



Islamabad POST

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Azerbaijani nation deserves applause on regaining territories

Detailed News On Page-08

Swedish PM seeks to convince Tayyip Erdogan

Detailed News On Page-07



Resolution of trade row possible

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Bilawal to embark on visit to KSA

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will embark on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia on November 9 (today), diplomatic sources said Tuesday. The foreign minister is visiting the Kingdom to finalise the matters before the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince to Pakistan. He will also meet his Saudi counterpart and other important personalities. An important meeting in this regard was also held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Important progress on the Gwadar project will also be made possible during the visit of the Saudi crown prince to Pakistan.

Khokhar steps down as Senator

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PPP Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar said on Tuesday that he had "gladly" agreed to resign from the upper house of parliament after a senior party leader had conveyed the leadership's unhappiness with his "political positions". "Met a senior leader from the party today. He conveyed that the party leadership wasn't happy with my political positions and wanted my resignation from the Senate. I gladly agreed to resign," he announced on Twitter. He went on to say that as a political worker, he cherished the right to express his opinions on matters of public interest.

Governor Rule lawful option

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Punjab Governor Baligh ur Rehman on Tuesday declared the Governor's Rule as a constitutional option due to the worsening situation in Punjab. Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman visited the Pakistan Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Karachi on Tuesday. Talking to traders and industrialists in the chamber, Baligh ur Rehman said if there is unrest in Punjab province, there is an option in the constitution to impose Governor's rule.

PM Shehbaz says Climate-hit states need global help

Says road infrastructure damaged in Pakistan with hundreds of bridges and flyovers washed away

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed that climate change impacts had provided an opportunity to the global community to cease upon and chart a course to secure its future and support the vulnerable communities in the countries like Pakistan. Addressing a high-level segment of COP 27 titled "Climate Change and Sustainability of Vulnerable Communities" the prime minister underlined the need for collective efforts, sharing of resources and technology with the vulnerable countries like Pakistan which had braced the worst devastation caused by climate induced floods. The roundtable was co-chaired by the prime minister with his Norwegian counterpart. The prime minister stressed that they should put their resources together with collective efforts to ward off impacts of the climate change. The task was herculean but they must address the climate change impacts with shared responsibility and by enhancing the capacity and supporting the developing countries like Pakistan to address the issue. The prime minister said that during the recent devastating floods, Pakistan suffered huge damages and according to estimates, these losses stood more than \$30 billion. Millions of houses and standing crops spread over more than 4 million acres of land had been washed away. The prime minister observed that Pakistan had been among those countries in the globe, that contributed to less than 1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

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PM meets Saudi, Norwegian leaders

STAFF REPORT

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a meeting with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Tuesday, expressed confidence that the Saudi leader's upcoming visit to Pakistan would promote bilateral cooperation. "Looking forward to the upcoming visit of the Crown Prince to Pakistan, the prime minister said that he was confident that this visit would promote bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest," the PM Office said in a statement following the meeting. The meeting held on the sidelines of the Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh reviewed the bilateral relations with a view to further enhance the ongoing cooperation in various fields. "Both sides expressed determination to further strengthen the multilateral partnership between the two brotherly countries," the statement added. During the meeting, the two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated that Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with

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GB: Militants set newly built girls school on fire

The GB chief minister and Chief Secretary through separate statements confirmed the incident

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Some unknown militants on mid night between Monday and Tuesday set on fire a newly Girls Middle School in Darail Area of Diamir District of Gilgit Baltistan. So far no loss to life was reported as the incident occurred at night time. The GB chief minister and Chief Secretary through separate statements confirmed the incident and directed police and other security forces for early

arrests of culprits involved in this act. So far no any arrest was made. Media believe that watchman of the school was also picked up by alleged terrorists. However he was made free on Tuesday morning. The newly established and constructed Girls Middle School recently are operative with two female teachers and two watchmen. It enrolled 68 female/Girls students in its 7th classes. In Gilgit Baltistan similar attacks against schools and other terror acts are taking place from last two decades. In early August of 2018, unknown militants attacked at least 14 Girls schools in Chilas area of Diamir Dubudion. Likewise several foreign mountaineers were included amongst killed in militants attacks in 2013. And at least 18 Shia pilgrims upon return from Iran have been disembarked from a passenger bus and brutally assassinated in this particular area in 2012.



SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif co-chairs a high level round table during COP-27 summit. - DNA

Pak forces kill terrorist commander

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan army said Tuesday that security forces have killed a terrorist commander in Khyber tribal district. An army statement said that on 07 Nov 22, Security Forces conducted a Joint Intelligence Based Operation in general area Shakas, Khyber District. During the conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. Resultantly, Terrorist Liaquat Ali alias Shaheen, an important Terrorist commander, was killed. The killed Terrorist was also propagated as a 'Missing Person'. During operation, a large number of weapon and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorist. The killed terrorist remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces, target killing and extortion. "However, during intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Saleem Khan (age 28 years, resident of Topi / Swabi) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat," according to the statement.

Imran Khan says no threat or fear can stop our struggle

Terms FIR on Wazirabad incident 'farcical', says doors of PTI open to all democratic loving forces



BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan called the first information report (FIR) registered on the Wazirabad incident "farcical" and said he would give his position through his lawyers. "All my life I dreamt of seeing my country as a prospering welfare state and my struggle throughout has been to make this dream a reality for my nation. Khan the nation has awakened, understood,

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PM wants judicial inquiry into Arshad's murder

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a letter, address to Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Atta Bandial, has pleaded for formation of a 'Judicial Commission' comprising all the available judges of the apex Court to unearth facts behind a firing incident targeting Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan in Wazirabad. The prime minister, in his letter, said that the federal government would be indebted to the Supreme Court for consideration of its request in the interest of rule of law, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release on Tuesday.

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Govt restores public holiday on Iqbal day

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday restored public holiday on Alama Iqbal Day on November 9 to commemorate the birth of Pakistan's national poet. The national annual holiday has been restored after six years. The government notified the development on Tuesday. "The Prime Minister has been pleased to desire that November 9 (Iqbal Day) shall henceforth be observed as a Public Holiday," an official notification read. - DNA

Centre asks Punjab, KP to open up roads

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan has asked the provincial governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to open up the national highways and motorways in their jurisdictions and avoid creating trouble for people under the protection of the police. Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, the minister said that provincial governments should fulfill their constitutional duty otherwise there would be consequences. He said that it was the constitutional duty of provincial governments to protect the rights of the people and the federal government was reminding the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab governments about this duty. He said that both provin-

cial governments have been written for the restoration of traffic on national highways and motorways in their jurisdictions and to ensure peace in their limits. He also called on the chief justices of the apex and high courts of Punjab, Islamabad and Peshawar to take notice of the protests, saying that the people causing trouble for citizens would later approach the court for relief. He said that a handful of protesters were agitating in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as Punjab and causing inconvenience for citizens. The nation had rejected the PTI's "fitna march" and I apologized to the people affected by

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French envoy briefs media about humanitarian assistance

Defense Attaché Col A. Presson appreciated role of Pakistan Army for providing fool proof security to the French humanitarian workers

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey has said following the unprecedented floods that hit Pakistan, the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, wished to mark the solidarity of France and the French people with the people of Pakistan. In consultation with the Pakistani authorities, France quickly dispatched emergency equipment and military experts from the French civil security service to the field to assist in relief operation and respond to urgent humanitarian needs. Ambassador Galey expressed these views while addressing a press conference along with the French Defence Attache Col. A Presson. The ambassador further said, on September 3, a special chartered flight arrived in Karachi, carrying emergency equipment (including 83 high-capacity water pumps and more than 200 tents, as well as other non-food items) and a military medical team consisting of 4 doctors and 4 nurses, as well as a military team of 4 technicians to operate the water pumps. The French medical team remained on



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey (R) and the Defence Attache Col. A. Presson posing for a picture on the occasion of the Press Conference. - DNA

the ground for two weeks in Badin district in Sindh, working alongside their Pakistani colleagues from the Badin military hospital, to provide hundreds of medical consultations each day. As for the team of trainers, it was able to train more than 50 Pakistani technicians in the use of water pumps. He said, from October 7 to November 5, 40 French civil security experts were deployed in Dadu district in Sindh to operate water purification equipment brought directly from France. The military team provided 600,000 liters of drinking water to the local communities (1,000 beneficiaries/day). As an indication of support towards the reconstruction of flood-affected areas, France provided a 50-meter-long Bailey-type bridge that will soon be deployed by the Pakistani authorities in Sindh district, he added. These operations were being carried out within the framework of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM). In a further expression of support to flood-affected communities, France allocated 1 million EUR to three French International Non-Governmental

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Pak, Vietnam enjoy outstanding coop in trade, technology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong has said that over the past 50 years, Vietnam and Pakistan have enjoyed excellent friendship and cooperation in many fields, including trade, investment, technology and people-to-people exchanges. In his message on the 50th anniversary of Vietnam and Pakistan's diplomatic relations, the ambassador said that the two countries officially established diplomatic ties on November 8, 1972. Currently, Viet Nam Embassy in Islamabad and Pakistani Embassy in Ha Noi have been organizing a number of events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations, including the 3rd Bilateral Political Consultative (BPC) and Intergovernmental Committee (JEC) and the 5th Joint Trade Subcommittee (JTC) sessions, he added. During the past 50 years, the relationship between the two countries has made positive developments. However, the Vietnam and Pakistan relations, in general, are still very modest compared to their potential and strengths as well

as the needs of both sides. He said that Vietnam and Pakistan also actively support each other in international forums and United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNESCO, IPU, WTO, etc. "The agreements and common perceptions between our senior leaders have created an important premise for the multifaceted cooperation between the two countries" he added. While shedding light on the ties between the two countries in the economic field, he said the trade volume between Pakistan and Vietnam has increased from 54 million USD in 2005 to more than 700 million USD in 2017 and reached more than US\$ 794 million in 2021, an increase of 54.41% compared to 2020. He stressed the need to strengthen cultural exchanges, and people-to-people exchanges, boosting cooperation in other fields such as education and training, and culture-tourism. "Those sectors all together will raise the mutual awareness and understanding than in return push up the economic, trade, investment and political ties of our countries," he added. The ambassador said that Vietnam and Pakistan have signed many MoUs and agreements in many fields and are

very important foundations for further enhancement of the relationship. "On each pace of our journey, in obtaining important achievements, we always receive the support from international community and friends including Pakistan," he said. The envoy said Vietnam will join hands with Pakistan for further comprehensive cooperation, developments, and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries, and on the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and International Laws to contribute to the joined efforts of the international community for peace, addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges, fostering international integration and connectivity toward the global sustainable developments. During his assignments in Pakistan, the ambassador said he was looking forward to closely working with all of the Pakistani relevant authorities, people, businesses, and all other circles for the bright future of Vietnam and Pakistan. "When we go together, we will go farther, further and reach faster, closer to the destination of prosperity, progress, and development," he concluded.



ISLAMABAD: Rina Kionka, Ambassador of European Union inaugurating an exhibition event on 'Diversity and Social Harmony' organised by Nomad Gallery and Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized. - DNA

NA Speaker, Deputy Speaker message on Iqbal Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's progress lies in following Iqbal's message of unity, patriotism, national spirit, self-awareness, knowledge, and dedicated efforts to achieve the very best in life. Pakistan is very much capable of achieving a distinct place in the comity of nations provided it truly follows Iqbal's thought-provoking and pragmatic message to achieve success, remarked National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durani in their separate messages on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, which is being commemorated on 9th November every year. The Speaker said Iqbal was truly a "Hero of the East" owing to his unmatched vision to see and suggest pragmatic solutions to the problems faced by society and individuals. It was his foresightedness that led to the creation of a separate homeland for disgruntled Muslims of the subcontinent, under the able leadership of the great Quaid-e-Azam. He also stressed upon people to focus and maintain a balance between their spiritual and material needs as per the teaching of the Holy Quran to attain lasting success in both worlds. Iqbal's poetry and philosophy also converge widely on the role of citizenry in nationhood and particularly that of youth to make untiring and continuous efforts to achieve greater goals in life.

