good excuse for him to call it a day in Punjab. He would have got rid of the Punjab government soon after his own police refused to register his FIR. Ostensibly, his action would have earned him more respect and credibility. 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 trump card, making things difficult for him in terms of holding of early or even on time the general elections. 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 these forces. Many people 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 in the coming days 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. As regards the crisis in question, the feasible way to get out of the quagmire turns out to be the elections. The outcome of the elections may not suit some forces but any unwarranted move to stop people from exercising their will, might further push things towards the precipice. If things go beyond control then possibility of intervention of the third force cannot be ruled out. All stakeholders need to rise above their petty interests and join hands for the ultimate good of this country. Imran Khan has conditionally agreed to the Prime Minister proposal to constitute a full court commission to probe the Wazirabad firing incident. He is of the view that a fair inquiry cannot take place if three persons he had nominated including the PM, Interior Minister and spy agency official were not removed from their posts. This demand, for sure, will not be acceptable for the government therefore the idea of formation of the full court commission may never see the light of the day. Even if such a commission is formed, there is a strong possibility that the probe will never be

completed. The assassination of Benazir Bhutto on December 27, 2007, still remains a mystery despite the fact that her own party remained in power for five years after her murder. As per the revised schedule, PTI long march will now reach Rawalpindi somewhere around November 20 or 21 when the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Muhammad bin Salman is due to visit Islamabad. If the MBS visit and the long march take place at the same time then a govt-PTI face-off will become imminent. Probably that is the reason the government has so far not approved any PTI sit-in or rally in Islamabad. Despite all ifs and buts, Saudi Arabia has always proved a friend indeed for Pakistan. It had extended maximum possible support to the PTI government as well despite the fact that PTI government and Saudi Arabia relations always remained tense. However it does mean that the former ruling party should play any role to sabotage the visit simply because Saudis had estranged relations with the PTI government. The government on its part ought to engage with the PTI seriously and must not try to put out fire with petrol. This approach would only multiply our woes. A better sense needs to prevail for the country cannot afford any further escalation.

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## VICTORY DAY OF AZERBAIJAN



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Israr Tareen Minister for Defence Production, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and others cutting cake to mark Victory Day of Azerbaijan. - DNA

## PM greets Azerbaijan president on Victory Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif has congratulated President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on 'Victory Day' which signifies resilience, courage and national cohesion. May the commemoration of this day usher in an era of lasting peace and prosperity in the Causasus region, PM Shehbaz said.

## MBS likely to visit Pakistan this month

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Saudi crown prince Mohammad Bin Salman is likely to visit Pakistan later this month, during which Pakistan hopes to get a \$4.2 billion bailout package from Saudi Arabia. Diplomatic sources privy to the matter said that Prince Salman is expected to visit Pakistan on November 21, adding that a special security team of Kingdom will arrive in Pakistan to take a final look at the security arrangements regarding the prince's visit. Moreover, during the visit Pakistan hopes to get a \$4.2 billion bailout package, and numerous Pakistan-Saudi petroleum agreements are being finalised for signing. The Saudi Kingdom will also assist in the establishment of a modern oil refinery in Gwadar at a cost of 10 billion dollars while the Chinese companies will run the refinery's operations after the completion of project.

## COP27: PM highlights Pakistan's climate change vulnerabilities

PM holds meetings with UAE President, EU Commissioner and UN Secy Gen

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said that the international community must come together to create a common charter for the survival of the planet. The prime minister, in a meeting with the President of the United Arab Emirates Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the sidelines of the COP 27 Summit here, welcomed the commitment of the international community, especially the Islamic world, to the goals and objectives of the COP 27 conference. The prime minister thanked the UAE leadership and people for their generous assistance to the flood victims in Pakistan. He termed the commitment of COP 27 as a good omen to combat the effects of climate change. Dealing with the effects of climate change was not for developing countries alone, he added. During the interaction, the two leaders agreed to work together for common goals of mutual interest.

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## Pak welcomes adoption of UN summit agenda

DNA

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Pakistan has welcomed the adoption of UN Climate Summit of its proposed agenda item "Matters relating to funding arrangements for loss and damage". This was stated by Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations and Chairman Group of 77 and China, Mumir Akram in his remarks at the opening session of UN Climate Summit at Sharm el-Sheikh. The agenda item was proposed by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China,

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## 'Will quit politics, if IK proves 4 bullets'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Monday challenged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief that if it will prove that Imran Khan received four bullets, then he (Sanaullah) will quit politics forever. Talking to journalists outside parliament, he said that the government is ready to be a part of investigations of attack on Imran Khan, if wishes so to nominate the Prime Minister and Interior Minister. He demanded fair medical checkup of Imran Khan from an impartial medical board for investigations and verification, if he received four bullet wounds. He said the institution of Pakistan Army is disciplined institute and no one can deviate from the official policy

of the institution and if someone dares to do so, he or she will have to face the consequences. Regarding extension of Army Chief, the statement of Director General ISPR is sufficient, said the interior minister. He said the provincial government is instigating chunk of people to protest and the Punjab police is facilitating the protesters. "Imran Khan took three names because he wants anarchy in the country" said Rana Sanaullah adding that using Judiciary and Pak army for personal politics is devastating for the country. He said accused of an attack on Imran Khan, Naveed was arrested with

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# Imran intends to push country to civil war: ANP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) Secretary General Mian Iftikhar Hussain on Monday said that PTI leader Imran Khan made the incident of firing during PTI's march controversial as he intended to push the country to civil war, chaos, and unrest. Addressing a press conference here, he condemned the incident of firing in the PTI gathering in Wazirabad and demanded a transparent investigation into the incident, adding that though they have political differences with Imran and his party but ANP never supported violence against anyone. He said that the use of force for political motives was not acceptable but the language used by Imran Khan was also not appropriate but rather tantamount to pushing the country towards unrest and political turmoil. The ANP leader demanded a high-level investigation into the incident of firing and making the facts public, adding leveling accusations and putting forward demands before the investigation was unjustified. Iftikhar said Imran Khan should realize that he could not become prime minister again by staging a protest and making the institutions controversial for his political motives. "How is it possible that when Imran was the prime min-

ister everything was right but all of a sudden every institution including the Election Commission becomes controversial after he was de-thrown by the parliament," he questioned. He said all the political parties of the country demanded transparent re-election before the no-confidence move against Imran Khan but the PTI government was mocking the just demand of PDM. He said that Imran Khan defamed democracy and disrespected the sanctity of the parliament during his government while also victimizing political rivals. Now when Imran Khan has been ousted through a democratic process he was now claiming himself to be a supporter of democracy and made the state institutions controversial for political gains. Commenting on registering of FIR in the firing incident, the ANP leader said despite remaining three - years in power, Imran Khan was still not aware of the law and constitution, adding PTI was in power in Punjab and still, the FIR into the incident was not lodged. He said how could it be possible that without registration of FIR the investigation into the incident could be initiated and culprits arrested. Referring to the leaked video of Azam Swati, the ANP central leader condemned the scam and said that the privacy of a person should

not be breached for political motives, adding FIA in its forensic report has declared the video fake however an investigation should be conducted for the satisfaction of the affected person and his family. Regarding the assassination of renowned journalist Arshad Sharif, he said the investigation report should be made public. Mian Iftikhar further said ANP believes that every institution should work in its own constitutional ambit and Parliament should be allowed to take political decisions. Referring to unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said the re-emergence of Taliban in different areas of the province was alarming as the people were being kidnapped for ransom while extortionists were openly demanding money from traders and the business community. He said ANP fully endorses holding dialogue with all forces but it should not be done without taking the parliament into confidence and keeping those who lost their loved ones in the war against terror in dark about the dialogue process. He said ANP demands the terms and conditions related to dialogue with the Taliban should be made public and people should be informed that in which capacity did the KP government spokesman attend the dialogue?



ISLAMABAD: Turkish ambassador to Pakistan Prof. Dr. Mehmet Paçac calls on Federal minister for religious affairs, Mufti Abul Shakoor. - DNA

## Kashmiris to accomplish martyrs' mission: APHC

APHC spokesman said that Kashmiris would never forget the sacrifices rendered by the Jammu martyrs 75 years ago

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the Jammu massacre said that the Kashmiri people will accomplish the mission of their martyrs at all costs, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, the forces of Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh, the Indian Army, and Hindu fanatics had martyred hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris in different parts of the Jammu region when they were migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November in 1947. APHC spokesman in Srinagar said that the Kashmiris would never forget the unprecedented sacrifices rendered by the Jammu martyrs seventy-five years ago. APHC leader Khawaja Firdous said that in 1947, the Dogra forces and Hindu

fanatics forced the Muslims to migrate to Pakistan. By deceiving lakhs of Muslims, they turned the Muslim majority of Jammu into a minority. APHC leader Yasmeen Raja in Srinagar described the massacre of Jammu Muslims in 1947 as the worst tragedy. She said that Hindu fanatics and sectarian organizations like RSS and Shiv Sena had washed the land of Jammu with the blood of innocent Muslims. She deplored that in IIOJK, Indian forces and organizations of Hindu extremists were still suppressing the voice of truth and justice. She said, "Today is a day of renewal for all of us and the sacrifices of these martyrs will not be allowed to go to waste." Jammu-based APHC leader Mir Shahid Saleem said that during the first week of November in 1947, the sectarian elements massacred millions of Kashmiris brutally. He added

that such barbarism is not found in civilized human history. He said that the victims have not been able to get justice even after 75 years of the gruesome massacre. APHC leaders Khadim Hussain and Syed Sabt Shabbir Qumi in a joint statement issued in Srinagar said that immediately after the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947, the massacre of lakhs of unwashed Muslims in Jammu was the worst kind of Indian state terrorism. They said that due to the killing of lakhs of Muslims in Jammu, the majority of Muslims there was turned into a minority. Now, the fascist Indian government of Narendra Modi is playing the same game in the occupied territory. They added that the heinous process of killing Kashmiris had reached its peak and Indian forces are martyring Kashmiris every day.--APP

## Imran Khan politicizing everything : Amir Muqam

ABID RAZA

LAHORE :Adviser to Prime Minister and Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Engineer Amir Muqam said that Imran Khan was politicizing everything just to keep his politics alive. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, he said that it was very unfortunate that PTI chairman's agenda was to destabilize the country. "In current political situation a question arises that what Imran Khan will get by creating chaotic situation and by tarnishing the image of country's institutions." Amir Muqam said Imran Khan was continuously misleading people and telling lies to them. He further said that first he misguided people over cipher issue and later the murder of journalist Arshad



Sharif was politicized which was condemnable. He said that Imran Khan was in habit of leveling baseless allegations and he did not care about the consequences. He said, "There should be an inquiry of firing incident so that people come to know real facts." He said a point to be pondered is as to why Imran Khan had not visited

public hospital in Wazirabad to get first aid, rather he preferred to go Shaukat Khanum for which he had to travel for about three hours. He alleged that Imran Khan was using all negative tactics just to gain sympathies of people and to get power. He said Imran Khan should understand that he was not serving the country by level-

ling baseless allegations on the institutions. "In Punjab there is government of PTI but still they are pointing figures at others which is ridiculous", he added. He said that appointment of new chief of army staff would be made as per law and the constitution and next general elections would be held on time. He said that Imran Khan should look at four years' performance of his government, adding that he made life of people more difficult. He said PML-N and its allies were putting in their efforts to ensure economic stability in the country, adding that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was making tireless efforts to raise the image of the country at international level. To a question, he said, "PML-N believes in strengthening democratic process in the country."

## NIH for strict measures to control seasonal influenza

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has asked the health authorities and other stakeholders for ensuring timely preventive and control measures for seasonal influenza. According to NIH, health authorities have been advised for adopting measures encompassing preparedness to deal with the increased workload expected in the outpatient and in-patient departments during the next few months. The institute has also issued an advisory for the prevention and control of seasonal influenza in the wake of the expected upsurge of influenza cases in different parts of the country. The advisory discussed that influenza (seasonal flu) can spread from person-to-person through coughing or sneezing or can contaminate hands or other surfaces. It said that patients with chronic diseases (such as asthma, diabetes, cardiac and lungs diseases, etc.) pregnant women, elderly people, and children under five years are at higher risk of developing severe or complicated diseases. The advisory said that vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection and severe outcomes caused by influenza viruses, particularly in high-risk groups.