Nomad Gallery, PNCA hold event on social harmony

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Nomad Gallery and Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized an exhibition/event on 'Diversity and Social Harmony'. H.E. Ms. Rina Kionka, Ambassador of European Union inaugurated the show on 8 November '22 at 4.00pm. The event consists of art exhibitions, seminars, Daastangoi, performance art and art workshops. The exhibition will be ongoing till 16 November. 10:00am - 4:00pm daily except Saturday. Pakistani art has a long tradition and history. It consists of a variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, calligraphy, pottery, and textile arts such as woven silk. Geographically, it is a part of Indian subcontinent art, including what is now Pakistan. The arts are a very wide range of human practices of creative expression, storytelling and cultural

participation. They encompass multiple diverse and plural modes of thinking, doing and being, in an extremely broad range of media. Both highly dynamic and a characteristically constant feature of human life, they have developed into innovative, stylized and sometimes intricate forms. This is often achieved through sustained and deliberate study, training and/or theorizing within a particular tradition, across generations and even between civilizations. The arts are a vehicle through which human beings cultivate distinct social, cultural and individual identities, while transmitting values, impressions, judgments, ideas, visions, spiritual meanings, patterns of life and experiences across time and space. Puppetry and storytelling (oral traditions) are examples of traditional performance art. Traditional art provides a shared experience for the

entire community. With values, cultural practices, and belief systems embedded in these art forms, they often form a common language through which the different communities that fabricate the society can be engaged. There is one word that can be used to describe the culture in Pakistan, it is "diverse and has always found itself rooted to traditions along with art. It can be seen through the various monuments and iconic architectural structures across the country that are testaments to its glorious history. Culture and creativity here manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities. Participating Artists: S. Najam Kazmi, Samina A. Akhtar, Zafar Ali, Khurram Abbas, Hassan Sheikh, Areej, Nasir, Emaan Pirzada, Tauqeer Hilbi, Alefiya, Rakshanda Atawar, Hassnain Awais, Nabahat Lotia, Jamil Hussain, and Faisal Kuhzad.

Pak-China ties based on mutual trust, gains

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Study Center at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the National Security Division (NSD) and Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) Tuesday conducted a roundtable discussion on 'Pakistan-China Relations' under the series of Grand National Dialogue (GND). Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed delivered the keynote address while the distinguished speaker of the occasion was former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Masood Khalid. ISSI Director General, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry gave welcome remarks and CPSC Director Dr. Talat Shabbir delivered introductory remarks and moderated the session. IPRI President Ambassador Dr. Raza Muhammad also joined the discussion. Ambassador Aizaz, in his introductory remarks, briefed the audience about GND, and its objectives. He said Pakistan and China share historic ties with each other that stood the test of



time. CPSC Director Dr. Talat Shabbir was of the view that mutual trust, respect, and goodwill characterize the bilateral relationship between the two neighboring countries. Senator Mushahid Hussain gave a cutting-edge analysis of Pakistan-China relations. He said Pakistan's relations with China were pivotal not only, in terms of, its foreign policy but relations with the world also. The bilateral relations based on a firm ground of mutual trust and gains, which are time-tested, he added. He informed the audience

about the tectonic shifts and changes that were taking place among the great powers in the global arena. He was very loud and clear in stating that China never undermined Pakistan's core national and Pakistan reciprocated the same by supporting China on its important issues. He also maintained that Pakistan's foreign policy was not ideological, adding it was realistic and pragmatic, based on safeguarding its national interests and sustaining its friendship with China. He also talked about revival of second phase of the Chi-

na-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which would boost Pakistan's economic status in the longer term. Ambassador Khalid Masood highlighted the main points that steer the relations forward. He gave an overview of Pakistan-China relations and covered the major milestones that resulted in mutual understanding and trust that makes this relationship even stronger. He was very clear about how trust played a major role in forging an exceptionally stronger bond that the two countries shared with each other.

on the topic, highlighted the attacks on former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz, Khawaja Asif, and several other leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) through a proper campaign initiated by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Expressing his regret over Imran Khan's response to these attacks, Ahsan Iqbal said, at that time, the PTI chief, instead of condemning the incidents, declared them an expression of public anger against the PML-N. Moreover, he added, during the election campaign in general elections of 2018, PTI tried to gain political advantage by imposing fabricated allegations against his faith. At that time, the ministers said, he had highlighted the growing extremist mindset in the society to the then National Security Committee and urged the then government to take strict action against such extremist elements.—APP

presented for approval in the next meeting. He further said that clean and green energy project is the most important need of the country at present and CDA will make itself a modern organization and will do its best to shift all street lights and offices of the CDA to this project. On this occasion, the Chairman Capital Development Authority said that these measures will not only improve energy saving but will also significantly reduce costs.

Chairman CDA holds meeting regarding shifting of offices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis presided over a meeting at CDA headquarters regarding shifting all offices of CDA and Street Lights of the city on clean and green project here on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Member Engineering, Member Planning and officers electrical and mechanical Wing. Chairman Capital Development

Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis while issuing instructions in the meeting and said that considering the future needs of Islamabad city, a consultant be engaged to identify and select suitable places for installation of clean and green energy equipment so that a financial feasibility report can be prepared after selecting suitable locations. The Chairman Capital Development Authority further said that in this regard PC-II should be prepared at earliest and

and out-of-the-box thinking had inspired generations of writers and philosophers the world over. He paid tribute to the great poet for giving the idea of a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent, where they could lead their lives in accordance with their religious, social and cultural values and without fear and intimidation of the majority Hindus.—APP

Flood-affected children highest in 30 years

ISLAMABAD: The numbers of children affected by flooding in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Chad and Gambia are the highest in over 30 years, according to a latest UNICEF report. As COP27 gets underway in Egypt, UNICEF also warns this year has brought overwhelming flooding to at least 27.7 million children in 27 countries worldwide. A large majority of the 27.7 million children affected by flooding in 2022 are among the most vulnerable and are at high risk of a multitude of threats, including death by drowning, disease outbreaks, a lack of safe drinking water, malnutrition, disruption in learning, and violence. "We are seeing unprecedented levels of flooding all around the world this year, and with it, an explosion in threats to children," said Paloma Escudero, head of the UNICEF delegation for COP27. "The climate crisis is here. In many places, the flooding is the worst it has been in a generation, or several. Our children are already suffering at a scale their parents never did."—APP

Ahsan for ending of hate and violence

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal said the recent attack on Imran Khan was a wake-up call while comparing the same kind of attack on him by a young man who was also religiously motivated and from a similar socio-economic background. He was speaking in a Twitter Space titled, "How to end politics of hate and violence in the country", organized by Naya Daur, a web-based media platform. People from different walks of life participated in the Twitter Space and later questions and answers session was also held. The planning minister, while commenting

strengthen government initiatives and will ensure the rehabilitation of flood victims", Shahid Laghari added. Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari said that PRCS is proud of its Movement Partners and together we will continue our relief efforts until the rehabilitation and resettlement of the last affected family. He urged the international communities and donor agencies to provide funding support to PRCS for its relief efforts for flood-hit population. Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said that Pakistan's share in carbon emissions is negligible and we need justice for the damages caused by climate change. PRCS and its movement partners have carried out enviable relief activities. A large number of victims are facing health issues and they are looking for aid. He said PRCS has made significant progress and earned name under the leadership of Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari.

PRCS organizes donors conference

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been suffering from natural disasters for the past 3 decades. After the terrible floods, recovery and reconstruction is no less than any challenge, national level aid organizations, especially Pakistan Red Crescent Society, have done valuable work. We are grateful for the assistance from international organizations and friendly countries, but the difficulties have not decreased and we need to develop and adopt a comprehensive strategy to cope up with this gigantic challenge. President Dr Arif Alvi said this while addressing International and National Donors Conference organized by Pakistan Red Crescent Society here today. Dr Arif Alvi said that the government is making every possible effort to speed up the reconstruction and rehabilitation works. Highlighting the importance and usefulness of first aid, the President said that the Red Crescent should be

equipped to provide first aid training to every individual. He said there is a dire need to have a first aider in every house who can save precious lives in times of need. "Diseases caused by polluted water, living in camps in severe winter and other problems have increased the difficulties and victims living in temporary shelters are looking to the interna-

tional community", Dr Arif Alvi added. The President urged the international community and donor agencies to generously donate funds for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the victims and for the construction of infrastructure. PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari, while delivering the welcome

speech on this occasion, said that since the first day, the Red Crescent has been in the service of flood victims and playing its fullest and effective role in relief operations. "The Red Crescent has gone above and beyond and is now focusing on the resettlement and reconstruction phase, PRCS, in collaboration with its partners, will

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(Works Division-II)

CORRIGENDUM

INVITATION FOR BIDS AGAINST THE PROJECT

"CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND BRIDGES / CUVERTS AT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE II, ISLAMABAD."

With reference to Invitation for bids notice as mentioned in Daily National News Papers and CDA websites and further corrigendum published in leading newspapers and uploaded in CDA/PPRA Website. The further corrigendum for the Invitation for bids IFB is hereby issued again with new date and time for issuance and opening of subject tilted project along with change of Category are as under:-

For:-

Last date for issuance of tender on 09.11.2022 and opening on 10.11.2022 at 12:00 Noon (Category C-3 and above).

Read:-

Last date for issuance of tender on 11.11.2022 and opening on 14.11.2022 at 12:00 Noon (Category C-2 and above).

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

PID (I) No.2924 /22

Deputy Director
Works Division-II, CDA

National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

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

Hotels & Restaurants

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

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
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Railway Inquiry.....	117
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CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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CDA.....	9221334-43
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Met Office.....	9250360-6
RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Argentine companies asked to invest in Pakistan

Cecilia Todesca Bocco, the Vice Minister and Secretary of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Worship, Argentina

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar Tuesday invited the Argentine companies to take advantage of the lucrative investment opportunities in Pakistan, especially, in Special Economic Zones established under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC). The minister, who is also the President of Parliamentarians for Global Action met with Ms. Cecilia Todesca Bocco, the Vice Minister and Secretary of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Worship, Argentina. The meeting was held at the historic San Martin Palace in Buenos Aires during the minister's official visit to Argentina to participate in the 43rd Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA). The minister was accompanied by the Ambassador of Pakistan

Dr Muhammad Khalid Ejaz and Jameel Ahmed Baloch, the Trade and Investment Counsellor of Pakistan in Argentina, said a press release. Naveed Qamar urged the Argentine exporters to utilize Gwadar Port as transit and transshipment hub for export of the agricultural produce to Western China, Afghanistan and Central Asia being the shortest route. Regarding Pakistan-Argentina bilateral trade, the minister informed that Pakistan-Argentina bilateral trade, despite COVID-19 pandemic witnessed promising growth in financial year 2021-22 increasing to \$ 253 million from \$191.56 million in the previous year. Pakistan's exports to Argentina registered a growth of 48%, whereas, Argentina's imports grew by 28.75%. He however, emphasized that the current level of bilateral trade is not commensurate with the potential the two countries have. Minister also urged the Argentina side to support Pakistan's efforts for starting the negotiations on Pakistan's request for a preferential trade agreement with Mercosur as the framework agreement was signed in 2006, however, not much headway has made so far. Commerce Minister gave an overview of the Pakistan's economic recovery after the pandemic and informed the Argentine side about the fiscal and tariff reforms undertaken by the Government of Pakistan. He specially mentioned the ease of doing business reforms undertaken by the Pakistan to improve business environment in the Pakistan. As a result of the consistent efforts, Pakistan improved 39 positions in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index in the last two years and was placed at 108th position, he said adding that liberal investment policy which provides a comprehensive framework for creating a conducive business environment for the attraction of FDI with liberalization, de-regulation, privatization and facilitation being its cornerstones. Naveed Qamar also invited the Vice Minister to visit Pakistan and also to urge the businessmen in textile and leather sector to participate in Pakistan's premier fashion and textile exhibition TEXPO-2022 scheduled from 26-28 May, 2023 in Karachi. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Minister expressed her deep appreciation for the visit and gave a brief overview of the Ministry and the policies and activities undertaken for promotion of economic relations between Argentina and rest of the world. She highlighted the progress made in the last two years in

the diplomatic and economic relations between Pakistan and Argentina with special reference to the organizing of the Bilateral Political Consultations and the historic meeting of Pakistan-Argentina Joint Commission in May, 2021 after an interlude of almost 12 years. The Joint Commission brought stakeholders from different departments and sectors from both sides on one table. There was a deep desire to enhance cooperation not only in trade and investment but also in agriculture, pharmaceutical, information technology, climate change, and cultural cooperation. Vice Minister Ms. Todesca shared the desire for deepening of economic engagement with Pakistan and highlighted agriculture, livestock, pharmaceutical and information technology as important sectors where the two sides can collaborate. —Agencies

IRSA releases 107,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 107,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 66,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1523.51 feet and was 125.51 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 32,000 cusecs while the outflow was 50,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1152.10 feet, 102.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded at 12,700 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded at 62,200, 41,100, 32,100 and 9,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 11,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 4,000 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

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ICCI and Graana.com agree to establish desk

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtwari Tuesday said that ICCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Works shall organize the 1st International Housing Expo from December 9-11, 2022 in order to promote the housing industry. He said that both local and international developers, builders, architects, designers, allied industries and real estate development companies shall participate in the Expo to showcase their projects and announce state-of-the-art residential and commercial projects. He invited Graana to collaborate in this mega event. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President, Shaikh Amir Waheed, Convener Expo Committee ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zaffar Bakhtwari and Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi, Former Presidents were present in the meet-



ing. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtwari said that the main theme of the Expo is "SHELTER FOR ALL", as this is one of the basic rights of every citizen of Pakistan, adding that on the sidelines panel discussions shall be held in which renowned national and international speakers shall participate to discuss the policy reforms for urban regeneration, technology and experience sharing, eco-friendly, affordable and low-cost housing. He informed me that exhib-

itors and speakers from 10 countries have shown their interest to participate in the Expo and there would be exclusive sessions with the Chinese companies. He invited Graana to its collaboration at the Expo and offered to establish a desk for urban regeneration at ICCI. President said that with a Public-Private partnership, new housing schemes shall be started to develop low-cost and affordable housing. He said that bylaws

should be framed for vertical development and the building of skyscrapers in the capital and other cities of Pakistan. Shafiq Akbar, CEO of Graana appreciated the initiative of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Housing and Works for the International Housing Expo and assured the collaboration and support of Graana in the upcoming event. He emphasized that ICCI should focus more

on urban regeneration and assured to establish a desk for urban regeneration in collaboration with ICCI. He said that CDA has started the process for online verification of property and it is important for any investor to make verification of the property before making any investment. He informed that about 450 town planners are operating and Graana is serving about 12,000 clients and have invested huge amounts in 15 mega projects.