## Science, Technology varsity to be established in Kurram District

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi announced that a science and technology varsity would be established at Kurram District of the ex-FATA area. The minister said this University is a catalyst project for the people of tribal areas who had been deprived of their basic rights since the creation of Pakistan, said a press release here on Monday. Sajid Hussain Turi had a meeting with Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed in this regard. It was decided in the meeting that one university will be established in every district of ex-FATA (commonly known as the newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so that the students of the area do not face any difficulties in obtaining higher education and they would not be deprived of their basic right of getting higher education). The progress and prosperity of the region depended on quality education, the

minister added. The educated youth would have more opportunities in this era of competition. "Education is a form of investment as it provides a stream of income just as any other investment would," he asserted. Turi said it has been an ardent desire that universities be established in all tribal districts, including Kurram district and today, he was happy to announce that Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) in Karam district was being established. He further added that a formal decision has been taken to establish a university in Parachinar, which would be inaugurated soon and admissions in various fields of science, IT and arts would be announced from the new academic year. He said that classes initially would be held temporarily in Government College No. 2 Parachinar, but in the previous government of Pakistan People's Party, acres of land was purchased for the construction of a magnificent

building for the university, on which the construction would be started by the end of this year. He said that this university would be the first university in the history of tribal areas for which he was very excited, adding he was grateful to the then president Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani who announced funds to purchase land for Kurram University. He said that Pakistan People's Party has a special role in the development, health and education of tribal districts and under the patronage of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, all efforts are underway to bring tribal districts into the national mainstream of the country through development in all sectors. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has offered his full support for the development of the newly merged districts of FATA and emphasized that the rehabilitation of tribal areas was the top priority of his government.--APP

## KDA and GDA ready to tackle snow emergency

ABBOTTABAD: Heavy snowfall continues on the third consecutive day in the upper parts of district Manshera while the plain areas have received heavy downpours. Due to heavy snowfall, the intensity of cold has increased in the entire region. Snow is continuing on the mountains of Konish Valley, Siran Valley and Kaghhan Valley. Intermittent snowfall is continuous in tourist places of Sri Pai and adjacent areas including Batta Kundi, and Naran. Up till now, more than 8 inches of snow has been recorded in Naran. The staff of the KDA along with the heavy machinery is carrying tourists while locals are also busy supporting KDA in the rescue operation.--APP

## ZONG collaborates with CreditBook to provide e-wallet services

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunication Network has joined hands with CreditBook, a prominent fintech start-up to provide their customers access to e-wallet services. This collaboration will allow Zong4G's millions of customers to access CreditBook's mobile wallet, send balance through the application and earn commission on each sale. CreditBook has a retail network in over 400 cities thus, the partnership will provide Zong 4G's customers with access to the expansive retail network to recharge and

purchase bundles anywhere in the country. "Our partnership with CreditBook is a testament towards promoting our agenda of the digitized economy. It is also part of our wider digital transformation of Pakistan, aiming to support customers quickly and efficiently via cutting-edge self-service technologies. Through our partnership, we are enabling our customers to have access to various e-wallet features, and offering convenience through fin-tech solutions, so they can recharge their balance and send balance." Shared the spokesperson of Zong 4G. CreditBook founded in 2020, aimed to help micro,

small, and medium-sized enterprises achieve better financial accessibility and outcomes, a segment that contributes massively to the economy but is often overlooked. With its many fin-tech products, CreditBook is helping uplift and impact millions of businesses throughout Pakistan. Zong 4G has always been a customer-centric brand. Through various packages and deals, the business focuses on making its customers' lives easier. The company's goal is to bring real digital innovation to Pakistan, and the entire Zong 4G team is dedicated to turning everyone's aspiration to "Let's Get Digital" into a reality.

## Business Community wants urgent steps to end political uncertainty

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The current political and economic uncertainty of the country is very disturbing, the situation has reached such a level that urgent steps should be taken, the authorities should consider this as an SOS call from

the business community. In a joint statement, the business representatives and chamber officials at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), in an emergent meeting here on Monday, demanded that the current uncertainty requires that all parties sit at the table and find a solution

to pull country out of crises and bring normalcy so that trade activities can be restored. The meeting was chaired by President RCCI Saqib Rafiq and Group Leader Sohail Altaf, and Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, Anjum Tajran representatives

Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, President Small Chamber Tariq Jadoon, Sharjeel Mir, Nadeem Sheikh, Sheikh Hafeez, Taj Abbasi, Zahid Bakhtavari and others were present. President Saqib Rafiq said that uncertainty has brought business and the entire economic system into a state of stagnation, with

protests, sit-ins and long marches affecting the twin cities the most. RCCI former president and group leader Sohail Altaf said that political mistrust and polarization have led the country to such a point that if timely measures are not taken, it is impossible to return, we have to think for the country beyond political affiliation. Shahid Ghafoor Paracha said that business activities are in decline, Taj Abbasi said that the country has to be taken out of confrontation. Nadeem Sheikh, Zahid Bakhtavari and Sheikh Hafeez while showing grave concern added that all the stakeholders should realize their responsibility. Tariq Jadoon said that we all have to come together to get out of the crisis, Sharjeel Mir said that political tolerance has to be demonstrated.



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & WORKS  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HOUSING AUTHORITY 10-MauveArea, G-10/4, Islamabad  
TENDER NOTICE

Scaled tenders as per PPRA Rules single stage single Envelope procedure on Percentage Rate Basis invited from contractor / Firms having valid PEC registration 2022-23 for the following work:

Name of Work	Estimated (N.I.T) cost (Rs.)	Tender Cost
RATE RUNNING CONTRACT OPERATIONAL SERVICES FOR TUBE WELLS, FILTRATION PLANTS & PUMP STATIONS IN SECTOR G-13 & G-14/4, ISLAMABAD	Rs.1,466,665/ Per Month	Rs.2,000/- Non-Refundable

**Terms and conditions**

- Interested firms/Contractors may purchase the tender documents upon written application on original letter pad from the office of the undersigned up to **24-11-2022 during office hours against cash payment of specified fee.**
- Tender must be accompanied with call deposit **Rs.300,000/-** from any schedule bank of Pakistan in favor of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority, Islamabad.
- No tender will be entertained without call deposit of required amount.
- The submission of tender by the contractor implies that he is fully conversant with the site of work, scope of work, terms & conditions laid down in the tender documents.
- The tender documents may be submitted latest by **25-11-2022** & will be opened on the same date at **11:30 AM** in the presence of bidders or their representative Conditional tender will not be acceptable.
- The contractor will have to produce original CNIC, Income Tax registration (NTN) at the time issuance of Tender Documents.
- Power of attorney, Partnership deed original, Non Judicial stamp paper worth Rs.10/- along with attested photocopies.
- Federal Governments Employees Housing Authority reserve the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without any reason under rule 33 (1) of PPRA 2004.

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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
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## Water Tank

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# Renewal of GSP Plus is on positive way: FPCCI

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) said that EU – Pakistan relations have a strategic aspect that covers all the relevant areas including counterterrorism, trade, climate change and GSP Plus Scheme

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Parliamentary delegation of the European Union visited FPCCI Capital Office in Islamabad. The delegation comprises MEP Hervé Juvin, Identity & Democracy Group (France), Member of the Committee of International Trade (INTA) and Subcommittee on Security and Defence, MEP Ms. Virginie Joron, Member of the Committee on the Internal Market, Consumer Protection and Committee on Legal Affairs MEP Mr. Mick Wallace, Left Group (Ireland), Member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and Subcommittee on Security and Defence, MEP Ms. Clare Daly, Left Group (Ireland), Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Vice Chair-Delegation for relations with Afghanistan, and Ms. Roxana Criseta.

Pakistan is gold but unfortunately, the victim of propaganda stated by Mr. Hervé Juvin, leader of the EU Parliamentary delegation. He said the GSP Plus scheme of the European Union for Pakistan will be ended this year while they have started favorable working on the further renewal of the scheme from January 2023 with diversification of potential sectors of Pakistan's economy. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) said that EU – Pakistan relations have a strategic aspect that covers all the relevant areas including counterterrorism, trade, climate change and GSP Plus Scheme. He further



said that GSP Plus status holds significant importance for Pakistan's economy as it has played a vital role in the expansion of multilateral trade. He quoted the statistics and informed that in 2021 Pakistan's total volume of trade with the EU was US\$ 13.289 billion out of which our exports were US\$ 7.63 billion which is 29.4% of our total exports and our trade balance with the EU is positive. However, the existing GSP Plus scheme is confined to the textile sector but it should be enhanced to other sectors also, he added. He highlighted various potential sectors including pharmaceutical, surgical, sports goods, agricultural sector, minerals and mines, and gems stone and said that Pakistan needs foreign investments under joint ventures in these sectors. He also highlighted the potential in the tourism sector of Pakistan and invited investors for investment. He further said that Pakistan is a gateway to the central and south Asian

market. CPEC is very important for Pakistan and Gwadar is a gold mine of our country. He told that CPEC has special economic zones and we invite European investors to take benefit from this profitable investment in Pakistan. The President of FPCCI further said that Pakistan has 51% women population and we are working on it to convert them into a real working force for the development of our country. The FPCCI supports businesspersons and in this regard 24 women's Chambers of Commerce and Industry in different parts of the country under its umbrella. During the meeting, it was told that the EU member states are importing 90% of the pharmaceutical products from India and on the recommendation of the committee; we have to diversify our suppliers. It would be a good opportunity for Pakistan's Pharmaceutical sector to explore the EU market. President FPCCI ensured the delegation that in this regard he will lead a business delegation of

Pharmaceutical companies to EU Countries very soon to tap this business opportunity. The meeting was also attended by President Rawalpindi Chamber Mr. Saqib Rafique, Sohail Altaf, former President RCCI and Mr. Hamza Sarosh, Senior Vice President at FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad.

The business leader of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and former Vice President of FPCCI Sohail Altaf said that Pakistan also has good human resources and there is 70% youth population with excellent English conversant. During the Covid pandemic, Pakistan adopted good governance, controlled, and managed it very well which was appreciated by the whole world. He further said that during this pandemic era, the government had given various concessions to the Construction sector that links almost 40 other sectors but now all such concessions have been withdrawn due to the IMF program.

# Chairman CDA holds meeting to improve roads' infrastructure

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis presided over a meeting at CDA headquarters regarding further improvement of road infrastructure in the city here on Monday. The meeting was attended by officers of the concerned formations. On this occasion, Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis directed the concerned formations that the footpaths which are dilapidated should be repaired as soon as possible and made functional for the public. Similarly, where there is a need to build new footpaths, these should also be constructed so that all possible facilities can be provided to the citizens. According to the details, the total length of the footpaths in the city of Is-

lamabad is 5630 km as planned, which are in different centers of Islamabad including marakiz, class-III shopping centers, along Seventh Avenue, Faisal Avenue, Ninth Avenue, constitution Avenue, Ataturk Avenue, Jinnah Avenue, Khayaban Iqbal, major roads, service roads and various streets. Out of which the total length of existing footpaths is 5247 km. In this connection 4400 km footpaths are in good condition while 847.13 km of footpaths are to be rehabilitated and repaired. Similarly, 383.10 km of new footpaths are to be constructed. The construction of these footpaths will not only promote the walking culture in the city but will also significantly reduce the carbon and footprints. Further, the Chairman Capital Development Authority issued instructions and asked the concerned departments to color-code speed and traffic signs on the curb stones of different highways of Islam-

abad. He further said that the existing two colors should be used for color coding of curb stones. Similarly, where the length of the road is longer, yellow and black colors should be used, and where the length of the road is less, only yellow color should be used. It is pertinent to mention here that the color coding of curb stones will help in determining the driving speed on every road of Islamabad city. In this regard, a comprehensive plan has also been submitted to Chairman CDA for approval by the concerned departments. On this occasion, Chairman CDA issued instructions and asked the Director Traffic Engineer to prepare the entire plan according to international standards and re-submit the plan for approval. Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis further said that these measures will not only save fuel and time of the citizens but also help control environmental pollution.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Capt Usman presiding over a high level meeting. – DNA

# AIOU to close admissions on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD :Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set November 8 as the last day of its 2nd Phase admissions for the semester Autumn, 2022. The programs offered in the second phase includes Associate Degree (BA, B.Com), ADE, B.Ed, BS (ODL), Post Graduate Diploma Programs and Certificate Courses.

According to the Director Admissions, Syed Zia Husnain Naqvi, last date for new admissions was November 8, whereas continue students could register themselves till November 15. It is pertinent to mention here that initially the last date of admissions was 6th October, which was extended to 18th October without late fee charges to facilitate the students who could not deposit the admission fee due to rains and floods in the country.

The date of admissions was once again extended till November 8 with late fee charges. Moreover, AIOU is commencing final examinations of different postgraduate programs including MA/M.Sc, M.Com, MBA/MPA (Commonwealth of Learning), MLIS and M.Ed from November 9. According to controller examinations, Mian Muhammad Riaz, roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS accounts and the date sheet is available on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk) for the programs. The university have set up examination centers across the country to facilitate students at the nearest places of their residence. – DNA

# Railways plan to restore closed sections in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is planning to restore all the closed sections in Balochistan province which could not only generate revenue for the department but also facilitate the masses. "The decision will facilitate the local people of the province and also boost the business activities for the small business owners," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique had also taken keen interest in this regard and asked the concerned official of the department to make a plan for restoration of different sections to generate income in the province. To a question, he said that Pakistan Railways had also planned to start rehabilitation work of 33-kilometer track through sleeper renewal between Quetta-Bostan and Quetta-Chaman section. "The track will not only facilitate the passengers, but also connect three major cities of the province," he said. He said railway network in Balochistan province mainly consisted of Quetta-Division having Dera Allah Yar-Sibi-Quetta, Quetta-Chaman, Sibi-Khost, Spenend-Dalbandin-Taftan, Bostan-Zhob which were closed for the last 15 years. – APP

# Police arrest five for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari conducted raids in different areas and netted five accused for possessing illegal weapons.

According to a police spokesman, Saddar Wah, Mandra, Saddar Baroni, Kalar Syedan and Patriata police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and rounded up Naseer, Nabeel, Yousaf, Shehroz, and Akhlaq on recovery of four 30 bore pistols, one 7mm rifle and ammunition. Separate cases have been arrested against all the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against lawbreakers and operations against aerial firing and illegal weapon holders would continue. – APP

# IRSA releases 101,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 101,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 57,900 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1524.24 feet and was 126.24 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 31,800 cusecs while the outflow was 50,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1153.15 feet, 103.15 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 63,900, 41,100, 32,100 and 9,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 2,600 cusecs was released from River Chenab at Marala. – APP

# Diabetes centre holds awareness session

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Centre Islamabad conducts a free awareness and medical camp at Headstart School, GulMohar Campus H/11 Islamabad here today. A large number of students and faculty members attended the session.