AIOU, NUML postpone exams in Islamabad, Rawalpindi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Tuesday rescheduled the exams to be held on November 8 and 9 in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. According to details, AIOU rescheduled the exams of AD, ADC, BE, BBA, BS (ODL), MA, M.Sc, M.Com, MBA/MPA (Commonwealth of Learning), MLIS, M.Ed and, postgraduate diploma programs. The exams scheduled on November 8 and 9 have been postponed in the examination centers located within the limits of Tehsil Rawalpindi after the holiday announced by the local government in Rawalpindi city. The exams will now be held on 12th and 13th December respectively. According

to the notification issued by the examination department, the exams are being held as per the schedule in other tehsils of Rawalpindi (Murree, Kotli Satian, Kahota, Kallar Syedan, Gujar Khan and Wah Cantt). It is pertinent to mention here that the already issued roll number slips will be valid for the new dates, there will be no change in examination centers and timings. Meanwhile, National University of Modern Languages (NUML) through a notification intimated that the Midterm Examination Papers for both Morning and Afternoon at Islamabad and Rawalpindi Campuses, scheduled on Wednesday, November 9, are hereby postponed. The Midterm Examination will resume on Thursday, November 10, 2022, as per

the date sheet already issued. The postponed papers will be conducted at the end of the Midterm Examination, for which the dates will be announced later. Similarly, several Private Schools of the Islamabad Capital Territory issued notifications to parents, stating that the schools will remain close for two days (Wednesday, Thursday). The private schools will be transferred to online mode during holidays in order to continue the educational activities. It is worth mentioning here that the Federal Government through a notification on Tuesday, announced that November 9 will be holiday in connection with birthday of national poet of Pakistan Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

'Pakistan's successful advocacy at COP27'

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri said the successful advocacy of Pakistan as chair of the G-77 plus China forum at COP27 in Egypt helped in getting dedicated financing for loss and damage at the agenda of the global environmental moot. The SDPI Executive Director, who is also attending the conference, in a tweet, shared the developments of day one from the 27th Conference of Parties (COP-27) venue in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt through his video message. He also wrote, "Credit goes to #Pakistan as chair #G77+ China for getting #financing for #LossAndDamage included in #COP27 agenda. —APP

World Tourism Day Conference 2022 to be held on 14 November

ISLAMABAD: The 'World Tourism Day Conference 2022' would be organized on 14 November here at a private hotel to promote tourism and encourage the young talent of the country. According to official sources, the slogan of the conference will be "Re-thinking Tourism" which would be organized by the Hashoo School of Hospitality (HRSM). The conference will hold a talent competition for ages 18 to 30 years besides holding discussions with national and foreign experts on tourism. They said, that the photographic art competition entries would be accepted through email while artists would submit art physically by 10 November and exciting prizes would be announced for the winners. The keynote speakers panel will include Director Education HRSM Faisal Naem Khan, Head of Group Security at Hashoo Group Brig (R) Faiz Mahmood Qamer, Air Vice Marshal (R) Ijaz Mahmood Malik, Director of Partnerships at Confederation of Tourism & Hospitality City Simon Cleaver, Director Lahore School of Management Dr Ali Sajid, Vice Chancellor Kohsar University Murree Dr Syed Habib Ali Bokhari, Ex Tourism Minister Azam Jamil and Chief Operating Officer of Hospitality & Education at Hashoo Group Haseeb A. Gardezi, they added. The online participants would include Professor Salomeh Tabari of Cardiff University, UK and Dr Gul Erkol Bayram of Sinop University, Turkey. —APP

PMNH lags behind in execution of projects

Projects of display of 3 galleries related to Plant, Animal Sciences, Ocean are pending since June

ISLAMABAD: Museums are the important pillars of any society and have multiple roles in terms of conservation of tangible and intangible heritage of humanity to educate the future generations. However, the important department of Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) is lagging behind in execution of any development project due to lack of funds for the last two quarters. The department is compelled to rely on the income, generated through the routine visits of the public, for meeting its maintenance expenditures and paying bills. According to an official source,

PMNH was established under the patronage of Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Ministry of Science and Technology and its scientists work on various projects for the popularization of natural history through research publications, displays, exhibits and dioramas for public awareness. "The concerned ministry has issued a clear directive to the department to first defend their project for which budget is required and give proper justification otherwise the funds would not be provided", the official source said. "Now the failure is on the part of the head of department if he or she is unable to defend

any project before the relevant ministry's top officials", the source added. "The amount collected through the tickets purchased by the visitors is normally spent on either maintenance of the display facilities of the museum or paying the gas and electricity bills", the official disclosed. The projects of display of three galleries related to Plant Sciences, Animal Sciences and Ocean are pending since June and have not made functional due to lack of funds as well as leadership. Responding to a question, the source said that pending blocks of the PMNH building have also not been established since its

establishment. The department is not having any national or international project or collaborations right now like it was having in the past. The galleries of the museum have the same display since the last decade with no improvement. To a question, the official source informed that there is no such increase in the ratio of the visitors during the last many years rather it was reduced drastically during the Covid restrictions and now due to the political instability. It is pertinent to mention here that PMNH has four divisions namely Botanical Sciences, Earth Sciences, Zoological Sciences

and Public Services. The first three divisions are engaged in the collection, preservation, identification and research activities related to plants, animals, fossils, rocks and minerals resources of Pakistan, while the latter is responsible for public education through dioramas, exhibits, lectures, workshop, seminar, posters and film shows etc. PMNH also provides consultancy and advisory services to public and private sector organizations. PMNH scientists work on various projects for the popularization of natural history through research publications, displays, exhibits and dioramas. —APP

Nation to observe Iqbal Day today

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani nation would mark the 145th birth anniversary of great philosopher and poet, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal on November 9 (Wednesday). The world-famed poet of the east was born on November 9, 1877, in a middle-class family in Kashmiri Mohallah, an ancient densely-populated locality of Sialkot city. The day would be marked with special prayers in mosques for the solidarity, integrity and prosperity of Pakistan and the freedom of all the Muslim homelands including occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine. Various cultural, political and social organizations held meetings and seminars in various parts of the liberated territory to highlight the services rendered by the great visionary leader of the 20th century. It may be mentioned that Dr Allama Iqbal showed the path of success to Muslims especially the youth through his poetry, philosophy and verses which were based on the collective betterment and prosperity of Muslims. People from various parts of the country would visit 'Mazaar-e-Iqbal' in Lahore to lay a wreath to pay homage to Poet of the East. Fateha and prayer would also be offered for the prosperity and solidarity of the country. A prestigious change of guards ceremony would also be held at the mausoleum of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Lahore. —APP

Digital arts exhibition held in PAC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A digital art exhibition was organized in connection with the Iqbal Festival at the Punjab Arts Council. Chairman Qamar jahan Foundation Dr. Jamal Nasir was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony. Addressing the participants of the exhibition, Dr. Jamal Nasir said that Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, was one of the leading thinkers, poets, writers, jurist, politicians, Muslim Sufis and one of the most important figures of the Pakistan Movement. Allama Iqbal had given rise to the idea of an independent state among the Muslims of the subcontinent; his words had such power that he encouraged the Muslim Ummah to struggle for their rights and take steps forward for freedom. He was a philosopher and revolutionary who chose poetry as the most effective means of expression at that time to convey his ideas to his people. Through his poetry, he brought out the feeling of separate nationality to free the Muslims of the subcontinent from the chains of slavery. Finally, he also congratulated the Arts Council for the successful organization of Iqbal Festival. —APP

Rain likely in various parts of country

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has indicated chances of rain-wind/thunderstorm with snow over hilly areas in Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir, upper and central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and north Balochistan during the next 24 hours. Dry weather is likely in other parts of the country. According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was affecting upper and central parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, rain-wind/thunderstorm occurred at Balochistan, lower Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Murree and Bagrote. Weather remained dry in other parts of the country. The rainfall recorded was Balochistan: Panjgur 44mm, Zhub 05, Lasbela 02, Sindh: Karachi (Saadi Town 16, Masroor Base 06, Orangi Town 04, Faisal Base, North Karachi, DHA, MOS 03, Surjani Town, Korangi, Jinnah Terminal, Nazimabad, Gulshan Hadid 02, Old Area 01), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Patal 03, Kalam 04, Chitral, Mirkhani 01, Gilgit-Baltistan: Bagrote 01mm.

Briefs

PTI protests:
several
roads
blocked
by PTI
protesters

RAWALPINDI: Several roads were blocked here on Tuesday due to the ongoing protests held by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and supporters against the assassination attempt on former premier Imran Khan.

The PTI supporters are holding protests at four main places including Old Airport Road, Murree Road near Iqbal Park, Pirwadhai Mor and Taxila, which have badly affected the traffic flow on GT Road, Murree Road and Airport Road.

PTI workers also blazed the tyres and raised slogans against the government on the main Shamsabad Murree Road.

According to details, the ambulance service was also suspended and several vehicles transporting patients to the hospitals got stuck in the traffic gridlocks.

PTI workers blocked both sides of old Airport Road and Murree Road near Iqbal Park. Pirwadhai Mor was also blocked by the protesters, particularly for traffic going towards IJP road and Rawalpindi. Similarly, vehicular traffic was also closed on both sides near 'Saray Kala Chowk' on G.T. Road, Rata Shah Chowk Margalla Taxila due to which the commuters and residents of the area faced hardship.

Apart from this, the PTI activists also staged a protest in the Pirwadhai area and the highway connecting Pirwadhai with IJP Road was closed for vehicular traffic as the protesters also set tyres on fire. According to a City Traffic Police spokesman, alternative routes were arranged to facilitate the citizens.—APP

Police arrest
six gamblers;
recover Rs
45,570 stake
money

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police arrested six gamblers and recovered Rs 45,570 stake money, four mobile phones and valuables from their possession here on Tuesday, a police spokesman said.

He informed that Rattaamal police conducted a raid and arrested six gamblers namely Rizwan, Gul, Abdul Aziz, Waqar Hussain, Humayun and Ghulam Ali. A case has been registered against them while further investigation is under process. Superintendent of Police, Rawa Babar Javed Joya said that gambling is the root cause of other evils and those involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession.—APP

Pak earns
\$85m from
travel
services'
export

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$85.060 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2022-23.

This shows negative growth of 12.30 percent as compared to the US \$96,994 million worth same services provided during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the month under review, personal travel services decreased by 12.66 percent, from US \$96.784 million last year to US \$84.530 million during July-August 2022. Among these personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure dipped by 32.73 percent while the education-related expenditure however increased by 0.68 percent. In addition, the other personal services witnessed a decrease of 12.75 percent. Meanwhile, the exports of business services grew by 152.38 percent, from US\$ 0.210 million to US\$ 0.530 million, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the exports of services from the country, witnessed an increase of 4.63 percent during the first three months of the current financial year.—APP

China-Pak cooperation can help
counter climate change impact

We cannot take ownership of that and not treat it as an emergency because we are disproportionately affected by it

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is highly dependent on the agriculture sector and climate change will significantly affect this sector; however, Pak-China cooperation could help Pakistan counter the climate change impact on the agriculture sector, according to a report revealed during KTrade Climate Change Seminar which was held offline and online in Karachi.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, climate change seminar was conducted just ahead of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP27, which takes place from 6 to 18 November this year.

Agriculture Sector is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, which contributes 23% of the total GDP and provides employment to around 37.4% of the labor force. However, now Pakistan's crops are highly sensitive to changes in temperature and water availability.

Right now, the Climate in Pakistan has started negatively impacting

the country's economy as well as the overall society. The seminar focused on the challenges that require structural changes in the economy and industry and shed light on the current and future situation of climate change, making both local and foreign investors understand the challenges and the changes required.

According to the report discussed during the seminar, the developed countries should shoulder more. As per the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the developed world should bear a greater financial responsibility in tackling climate change and bear more financial obligations. There should be a fair and reasonable reduction in emissions, climate finance mechanisms, increased technical and financial support and urged for a stabilized global supply chain of new energy. "solar is the most



Climate Change in Pakistan

important source of renewable energy as of today—China is a leading investor in solar energy," reads an excerpt of the report.

"When we talk about BRI, actually we talk about green corridor," said a speaker while referring to the report, adding that the green corridor should focus on three things: agriculture & environment, food security and green development. "Pakistan should also seek to become part of that and utilize the knowledge," according to the report. It added that Pakistan should focus on how to become

part of China's green corridor. The report covers in detail what China has done in its clean energy focus. Ahmed Shayan, Sustainable Lead of Engro Corp said that like China, his corporation was involved in different joint ventures to address the challenges of plastic waste.

They are moving from informal waste-based management policies across the country to sophisticated management systems to safeguard the ecosystem. Besides methodological research and connecting strong governments from the strong municipal bond programs and bringing them together on a platform where everybody has a stake in plastics and waste management can come together and then we can use that knowledge gap. Nasir Ali Shah, Chairman of KASB Group and CEO of Sindh Forest, urged for the latest technology, saying that

Pakistan as a country contributes less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions while the country is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

"We cannot take ownership of that and not treat it as an emergency because we are disproportionately affected by it. The real argument is balancing economic growth with climate resilience and adaptation to climate change," Mr. Shah said. Ahmed Shayan, Sustainable Lead of Engro Corp shared his company's move from informal waste-based management policies across the country to sophisticated management systems to safeguard ecosystems.

Mustafa Hyder Syed said the US emits 56 times more than Pakistan from 1971 to 2020 in the energy sector, stating that the US alone takes up 20% of the world's cumulative emissions. "Countries in the world need to take the onus of responsibility, reduce the emissions, and give the opportunity of industrialization to the Global South and decrease their carbon emissions," Mr. Syed added.



RAWALPINDI: Peoples are facing severe difficulties due to the closure of the road by the protest of Tehreek-e-Insaf at Murree Road. —DNA

Pindi board
postpones SSC
practical exams

RAWALPINDI: Owing to law and order situation in Rawalpindi, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Rawalpindi has postponed Secondary School Certificate (SSC), second annual 2022 practical exams. According to Controller Examination, BISE, Prof. Nasir Mehmood Awan, practical exams which were to be held on November 8 and 9, have been postponed due to protests in Rawalpindi city. He informed that new dates for the exams would be announced later.

Awan said the practical exams were being held according to the schedule announced earlier for Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal districts. The BISE spokesman informed that in case of any difficulty, the students can contact the board officials on 0306-9215237, 0335-8022804 and 0301-5074507.

He said in a bid to facilitate students, the board had decided to postpone practical exams of Nov 8 and 9. Rawalpindi district administration, on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, had also announced two holidays for all educational institutions on account of the prevailing law and order situation in the district. According to a notification issued on Monday, all public and private schools and colleges would remain closed on November 8 and 9. The District administration spokesman informed that due to the prevailing law and order situation of the country the competent authority had decided that all educational institutions (Government as well as private) situated within Rawalpindi tehsil would remain closed for two days, Nov 8 and 9.—APP

Indonesia-Pak Alumni
network launched

Ambassador expressed his personal delight at the expansion of educational linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan, which he said was part of a much wider and deeper engagement between the two brotherly nations in recent times. Scholarship is a merit-based, internationally-competitive program that provides opportunities for study

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Indonesian Ambassador launched the establishment of a network for the alumni of Indonesian higher educational institutions in Rawalpindi on November 07, 2022. Ambassador Tugio shared his pleasure that more than 60 Pakistani students have been selected for the Indonesian Scholarship this year. He noted a positive trajectory in the last few years where many students from Pakistan are pursuing their higher education in Indonesia.

Citing the QS World University Rankings 2022 in which five Indonesian universities are listed among the top 500 in the world, he is convinced that this figure will increase as more Pakistani students become aware of the high-quality educational opportunities offered by universities in Indonesia.

Ambassador Tugio said Indonesia and Pakistan are blessed with rich cultural heritage and traditions carrying interesting and attractive similarities. Both

countries cherish various traditions and share many similarities from nature to culture and from preserving (Islamic) tradition being two of the most populous Muslim countries of the world, embracing modernity. The envoy, therefore, encouraged the graduates of Indonesian educational institutions to serve as "cultural ambassadors of Indonesia" because of their profound understanding of Indonesia.

Ambassador expressed his personal delight at the expansion of educational linkages between Indonesia and Pakistan, which he said was part of a much wider and deeper engagement between the two brotherly nations in recent times. The scholarship is a merit-based, internationally-competitive program that provides opportunities for study, research, and development in Indonesia. Alumni who got the chance to study in Indonesia through various scholarship programs attended the ceremony. Alumni of all ages and from all subject areas and specialties came together for a vibrant afternoon of interaction on the Indonesia-Pakistan Alumni Network's platform.

ZONG
partners
with
CreditBook

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.

ANF arrests
three with 22
kg narcotics
in four
operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Tuesday seized over 22 kg of narcotics in four operations conducted in different areas and arrested three accused. According to ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF in an operation at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar managed to recover 89 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a passenger, going to Bahrain via flight no GR-785.

In another operation at Bacha Khan International, ANF also seized 60 heroin-filled capsules from a passenger, a resident of Lower Dir, who was going to Sharjah, via flight no PA-612.

The spokesman said that the ANF and Punjab Rangers in a joint operation near Wagah recovered two kg heroin from the possession of a drug pusher, resident of Lahore.

In fourth operation, ANF and FC in a joint operation seized 20 kg charras from a Khyber area.

Separate cases have been registered against the accused, he said, adding that raids were being conducted to net the accomplices of the accused.—APP

OGRA
rejects news
about diesel
shortage

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Tuesday rejected news appearing in certain sections of the media about the shortage of diesel in the country, terming it "incorrect and misleading". "Sufficient diesel stocks are available in the country to cater to the necessary demand," OGRA spokesman Imran Ghaznavi said in a brief statement.

He said it had been noted that certain sections of the press reported about "limited stocks" of diesel in the country, which was "not correct"—APP

Admin foils
seven bids
to smuggle
wheat

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police foiled seven bids to smuggle wheat and flour by seizing over 1800 bags.

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad and Taxila police confiscated seven vehicles loaded with over 1800 wheat and flour bags.

He informed that police arrested seven drivers namely Bilal, Kashmir Khan, Rafil, Sher Alam, Naseer, and others for violating the ban on illegal transportation of wheat and flour.

He said that the authorities concerned had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat and flour smuggling.—APP

Marriyum
condemns
Imran's
attempt to
implicate
journalists

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday strongly condemned Imran Khan's attempt to implicate senior journalists Hamid Mir, Murtaza Solangi and Waqar Satti in the Wazirabad firing incident.

In a statement, she advised Imran to do politics, but refrain from spreading mischief, chaos and disorder in the country.

She said during Imran's tenure journalists were attacked by the then government, and now journalists were implicated by him in fake cases.

She asked Imran Khan not to endanger the lives of journalists for his petty political gains.

The minister said that Imran was doing politics on dead bodies and journalists. She said that Imran couldn't fight a political war with political opponents, he should do political opposition with political opponents, but should not indulge in anti-national activities.—APP

Hair treatment products have great potential in China

DNA

BEIJING: "In the future, hair loss prevention and hair growth is the top priority, scalp care is also one of the future trends. If Pakistani hair loss prevention products can enter the Chinese market, they will have great potential." Liu Yingqi, general manager of JD Worldwide, said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN) at a sub-forum during the fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE).

consumers are increasingly concerned about hair loss, and "keeping hair healthy like face" is becoming a new trend in China. As Chinese consumers gradually upgrade their concept of hair washing and care, treating scalp and hair separately will be the trend.

In the future, hair loss prevention products are as promising as niche beauty brands.

According to the General Administration of Customs of China, import and export volume of cross-border e-commerce in China has increased nearly tenfold in the past five years. Han Rui, vice president of JD Group, said that in the past three years, JD's total purchase of imported goods reached RMB

500 billion, exceeding the RMB 400 billion target set at the second CIIE, which is supported by the strong purchasing power of Chinese consumers for imported goods.

"Taking JD's pre-sale on Singles Day shopping carnival at 8 pm October 31, sales of JD Worldwide and 800 overseas brands

increased by more than 100% year-on-year.

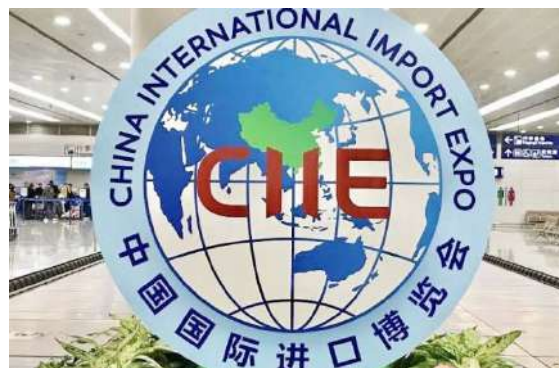
It is enough to prove that Chinese consumers love imported goods, and cross-border goods have a very broad market prospect and unlimited potential in China," Han said. Acknowledging the massive size of China's e-commerce market and its po-

tential to further bolster bilateral trade, what will Pakistan do to open the door of the Chinese market through cross-border e-commerce?

In early November, during Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, China and Pakistan signed the Memorandum of Understanding on E-commerce Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which will promote trade in quality products and strengthen cooperation in logistics, electronic payment and other areas. The picture shows product sales ranking on JD Pakistani National Pavilion platform.

Pakistan has set up a national pavilion on the JD platform. At the beginning, only some cookies were sold. Now the website has covered more than 70 categories, such as Basmati rice, cookies, black tea and condiments. Among them, the best seller was Basmati rice, followed by cookies and tea. Among the more than 500 reviews with a positive rating of 96%, consumers generally commented that Basmati rice has a strong rice flavor and is suitable for making fried rice.

"Pakistani mango jam and plum jam, which are relatively rare in the Chinese market, will hit the shelves soon," according to Liu, the pavilion also participated in the Double 11 shopping spree.



US midterms: a tale of two contests

When American voters go to the polls on Tuesday, they will be voting not only in a multitude of specific races, but in what feel like two separate elections. The first is a largely traditional version of the midterms: a referendum on the incumbent (helping to explain why Joe Biden has been keeping a relatively low profile, given his approval ratings) and on the economy. In a cost of living crisis, it may not be surprising that 92% of Republicans see the economy as very important, with predictable issues of crime and immigration following behind.

But among Democrats, only 65% see the economy as very important – while 80% cite the future of democracy, 79% cite healthcare and 75% abortion. This is the second and very different contest. It is a “struggle for the very soul of America”, as Mr Biden warned on Wednesday, and a battle over people’s fundamental rights – to control their own bodies, and to have free and fair elections. The context is the storming of the Capitol on 6 January 2021; the vicious attack on Nancy Pelosi’s husband by a man who told police he had planned to kidnap the House speaker and break her kneecaps if she “lied” to him; and the supreme court’s overturning of Roe v Wade. The latter led to a surge in registrations, and more than half of registered voters still say abortion will be very important in determining their choice.

The question is how much ground Democrats lose. Polls suggest Republicans will almost certainly take the House and are favoured to take the Senate. Whether they prove more accurate than in recent years is critical to an outcome which will help to determine everything from US support for Ukraine to the 2024 presidential race. A triumph for the Republicans will mean a hobbled administration, facing legislative stagnation, hostile committees and investigations on matters such as Hunter Biden’s business dealings.

But this is also a defining moment in the defence of democracy. Thanks to Donald Trump’s lies, amplified by hard-right media outlets like Fox News, grassroots Republicans believe, entirely wrongly, that the 2020 election was unfair or outright stolen – a belief not dented even when his own officials testified to his defeat. The consequences have included political violence; the danger of more is clear. But this “big lie” is also playing out in midterm races.

The very act of casting a vote in the midterms may help to preserve or imperil democracy. But because very protracted counts will probably be followed by legal challenges and threats, winning means not just persuading voters, but ensuring that their choices are upheld. An increasingly polarised electorate may move even further apart. It is unsurprising that there are two contests when there are, increasingly, two different Americas, who cannot even agree on the facts, still less what they mean for the nation.

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UK’s settlement proposal

The written ministerial statement the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary James Cleverly issued last week, saying that the UK seeks to reach a settlement in its territorial dispute with Mauritius early next year, appears to be a breakthrough that will help end the UK’s half-century occupation of the Chagos archipelago. But apart from the UK allowing for the return of the 2,000 or so former inhabitants of the islands who it forcibly displaced in the 1960s and 1970s, the agreement the UK is offering Mauritius is highly unfair. The UK intends to retain control of its strategic Indian Ocean military base in Diego Garcia, the major and the most valuable among the 60 islands of the archipelago, which it has leased to the United States. The US has reportedly received satisfactory assurances about its base from the UK before nodding to what is a reversal of the UK’s long-term stance on the issue.

The rights and wrongs of the issue are crystal-clear. When Mauritius gained independence from the UK in 1968, London severed the Chagos islands from the rest of the country, forcibly deported the residents from the island, and then leased the island of Diego Garcia to the US as the latter’s most important military base in the center of the vast Indian Ocean.