Mr Shahzad Lodhi, Head Marketing and Communications TDC, said that Hospital's Chair Dr Asjad Hameed, CEO Mr Tahir M Abbasi and BODs have a resolve to make Pakistan a diabetes free country. Ms Shafiq Bushra, Nutritionist TDC, explained the importance of healthy life style in her presentation. Principal, Headstart School, Ms Lubna Fareed appreciated TDC's efforts and distributed certificates of appreciation among students along with TDC officials. Faculty members actively participated in free Diabetes' screening camp. – APP

# President phones family of Moazzam

ISLAMABAD :President Dr Arif Alvi Monday telephoned the family members of Moazzam Shahzad Gondal who was killed during an attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan's container during the long march in Waziristan last week. The president conveyed condolences to the grieved family members and prayed for his high ranks in paradise. The president also telephonically interacted with Ibtisam Hassan, who saved the PTI chief by overpowering the armed assailant during an attack on the container. – APP



## Briefs

## SCBAP hails Justice Minallah's elevation to SC

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan on Monday welcomed the recommended elevation of Justice Athar Minallah to the Apex Court and the appointment of Justice Aamer Farooq as the new Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court as cleared by the Parliamentary Committee on the appointment of Judges. Whilst the SCBA maintained its stance that elevation to the Supreme Court must be made on the basis of seniority until an objective criteria for elevation on merits was formulated, read the press release issued by SCBAP. The SCBAP expressed its concern on the proceedings of the Parliamentary Committee whereby it had deferred the recommended elevation of Justice Shahid Waheed of the Honorable Lahore High Court and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi of the Honourable High Court of Sindh to the Apex Court for further consideration.—APP

## 'Khan's negative politics will be exposed'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Mashhood on Monday lashing out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan Niazi said that he (Imran) had been doing politics of agitation and leveling baseless accusations against his political opponents which was deplorable. "Khan had first deceived masses in the name of change and religion and was now misleading with his lie-based propaganda," he said while talking to a private news channel.

PTI leadership has promoted intolerance and violence in politics and society, he said, adding, Niazi has been caught spitting lies and his true face has been exposed before the nation. Replying to a question he said the coalition government could not be overthrown through such negative politics and Khan's nefarious agenda against the current government would be defeated soon.—APP

## 1-year old abducted child recovered

RAWALPINDI: The police arrested a man involved in abduction of 1-year-old child in the jurisdiction of Gujjar Khan police station here on Monday, informed police spokesman. Gujjar Khan Police held Kidnapper Aslam Masih and handed over the rescued child to his parents. The father of the child told police that Aslam Masih came to home and abducted the child in our absence.

When contacted, the accused continued to be evasive. SP Saddar Muhammad Nabil Khokhar appreciated the performance of police team and said the arrested accused would be challenged with solid evidence and would be punished. The accused is being further investigated. He made it clear that it was prime duty of police to protect the lives and properties of people.—APP

## CTP devise plan to maintain flow of traffic

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi has devised a special traffic plan to maintain flow of traffic during the protest on various highways by a political party. According to CTP spokesman, traffic is being diverted to alternative routes due to the protest. The additional personnel have also been deployed along with diversion arrangements to keep the traffic flow at the protest sites. Due to the Murree Road protest, traffic is being diverted from both sides to alternative routes. The traffic is also being diverted from Gulzar e Quaid and Old Airport Road to alternative routes. On the occasion, Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad had issued strict orders to all the officials, including the circle and sector in-charges, to maintain the flow of traffic during the protest.—APP

## Afghan, Pak pine nuts and dried apricot attract visitors

The most popular products are dried apricot and pine nut. I believe there will be more customers and orders in the next few days

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Afghan, Pakistan pine nuts and dried apricot got wholesale orders at the China International Import Expo (CIIE), it was reported by Gwadar Pro on Monday. On the 5th of November, CIIE kicked off in Shanghai. In the food and agricultural products, a special booth in the corner attracted a lot of visitors. "This is the first time that we've participated in the CIIE, and we have already got some wholesale orders on the first day," said Yousaf Sadat, an Afghan exhibitor on CIIE who can speak fluent Chinese. "This year, we brought dried apricot,

saffron crocus, pine nut, etc. The most popular products are dried apricot and pine nut. I believe there will be more customers and orders in the next few days."

"I think that Afghan products are still not well-known in China, while the CIIE provides us a platform to show our products. Chinese market is gradually knowing and recognizing us. At present, we still have three or four containerized products on the way here," he added. "China and Afghanistan have a very good partnership, we will do more business between the two countries." Nida Mohammad Popal, boss of Yousaf and the owner of the dry fruit business, also



expressed his appreciation to China's openness. "China is a very good market for

Afghan products and transportation takes no time. In addition, because our gov-

ernment changed, a lot of countries don't give visas to us. China is still open to

us. I also do a lot of import from China to Afghanistan, like fertilizer." In July, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting foreign minister of the Afghan interim government. Wang stressed that China is ready to push for dovetailing the Belt and Road Initiative with Afghanistan's national development strategies, support the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan and share China's development opportunities. Pakistan also has a large production of high-quality apricot and pine nut. It is potential that in the future, we will also see Pakistani dry fruit on CIIE.

## 2nd Pak property exhibition from December 23 : Barlas

A large number of prominent builders, developers, various business community associated with the allied construction industry from across the country will participate in the three-day exhibition

ISLAMABAD: The meeting organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was chaired by Khurshid Barlas, in which after mutual consultation with all stakeholders, taking into consideration the political situation of the country, the second Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention, which is from 18 to 20 November, was to



be held at the Pak-China Friendship Centre. After the unanimous decision, the new dates of the Second Pakistan International Property Exhibition have been announced, which will be held from December 23 to 25 at the Second Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention, Pakistan-China Friendship Center. A large number of various business commu-

nity associated with bank projects and tourism industry including prominent builders, developers, allied construction industry from across the country will participate in the three-day exhibition. It is one of the most important investment fairs that will boost Pakistan's economy, creating great opportunities to attract investment from national to international levels.—DNA

## Students likely to suffer amid discontinuation of ADP

ISLAMABAD: The discontinuation of the Associate Degree Programme (ADP) at Islamabad Model College for Boys, Sihala by the authorities is likely to deprive the students of the facility as well as spoil the untiring efforts and resources behind launching this programme. The programme, as per the official source, has been discontinued on the directives of the Federal Directorate of Education due to low number of inspiring candidates. The college received only 11 admission applications, the source added. Professor Farhan Azam, Senior Vice President of the Federal Government College Teachers Association (FGCTA), said: "Since ADP is a new

programme, it will take some time to increase the enrollment. Currently the number of applicants is low but this will increase in future." "Shutting down the programme is not a solution. Depriving the students of this facility who come from extremely poor families of villages nearby, whose meager incomes are not enough to allow them to send their sons to the colleges of the city downtown, is not fair. The residents (students) of the Sihala sector of Islamabad Capital Territory are not locally able to obtain associate degree, as this is the only boys' college in this area which is offering AD Programme", he said. He continued: "Currently the college is affiliated with

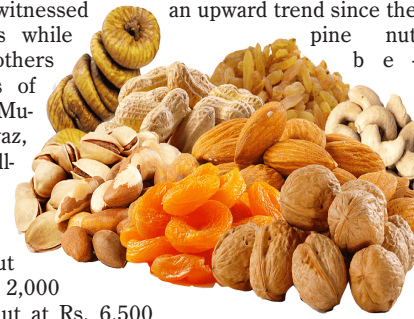
the University of Gujrat and students of ADP pay around Rs10,000 annually. The colleges situated in the urban areas of Islamabad are affiliated with Quaid-i-Azam University and charge Rs 28,000 per semester (six months) fee which is five times more than the fee of Sihala College." "Paying the higher fee of urban area colleges is beyond the economic reach of students of this poor locality. Local students, particularly from rural areas of Sihala, are incredibly poor and they cannot afford to study in the main colleges of Islamabad. Equal access to education is an important idea, but it is not in case of poorer living in rural area of Sihala," he said, adding, the students from a poor background had

a hard time now. President of FGCTA, Dr Rahima Rehman said, "Slogans regarding promotion of education are raised from every nook and corner but closure of the facility for students of Sihala is proof of the authority's indifference towards cause of education." This college was inaugurated in 2009 and started intermediate classes with the ambition to cater the educational need of rural population. Later on degree classes were started after getting affiliation with Gujrat University. By closing this program this degree college will be downgraded to intermediate colleges and poor students of the area will have to say good bye to higher education after getting intermediate certificate.—APP

## Dipping mercury increases demand of dry fruits

ISLAMABAD: As the cold winds of winter season have started blowing after the first rain spell of the season, the demand of popular winter delights has registered a significant increase with majority of citizens buying variety of dry fruits. It is the regular tradition for most of the people to consume different dry fruits during the winter season due to the much-needed nutritional value. Most of the families consider eating dry fruits during the family gatherings and interactions as an essential tradition while these are served with tea or 'qehwa' for the regular guests in some areas of the country as a gesture of hospitality and protocol. However the prevailing internationally induced inflation has increased the prices of different food items in Pakistan along with impacting the purchasing capacity of the people.

The prices of the dry fruits including peanuts, almonds, pine nut, walnuts, pistachio, apricot, cashew, dried figs, raisin have witnessed an upward trend since the last few years while pine nut has left the others behind in terms of rising prices. Muhammad Nawaz, a dry fruit seller at Karachi company said that he sells almonds (without shells) at Rs. 2,000 per kg, pine nut at Rs. 6,500 per kg, walnut at Rs. 600, pistachio (Irani) for Rs. 3,000, dry apricot for Rs. 1,000, dried figs for Rs. 1,400 and raisin for Rs. 900, dates for Rs.600 and cashews for Rs. 2,300. Talking to APP, Hajira Khatoun, a customer at a dry fruits shop at Aabpara Market said, "It has become our routine from the last many years to buy the whole stock of dry fruits especially peanuts, almonds and walnuts for the season as the family members especially children like to eat these with tea". Keeping in view the health benefits of dry fruits, I always buy dry fruits in bulk but the exorbitant rates of dry fruits have limited our purchasing capacity. Ahmed Ali, a government servant said, "Since the prices of dry fruits are surging every season, it seems that this will become a commodity of a certain segment of society that would be able to afford buying these." He said that earlier they were habitual of eating dry fruits with green tea daily but now they cannot afford to buy these due to high rates. He said every kind of dry fruit has its own nutritional value like almonds are good for eyes and walnuts for the brain. It is surprising that many of the dry fruits in spite of local production are costly and out of reach of a common man.—APP



## IPC delegation set to visit Zimbabwe

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A two-Member delegation of the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) is set to travel to Victoria Falls-Zimbabwe to attend the 44th Conference and 78th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) 07th November 2022. In October 2021, International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) received "Observer Status" in the 76th Session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) by

the Chairperson of APU in Djibouti. IPC and APU are continuously working towards the development and strengthening of bilateral and multilateral relations among the various countries and to spread harmony and security in the African region through the platform of APU and IPC together. In the same context, IPC is invited to the 44th Conference of Speakers of National/Parliamentary Assemblies and the 78th Session of Executive meeting of APU, which is taking place in Victoria Falls - Zimbabwe on 9th -10th November 2022.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM, Romina Khurshid Alam meets with acting High Commissioner of Canada, Paul Godbout to discuss key initiatives taken by the SDGs Secretariat.—DNA

## New energy vehicles can be new directions

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is tackling challenges brought by climate change, and its automobile industry is also facing supply chain problems. New energy vehicles and smart vehicles can be the new directions that Pakistani companies can look to, this was noted at the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Smart Mobility Forum held within the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai by UNIDO ITP NETWORK and



CIIE bureau, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday. The forum was under the theme of "Smart mobility: reshape the future."

"The automotive sector is one of the world's most interconnected markets, whose supply chains involve many companies spread across the globe. The pandemic hit the automotive supply chain disruptions especially hard. But the industry survives and is changing for the better," addressed Gerd Muller, director general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, on the forum. He believes that the disruption of the supply chain might give the best timing for the revolution of auto manufacturing, which involves digital transformation and green transition. On the forum, representatives from auto manufacturing companies including BMW Brilliance, Ford Motor China and Beijing Benz shared their experience of carbon reduction. In this year's CIIE, they all brought their latest version of electric cars. Electrification is the most significant step on auto manufacturer's green transformation journey. Moreover, Beijing Benz has established 220 000 square meters of solar panels, which can produce 38 million-kilowatts electricity per year. 30% of the material used in the manufacturing section of BMW Brilliance is recycled material. Ford has exchange meetings with their suppliers regularly to improve their environmental protection ability. The experience is

worth learning for all auto manufacturing companies around the world. In addition to low carbon emissions, the experts also discussed the digitalization of automobiles. Rick Mo, head of the Green and Smart Mobility Unit in Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), believes that the development of the EV industry is the base of smart mobility. "Intelligence is based on training, and training is based on data. Compared with traditional gasoline cars, electric cars can provide more data, such as data of motor, battery, and control systems in the cockpit. By putting the collected data into AI models for simulation training, smart cars can be more intelligent."