In 2019 the International Court of Justice, the United Nations’ highest court, ruled that the continuing British occupation of the islands was illegal and the Chagos Islands were rightfully part of Mauritius. But the UK has previously chosen to describe the ruling as purely advisory, despite the mounting pressure on it.

By saying that any agreement with Mauritius will “ensure the continued effective operation of the joint UK/US military base on Diego Garcia”, Cleverly is actually putting the rightful owner of the islands in a disadvantageous position in their negotiations, something the UK has no legitimacy to do at all.

Rather than having the audacity to dictate terms to the rightful owner, the UK is obliged to not only hand all the islands back, but also compensate those it forcefully evicted from their homes.

The UK has benefited tremendously from not only the lease of its military base to the US but also the rich fishery and natural resources around the islands. As such, what the UK wants is by no means to correct its mistakes, but to permanently legalize the lion’s share of its booty by condescendingly granting the Mauritians a small part of their natural, overdue rights and interests – without showing any sense of shame for the nature of its deeds.

A Republican win on November 8 does not mean a Trump comeback

Joe Macaron

Republicans regaining control of the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate does not mean a rise in Trump’s popularity. Rather, a Republican victory would be a consequence of the slump in support for Biden amid an economic crisis and the failure of the Democratic Party to defend its economic policies and rally support for issues they advocate for, such as gun control and abortion rights.

The November 8 midterms are the first elections in the United States since the end of the COVID-19 crisis and the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol. They will be held against a backdrop of a deepening US economic crisis and growing polarisation among Americans.

Democrats are expected to do poorly in the elections, which is typical for the political party that

holds the presidency. The Republicans have the potential to bring under their control the House of Representatives and even the Senate.

Such a development, however, should not be interpreted as an indication that former President Donald Trump is definitely slated for a comeback in the 2024 presidential elections.

A Republican win

There are several factors that seem to be favouring a Republican win in the upcoming midterms. First, amid a negative outlook for the US economy, Biden’s approval rating has taken a hit, hovering around 40 percent in aggregated polls. This would certainly affect the Democratic Party’s performance in the vote.

According to a Republican pollster, who looked at results from midterm elections between 1962 and 2018, US presidents with job approval ratings under 50 percent have lost 39 seats in the House of Representatives on average.

Trump, who has actively campaigned alongside Republican congressional candidates, has retained a certain level of popularity. Democrats’ hopes that recent investigations into the former president and his associates would affect the pro-Trump camp have been dashed. The former president has maintained a favourable rating of around 44 percent, while the percentage of those who view him negatively has not increased from the low 50s.

The Democrats have relied on politicised issues, such as abortion, to help them rally support and offset Biden’s lower ratings. Indeed, the Supreme Court’s June decision overturning a 1973 ruling that made abortion a federal right led to a surge in women registering to vote. In the 2018 midterm election, suburban and college-educated women helped the Democrats win back the House of Representatives from the Republicans, a major electoral defeat for the Trump administration. But ahead of the elections, polls show

that some women voters – in particular, white suburban women – care more about inflation and volatile gas prices and are shifting towards voting for the Republican Party.

It seems that Democrats may not be able to win the votes of moderate Republicans who backed Biden in the 2020 presidential election. The leftist base of the Democratic Party, which is the driving force behind the liberal vote, is focused on confronting Trumpism rather than luring moderate Republicans.

According to the Associated Press, more than a million voters have switched from the Democratic to Republican Party. Among them are swing voters who turned against Trump but are now going back to supporting the GOP.

The Republicans, as a party in opposition, also seem to have the edge on potential turnout in the midterms, fueled by the Supreme Court’s ruling on abortion, which they see as a major victory, and the urge to vindicate Trump. In 2020, liberals were more motivated to turn up and vote to oust the president, but this momentum seems to have lost some steam. Democrats are struggling to convince the coalition of voters that elected Biden in 2020 to come out big again this year.

A Trump comeback? Thus, Republicans regaining control of the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate does not mean a rise in Trump’s popularity. Rather, a Republican victory would be a consequence of the slump in support for Biden amid an economic crisis and the failure of the Democratic Party to defend its economic policies and rally support for issues they advocate for, such as gun control and abortion rights. Once Trump announces his intention to run in 2024, which is expected to happen after the midterms, electoral attitudes can easily change. As he engages with the public again as a presidential candidate, voters will be reminded of his controversial presidency and

persona. Furthermore, the economic situation in the US also may change by the beginning of the next election season. The ball will be in the Democrats’ court in the next two years to lead the way out of the economic downturn. Biden has executive privileges which he could use to mitigate the impact of inflation and improve economic indicators.

It is also not clear yet whether the 79-year-old incumbent will run for a second term or if the Democrats will put forward a different candidate. If Trump returns to his divisive rhetoric, the Democratic Party would need to have a candidate that can inspire the liberal base to get out and vote without alienating centrists and independents. Trump struggled electorally in 2020 even in historically red states like Texas, Georgia, and Arizona, and his loyal base alone might not be enough to carry him back to the White House. Moreover, if Republicans control both the House and Senate, it would not necessarily mean an easy ride for proponents of conservative policies. The Senate, which would likely be under the moderate Republican leadership of Mitch McConnell, may resist House draft bills that are perceived as too extreme, even if it means working with Democratic colleagues on legislative alternatives. Republican control of both chambers of Congress might even reinforce the GOP’s internal divisions over what policies to prioritise and what rhetoric to adopt leading up to the presidential election.

In other words, the political and economic situation in the US could be quite different from the present one in the fall of 2024. Indeed, Trump continues to have a significant sway over US politics, but his current level of popularity – stuck in the mid-40s – may not be enough to win him back the presidency. In this sense, the 2024 election is for the Democrats to lose.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Differences must be put aside for the sake of planet

Chris Doyle

Agreeing to all this and achieving it, however, are two totally separate things. To get close to the 1.5 C aim, greenhouse gas emissions will need to be halved by the end of this decade. The reality is that this target just will not be met. Are we even prepared for what this will mean? Glasgow was about the last time – perhaps for a long time to come – when most of the international community gathered in earnest to tackle a major planetary issue.

Some 120 world leaders are due in Sharm El-Sheikh this month. It is time to ask, how is the planet faring? How has the global effort progressed since COP26 in Glasgow?

For all its critics, COP26 did see some major agreements. States agreed to try and stick to the target of keeping global warming to just 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Some 34 countries also committed to end state funding for fossil fuels overseas. And countries agreed to end

deforestation by 2030, which is perhaps a more achievable aim after the result of last week’s Brazilian presidential election.

Agreeing to all this and achieving it, however, are two totally separate things. To get close to the 1.5 C aim, greenhouse gas emissions will need to be halved by the end of this decade. The reality is that this target just will not be met. Are we even prepared for what this will mean?

Glasgow was about the last time – perhaps for a long time to come – when most of the international community gathered in earnest to tackle a major planetary issue. It was the tail end of an era that has now been smashed in the ruins of Ukraine. Within weeks of COP26 concluding, Russian troops were massing on Ukraine’s border. Russia is increasingly isolated, but for climate change the bigger challenge is the deteriorating relations between the US and China, the world’s two largest economies and largest emitters.

So, as hundreds of private jets wing their way to Egypt, optimism is in short supply. Joe Biden’s plane will only set down later this week, when the US midterms are out of the way. Three vital leaders will be absent entirely: Xi Jinping of China, Vladimir Putin of Russia and India’s Narendra Modi. Meanwhile, with energy shortages and nervousness about supply, various countries are ditching their pledges on climate change. The UK, for example, has issued new licenses for North Sea oil and gas exploration.

The Ukraine crisis has also made certain countries less willing to be reliant on oil and gas. Germany has reconsidered nuclear power. With high energy prices, renewables such as wind and solar look far more attractive. Electric vehicles are being adopted too. Renewables also answer concerns about energy security.

It has been a stellar year for oil and gas companies. High prices have led to jaw-dropping profit levels. So far in 2022, the five largest have trousered a handsome profit of \$170 billion. This may tempt some governments into introducing windfall taxes

on such companies, but will any of the proceeds go toward climate-related issues?

Many argue for increased oil and gas exploitation to counter energy insecurity. Some argue this will be a temporary move. Germany looks as if it might break its Glasgow pledge not to invest in oil and gas overseas, as it debates whether to invest in offshore gas fields in Senegal.

But has the world truly accepted the sacrifices required? The science is crystal clear – the world is warming. Skeptics have little room. People’s lived experiences are bearing out this scientific analysis as well. The skeptics, deniers and fraudsters are still out in force. Skepticism is fine, it keeps people on their mettle. We should always question assumptions, including on climate change. But the skepticism must be allied to a reasoned debate, something the deniers are not prepared to engage in. The fraudsters are downright dangerous.

Just take a look at the last 12 months. What about the floods in August in Pakistan, the worst in the country’s history? Remember the typhoons in Bangladesh, heat waves in Europe leading to the worst drought in 500 years, wildfires in North America and droughts in Africa. At present, 146 million people in Africa are facing extreme hunger as a result of the worst drought in 40 years. The UK experienced temperatures over 40 C for the first time in recorded history this summer. European rivers such as the Po and the Loire dried up to the extent that people could walk across them in places. The American West has experienced what scientists have referred to as a “megadrought,” the most extreme in 1,200 years.

All in all, what is the cost of this? One leading insurer estimated that, so far, it is \$229 billion. It is probably more.

Time is running short. Take sea levels. The World Meteorological Organization has found that sea levels are now rising 5 millimeters a year. In the 1990s, the annual rate was 2.1 millimeters. For low-lying areas, this will be devastating. Will richer countries be willing to help the poor

er nations? This looks less likely now given the economic climate, but it is required. In Glasgow, wealthier states promised to increase adaptation assistance to \$40 billion by 2025, up from \$29 billion in 2020. Many are critical of the World Bank’s performance in raising funds for the climate. The World Bank’s head, David Malpass, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, dodges questions about his stance on climate change. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the multilateral development banks to “step up and deliver.” This is why, at COP27, rebuilding funds – known as “loss and damage” – will be a hot topic. Poorer nations need investment to defend their territories and peoples from floods, storms and drought. COP27 is also being held on the continent of Africa. This is the continent that has contributed least to man-made climate change, with just 3 percent of all emissions historically. Yet it has arguably suffered the most. According to the African Development Bank, it loses between 5 percent and 15 percent of gross domestic product every year due to the effects of climate change.

Far-right leaders, in particular, need to reevaluate their position. They should consider how climate change will impact mass migration, which they so hate. The number of migrants moving across the world to richer, safer states will only increase. It does not justify the racist, hostile attitudes, but should give them food for thought. Perhaps they might care to consider the words of one of the icons of the right, Margaret Thatcher, in 1990: “The danger of global warming is as yet unseen, but real enough for us to make changes and sacrifices, so that we do not live at the expense of future generations.”

It is hard not to see the last 12 months as a huge setback in the quest to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Leadership is needed. Differences need to be set aside for this issue. All strains of political opinion need to get on board. We are not doing nearly enough.

—*Courtesy: Arab News*

Briefs

Climate-hit states need global help

FROM PAGE 01
The climate change had ravaged the country, he said, adding it was very important for the world to realize that no more countries could become victims of this climate induced changes. He recounted that the road infrastructure had been damaged in Pakistan with hundreds of bridges and flyovers washed away. The prime minister further stressed that it was now a high time for this august assembly to consider the action plan and save any country to become victim of this climate change. He elaborated that the country was still going through the phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction, while the stagnant flood water posed a danger to the health of thousands of children and their parents as the flood-hit population was suffering from serious diseases like malaria and dysentery. Sharing his deep concerns over the impacts of climate change, the prime minister said that it must not happen again and it was their collective responsibility for the future and they must realize their responsibilities.

PM meets Saudi...

FROM PAGE 01
Saudi Arabia, which were deeply rooted in common faith, culture, values and an eternal tradition of mutual support. The prime minister also appreciated the hospitality and cooperation of Saudi Arabia for the two million Pakistanis working in the Kingdom, which contributed to the development and prosperity of the two brotherly countries. Referring to their recent meeting in Riyadh, the prime minister and the crown prince expressed satisfaction at the growing high-level ties. The two leaders expressed their determination to further strengthen the multilateral partnership between the two countries. He also appreciated the efforts of the Saudi crown prince on the functioning of the integrated environmental initiative and assured the Saudi leadership of full support from Pakistan. Separately, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store of Norway. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on international and regional issues of common interest. The Prime Minister reiterated that Pakistan attached importance to its longstanding ties with Norway while underlining the need for enhanced bilateral cooperation in trade, clean energy, education and technology. The Prime Minister noted the positive contributions made by Norwegian tech and telecom companies to Pakistan's service sector.

Centre asks Punjab, KP..

FROM PAGE 01
the march on behalf of the federal government, its allies and prime minister, Rana Sanaullah added. He said that the protesters were burning tyres and blocking roads. Later, they film videos to show that a sea of citizens is protesting, he said adding that citizens were being prevented from going to the hospital, picking up their children from school and running important errands. He said that at some sites, the protesters had blocked roads from both sides and police is assisting them by placing barriers. Citizens have shown resentment on such attitude of PTI's protesters and situation would be tense if people started reacting over such protests, he added. The minister reiterated that only a few thousand people had joined the party's march which was intent on pushing the country toward chaos. He said that only one suspect, Naveed, had been arrested for involvement in Wazirabad incident and there was no other suspect. He said that suspect had the same motivations as those behind the attacks on Ahsan Iqbal and the attack on Khawaja Asif. The minister said the suspect was self-motivated and was not a part of any political or religious party. All the people he was linked to and in contact with are being investigated, and maintained.

Azerbaijan marks Victory Day Azerbaijani Armed Forces wrote glorious history: Aliyev

"Shusha is really considered an impregnable fortress. When Shusha was liberated by our heroic soldiers armed only with light weapons, they were prepared to die

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan marks its Victory in Patriotic war. On September 27, 2020, in response to the next military aggression of Armenia, the Azerbaijani people launched a patriotic war under the leadership of President, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev to liberate the occupied territories. While attending an event in Shusha said, "by liberating the impregnable fortress of Shusha from Armenian occupation two years ago, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan wrote a glorious page in our history. This glorious history will stay with us forever. The people of Azerbaijan and future generations will be rightly proud of this glorious Victory." "Shusha is really considered an impregnable fortress. When Shusha was liberated by our heroic soldiers armed only with light weapons, they were prepared to die. They were prepared to die for the Motherland, for our lands. We all understood perfectly well that our complete victory would not be possible without Shusha", he said. Further he said, "In my numerous interviews during the war, I disclosed some aspects regarding the progress of war. Of course, I could not say everything. I couldn't reveal too many things, especially about future plans. In response to a question, I only said once that our victory would be incomplete without Shusha. I am sure that the



people of Azerbaijan understood perfectly well that our ultimate goal, the ultimate goal of the war, was to liberate Shusha from occupation. Not only because Shusha is the crown jewel of Karabakh. Not because the strategic location of Shusha actually determined the outcome of the war after its liberation. I said that because Shusha is the heart and soul of the Azerbaijani people, it is a sacred place for every Azerbaijani. Every time I am in Shusha - I have been to Shusha more than 10 times in the last two years - every time I approach Shusha along Victory Road, I am sure

that everyone can see the heroism, dedication and professionalism of our soldiers. Because the road we call "Victory Road" was built only two years ago." As a result of 44 days of military operations, the Victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated the Sugovushan settlement of Tartar region on October 3, Jabrayil city on October 4, Hadrut settlement of Khojavend region on October 9, Fuzuli city on October 17, Zangilan city on October 20, liberated the city of Gubadli on October 25 and Shusha on November 8 and liberated more than 300 settle-

ments, as well as important strategic heights in the direction of Aghdara, Murovdagh, and Zangilan. Courageous Azerbaijani soldiers and officers, step by step, broke through the engineering and fortification systems established by Armenia for many years, and our lands were liberated at the cost of the blood and lives of our heroic soldiers and officers, martyrs. 2908 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were killed in the Patriotic War, 6 people are missing. The enemy, which did not succeed in the victory march of the Azerbaijani Army, committed war crimes by resorting to provocations and targeting innocent civilians. Ancient Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, Mingachevir (Hydroelectric Power Station) and Yevlakh (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline), Beylagan, Barda, Tartar, Gabala, Goranboy, Agjabadi, Absheron, Khizi, and other strategic facilities are located in the territory of Azerbaijan came under fire from ballistic missiles and other heavy artillery. As a result of the Armenian military aggression, 93 civilians, including 12 children and 27 women, were killed, 454 civilians were injured, 12,292 residential and non-residential areas, 288 vehicles, and 1,018 farms were damaged. Despite all this, Azerbaijan's liberation of Shusha from enemy captivity, played a decisive role in the fate of the war, resulting in Armenia's recognition and capitulation, forcing Armenia to return Kalbajar, Agdam, and Lachin regions to Azerbaijan. The determination and will of the Azerbaijani people, their economic strength, the building of a modern army, and the unity of the people and power were important factors in ensuring the victory of our country. The people of Azerbaijan, with a rich history of statehood and military history, have written another glorious chronicle of heroism, proving to the whole world that they are a victorious nation and have won a historic victory over the enemy.

French envoy briefs media about...

FROM PAGE 01
Organizations (INGOs) for relief operations for a total of 90,000 beneficiaries in 3 provinces: • Action Against Hunger (ACF) for an integrated project combining health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture, food security and livelihood for close to 30,000 beneficiaries in the districts of Kambar Shadadkot and Khairpur in Sindh; • Secours Islamique France (SIF) for a multi-sectoral emergency assistance to 40,000 beneficiaries in the districts of Quetta, Killa Saifullah, Pishin and Lasbela, in Balochistan; • Médecins du Monde (MDM) for the deployment of three mobile health teams, for 20,000 beneficiaries, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (districts of Nowshera, Charsadda and Chitral). Ambassador Galey said, the French government has also allocated 1 million euros to the World Food Programme (WFP) for an integrated Nutrition - Safety Net Programme for pregnant and lactating women in the districts of Kambar Shadadkot and Khairpur in Sindh. This programme will provide emergency food assistance, life-saving nutrition preventive packages, and cash grants to 5,400 direct beneficiaries, and 32,400 household members. Finally, beyond public assistance, a number of French companies also contributed to support flood stricken communities [Total, Bureau Veritas and others] through direct donations or contributions to non-profit organisations to provide immediate support to rehabilitation activities, he concluded. The Defence Attache Col A. Presson in his remarks appreciated the role of Pakistan Army for providing fool proof security to the French humanitarian workers.

Imran Khan says...

FROM PAGE 01
and risen in support of his message of justice, freedom, and national sovereignty. "When we are so close to our goal no fear or threat of death can stop my struggle. Our peaceful protests and dialogue are only for Pakistan's Hakeeqi Azadi." The former premier announced to challenge the First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Wazirabad police assassination bid. While talking to journalists at Zaman Park, Imran Khan said he knew that he would be shot, and in this regard, a video had been recorded in which he mentioned the names of the people who were behind the attack, adding that a plot was made to kill him in the same way that Punjab Governor Salman Taseer was assassinated by using extremism. Imran Khan went on to say that accused Naveed's statement was based on lies adding that Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) chief Saad Rizvi has also denied any contact with accused Naveed. "I have no issue with the army, we have only differences over the accountability process," Imran added.

PM wants judicial...

FROM PAGE 01
He assured that the federal government would provide full assistance to the commission in reaching to this objective. It was stressed that in the opinion of the federal government, for the sake of actual factors and public confidence, the formation of the judicial commission was necessary. The proposed Court's commission should bring forth the facts and fix the responsibility, it was further prayed. The prime minister, in his letter, requested that the proposed Commission could take into consideration five relevant questions, including which law enforcement body was responsible to provide security to the long march! Whether the relevant safety measures and standard operating procedures (SOPs) were adopted for the protection of the participants of the long march and whether those were implemented! What were the actual factors behind the incident! What were the facts involving presence of more than one shooter, retaliatory firing, number of victims, and the nature of their injuries! The contents of the letter shared in Urdu language by the press wing said.

PPP senator donates LED lights for Islamabad Tennis Complex



AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has taken the initiative to promote sports specially game of tennis as Senator Salim Mandviwala has donated LED lights for Islamabad

Tennis Complex to provide the opportunities to youngsters to excel their skills. According to the details, hundreds of young players come to Islamabad Tennis Complex for training every day but they were facing problems due to faulty floodlights in the complex.

On the request of PPP senator Taj Haider who is also chief executive of Islamabad Tennis Complex, Senator Salim Mandviwala has installed LED lights to give gift for young tennis players. Speaking on the occasion, Salim Mandviwala

said that the young players are the important asset of the country, who will provide all possible support to provide facilities. He said that tennis is an international sport and Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, including the Pakistan Sports Board and Pakistan Tennis Federation should also encourage young tennis players. Earlier Senator Taj Haider, Chief Executive of Islamabad Tennis Complex, thanked Senator Saleem Mandviwala for his cooperation and said that we are trying to provide opportunities to as many young players as possible to show their talent in tennis as Islamabad Tennis Complex is playing the role of a nursery for the development of tennis in Pakistan.

Barca drawn with Man Utd in Europa League playoffs

NYON: Barcelona and Manchester United will meet in the Europa League play-offs for a place in the competition's last 16. Spanish side Barcelona met the 2017 Europa League winners twice in the 2009 and 2011 Champions League finals, winning on both occasions, while United lost both legs of the 2018-19 European Cup quarter-final meeting between the pair. "The draw has given us the most difficult rival again, like in Champions League group stage. Luck was not on our side. Manchester United are a great rival, a historic club - the worst that we could wish for," Barca manager Xavi Hernandez said after the draw. United finished second in their Europa League group this season behind another Spanish team - Real Sociedad - and meet a Barca side that missed out on Champions League last 16 after finishing third in their group behind Bayern Munich and Inter Milan. - APP

Champions Real Madrid beaten at Rayo Vallecano

LONDON: Real Madrid missed out on the chance to return to the top of La Liga as a retaken penalty gave Rayo Vallecano a surprise 3-2 victory over Los Blancos. It was Real's first defeat in the league this season and gives Barcelona a two-point lead at the top of La Liga after 13 games. The home side took an early lead in Tuesday's game as Santi Comesaña scored in the opening five minutes, but Real hit back later in the first half through Luka Modric's penalty and Eder Militao's acrobatic header. The lead lasted only three minutes as Rayo leveled just before halftime when Thibaut Courtois was unable to parry away Alvaro Garcia's drive. Dani Carvajal's handball midway through the second half saw

Rayo awarded a penalty to go in front. Courtois saved Oscar Trejo attempt, but the goalkeeper came off his line too early and the kick was retaken. The forward made no mistake the second time as he placed his penalty beyond Courtois' reach. The result means Rayo now has one win and two draws against the top three teams in La Liga this season - Barcelona, Real, and Atlético Madrid. "I wasn't surprised because we all know how they play, they were better and more precise than us today and it's a well-deserved win for them," Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti told Movistar Plus, according to Reuters. "We lost too many challenges. They were overwhelming. It doesn't matter if you have more quality if your rivals have more intensity than you. "I think we started the season well but the team has felt the exhausting schedule ahead of the World Cup." Real, now without a league win in more than two weeks, next faces Cadix on Thursday, and after that has a seven-week break while the World Cup takes place in Qatar. Barcelona, meanwhile, has a chance to extend its lead at the top of La Liga when it plays Osasuna on Tuesday. - DNA

Caroline Garcia captures WTA Finals crown

"I just dropped my level for a little bit - on the tiebreak and in the first game of the second set," Sabalenka said. "The key moments, I dropped my level. That's it"

DNA

FORT WORTH: France's Caroline Garcia scored the biggest victory of her career with a straight-sets defeat of Aryna Sabalenka to win the season-ending WTA Finals on Monday. Garcia relied on a superb service game to overpower her Belarusian opponent 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 at Fort Worth, Texas. The 29-year-old from Lyon is only the second French player to win the WTA title after Amelie Mauresmo in 2005. "It's definitely a lot of giant happiness," Garcia said after a win that will see her pocket \$1.57 million in prize money and 1,375 rankings points. "A crazy final, a lot of intensity on every point. Just really proud of the work we did throughout the year. It was a great match - I really went for it. I'm really happy to win my biggest title." With both

sixth-seeded Garcia and seventh-seeded Sabalenka serving beautifully throughout, Monday's final was settled by the finest of margins. Garcia seized the initiative in the first set tiebreak after both women had held to get it 6-6. Remarkably, neither player conceded a break point during a hard-fought first set. But the question of who would blink first was answered in the breaker as Sabalenka's composure suddenly deserted her. A wayward Sabalenka backhand return plopped into the net to give Garcia a 4/2 lead in the tie-break. On the next point, Sabalenka double-faulted to hand the Frenchwoman a 5/2 lead. Garcia brought up four set points with an ace for a 6/2 lead. Although Sabalenka recovered to win the next two points, she double-faulted again to hand Garcia the set.



A clearly rattled Sabalenka was soon in trouble in the second set, suffering a break on the first game after Garcia drilled a winner up the line. That break proved decisive as Garcia never looked like surrendering the initiative, holding for the remainder of the set before serving for the match at 5-4. She earned her first match point when Sabalenka yanked a backhand return wide for a 40-30 lead. Although Sabalenka saved that match point with a backhand down the line, Garcia regained match point with a booming serve before converting on the next point. Garcia said she was pleased with how she handled the pressure at key moments to set up her win. "Sometimes you are emotional or things don't go your way," Garcia said. "Sometimes there is a big fight, so you have to find

your way through it... and that was one of the biggest points I improved. Today one of the most important things was to stay calm and jump on every opportunity," Sabalenka, meanwhile, said momentary lapses had cost her dearly. "I just dropped my level for a little bit - on the tiebreak and in the first game of the second set," Sabalenka said. "The key moments, I dropped my level. That's it." Nevertheless, the 24-year-old from Minsk was able to look back with satisfaction on a season that included a semi-final appearance at the US Open in September. "I learned how to lose this season," Sabalenka said. "Before I used to be super aggressive after tough losses. And now I can accept the loss. For me, that's really important because it's not only about tennis, it's about being a good person."