"5G provides advanced, high-speed connectivity that enables new user experiences including cloud-based video streaming and online gaming. CV2X brings more advanced, safe and efficient road infrastructure, based on which brand-new transportation networks, vehicles, and services can be created. These new technologies also pave the way for autonomous driving to make cars safer, more productive and more convenient," said Jim Cathey, chief commercial officer of Qualcomm incorporated. Smart mobility involves the development of smart manufacturing and the iteration of new energy, and it is also an important part of the smart city. The forum gave us an insight into the fast-developing auto industry. What will cars be like in the next decade? Let's wait and see.

## 20 more diagnosed with dengue virus in RWP

RAWALPINDI, Nov 07 (APP): As many as 20 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 4,504. District Coordinator Epidemiology Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood on Monday said that 96 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 43 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 28 to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and 25 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH).

He informed that out of the total admitted patients, 81 tested positive, with 56 belonging to Rawalpindi. The health official said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 3,011 FIRs, sealed 676 premises, issued Challans to 7,850, notices to 13,754, and imposed a fine of Rs 10,435,628 on violations of anti-dengue SOPs from January 1 to date in various areas of the district.

Dr Sajjad added dengue cases were decreasing with changing weather conditions and hoped that in the coming days, the dengue cases would end as the weather turns cooler, which was not suitable for the survival of the dengue parasite.—APP

## Commuters face hurdles due to vans shortage

ISLAMABAD: The intercity Hiace stop of G-9 Markaz faces a shortage of vans, which compels women, students and other commuters to wait in long queues on weekends. Talking to APP, a passenger Muhammad Faisal said that the Hiace stop faces a "shortage of vans from Thursday to Saturday", adding it was the responsibility of the management to arrange an alternative when vans are in short supply. He said this Hiace stop was important as it "provides transportation services" from Islamabad to Abbottabad, Mansehra, Haripur and Peshawar.

He bemoaned that the shortage of vans on weekends had "become a routine matter" and during rush hours, "ticketing staff leaves the desk" rather than managing the situation. Saba Abbasi, another commuter said that "females have to wait for a long time" citing the lack of a proper queue system. She said it was an ethical responsibility of the transporters to facilitate the passengers with proper seating arrangement and manage a queue system on a first-come, first-served basis. A driver Imran told APP that the drivers from other routes were reluctant in offering their services in times of rush hour due to high charges. When contacted by the management of the Hiace stop, a staffer Samar Khan told APP that there were 26 vans for Haripur, while 35 to 40 vans provide services on daily basis on the routes of Abbottabad, Peshawar and Mansehra. He said on weekends hostel students, employees and people who reside in Islamabad, travel to their hometowns which creates "a load that is difficult to manage". He said the management was aware of the issue and in time of rush hours try to resolve the issue by arranging and requesting vans from other routes.—APP

## ANF seizes over 126 kg narcotics; arrests two

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Monday seized over 126 kg of narcotics in three operations conducted in different areas and arrested two accused. According to ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF in an operation at Islamabad International Airport recovered 69 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a passenger, a resident of Waziristan, going to Dubai via flight PK-181. In another operation at Islamabad International Mail Office, ANF recovered 2,720 grams of heroin and 780 grams of Ice drug from a parcel being sent to Bahrain. In the third operation, ANF seized over 123 kg of charras from the secret cavities of a double cabin vehicle near Patoki Toll Plaza.—APP



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## What's at stake in US elections

Midterm elections in the United States are often presented as a referendum on the party in power, and that message appears to be resonating this fall. But voters need to consider the intentions of the party that hopes to regain power, too, and what each vote they cast will mean for the future of this country. Eight Republican senators and 139 Republican representatives sought to overturn the results of the 2020 election on the basis of spurious allegations of voter fraud and other irregularities. Many of them are likely to win re-election, and they may be joined by new members who also have expressed baseless doubts about the integrity of the 2020 election. It will also be the first time that the U.S. electoral machinery will be tested in a national election after two years of lawsuits, conspiracy theories, election "audits" and all manner of interference by believers in Donald Trump's lies about the 2020 election. That test comes alongside the embrace of violent extremism by a small but growing faction of the Republican Party.

The greatest danger to election integrity may, in fact, come from the results of state and local races that will determine who actually conducts the election and counts the votes in 2024. In the weeks that followed the 2020 election, Mr. Trump and his supporters saw their efforts to deny the election results and prove rampant voter fraud thwarted by two things: first, their inability to produce credible evidence that such fraud had occurred and, second, an election infrastructure that was defended by honorable public servants who refused to accept specious claims of wrongdoing. A Republican-controlled Senate would, however, be able to block President Biden from filling vacancies on the federal bench and on the Supreme Court. It would become more difficult to obtain confirmations for executive branch officials, as well. At some point in the next year, the government is expected to hit the limit of its authorized borrowing capacity, or debt ceiling. To meet the commitments Congress already has authorized, it will need to raise that limit.

Some senior Republicans have called for repealing another key piece of the August legislation, known as the Inflation Reduction Act: a measure that limits drug costs for seniors on Medicare, including a \$35 monthly cap on payments for insulin. Democrats could make it more difficult for Republicans to pursue these goals by raising the debt limit or changing the rules in the weeks between the election and the end of the year. Undoubtedly, there is more work to be done on these and other issues, including the health of the economy and the broken state of immigration policy. Voters need to decide which party they trust to do that work. But the 2022 elections are also an opportunity for every American to do their part in defending the integrity of American elections. The task of safeguarding our democracy does not end with one election, and it requires all of us to play a role. Our nation's governance depends on it.



## Heated debates not enough

The United Nations' COP 27 climate change conference, which started in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh on Sunday, provides perhaps the last chance for leaders from around the world to get their act together and find ways to curb global warming. Yet there have been worries about whether they will actually be able to turn the pledges they made at COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland, last year into actions, given the differences that still exist among them on some key points as well as the multiple challenges the world faces today — ranging from high inflation, food shortages to the energy crisis.

A United Nations report at the end of October said government pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions put the planet on track for a 2.8 C temperature rise this century — after the "woefully inadequate" progress to curb warming. This falls far short of the pledge countries have made to limit global temperatures to 2 C above pre-industrial levels. Also, despite the wide-ranging climate pact reached in Glasgow last year, additional government commitments since COP 26 will remove only less than 1 percent of estimated global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, according to the UN Environment Programme, making it almost impossible to avert the looming climate cataclysm. "As COP 27 gets underway, our planet is sending a distress signal," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Sunday when commenting on the latest UN report suggesting that the past eight years were the warmest on record, with an acceleration in sea level rise, glacier melt and heat waves.

All this requires all countries to shoulder their due responsibilities and summon their collective will to deliver on promises because we could well be drinking in the last chance saloon. Yet so far the developed countries have failed to provide the \$100 billion each year to help developing countries address climate change — as they promised in 2009. This has damaged the mutual trust between the global North and South and made the reaching of any new agreements in this regard even more difficult. The United States, as the world's largest carbon emitter in history, has dragged its feet on fulfilling its climate obligations. Although the US administration has made tackling the climate crisis a top priority after President Joe Biden reversed the course of his predecessor Donald Trump by rejoining the Paris Agreement, the US Congress has approved a mere \$1 billion in international climate finance for 2022 — falling far short of the pledge the US made to provide \$11.4 billion by 2024. This failure by Washington to scale up financing for the world's poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries has been viewed as a "betrayal". The actions needed to curb the global rise in temperature call for a fundamental change in perspective and some tough decisions being made. But the past eight years have run down the clock, and there can be no more delay in biting the bullet.

# The new Jewish state in the Levant: A fanatics-led nuclear power

Marwan Bishara

Perhaps the answer lies in his recently published autobiography, written with re-election in mind. In this 733-page monstrosity, Bibi: My Story, Netanyahu repeatedly underlines the Iranian nuclear threat to Israel's security and the need to take it out once and for all, and insists on the marginality of Palestine for normalising relations with the Arab world. Like a broken record, he repetitively dismisses the "centrality of Palestine" to resolving the Arab-Israel conflict, and condemns all forms of nuclear diplomacy.

Israel's colonial democracy has given birth to a potentially more extreme type of 'Jewish state' akin to a more sophisticated and modern version of the 'Islamic state'. But unlike ISIL which was conceived in and defeated by war, Israel is the only nuclear power in the Middle East today.

The fanatics, fascists, and far-right fantasists, who won this week's elections in Israel, are about to form the most openly extreme government in the country's history. It is sure to include the Jewish state's new rising star Itamar Ben-Gvir — a violence-spewing, Palestinian-hating radical on whose support the government will stand.

A majority of religious nationalists and ultraortho-

dox parties in government, the first in Israel's history, would want to transform the Jewish state towards a theocracy that lives by the Halacha (Jewish law) and finish colonising the entirety of Palestine, come what may.

But could they? What can they do in reality that their predecessors have not done already, in terms of exacting death and destruction, and further expanding the illegal Jewish settlement in Palestine? Benjamin Netanyahu, who will likely form and lead the new coalition government, knows from his experience as Israel's longest-serving prime minister that there is a limit on how far Israel can go before it starts to meet fierce Palestinian and Arab resistance. Any further, and Israel could also lose support in Europe and the United States; support that is indispensable to its security and regional standing.

He has previously preferred incremental steps to radical measures that could alienate Israel's main backers and its new regional partners. Netanyahu may therefore try to curb his partners' eagerness to annex the occupied West Bank and ethnically cleanse it of its Palestinian inhabitants.

But then again, it is doubtful whether he will be able to tame these religious fanatics, knowing all too well they have a hold over the survival of his premiership; his only guarantee to stay out of prison, after having been indicted for serious corruption charges.

I think the genie is finally out of the bottle. The elections have opened a Pandora's box that may well take Israelis to the dark side. They have exposed the fragility of Israel's peculiar liberality as a colonial state, and unmasked the pervasive fanaticism among the majority of the electorate after decades of unfettered military occupation.

The unruly pronouncements of Netanyahu's scandalous new partners reflect the prevailing beliefs among the majority of Israel's right-wing parties, including his own Likud, that have ruled the country for the past few decades. But now that they are boasting of Jewish supremacy out in the open, it is harder for Netanyahu's hasbara to conceal their — or his — racism from the rest of the world.

After all, it was Bibi, as Netanyahu is known, who back in August midwived the union of two or three

small fanatic parties, to ensure they maximise the number of their seats and join his future coalition government. They did exceedingly well: The Religious Zionist Party won 14 seats. Its legislators include Ben-Gvir.

Netanyahu's two other coalition partners, the ultra-orthodox Jewish parties, Shas and UJT, which are as socially regressive and politically fanatic, won 18 seats. Together with the 32 far-right Likud members, they command a comfortable like-minded majority of 64 seats in the 120-member Knesset. Emboldened by the new mandate, the ever-smug Netanyahu could skip the incremental strategy that he embraced thus far, in favour of a maximalist agenda. Domestically, that could include him trying to control the judiciary and other levers of the state, and further marginalising Israel's Palestinian minority. Regionally, it could involve annexing occupied territories and bombing Iran's nuclear facilities, at the risk of facing international backlash and a war. But will he?

Perhaps the answer lies in his recently published autobiography, written with re-election in mind. In this 733-page monstrosity, Bibi: My Story, Netanyahu repeatedly underlines the Iranian nuclear threat to Israel's security and the need to take it out once and for all, and insists on the marginality of Palestine for normalising relations with the Arab world. Like a broken record, he repetitively dismisses the "centrality of Palestine" to resolving the Arab-Israel conflict, and condemns all forms of nuclear diplomacy and any type of normalisation of relations with Iran as naive and reckless.

He makes it clear that he is unabashed Machiavellian; that he worships power — hard power — and believes superior military power is the only way to achieve peace or security. A cruel narcissist, he is ready to do anything and everything to stay in office, including betraying his closest allies and partners. Like all populists, he is rather delusional and conspiratorial. Although he is the longest-serving prime minister in the history of the state, Netanyahu claims in the book that throughout his career, the elites, the press, the judiciary, and the deep state — even American presidents — have been out to get him. Bibi, the book, is all aboutchutzpah: Where Netanyahu — the victim of countless

conspiracies — tells tantalising tales about Bibi the victor and vanquisher of all living enemies, real and imagined. But since the book is rife with lies, exaggerations and other mischaracterisations, it is a sure bet he is lying about himself and his family too, leaving the reader to read between and beyond the lines.

In that way, one may deduce what this tenaciously ambitious political animal stands for, but it is difficult to discern who he is; the real from the fictitious, the hollow from the hollow. It is as if there is nothing really there; nothing beyond the carefully packaged character and clichés.

Lacking all empathy, he will not let anyone or anything get in his way. Experience does not humble Netanyahu. On the contrary: With each chapter, he becomes cockier and more confident, talking about himself walking among the greats, shuttling between Washington and Moscow, as if he is the prophet of Israel, leader of a superpower — as if he is invincible.

That state of mind, coupled with his new victory, may well entice Netanyahu to act ever more aggressively in Palestine, and towards Iran and the region, in order to get Israel to reign supreme in the Middle East. As he sees it, the United States is stupid and President Joe Biden is amenable and weak; the Arabs are divided and their leaders are cynical; the European Union is preoccupied with Ukraine and Russia at war; and China is busy with, well, China. But I have got news for Bibi and his "baboons" — as the opposition referred to his supporters. Any such overreach is an assured blunder that risks a major blowback militarily, politically and on other fronts. Palestine will always remain a sacred symbol of injustice to the Arabs and central to resolving their conflict with Israel, despite the fact that a few leaders have turned their back on Palestinians to appease Washington. And last but not least, hubris invites disaster; any bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities will only strengthen its regime and lead to a regional war with incalculable repercussions for Israel, the US and the Middle East. Always remember: The higher the rise the harder the fall.

—*Courtesy: Al Jazeera*

## The spirit of teamwork

of ants, "Then, when they reached the Valley of the Ants, an ant said, 'Ants! enter your dwellings so that Sulayman and his troops do not crush you unwittingly.'" It means their self-control is based on certain awareness which we still need to explore. Anyhow, according to the Stockholm University, "Humans possess many cognitive abilities not seen in other animals, such as a full-blown language capacity as well as reasoning and planning abilities. Despite these differences, however, it has been difficult to identify specific mental capacities that distinguish humans from other animals. Researchers have now discovered that humans have a much better memory to recognize and remember sequential information." The iconic V-formation flying of geese presents interesting behaviors that help geese to be more effective and efficient team members. While flying together when each bird flaps its wings is actually creating lift for their fellow birds allowing them to fly with fewer efforts. Geese take turns leading, according to Chris Spencer, "Doing this ensures everyone's skills, talents, knowledge or experience are used and no single person fields all the hard work. In an effective team, it is everyone's responsibility to function as both leader and supporter." He further argues, "Geese can be heard honking loudly while they fly. Scientists speculate that this honking is a way to communicate with and encourage the flock on their long flights. The geese in behind honk at the ones in the front, to encourage them to maintain their speed and keep flying towards their goal. Encouragement helps your team to be engaged, supportive and constantly moving towards success.

The purpose for your team is more than just what your goal is; it includes the culture of the group. Let your team members be a guide to new members in learning the mission, culture and goal of the group. Encourage your team members to share experiences and learning that they have come across in their work and encourage new members to learn from their comrades." But human teams have always been under scrutiny due to several challenges. Human beings have different perspectives, varied interest, variety of per-

sonality characteristics, array of ambitions and innumerable suspicions. It is probably the outcome of human ability to remember life events and recognize consequences that surround human personality with different fears ceasing him extend heart and soul to collectiveness.

The good thing is that experience, reflection and analysis enabled human being to determine key factors for the success of teams in our organizational lives. Despite the fact that when we think about teamwork there is an assortment of thoughts which floods our minds both positive such as working together, achieving common goals, and having fun; and negative including personality conflicts, difficult communication, and time-consuming meetings. We need to understand that a team is a group of people who are mutually dependent on one another to achieve a common goal entailing both certain advantages and a few disadvantages. Advantages include: better ideas and decisions, high quality outputs, everyone's involvement in the process, increased ownership by team members, understanding other's perspectives, better implementation and more information. There may be some disadvantages such as devoting more time, frequent meetings, little longer to take decisions due to varying team dynamics, lack of individual recognition, stress due to conflicts and disagreements among team members, role ambiguity and group think etc. Where all aspects need special attention generally by all team member and particularly by the team leader, however, conflicts and group think are probably significant difficulties which teams encounter. If managed appropriately, conflicts are in fact essential to a team's creativity and productivity. Both effective and ineffective teams experience conflict, the difference is that effective teams look at conflicts positively and manage constructively. Healthy conflicts force a team to find productive ways to communicate differences, seek common goals, gain consensus and encourages a team to look at all points of view, then adopt the best ideas from each. In this manner conflicts increase creativity by forcing the team to look beyond cur-

rent assumptions and parameters. A phenomenon called 'group think' can limit innovation. Group think generally occurs when a team has been very successful and begins to believe that it will never fail. The team begins to do things on the suggestion of a single member, without question. Unfortunately, you won't know that group think is occurring until a disaster occurs e.g., Space Shuttle Challenger's tragedy on January 28, 1986 which was the consequence of the 'group think'. Open and clear communication is probably the most important element to uphold the spirit of teamwork; probably every problem faced by a team can be traced back to poor communication. Good communication is the key to keeping a team informed, focused, and moving forward; while listening is the key to maintain decent communication among team members. Effective decisionmaking, utilizing methods such as consensus, majority rule, expert decision, authority rule with or without discussion and minority rule etc., facilitates teams to perform better. A bit of expertise in using tools for effective decision making like force-field analysis, pair-wise ranking matrices and multi-voting techniques can provide sound basis for quality decisions in a team. Valuing diversity, ensuring participation and building trust can be considered cornerstones to sustain and endorse the spirit of teamwork in any setting. But trust is not built overnight, it demands honesty & candor, accessibility & openness, positivity & tolerance, and reliability & uprightness among all members of team particularly in dyadic relationships of team leaders. Sometimes people instantly develop trust but some other times people wait for their evaluations, look at the histories of individuals, put people into tests and then accord their trusts. Therefore, the spirit of team demands from all team members including the leader to build all their procedures, expectations and interpersonal relationships on trust to develop thriving teams.

— *The writers is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus.*

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

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Building effective and efficient teams has always been the dream of every organization because it is generally believed that teams can achieve more than individual contributions utilizing same facilities and technological interventions. We usually observe proverbial examples of creatures other than the human beings exhibiting spirit of the teamwork, one of those we will discuss little later in this article. But here is an interesting example of ants which exhibit iconic self-discipline, we can certainly learn from them to carry out our work devotedly without anyone watching over us. With this ability, the ant is able to do its work dutifully irrespective of any prevailing circumstance and don't run away from difficult or unpleasant tasks. The story of ant in the Qur'an tells us interesting aspect of comprehension and understanding



## Briefs

## SC intervenes for the FIR registration

FROM PAGE 01

The delay in the registration of the FIR means that the police investigation has not begun as of yet. "If the police did not investigate, the evidence may have been destroyed at the crime scene. This way the evidence of the case will be controversial and will be unacceptable in court," said the CJP.

At this point, IG Shahkar appeared before the bench. "I have heard about your achievements at the international level, register the FIR and inform us about it," the CJP told the cop. He also directed the province's top cop to keep on working, assuring that if someone would intervene the court would look into it. The top judge of the country also directed the Punjab Police chief to assign an honest officer to investigate the attack on Imran Khan.

"We have seen your resignation. The court assures you that no one will intervene in actions taken by you as per the law," said the CJP.

At this, the IG informed the court that Punjab Chief Minister Pervez Elahi had some objections to the registration of the case.

## Investigators in Kenya

The chief justice also spoke about the letter written by slain journalist Arshad Sharif's mother to the chief justice. "HRC is investigating Arshad Sharif's mother's letter," said the CJP. He added that the court will see the fact-finding commission's report on Arshad Sharif's murder.

**The contempt case**

The delay in the registration of the FIR on Imran Khan's attack, Azam Swati's alleged video and Arshad Sharif were taken up by the CJP during the hearing of the contempt plea filed against the PTI chief. On October 13, the federal government filed a contempt of court plea against PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the Supreme Court over his long march call to Islamabad.

## SC takes notice of Swati's...

FROM PAGE 01

"You didn't stay at the SC guest house?" The PTI senator replied that the CJP was right as he stayed at the Quetta Federal Lodge. The CJP assured Swati that the court was looking into his case and the matter would be investigated as per the law. CJP Bandial further remarked that the court started proceedings on the petition filed by slain journalist Arshad Sharif's mother.

"We have sought report from the committee which went to Kenya to investigate the murder," the judge remarked adding that the court could not start investigations on its own. May Allah grant you patience, the CJP said to Swati. Hearing this, the senator broke down and told the CJP that he could not show the leaked video sent to his family to anyone except the judges. On this, CJP Bandial told Swati that he need not to show this video to anyone. He said he would direct the concerned institutions to remove this video from the internet. He remarked that his case was investigated by his human rights cell. He said he felt sorry for what happened to him.

"You don't know who your enemies are. We don't know who did this to you. It's very difficult to find truth nowadays. Truth hides beneath several layers of lies," the CJP remarked adding that though his (Swati) case was being investigated by the human rights cell but 'if you say we will call you again later today'.

## Pakistan welcomes...

FROM PAGE 01

during inter-session work at Bonn, Germany, in June this year. It envisages compensating developing nations for mounting damage linked to climate change. The agenda item on 'loss and damage' was the only one out of eight additional items proposed by various groups, which was adopted by consensus. All the rest were dropped due to lack of consensus. The adoption of agenda is recognition of the fact that countries, like Pakistan, which confront climate-induced disasters, should not be left to fend for themselves.

## Biden aide, Russian officials held de-escalation talks: Report

Russia's President Vladimir Putin reiterated earlier statements by Moscow officials last month that Ukraine intends to deploy a "dirty bomb" during Moscow's ongoing military operation in the ex-Soviet republic

## NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has reportedly held secret talks with top Russian officials in a bid to reduce the risk of escalating the Ukraine war into a nuclear conflict. Citing unnamed US and allied officials, The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday that the top aide to US President Joe Biden on national security affairs held confidential discussions in recent months with Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov and Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev that were not publicly disclosed.

The conservative newspaper, however, added that its sources did not disclose information about the dates of the talks or the number of calls. The White House refused to comment on the report, reacting to inquiries about the talks only with a statement - attributed to National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson - that

"people claim a lot of things."

The development comes days after Sullivan visited the Ukrainian capital Kiev and pledged Washington's "unwavering and unflinching" support for the embattled Ukrainian government.

The US has so far committed nearly \$20 billion in military assistance to Kiev since January 2021, including rocket and air defense systems intended to help counter Russia's superior military might. This is while the sales of US weaponry and other military hardware to Europe are skyrocketing as a result of the Ukraine conflict, with European countries vowing to expand their supplies by \$230 billion, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said last week. Since the Ukraine war began in late February, countries in the European Union have pledged to ramp up their arsenals by some \$230 billion, with Germany alone planning to modernize its military to the tune of \$100 billion this year, media reports said Sat-



urday citing SIPRI.

The US arms industry, which produces and exports more weapons than any other country - selling over 39 percent of the estimated \$210 billion annual global arms sales from 2017 to 2021 - has been the biggest beneficiary, the report noted. Few high-level contacts between American and Russian authorities have been disclosed in recent months, with Washington - which has served as the top supplier of weapons to Kiev and has openly campaigned for escalating

the war effort against Moscow - insisting that any talks on ending the Ukraine conflict must be held between the two warring sides.

The reported secret contacts also come amid reports hinting at plans by the two warring sides to use nuclear weapons.

While the Ukrainian president urged his Western backers to initiate a "preventive" nuclear attack against Russia, Moscow has accused Kiev of planning to use a radioactive "dirty bomb" against territories held by Russia.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin reiterated earlier statements by Moscow officials last month that Ukraine intends to deploy a "dirty bomb" during Moscow's ongoing military operation in the ex-Soviet republic. "We are aware of Ukraine's plans to use a dirty bomb," Russia's Interfax news agency cited the head of state as telling a meeting of the intelligence chiefs of several former Soviet countries in Moscow. Putin added that the risk of con-

flict in the world and the region was high and that security had to be heightened around key infrastructural sites.

Russian defense minister Sergei Shoigu told the Russian president that the exercises were practicing "delivering a massive nuclear strike by strategic offensive forces in response to an enemy nuclear strike." Throughout recent weeks, Russian officials have repeatedly accused Ukraine of planning to use the bomb.

Dirty bombs, which are also known as Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDD), are not as potent as nuclear weapons, but can disperse radioactive materials across the targeted areas upon explosion. Kiev, however, has denied having such a plan while the US and other Western nations have claimed that Moscow could be planning to launch such an attack itself as a pretext to escalate the conflict. Russia in turn has accused the West of "encouraging provocations."

## PTI revises long march schedule

FROM PAGE 01

planned the bigwigs of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP), saying that it is not possible to go for the compromise with Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari. Talking about his long march, Imran said that the march would only be ended, after 'achieving its destination' and by getting the date of the elections as the entire nation is geared up. The former premier further stated the soldiers, who are performing their national duties at the borders are like his sons. Giving his take over the appointment of the Army Chief, Imran said, "I have no issue with the appointment of the COAS as the Pak Army belongs to us and it is not possible to go against the army." Earlier, the PTI chief had written a letter President Arif Alvi and asked him to stop the abuse of power as well as the violation of laws and the Constitution. "I have no concerns over the army chief's appointment", Imran Khan told journalists.

## Protestors block Islamabad's entry-exit...

FROM PAGE 01

also been blocked. The closed roads by PTI workers at various places in Rawalpindi have caused problems for the citizens. The movement of traffic has been disturbed in the federal capital due to closures at various points. On the other hand, the Islamabad police, in a tweet, has said that troops of the capital police and the Rangers have been sent to Lahore and Peshawar after protesters blocked the Islamabad motorway. In another tweet, the capital police said that it would take action against those who would be involved in staging protests without permission in the federal capital.

A statement from the capital police has alerted the citizens including students and patients that they may face inconvenience in transit as the leaders of a political party have announced to block roads. The police have also appealed to contact '15' before starting travel and get updates about the situation on the roads. Earlier, it has been decided to arrest the main leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prior to PTI resuming long march to the capital, which the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) believe will cause the closure of internal and external routes of Islamabad.