Briefs

Moscow has no preconditions for peace talks

MOSCOW: Moscow has no "preconditions" on peace talks with Kyiv towards ending the ongoing conflict, besides good will from Ukraine to start them, a top Russian diplomat said on Tuesday.

"There are no preconditions on our part, except for the main condition - that Ukraine show good will," said Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, commenting on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy setting out "respect to the UN Charter, compensation for losses" as conditions for talks with Russia.

Russia has always demonstrated a willingness to hold peace talks, said Rudenko. "Ukraine passed a law that prohibits conducting peace talks with Russia. It's their choice. (But) we have always declared our readiness for such negotiations," he said, adding that the talks were interrupted by Ukraine.

Asked if Russia is in talks with the US about Ukraine, Rudenko said: "No, we are not holding (such talks)." Rudenko added that Moscow is examining proposals by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for creating a safe zone around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southeastern Ukraine.

He also said that "the Russian part" of the Black Sea grain deal is not being implemented and that Russia will weigh all factors before making a decision on extending the deal past Nov. 19, when it is due to expire. This July, Türkiye, the UN, Russia, and Ukraine signed an agreement to resume grain exports from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports, which were paused after the Russia-Ukraine war began in February.

A Joint Coordination Center with officials from the three countries and the UN was set up in Istanbul to oversee the shipments.—DNA

Havana celebrates foundation anniversary

HAVANA: Activities to celebrate the 503rd anniversary of the foundation of the Cuban capital Havana kicked off Monday.

"We will continue to defend the protection of the patrimonial values in keeping with our traditions and customs," Magda Resik, director of communications at the Office of the Historian of the City of Havana, told Xinhua.

The 503rd anniversary of the city's foundation will be marked on Nov. 16. This year's celebrations include art exhibitions, concerts, book launch events and music festivals throughout November.

Experts from Latin America are expected to participate in the 18th International Congress of Patrimonial Cities Management scheduled for Nov. 15-19. In addition, new houses have been delivered to Havana residents as part of a governmental plan, and a specialized center for the local deaf community was opened.

With a population of over 2.2 million, Havana was recognized as one of the world's seven wonder cities by the Swiss foundation New7Wonders in 2016.—APP

Rupee flat against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Rupee Tuesday remained flat against the US dollar in the interbank trading to close at Rs 221.65.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of US dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 225.5 and Rs 227.75 respectively. The price of Euro against Rupee increased by Rs 1.57 to close at Rs 221.76 against the previous close of Rs 220.19.

The Japanese Yen gained one paisa to close at Rs 1.51, whereas an increase of Rs 3.76 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 254.48 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 250.72.

The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal also remained unchanged to close at Rs 60.34 and Rs 58.98 respectively.—APP

Beijing warns Lithuania, adhere to one-China principle

China recalled its ambassador from Lithuania and asked the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry to change its own diplomatic mission to the charge d'affaires level

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: A day after Lithuania opened its office in Taiwan, China on Tuesday urged the Baltic nation to adhere to the "one-China principle." "We firmly reject any act that violates China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," said Zhao Lijian, spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry, when asked about the latest development in Taiwan-Lithuania relations. "China urges Lithuania to strictly abide by the one-China principle, prudently handle Taiwan-related issues, and earnestly safeguard the political foundation of bilateral relations," said Zhao.

The Baltic nation on Monday formally began operations in Taipei after launching its trade office in Taiwan, the self-ruled nation which China claims as its "breakaway province." Taipei, however, has pushed back such claims insisting on its independence since 1949, enjoying full diplomatic relations with at least 14 nations. "This trade office will bring better cooperation between Lithuania and Taiwan. Lithuania is taking a huge step towards becoming a high-tech powerhouse in the EU, and this partnership will strengthen that," tweeted Lithuanian Economy and Innovation Minister Ausrinė Armonaitė, who attended

the event at the Taiwanese Representative Office in the capital Vilnius. China flew 31 of its jets across what Taiwan calls an air defense identification zone on Monday, the highest number since Aug. 05 after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi paid an unannounced trip to the island, home to around 24 million people. A total of 63 Chinese military planes flew around Taiwan when Lithuania opened its office in Taipei. A trade office does not have the status of full-fledged diplomatic relations between two sides but looks after bilateral trade.

The Lithuanian office in Taipei will be led by Vilnius' first represent-

ative to Taiwan, Paulius Lukauskas. Eric Huang, who leads Taipei's representative office in Vilnius, said that Taiwan "will invest more than 10 million euros (\$9.98 million) towards chip production in Lithuania." Taiwan, the world's biggest supplier of semiconductors, through its Industrial Technology and Research Institute, will cooperate with Lithuania's electronics manufacturer Teltonika "to build semiconductor technology capabilities in the Baltic country" besides training around two dozen Lithuanians on funded scholarships. "There is only one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of

China," Zhao said in Beijing on Tuesday. "China firmly rejects any form of official interaction with Taiwan by any country having diplomatic ties with China. We firmly reject any act that contravenes the universal consensus of the international community and basic norms of international relations," he added. In August, China sanctioned Agne Vaičiukevičute, Lithuania's deputy minister for transport and communications, for her trip to Taiwan which Beijing said "trampled on the one-China principle, seriously interferes in China's internal affairs, and undermines China's sovereignty and territo-

rial integrity." Lithuania protested Beijing's move which also included the suspension of cooperation in the field of transport. While touring Taiwan, Vaičiukevičute held 14 meetings in five days, focusing on ways to bolster cooperation with Taiwanese "maritime, shipping, and aviation companies." Last year, China downgraded its diplomatic relations with Lithuania after Vilnius allowed Taiwan to open a mission in the country, a de facto embassy, angering Beijing. China recalled its ambassador from Lithuania and asked the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry to change its own diplomatic mission to the charge d'affaires level.

Pak urges Israel to allow UNRWA to operate freely

NEW YORK: Pakistan has called on Israel, which occupies Palestine's territory, to allow UNRWA, the U.N. agency mandated to care for Palestinian refugees, to discharge its humanitarian duties freely in accordance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. Speaking in the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee, Pakistani delegate Bilal Chaudhry voiced Pakistan's "deep concern" over the movement and access restrictions imposed on Palestinian refugees and UNRWA's staff within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, pointing out that the Israeli blockade of Gaza, compounded by the pandemic's impact, drastically limited the economic activity in that territory and impeded the agency's operations there. The Fourth Committee deals with special political and de-

colonization matters. "We take this opportunity to greatly appreciate UNRWA's support in infrastructure, education and health sectors, especially the educational digitalization strategy and COVID-19 vaccination campaign," Chaudhry, who is a counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said Monday. In addition to supporting the Palestinian refugees, he said, UNRWA's work contributes to regional peace and stability. As such, ensuring its adequate financing was a critical international responsibility that must be fulfilled. "The world simply cannot fail the Palestinian refugees," the Pakistani delegate said, adding, "Their humanitarian needs cannot be mortgaged to political expedience and partisan interests." Diversifying UNRWA's donor base and adopting responsible investment

strategies are valuable initiatives, especially in these challenging times, he said. "On its part," he said, "Pakistan has been UNRWA's reliable and time-tested partner, and our commitment to extend financial and political support to UNRWA remains unfettered. "This commitment is a natural corollary of Pakistan's strong affiliation with the Palestinian cause." Earlier, Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, presenting its annual report, said his agency, which relies on voluntary contributions, is short by about \$100 million every year. He appealed for more funds so that it can implement its digital strategy, deliver on environmental sustainability commitments and replace obsolete basic assets while also promoting the rights and well-being of Palestinian refugees.

Fly Jinnah chooses Sastaticket.pk as booking platform



LAHORE: Pakistan's leading travel booking platform, Sastaticket.pk and Fly Jinnah, a new entrant to Pakistan's aviation sector, have entered into a collaboration/partnership under which Fly Jinnah tickets would be available through the Sastaticket.pk platform. Under the collaboration, Fly Jinnah customers would be able to seamlessly book their flights through the Sastaticket platform on attractive and discounted rates. Expressing his views, Shazil Mehkri, CEO Sastaticket.pk said, "The Post-pandemic times have seen an unprecedented increase in global tourism and air travel, same is the case with Pakistan; both inbound and outbound travel has increased manifold and we're proud to be able to facilitate this growth through our platform." "This exciting collaboration with Fly Jinnah reflects our resolve to facilitate the tourism sector and the aviation industry, in particular." He added. Sharing his thoughts, Syed Armaan Yehia, CEO at Fly Jinnah said, "Being a new addition to Pakistan's avi-

ation sector, we're very excited about this new development and grateful to sastaticket.pk for facilitating Fly Jinnah and extending all out support on their platform." He added, "I foresee tremendous growth and a healthy competition in this sector, and as Fly Jinnah grows and adds more exciting international destinations, there will be more avenues to explore for mutual collaboration in the future; exciting times ahead I must say!" It is pertinent to mention here that Sastaticket.pk is the brain child of brother-duo Shazil and Bilal Mehkri. Part of the Quality aviation group, it was founded in 2015 and since then has expanded to all major cities and eyes further expansion in the upcoming future. Fly Jinnah is a new budget airline; a JV between Lakson group and Air Arabia with Head Office in Karachi, Pakistan. Currently Fly Jinnah is operating on domestic routes within Pakistan offering flights to Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Quetta with plans of further expansion in the near future.—DNA



LAHORE: PPP leader Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan meets Chairman PTI Imran Khan to enquire about his health.—DNA

N. Korea slams Guterres

PYONGYANG: North Korea on Tuesday slammed the UN chief over his remarks against the latest missile launches and said its missile tests are only for "defense" purposes. In a statement, Kim Son Gyong, vice-minister for International Organizations of Foreign Ministry, regretted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' statement and said: "It is just counteraction for self-defense to cope with the US military provocations." "This being a hard fact, the UN secretary-general is echoing what the White House and the State Department say as if he were their mouthpiece, which is deplorable," Kim said in a statement published by the state-run Korean Central News Agency. He added that North Korea did not commit provocation but conducted military drills as counteraction in response to the largest-ever combined air drill staged by the US and South Korea. Last week, the UN chief condemned the intercontinental ballistic missile launches by North Korea as well as the barrage of missiles. He demanded that Pyongyang immediately desist from taking further provocative action and fully comply with its international obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions. North Korea recently launched around two dozen missiles, apparently in response to five-day large-scale combined air drills by South Korea and the US, further escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula. "If the war drills being staged in a frantic manner by openly introducing an aircraft carrier and strategic bombers. — Agencies

Greece to ban sale of spyware as tapping scandal intensifies

FOREIGN DESK

ATHENS: Greece said Monday that it will ban the sale of spyware after the left-wing newspaper Documento published a list of more than 30 prominent people whose phones were said to have been infected with Predator malware. "We will proceed with a universal ban on the sale of illegal software in Greece, an act that will make Greece the first country in Europe to ban the circulation of malicious software in its territory," government spokesman Gi-

annis Oikonomou told journalists in a press briefing, adding that a bill would soon be submitted to parliament. Oikonomou noted that the newspaper presented allegations of politicians and businesspeople being spied on, including former Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and several top ministers of the current New Democracy government, without the required documentation to back up the claim. The list also included main opposition Syriza lawmakers like Olga Gerovasili as well as prominent journalists. The spyware scandal has shaken

the Greek political scene, drawing strong reactions from opposition parties as well as the European Union. The editor-in-chief of Documento, Kostas Vaxevanis, visited the Supreme Court on Monday in order to submit material relevant to the allegations after Supreme Court Prosecutor Isidoros Dogiakov ordered a preliminary investigation into the matter. The journalist association expressed its intense concern over the spying developments in the wiretapping scandal while at the same time taking shots at both

the Mitsotakis government and the Justice Department. On Aug. 8, Mitsotakis acknowledged that Nikos Androulakis, the leader of the opposition PASOK-KINAL party, was wiretapped by Greece's National Intelligence Service (EYP) but denied knowledge of the operation. The scandal first emerged on Aug. 4 when Panagiotis Kontoleon, then-head of the EYP, told a parliamentary committee that the EYP had been spying on financial journalist Thanasis Koukakis. After giving the testimony, Kontoleon resigned.