## COP27: PM highlights Pakistan's...

FROM PAGE 01

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan and the European Union were important partners in achieving common goals. He met with European Union Commissioner Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of COP 27. The prime minister appreciated the spirit of the European Union countries to help the flood victims in Pakistan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister further said that effects of climate change that developing countries were facing today, the whole world would have to suffer tomorrow. Unity was essential to combat the effects of climate change, he stressed. The prime minister also appreciated the cooperation of the European countries in removing the name of Pakistan from FATF's grey list. He said that there was a lot of scope for increasing bilateral trade between the EU and Pakistan. Later, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with the UN Secretary-General on the sidelines of the COP-27 Summit. - APP

## 'Will quit politics, if IK proves...

FROM PAGE 01

the help of workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and the real accused of an attack on him is Naveed. He PTI wasted enough time and it's too late for long march however the government is ready to receive them and had completed all arrangements by November 4th. - APP

## WTA Finals: Sabalenka stuns world No.1 Swiatek

## SPORTS DESK

FORT WORTH: Aryna Sabalenka toppled world number one Iga Swiatek 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 on Sunday to set up a title clash with Caroline Garcia at the season-ending WTA Finals. Seventh-ranked Sabalenka avenged a three-set defeat to Poland's Swiatek in the semi-finals at the US Open, where Swiatek went on to capture her second Grand Slam title of the year after her victory at Roland Garros. Sixth-ranked Garcia of France had powered past Greece's Maria Sakkari 6-3, 6-2 in the other semi-final. Sabalenka, who called it a "miracle" that she qualified for the event after her mid-season struggles, 23 winners, including aces, with just 19 unforced errors. Swiatek, whose season included eight top 10 play-winners and her usually characteristically unreliable. Swiatek broken just once as she won all her round-robin matches, but was broken three times in the opening set Sunday as Sabalenka took charge. Swiatek seemed to have re-set, however, racing to a 4-0 lead in the second

before Sabalenka managed to fend off a break point to hold for 4-1. Although Sabalenka broke to cut the deficit to 4-2, Swiatek regained the break and swiftly served it out to knot the match at one set apiece. As in their US Open clash, Sabalenka went up an early break in the third. This time, however, she was able to make the advantage stand up, breaking again for a 5-1 lead and closing it out in impressive style with an ace and a service winner. On Monday, Sabalenka and Garcia will renew a rivalry that has seen them split their four encounters 2-2. Garcia, who has powered up the rankings with three titles this season, put on a clinic against Sakkari, wrapping up the win in 75 minutes. She gained the decisive break in the first for a 4-2 lead and closed out the set with a love game, then powered to a 4-0 lead in the second. Garcia's first double fault of the match gave Sakkari a break point in the sixth game, but Garcia responded with an ace and grabbed a 5-1 lead with a stinging backhand that kissed the side-line. Sakkari held to force Garcia to serve it out, and she polished it off on her second match point when Sakkari sent a service return into the net. Garcia, who could only kneel to catch her breath after a thrilling three-set win over Daria Kasatkina on Saturday to capture the last semi-final of energy for a skipping, leaping celebration on the court at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth. The event was moved to Texas due to continuing issues with the Chinese, which was initially well as the WTA's dispute over the status of player Peng Shuai.

## Juve see signs of rebirth in Inter win

MILAN: Juventus' long crisis showed signs of being over on Sunday after their 2-0 win over fierce rivals Inter Milan put them in sight of Serie A's top four, while Felipe Anderson fired Lazio to a 1-0 Rome derby triumph. Juve have spent almost the entire season lurching from one disaster to another but Adrien Rabiot's brilliant first-time finish five minutes after the break and a late deflected shot from youngster Nicolò Fagioli earned them a fourth straight league win. Massimiliano Allegri's side, who were without Serbia striker Dusan Vlahovic and a raft of other players, are fifth in Italy's top flight and two points off Lazio - who they face next weekend - and Atalanta in the final two Champions League places. "We've had some difficulties... there's desire and determination to do everything for your teammate and never give up," Rabiot told DAZN after netting his fifth goal of the season. Inter are a point behind Juve in seventh after their fifth defeat of the season, which came after they wasted a clutch of opportunities. Rabiot's opener came following superb play from the impressive Filip Kostic and five minutes after Hakan Calhanoglu had a piledriver tipped onto the bar by Wojciech Szczesny, one of a series of chances Inter had to take the lead before going behind. - APP

## DNA

TEHRAN: Iran and Afghanistan will conclude a deal "soon" under which the Islamic Republic will import Afghan coal, minister of commerce and industries in the transitional Taliban government Nuruddin Azizi has said. "Talks with the Iranian side for the export of coal have progressed and a contract will be signed in this regard soon," Fars news agency quoted him as saying. Azizi said the exports will help improve trade balance between the two countries which is in Iran's favor. Iran is Afghanistan's largest trading partner, with around \$2 billion in bilateral trade each year, nearly a third of Afghanistan's total trade

## Taliban minister sees coal deal with Iran 'soon'

volume. Afghanistan has an estimated 73 million tonnes of proven coal reserves with a capacity to produce 1.8 million tonnes a year. The country hopes that untapped mineral deposits valued at \$3 trillion could help bankroll its impoverished economy after years of US-led occupation. Those resources include iron ore, copper, lithium, oil gas and gems, but the challenge of exploiting them in a country at war and with little mining infrastructure is daunting for most investors. China acquired a 30-year lease

on the Mes Aynak copper mine for around \$3 billion in 2008 but the project has been plagued by delays due to contractual wrangling. Back in March, Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Reza Fatemi-Amin said he had held talks with the Taliban government to help exploit iron ore mines in Afghanistan. "Afghanistan is rich in mineral reserves. A huge deposit of an Iranian iron ore mine named Sang, which is situated in Khaf lies in Afghanistan. Thanks to its facilities and high-tech know-

how, Iran can help exploit the iron ore in Afghanistan. This will be mutually beneficial. We are following up the negotiations with the Afghan party to gradually build processing capacities in Afghanistan. We can swap Iranian goods for the ore we exploit in Afghanistan," Reza Fatemi-Amin noted. A contract was signed with an Iranian company for the extraction of lead and zinc in Afghanistan's Ghor province, the press office of the provincial governor said in September. Iran sees Afghanistan's development as a boon to its own. The constant principle for Iran has been development of its neighbor irrespective of who rules the country, because underdevelopment and insecurity in Afghanistan also affect Iran.

## Rune upsets Djokovic to win Paris Masters

Rune snapped Felix Auger-Aliassime's 16-match winning streak to set up the clash with Djokovic, who had not lost at Bercy since his defeat to Karen Khachanov in 2018 final

## DNA

PARIS: Danish teenager Holger Rune shocked six-time champion Novak Djokovic to clinch his first Masters title in Paris on Sunday after coming from a set down to win 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. Rune, 19, became the youngest winner of the Paris tournament since an 18-year-old Boris Becker in 1986 after beating five top-10 players in as many days - the first to do so in the same tournament. He is the fifth first-time Masters winner this season and will be the first Danish man to break into the top 10 on Monday. "It means everything to me, a perfect way to finish the week," said Rune. "It was an incredible

tournament." After winning the title in Stockholm either side of runner-up finishes in Sofia and Basel, Rune began his run to a fourth straight final by saving three match points in the opening round to beat Stan Wawrinka. He then took down Hubert Hurkacz followed by Andrey Rublev before seeing off Carlos Alcaraz as the world number one retired with injury while trailing by a set in the quarter-finals. Rune snapped Felix Auger-Aliassime's 16-match winning streak to set up the clash with Djokovic, who had not lost at Bercy since his defeat to Karen Khachanov in the 2018 final. "For somebody who is so young to show this composure and maturity in the big



match like this is very impressive. He's had a week of his life," said Djokovic. The Serb came into Sunday's final having won 21 of 22 matches since the start of Wimbledon, which he won for the seventh time in July to match Pete Sampras. He broke for a 3-1 lead as Rune served back-to-back double faults in the biggest final of his career to date. Djokovic comfortably held out to pocket the opening set and looked to have Rune on the ropes when he surged 4-0 ahead on his opponent's serve in the first game of the second set. But Rune battled back superbly to thwart Djokovic and then swung the momentum in his favour by immediately breaking to go 2-0 up the following game, which

proved enough to force a decider. The 16-year age gap between the pair was the biggest in a Masters final since Rafael Nadal, then 19, defeated 35-year-old Andre Agassi in Montreal in 2005. Rune's inexperience resurfaced when he double-faulted attempting a big second serve to hand Djokovic a 3-1 edge, but the Dane showed his remarkable character to break back straight away. Instead it was Djokovic who cracked when the pressure was highest, spearing a forehand wide to present Rune with the chance to serve for the trophy. Rune withstood six break points in a marathon final game before securing the title after two hours and 34 minutes to complete an incredible week in the French capital.



## Briefs

## Iran to introduce visa-free regime for Kazakhstanis

ASTANA. KAZINFORM «Kazakhstanis may visit Iran without visa every six months», Kazakh MFA's official representative Aibek Smadyarov told a briefing. The Government of Iran starting from November 11, 2022 will introduce a visa-free travel scheme for Kazakhstanis to boost and strengthen relations between the countries. It will let Kazakhstanis stay in the territory of Iran up to 14 days. Besides, such an agreement was signed between Kazakhstan and China. The Government of Kazakhstan signed a decree as of July 7 this year to introduce a visa-free scheme for the nationals of Iran, China and India to build favorable climate, widen business ties and further realize Kazakhstan's tourist potential. It lets nationals of the said countries to stay in Kazakhstan up to 42 days in a total without visas within 180-day period each up to 14 calendar days.—DNA

## Ukraine urged to show 'openness' with Russia

WASHINGTON: The US administration has "privately" encouraged Ukrainian leaders to signal an openness to negotiate with Russia, according to The Washington Post.

US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have warned that the "Ukraine fatigue" among some allies could worsen if Kyiv continues to shut down negotiations, the daily reported on Saturday. The request by American officials is not aimed at pushing Kyiv to the negotiating table, but they called it "a calculated attempt" to ensure that Ukraine "maintains the support of other nations facing constituencies wary of fueling a war for many years to come."

US officials told the daily that Ukraine's position on negotiations with Russia was wearing thin among allies that are worried about the economic effects of a protracted war. Earlier this month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine is only prepared to enter negotiations with Russia if its troops leave all parts of Ukraine, including Crimea and the eastern areas of Donbas, de facto controlled by Russia since 2014, during an interview to Czech television. Last month, Zelenskyy signed a decree that declares Russia's annexation of parts of Ukraine null and void, and also signed another decree earlier on Sept. 30 that stated the "impossibility of negotiations" with Russian President Vladimir Putin.—Agencies

## Ukrainian, EU leaders discuss aid

KIEV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a phone conversation with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to discuss financial assistance to Ukraine, the grain deal and strengthening sanctions against Iran.

"Discussed macro-financial aid to Ukraine for the current year & 2023 with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. Noted the importance of continuing the grain initiative for world food security. Discussed increasing sanctions & opposing actions of Iran, which supports aggression," Zelenskyy said on Twitter. Meanwhile, von der Leyen announced that the EU will propose a financial support package for Ukraine for 2023, without specifying a specific date. "Good to stay in close touch with Zelenskyy. Positive developments: we will propose this week the financial support package for Ukraine in 2023. The EU will be at Ukraine's side for as long as it takes," von der Leyen said on Twitter. Earlier this week, Türkiye and the UN managed to convince Russia to revert its decision to withdraw from the grain deal signed this summer, marking the end of a tense standoff that threatened to exacerbate the global food crisis.—Agencies

## Russia calls on Baku, Armenia to refrain from escalation

Relations between two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991, when Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan

## Baku, Yerevan to expedite border delimitation

BAKU: The third meeting of the commissions on the delimitation of the state border between Azerbaijan and Armenia was held on November 3, Azernews reports, citing the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. The meeting was chaired by the vice-premiers of Azerbaijan and Armenia Shahin Mustafayev and Mher Grigoryan respectively in Brussels. Secretary General of the European External Action Service Stefano Sannino confirmed the readiness of the European Union to be conducive to the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia. "The parties, taking into account the agreements reached in different formats at the level of the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, continued to discuss delimitation issues and considered organizational and procedural issues," he said. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry stated that the parties agreed to expedite work on agreeing on the procedure for their activities, as well as to determine the date and venue for the fourth meeting of the commissions in the working order. To recap, the first meeting between Deputy Prime Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia Shahin Mustafayev and Mher Grigoryan took place on May 24 at the interstate border of the two countries in the format of joint work of commissions on delimitation and demarcation issues. The second meeting of the commissions took place on August 30 in Moscow. — Agencies

during the Oct. 31 trilateral talks in the Russian city of Sochi. "Indeed, the statement adopted follow-

ing the results of the trilateral meeting in Sochi emphasized the intention of the parties, Azerbaijan

and Armenia, to settle (the disputes) exclusively by political, diplomatic, and peaceful means," Peskov

expressed. During the briefing, Peskov also promised to announce this week the travel plans of Russian President Vladimir Putin to the Indonesian city of Bali to attend the G-20 summit, adding that Putin does not plan to go to the East Asia Summit, which will be held in November. Separately, Peskov reiterated Russia's openness for negotiations with Ukraine, though indicating that "they are now impossible due to Kyiv's refusal." Leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia, and Armenia agreed to reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive normalization of Baku-Yerevan relations, and to ensure peace, stability, security, and sustainable economic development of the South Caucasus after the trilateral talks in Sochi.

During the talks, the leaders agreed to refrain from the use or threat of force to discuss issues and resolve them "solely on the basis of mutual recognition of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of borders, in accordance with the UN Charter and the Alma-Ata Declaration of 1991," a joint statement said. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. In fall 2020, in 44 days of clashes, Baku liberated several cities, villages, and settlements from Armenian occupation, ending in a Moscow-brokered truce. The peace agreement is celebrated as a triumph in Azerbaijan.

## Over 75000 Canadian Sikhs voted in Khalistan referendum

ISLAMABAD: Despite vocal protest by Narendra Modi's government and fierce opposition from Canadian Hindu groups, in a massive turnout over more than 75,000 Canadian Sikhs voted in Khalistan Referendum Phase II in Mississauga, for the secession of Punjab from India to create an independent Sikh homeland.

While the voting opened at 9:00 am under the supervision of Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC), Sikh men and women from Greater Toronto Area (GTA) lined up since 6am to cast their votes at the Paul Coffee Arena, Mississauga, a Canadian Government owned and operated facility, says a message received here from Toronto. The November 6 Khalistan Referendum voting drew a counter protest by a handful of Canadian Hindus who carried Hindu symbols and were sloganeering that under Modi's leadership

they will make India a "Hindu Country". Gurbatwal Singh Pannun, the SFJ General Counsel stated that "today Canadian democracy won and Modi's fascism lost because Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Government stood with the Sikhs' right to freedom of expression in the face of immense pressure from all Indian quarters".

The New York based lawyer said: "After 110,000 votes on September 18th voting, 75,000 plus Canadian Sikhs once again proved their resolve to liberate Punjab from Indian occupation to create Khalistan in line with aspirations of thousands of Sikh martyrs who have laid down their lives for the cause." The second phase of Khalistan Referendum was announced by Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) after over 110,000 Canadian Sikhs participated in the first phase of Khalistan Referendum on 18 September 2022 and sev-

eral thousands were unable to cast their votes due to a huge turnout and closure of the voting process at 5PM. The Khalistan advocacy group Sikhs For Justice, which is spearheading the Khalistan Referendum campaign aimed at garnering support at the international level for separation of Punjab from India and declaring it a separate homeland for Sikhs, had started preparations for the second phase of referendum soon after the September 18th voting. In the wake of Sept 18 voting, India and Canada have been at war. The government of Justin Trudeau issued the travel advisory exactly four days after India issued an aggressive advisory on September 23 for its students either living in Canada or planning to travel to Canada, telling them that Canada had become a hub of Khalistan supporters and anti-India activities. In an unprecedented move,

Canada advised its citizens to avoid all travel to areas in states of Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan, which share a border with Pakistan due to the "presence of landmines" and "unpredictable security situation". India's External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India had raised with Canada serious concerns on the Khalistan Referendum voting on 18 September in Brampton. India's External Affairs Ministry termed the Khalistan Referendum conducted by the SFJ as a "farfetched exercise" and added that India had deeply objected that "politically motivated exercises by extremist elements" are allowed to take place in a friendly country like Canada. India became agitated after Canada told India that any peaceful and legitimate activity by Canadian Sikhs will not be stopped and the Canadian govt will not get involved.—APP

## S. Korea President apologizes for Halloween crush



SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol issued Monday a formal apology for the deadly Halloween crush in Seoul that killed 156 people late last month. Yoon also pledged to hold to account any officials found to be responsible for sloppy responses and to reform police and safety management systems. The Oct. 29 crush killed 156 people, mostly in their twenties and thirties, and injured another 197 when revelers flooded the narrow alleyways of the popular nightlife district of Itaewon to celebrate the first COVID-19 curbs-free Halloween festivities in

three years. Yoon offered the apology during a meeting to review safety rules, as the country continues to mourn the victims. An investigation is underway into authorities' responses to the accident. "I do not dare to compare myself to the parents who lost their sons and daughters, but as the president who ought to protect the people's lives and safety, I am heartbroken," he said. "I am sorry and apologetic to the bereaved families who are suffering an unspeakable tragedy, and to the people who share the pain and sorrow." Police have faced stringent public criticism and scrutiny over their responses during the tragedy, having dispatched just 137 officers to the area despite estimating in advance as many as 100,000 people would gather. Last week, transcripts of several emergency calls made in the hours leading up to the accident showed that people had warned of a potential crush.—APP

## 3 arrested in suspected far-right assault in Berlin

BERLIN: German police arrested three people in Berlin following a suspected far-right attack, a local daily reported Sunday.

Two suspects, aged 17 and 42, hit two teenagers in the leg with an iron bar and stole their mobile phones during the assault which took place Saturday afternoon in Berlin's Buch district, according to Berlin-based Tagesspiegel.

The victims flagged down a police vehicle that happened to be in the vicinity and reported the incident. The two assailants as well as a 19-year-old onlooker showed the Hitler salute, police said.

The 19-year-old also racially insulted a police officer, police further said.

The three men were arrested as investigations into robbery, dangerous bodily harm, insult and the use of symbols belonging to unconstitutional organizations are ongoing. The radicalization among right-wing extremists, and surge in violent attacks in recent months, have raised serious concerns among authorities.

"The far-right is the biggest threat to our democracy and the biggest extremist threat to people in our country," Interior Minister Nancy Faeser was quoted as saying earlier this year.—DNA

## Serbs leaving Kosovo's institutions is historical change

BELGRAD: The announcement by Kosovo Serbs that they have withdrawn from all central and local institutions in Kosovo is a historical and tectonic change, Serbia's president said Sunday. Aleksandar Vucic made the remarks during a guest appearance on private station TV Pink. They referred to the decision by Serbian representatives to withdraw from the assembly, government and all Pristina institutions as well as suspend their participation in the police and judiciary.

"This is neither the first nor the last time that Serbia is attacked on the issue of Kosovo... We are certainly talking about major political, almost tectonic changes," said Vucic.

Vucic said that on the night between June 29 and 30, he prevented "unprecedented bloodshed" in the north of Kosovo because the Serbs had erected barricades and members of the special units of the Kosovo police were ordered to tear them down. "After 11 hours of difficult talks, the Serbs from the north told me that because you are begging, we will remove the barricades. There is no end to the madness in Pristina, and all this is supported by two great powers," he said. The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, urged Kosovo to immediately start taking steps to establish the Community of Serb Majority Municipalities.—Agencies

## Al-Shabaab terrorists attack Somalia military base

MOGADISHU: Suspected al-Shabaab militants have attacked a Somali military base in the central Galgaduud region days after the area was captured by government forces from the Takfiri terrorist group.

The army repelled Monday's attack on the base housing national and local troops in Qayib, a village captured from al-Shabaab last week, defense ministry spokesman Abdullahi Ali Anod was quoted as saying by state news agency SONNA. The attack began with two suicide car bombs at around 5:00 a.m. local time (0200 GMT), followed by hours of heavy fighting, Ahmed Hassan, a military officer in the nearby town of Bahdo, told Reuters. Hassan said there were no immediate reports of casualties following the raid. The attack comes days after twin bombings outside the education ministry in Mogadishu killed at least 120 people. Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the October 29 bombings, the deadliest terrorist incident in the country since a truck bomb killed more than 500 people at the same location five years ago.—DNA

## China denounces British minister's potential Taiwan visit

BEIJING: Beijing voiced its anger Monday after a British minister confirmed he will visit Taiwan this week for trade talks and meet President Tsai Ing-wen.

China views democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory and strongly objects to any official interactions between Taipei and foreign governments, believing it is a show of support for Taiwan's separatism from China.

Britain's Department for International Trade said Greg Hands, minister of state for trade and also a member of parliament, would meet Tsai and co-host the 25th annual U.K.-Taiwan Trade Talks during his two-day visit.

"Visiting Taiwan in person is a clear signal of the UK's commitment to boosting UK-Taiwan trade ties. Like the UK, Taiwan is a champion of free and fair trade underpinned by a rules-based global trading system," his office said in a statement. Speaking in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said China resolutely opposed any form of official exchanges between a country with whom it has diplomatic ties and Taiwan. "We urge the British side to stop any form of official exchanges with Taiwan and stop sending wrong signals to separatist forces for Taiwan independence," he said. Hands will also meet Taiwan's top trade negotiator John Deng and Economy Minister Wang Meihua, his office added. Taiwan's Economy Ministry declined to comment, saying that the meetings it was arranging were closed to the media. Taiwan views Britain as a like-minded democratic partner and has been heartened by London's concerns over recent Chinese war games near the island and support for its participation in international organizations, most of which Taiwan is locked out of due to China's objections. Britain, like Taiwan, is also bidding to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, or CPTPP. Members agreed in February that Britain can proceed with its application, as it looks for new trading relationships after leaving the European Union. China has applied to join as well. Britain has no formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan but the two have close economic and informal relations and Britain maintains a de facto embassy in Taipei.—Agencies

## 3 Egyptian journalists start hunger strike

CAIRO: Three Egyptian journalists said Monday they had begun hunger strikes to demand authorities free Alaa Abdel Fattah, a jailed political dissident who has been refusing food and now water too. British-Egyptian Abdel Fattah, 40, a major figure in the 2011 revolt that toppled long-time president Hosni Mubarak, stopped drinking water on Sunday to coincide with the opening of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt.

"We have stopped eating now because Alaa Abdel Fattah is in danger of dying," journalist Mona Selim told AFP during a sit-in at the journalists' union in Cairo. She was speaking alongside Eman Ouf and Racha Azab, the two colleagues who have gone on hunger strike with her. Selim said that the three are also demanding the "liberation of all prisoners of conscience" in Egypt. They number more than 60,000 in Egypt, according to rights groups - jailed under the rule of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. — APP

## Parliamentary delegation visits Pakistan's embassy



## DNA

BUENOS AIRES: The parliamentary delegation attending the 43rd annual session of the Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Actions (PGA) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, headed by National Assembly Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, who on Monday visited Pakistan's embassy there. Pakistan's Ambassador Dr. Muham-

mad Khalid Ijaz welcomed the parliamentary delegation along with the top officials of the embassy, said a statement, received here. On this occasion, Ambassador to Argentina Dr. Muhammad Khalid Ejaz informed the delegation that Pakistan and Argentina were enjoying a strong cordial relationship, and the embassy was working to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields between the

two countries. The deputy speaker along with members of the delegation appreciated the performance of the ambassador and staff for strengthening the bilateral relations. Besides Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, the delegation comprises of Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, members of the National Assembly Rana Qasim Noon, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry and Mohsin Dawar.

## Kazakh election campaign focused on social issues

ASTANA - As the election campaign period continues in Kazakhstan until Nov. 18, its focus is primarily on social obligations, said political expert Daniyar Ashimbayev. Approximately 12 million people are eligible to vote in the Nov. 20 presidential elections. Photo credit: semeynews.kz "Apparently, there is a certain set of explicitly populist slogans that the electoral headquarters have agreed not to bring up for discussions, such as credit amnesty and the privatization of rental housing. Considering the rising number of fake news on these topics in social networks, it is obvious that the topic is painful," said the expert. "Huge efforts made in previous years to diversify and develop the econ-

omy have had no effect in the form of sustainable enterprises with permanent employment and stable income," he said, highlighting that this also contributed to the critical dependence of the consumer market on imports, an issue that has been repeatedly raised by the country's leadership. Ashimbayev noted that since January the course bends towards the comprehensive demopolitization of political and economic power in the country. Policies are shifting in the transition to more adequate economic planning, forcing the oligarchy to stop exporting capital to investing in the national economy, protection of the economy from international sanctions, and the increased involvement of foreign investors in domestic projects.



Andrei Chebotarev, director of the Alternative Center for Current Research, said that the presidential candidates have to convince voters not just to vote for any one of them, but to participate in these elections at a minimum. "Political opposition of Kazakhstan has

once again missed the strategic opportunity by refusing to participate in the presidential election by nominating and supporting its candidate," he wrote in a social media post. Expert Zhanna Tulindinova said that the fact that the upcoming elections have two

female candidates - Saltanat Tursynbekova and Karakat Abden - is a clear sign of increased women's empowerment in Kazakhstan. She also noted that the public space is becoming more open for discussion of the most acute issues pertaining to female empowerment. "The family and women's issues, which were previously hidden behind closed doors, are now discussed openly as serious socially significant issues, and not something embarrassing that the families should deal with in their own way. These problems include domestic violence, various forms of economic and social coercion of women, child poverty and poverty in families with many children," she said. Addressing these issues will be more effective with more wom-

en having their voice heard in the decision-making process. Political scientist Jabrail Markhiev said that he assumes the upcoming elections will be held fairly and openly. "It is fair to assume that the upcoming elections will be held as openly as possible, because otherwise Tokayev's reformism, which was highly praised by the international organizations and their representatives, will be discredited. I am sure that there may be both positive and negative phenomena, which will be detected during the elections, corrected and consolidated by the time of parliamentary elections [in the first half of 2023]. And the very fact of the beginning of a new political era is undeniable and encouraging," he said.—APP



**Briefs**

**Pak, Turkiye have common religion, Sufi values**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor on Monday said Pakistan and Turkiye had common religion, creed and values of Sufis. In a meeting with Turkish Ambassador Dr Mehmet Pacaci, the minister discussed the matters of mutual interest and said the people of both the countries had love and respect for each other. Abdul Shakoor said Turkiye had actively helped Pakistani brothers in the trying times, adding that the people of this region and religious scholars had given full financial and moral support for the stability of the Ottoman Caliphate. He said the policy and views of the Turkish government regarding humanity and welfare of the Muslim Ummah were valuable. The Turkish ambassador said Turkiye considered it an obligation to help Pakistani brothers and sisters in the difficult times. He desired that Turkiye and Pakistan should achieve the common goals of development and prosperity together. He also called for furthering relations between the two countries both at government and public levels.

**China keeping a close eye on Pakistan's situation**

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday that China is keeping a close eye on Pakistan's political situation. "China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. We have been supporting each other for common development and in joint efforts to overcome difficulties," he said during his regular briefing in response to a question about the debt assistance provided by China and other financial assistance. "China has done its utmost to help Pakistan stabilize its financial situation. We have been doing so, and we will continue to do so," he said. As per media reports, during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent official visit to Beijing, the Chinese leadership promised to roll out \$4 billion in sovereign loans, refinance \$3.3 billion commercial bank loans and increase currency swept by about \$1.45 billion. To a question about Pakistan's current political situation, he said that China had noted the relevant reports.

**Twitter to ban unlabelled parody accounts**

WEB DESK

CALIFORNIA: Elon Musk says Twitter accounts engaging in impersonation without clearly specifying they are a parody will be permanently suspended. Twitter previously issued a warning before suspending accounts, but there would now be no warning, he announced. A number of accounts that changed their name to Elon Musk and mocked the billionaire have already been suspended or placed behind a warning sign. Twitter's billionaire new owner took over the company late last month. At the end of last week he laid off around half of the company's workforce. He has also confirmed plans to allow users to buy blue-tick, verified status. Detailing the new policy on parody accounts, Mr Musk tweeted: "Previously, we issued a warning before suspension, but now that we are rolling out widespread verification, there will be no warning." He added that "any name change at all will cause temporary loss of verified checkmark".

**UN chief warns world on path to 'climate hell'**

Guterres called for a "historic" deal between rich countries and emerging economies that would aim to reduce emissions and keep the temperature rise to the more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era

SHARM EL SHEIKH: Humanity is in "the fight of our lives" as climate change intensifies droughts, floods and heatwaves, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned world leaders Monday at talks in Egypt on curbing global warming. In the midst of a barrage of international crises battering economies and shaking international relations - from the Covid pandemic and Russia-Ukraine conflict to weather extremes - Guterres said the international community faces a stark choice. "Cooperate or perish," he told leaders at the UN COP27 summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. "It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact, or a Collective Suicide Pact." Guterres called for a "historic" deal between rich countries and emerging economies that would aim to reduce emissions and keep the temperature rise to the more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era. He said the target should be to provide renewable and affordable energy for all,

calling on the top emitters, the United States and China, in particular to step up their efforts. On the current trajectory, the UN chief said, "we are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator". At around 1.2C of warming so far, impacts are already accelerating on all fronts. Major droughts in the Horn of Africa have pushed millions to the edge of starvation, while deadly floods in Pakistan swamped farmland and destroyed infrastructure, causing more than \$30 billion in damage and losses according to the World Bank. Meanwhile, the global community is lagging behind both on efforts to cut planet-heating emissions and payments to vulnerable countries to help them build resilience and green their economies. On Sunday, developing nations won a small victory when delegates agreed to put the controversial issue of money for "loss and damage" - aid for the damage caused by climate change - on the summit agenda. Guterres said it was a "moral imperative" for richer polluters to help vulnerable countries, which often are the least responsible for climate change. He said the Ukraine war and an array of other crises facing the world may capture much attention, but stressed that many of these are linked to "growing climate chaos". The UN chief also addressed the massive biodiversity loss that has seen human activity drive the planet's sixth mass extinction crisis, threatening the food we eat, water we drink and air we breathe. "Let's not forget that the war on nature is in itself a massive violation of human rights," Guterres said. The climate fight "will be won or lost in this crucial decade on our watch," he said. And as the global population is estimated to hit 8 billion this month, Guterres reminded the world leaders gathered in Egypt that the decisions they make now and in the years to come will reverberate for generations.



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**Russian businessman confesses interfering in US polls**

MOSCOW: Influential Russian businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin, who is linked to President Vladimir Putin and sanctioned by Washington and European countries, admitted on Monday to interfering in US elections. "Gentlemen, we interfered, we are interfering and we will interfere," Prigozhin, who has been accused of running a "troll factory" to influence the outcome of votes in several Western countries, said in a statement quoted by his team. "Carefully, precisely, surgically and the way we do it, the way we can," Prigozhin quipped. Prigozhin, 61, responded to a request to comment on a Bloomberg report saying Russia was interfering in the US midterm elections. The announcement was published on the last day of campaigning on the eve of a midterm election that will shape the rest of US President Joe Biden's term - and could pave the way for a White House comeback by Donald Trump. In September, Prigozhin confirmed he had founded the Wagner mercenary group whose members have been at the forefront of Moscow's offensive in Ukraine. The high-profile announcement was interpreted by many analysts as evidence Prigozhin was eyeing a possible political role in Russia. For years, the Wagner group had been suspected of playing a role in realising Moscow's overseas ambitions, with the Kremlin denying any links. Its presence has been reported in conflict zones including Syria, Libya, Mali, and the Central African Republic, where it has been accused of abuses and capturing state power. - APP

**Resolve conflicts in Parliament, not in courts: IHC CJ**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Athar Minallah on Monday advised the country's political leadership against bringing their conflicts to courts and rather strengthening the Parliament by resolving those issues in democratic ways. He expressed these views while addressing a full court reference organized in his honour.

On this occasion, the nominated Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court Aamer Farooq and other judges, district and session judges, judicial officers, Additional Attorney General Manoor Iqbal Dougal, Advocate General Islamabad Jahangir Jadoon, Vice Chairman of Islamabad Bar Council and members of Islamabad High Court and District Officials of Bar Associations, and others participated. Addressing the full court, Justice Minallah said, "Our tragedy is the state has failed to shoulder its responsibilities. Half of our life was spent in dictatorships, while the courts in their rulings have time and again reiterated there is no supremacy of law and that law is only for the elite." He said that the IHC was not like any other high court as it represented the federation. He said that the implementation of the law was linked to a change of mindset and the political leadership could strengthen the execution of the Constitution. It was the responsibility of the political leadership to resolve their issues in the legislature instead of dragging them to courts of law, he added. He said that the judiciary's performance could be gauged by how much trust the public had in the legal system. He said, "We have taken an oath to protect the Constitution." He said that implementation of the Constitution could only happen when the mindset changes. The political leadership could strengthen implementation of the Constitution, he added. - APP

**Babar Awan claims Imran Khan was shot by AK-47**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's legal advisor Babar Awan on Monday claimed that the former Prime Minister has been shot by an AK-47. PTI leader Faisal Javed appeared before the anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the case of violation of Section 144 and interference in the car government. The court asked Faisal Javed that how is he doing now? How are the wounds? To which the PTI leader said that he has fever but he is feeling better. Faisal said that the bullet only touched his skin due which he was wounded. Imran Khan's lawyer Awan told the court that PTI leaders were accused of blocking the road, raising slogans against the government, alleging in the case that public



property was damaged, in the case, it was accused of spreading fear with sticks and slogans, which government vehicle was

damaged? It was not written in the case, the PTI was only booked for standing on the road. He said that Imran Khan was hit by two bullets, former Prime Minister Khan was shot by AK-47 and 9 mm bullet hit Shaheed Moazzam. Later, while talking to the media outside the court, Babar Awan said that people are advising that 5,000 people should be killed. He further questioned that who killed the FIA's witnesses and the investigation officers were killed in which period? "Do we have any interest in the police coming to our homes, what was sent to Azam Swati's daughter, why were the granddaughters forced to leave the country? The FIA says in a few hours that the video is fake, the FIA should not play the game of fire," he said.

**Security forces kill terrorist in Khyber District**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A terrorist of a banned outfit was killed and three others were arrested in injured condition in exchange of fire with the security forces in district Khyber on Monday. According to Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the security forces were conducting a search operation in the area when terrorists opened fire on them. These terrorists were wanted for attacking government officials and law enforcement authorities. A huge cache of arms and ammunition were also recovered from the possession. The killed terrorist remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces.

**FM Bilawal holds meeting with Iraqi counterpart**

DNA

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: On the sidelines of the 13th annual meeting of Sir Bani Yas Forum in Abu Dhabi on Monday Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar met the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Dr. Fouad Hussein. The Ministers exchanged views on bilateral relations, as well as regional and global issues of common interest. They reaffirmed the long-standing ties of amity and cooperation between the two countries, rooted deep in shared faith, common values and cultural affinities; and reiterated the desire to further strengthen bilateral relations in all fields, the foreign office said. FM Bilawal reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty. He acknowledged Iraq's success in the fight against terrorism and appreciated the resilience of Iraqi people in their efforts to overcome challenges and rebuild the country. Matters pertaining to Pakistani Zaireen visiting Iraq and people-to-people contact between the two countries also came under discussion. While appreciating the measures taken by the Iraqi government for the well-being of the Zaireen, the Foreign Minister requested his counterpart for further facilitation in visas and travel, particularly

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**"FM Bilawal Bhutto reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty. He acknowledged Iraq's success in the fight against terrorism"**

during Ashura Muharram and Arbaben. The Ministers also exchanged views on ways to expand commercial cooperation and improve connectivity between the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to continue collaborating closely to further strengthen bilateral ties and coordinate at the multilateral fora.

**Isolated rain thunderstorm likely in GB, KP, Balochistan**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Sunday forecast mainly dry weather in most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. However, isolated rain-wind/ thunderstorm (snow over hilly areas) is expected in Gilgit Baltistan, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was still affecting most upper and western parts of the country and may persist in western parts till Tuesday. During last 24 hours, rain-wind/ thunderstorm occurred at upper/ central Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Balochistan and lower Sindh. Rainfall recorded in Punjab was: Murree 36 mm; Rawalpindi (Shamsabad 27, Chaklala 25, Kachehri 21); Islamabad (Zero Point 24, Bokra 18, Airport, Saidpur 17, Golra 14). - APP

**Curbs lifted in New Delhi; air quality 'very poor'**

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: Primary schools will reopen in India's capital New Delhi this week and curbs will be lifted on certain construction activities, authorities said on Monday, after pollution levels improved to the 'very poor' category from 'severe'. Residents in the capital have been waking up in recent weeks to hazy mornings with the sky a shade of grey. A thick layer of smog envelops the city in winter as cold, heavy air traps construction dust, vehicle emissions and smoke from crop stubble burning in neighbouring states, causing a surge in respiratory illnesses among its 20 million people. The air quality index in nearly all monitoring stations in the city was between 300 to 400 or in the "very poor" category on Monday, which experts say leads to respiratory illness on prolonged exposure. However it was an improvement on last week's reading of 400-500 in the index, which is described as "severe". "Directions for work from home amended and offices functioning at full capacity from today," Delhi state environment minister Gopal Rai told reporters. Primary schools will reopen on Wednesday.

**Biden, Trump rally troops on eve of crucial midterms**

Trump has had a significant role in the midterms, shaping the Republican field through endorsements and hinting at another presidential run at campaign rallies

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden and Donald Trump headline a frantic last day of campaigning Monday on the eve of a midterm election that will shape the rest of the US president's term - and could pave the way for a White House comeback by his predecessor. After months of divisive campaigning, Biden and Democrats face a gargantuan struggle to hang on to Congress, in a race that he has cast as a "defining" moment for American democracy - though kitchen-table issues like inflation have largely dominated voters' minds. Republicans appear set to snatch a majority on Tuesday in the lower House of Representatives, and many Democrats fear the Senate also slipping away in a defeat that would see Biden's foes in near total charge of legislation during his next two years as president. Polls show most Americans are anxious about the economy and feel the country is on the wrong track, emboldening Republican candidates in districts that once looked out of reach. With all 435 seats in the House of Representatives up for grabs alongside a third of the 100-member Senate and a slew of state posts, Democrats were putting a brave face on their prospects. "The party in the White House usually loses during midterms but

the reality is we still have a very strong pathway, not just to keeping the Senate but really picking up seats," Senator Cory Booker told ABC. Democratic candidates have been lent star power on the campaign trail by the party's most popular elder statesmen, including presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. Republicans have tapped a narrower roster of their own big hitters, with the spotlight turning in recent weeks to Trump - who has been teasing a probable new presidential



run in 2024. Biden and Trump go head-to-head on election eve. The president holds a rally in Maryland while Trump will campaign in a turbulent US Senate race in Ohio. Trump has had a significant role in the midterms, shaping the Republican field through endorsements and hinting at another presidential run at campaign rallies. He is due to speak in Ohio on Monday. With narrow control of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Biden's Democrats helped him to fulfill campaign promises to boost clean energy, fight the COVID-19 pandemic and finance the rebuilding of crumbling roads and bridges. Despite Biden's warnings about democracy, many of his fellow Democrats have emphasized more practical matters, such as their work to lower prescription drug prices and defend the Social Security safety-net program. While Democrats also campaigned on abortion rights, opinion polls show that has faded as a top voter concern. Biden's unpopularity has made him an unwelcome guest in many of the most competitive states, where Democratic candidates have declined to appear with him or say whether they would back him for re-election. Instead, his travels have been confined to Democratic strongholds in the final days before the election. - APP