Swedish PM seeks to convince Erdogan

ISTANBUL: Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson was due to meet President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Tuesday, in a bid to persuade Turkey to drop its opposition to Sweden joining NATO. After Russia invaded Ukraine, Sweden and Finland abandoned their long-held policy of non-alignment and applied to join the military alliance. But Turkey has stalled ratification of their bids, accusing them of harbouring outlawed Kurdish militants. Erdogan - who is seeking re-election next year - is in a position of strength, having persuaded Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to stop blockading Ukraine's grain exports. He and Kristersson were due to meet at the presidential palace at 14:15 GMT and then give a press conference. NATO Secretary General Jens

Stoltenberg visited Ankara last week to press the countries' case. "Their accession will make our alliance stronger and our people safer," he said, adding that bringing Sweden and Finland into NATO would "send a clear message to Russia". Stoltenberg stressed the two had agreed in June to concessions to Turkey, including addressing its request for "terror suspects" to be deported or extradited. Writing in Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet on Monday, Erdogan's advisor Fahrettin Altun voiced "cautious optimism" that the new rightwing government in Stockholm would take "concrete measures" to meet Ankara's concerns. Turkey accuses Sweden in particular of leniency towards the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and its Syrian offshoot, the People's

Protection Units (YPG). Ankara says it provided Sweden and Finland in June with a list of people it wanted extradited. Since then, Stockholm has authorised one extradition for fraud. Both Sweden and Helsinki say that extradition decisions are made by the courts. The PKK is blacklisted by Ankara and most of its Western allies. But the YPG has been a key player in the US-led military alliance combating the Islamic State group in Syria. While Sweden has in the past voiced support for the YPG and its political wing, Kristersson's government appears to be distancing itself. "There is too close a link between these organisations and the PKK, which is a terrorist organisation listed by the EU," Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said on Saturday. Billstrom told AFP in October he

was convinced Sweden could satisfy Turkey's demands. And Finnish President Sauli Niinistö told journalists on Monday he expected joining NATO would "happen in reasonable time". Some analysts nevertheless believe Turkey's presidential and parliamentary elections in June 2023 could delay the Nordic bids. "The Turkish side will ratify their membership when it feels it is the best moment to cash that card," said Ilke Toygur, professor of European geopolitics at the University Carlos III in Madrid. "I sense that many countries in NATO already assume that enlargement will be next year, maybe even in the second half of next year," she told AFP. "It is widely assumed that Turkey is also trying to negotiate for other things. It could be the F16s. It could be about its overall relationship with

Russia." Leading US senators have threatened to block the sale to Ankara of US F16 fighter jets unless Turkey ends a maritime border dispute with Greece. Turkey, which seeks to maintain good relations with both Ukraine and Russia, has not joined Western sanctions on Moscow and has acquired a Russian missile defence system while also supplying Kyiv with combat drones. "It remains to be seen if Erdogan thinks he's got enough signs of goodwill from Sweden and it's therefore in his political and military interest to declare victory, or if he thinks sticking to the current line will serve his re-election campaign," said a European diplomatic source. There was still a "reasonable chance" Turkey would ratify the NATO bids before the 2023 elections, the source said.—APP

German court convicts top ex-bankers

BERLIN: A regional court in Germany imposed prison sentences on three former bankers over their role in a tax fraud scandal, local media reported on Tuesday.

The judge of the Frankfurt Regional Court issued the verdict against the former management team of Maple Bank, once a branch of a Canadian banking group in the city and deeply involved in the biggest tax scandal in the history of post-World War II Germany, according to the business daily Handelsblatt.

Wolfgang Schuck, the long-time managing director of the bank, which has been insolvent since 2015, was sentenced to four years and four months for tax evasion. The court shortened his prison term due to his poor health and the long duration of the proceedings, along with other factors.

Schuck will also have to pay a fine of 96,000 (\$95,930), while another 2.9 million are to be confiscated from his assets.

Another former CEO was handed a prison sentence of four years and two months in prison, a fine, and will have more than 1 million confiscated.

The third defendant, who once worked at the bank's trading desk and was jointly responsible for cum-ex transactions at the heart of the scandal, was sentenced to three and a half years in prison for aiding and abetting tax evasion.

All three have the option of appealing the verdict, which is not final.—DNA

Poland plans to extend US air base, defense minister says

WARSAW: Poland will expand a military base hosting the US Combat Aviation Brigade, the country's defense minister said on Monday.

Located in the central city of Powidz, the base - which hosts US Apache strike helicopters - will strengthen US Air Force operational capabilities to support Polish and NATO forces, Mariusz Blaszczak said.

"For these helicopters, we will prepare a base in the form of hangars, warehouses on the one hand, and a fuel base on the other hand, so that they can operate from Powidz, so that they can support Polish forces and the forces of the North Atlantic Alliance in this way," he said.

Blaszczak also recalled the decision of the US Army Command in Europe and Africa, confirmed in June at the NATO summit by US President Joe Biden, to transfer the permanent command of the US Army V Corps to Poznan, where the forward command previously functioned.

Powidz "is turning into a military complex, preparing to support Polish and NATO forces on the eastern flank of NATO," Blaszczak said.

The expansion is part of the 2020 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between Washington and Warsaw, which covers 114 infrastructure projects at 11 locations.—DNA

Financing electric drive

For hybrid and internal-combustion vehicles, Renault plans to combine its technological, manufacturing and research and development activities with Chinese automaker Geely.

The 50-50 partnership with the Chinese group - owner of Volvo - will develop and produce engines, gear boxes and other components for hybrid and petrol and diesel vehicles.

It will employ 19,000 people across Europe, China and South America, and have 17 factories and five research and development centres.

"We are designing an agile and innovative organisation to manage the volatility and accelerated technological evolution of our time," said Renault chief executive Luca de Meo.

Investors on Monday expressed their interest in Renault's transformation, with the group's shares climbing 3.77 percent on the Paris stock market.

The company suffered a historic loss in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its recovery was destabilised by its withdrawal from Russia following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.—APP

Briefs

Pakistan hosts 3,000 Sikh Pilgrims

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is hosting around 3,000 Sikh pilgrims, arrived from India through Wagah Border to celebrate 553rd birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak in Kartarpur on Tuesday. The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) has made all the arrangements, including security, accommodation, medical and transport to facilitate the pilgrims. On the directions of ETPB Chairman Abdul Rehman Ghilani, the officers and employees of the Board would remain busy day and night to serve the guests. Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal visited Gurdwara Janam Asthan to felicitate the Sikh pilgrims and said that Baba Guru Nanak taught the lesson of harmony and tolerance. The Kartarpur corridor connects Pakistani and Indian Punjab, the place of Sikhism. The Corridor was inaugurated on November 9, 2018, allowing visa-free access to Sikh pilgrims from India to visit the holy shrine. The establishment of the Corridor reflected Pakistan's continued commitment to facilitating Sikh pilgrims and was in line with the government's efforts to promote religious tourism. — APP

Team probing Sharif's killing returns home

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani team which went to Kenya to investigate the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif returned home after investigation. According to details, a two-member team of expert officers comprising Director FIA Headquarters Athar Waheed and Deputy Director General Intelligence Bureau Omar Shahid Hamid went to Kenya on October 28. The investigation team in Kenya investigated the Arshad Sharif case to determine the facts, the team was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya and the Embassy of Pakistan in Kenya. The investigation team investigated the incident of Arshad Sharif arriving from Dubai in Kenya, staying there, in addition to reviewing the post-mortem report of Arshad Sharif in Kenya, met the police chief and officials there. The team also investigated two brothers Waqar and Khurram, who provided accommodation and facilities to Arshad Sharif during his stay in Kenya, while the team also examined the vehicle on which Arshad Sharif was shot.

ICT police issue new traffic plan for red zone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers blocked several points leading to the federal capital from Peshawar and Rawalpindi, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Tuesday issued new traffic plan. A spokesperson for the ICT police said that people should avoid taking the route to Islamabad from M-2 motorway, and Shamsabad, Rawalpindi to Murree road as these routes have been closed for all kinds of traffic from both sides. The official further said that commuters can use the Margalla Road, and Ayub Chowk and Sareena Road for entrance to the Red Zone. He further said that the Faizabad interchange, Srinagar Highway, motorway link road, airport link road, and Murree Expressway are open for all kinds of traffic. The Islamabad Expressway and IJP roads are also open for all kinds of traffic. Traffic coming from GT road to Margalla Point has been diverted on to alternative routes, while the traffic of GT Road coming from Rawalpindi has been diverted from Chungi 26 to Srinagar Highway.

Relations with Azerbaijan excellent: Khawaja Asif

Victory Day of Azerbaijan celebrated in Islamabad

The ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov says during the times of occupation, more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister of Pakistan Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said relations with Azerbaijan are exemplary adding both countries have cooperated with each other on various regional as well international forums. He expressed these views while speaking as chief guest at the Victory Day of Azerbaijan. The defence minister further said Pakistani fully supported Azerbaijan stand on the issue of Karabakh. He said the way Azerbaijani forces regained occupied territories from Armenia deserves appreciation. He thanked Azerbaijan leadership for supporting Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir. Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov has said 8 November marks Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan every year adding Armenia kept Azerbaijani territories under illegal occupation almost 3 decades. Despite the decisions and resolutions of the leading international institutions, Armenia ignored all these decisions and resolutions and continued to illegally occupy almost 20 percent of our territory. The ambassador further said, during the times of occupation, more than one million Azerbaijanis became refugees and IDPs. Our people became the subject of ethnic cleansing. UN Security Council adopted 4 resolutions demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from our territories but these resolutions were never implemented. 2 years ago, in 2020 under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, President Ilham Aliyev, our army liberated Azerbaijan's territories from Armenian occupation and Armenia was forced to sign an act of capitulation, thus acknowledging Azerbaijan's historic victory. Azerbaijan ensured its territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were restored.



He said everything was razed into ground, cities and villages, buildings, historical monuments, 65 out of 67 mosques were destroyed by Armenia during the times of occupation. Even the graveyards were desecrated, destroyed, and looted. Right after the liberation, Azerbaijan started large-scale restoration and reconstruction works in the liberated areas. In 2021 and 2022, the Azerbaijani Govern-

ment allocated nearly \$3 billion to the large-scale reconstruction and restoration activities in the liberated lands. I would like to inform you that 2 international airports namely Fuzuli and Zangilan International Airports were built within very short period of time. 'The Great Return program started by Government of Azerbaijan. First Azerbaijani IDPs have already returned to liberated Zangilan

region's Aghali village, which was rebuilt based on the "smart village" concept. I must also mention about Pakistan's support. Brotherly Pakistan from the first day of the former Karabakh conflict, as well as the during Patriotic War in 2020 morally and politically supported just position of Azerbaijan and it has been highly appreciated by the Government and people of Azerbaijan', he concluded.

China's biggest air show opens

AGENCIES

BEIJING: A scaled-down version of China's biggest air show opened on Tuesday, with some delegates unable to attend because of the country's zero-COVID policy as virus case numbers there reached their highest level in six months. The organisers of Airshow China in the southern city of Zhuhai last week told attendees they must arrive three days early because of COVID-19 precautions, but even then, some were blocked from entering the show because they visited a large district in Beijing that had positive cases last week, three attendees told Reuters on condition of anonymity. A China-based executive at a Western engine maker said a lot of Beijing-based delegates had returned home in frustration, though some were allowed in at the last minute. The show's organisers did not immediately respond to a request for comment. China's zero-COVID policy has damaged its domestic aviation industry and kept international traffic at a tiny fraction of pre-pandemic levels, resulting in billions of dollars of losses at its airlines this year even as carriers such as Ryanair (RYA.I) and Singapore Airlines (SIAL.SI) in more open markets are reporting record earnings based on pent-up demand. The zero-COVID policy comes amid a broader decoupling from the West in the aerospace industry as China aims for increased self-reliance and watches the effects of strict export sanctions placed on Russia's aviation industry because of that country's invasion of Ukraine.

Resolution of N. Ireland trade row possible

DUBLIN: A deal between the EU and the UK on post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland is possible before the end of the year, Ireland's foreign minister said on Tuesday. Simon Coveney's optimism comes as the governments in Dublin and London prepare for talks at a British-Irish summit later this week. Europe's pointman on talks to resolve the row, Maros Sefcovic, on Monday said agreement could come within weeks with the right "political will". Ireland's prime minister Micheal Martin will meet his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak at the summit in Blackpool, northwest England, on Thursday, Coveney added. "We need to get this issue behind us in terms of the protocol in a way that respects an international treaty that's been signed," he said. "I think it's doable by the end of the year," he told report-

"I think it's doable by the end of the year," he told reporters in Dublin, stopping short of a definitive timeline for talks

ers in Dublin, stopping short of a definitive timeline for talks. Relations between EU member Ireland and the UK, which left the bloc in 2021, have been damaged by disagreements over the implementation of trade arrangements in UK-run Northern Ireland. The deal signed by London and Brussels effectively keeps Northern Ireland within the European single market and customs union. Northern Ireland has the UK's only land border with the EU but it needs to be kept open under the terms of a 1998 peace deal that ended decades of violence over British rule. It has led to checks on goods heading to the province from Great Britain - England, Scotland and Wales - which the UK and pro-UK parties in Northern Ireland oppose. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt Tarek Dahroug calls on Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malikiy. — DNA

Biden's power on the ballot in United States midterms

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Americans on Tuesday cast the final ballots in U.S. midterm elections that will determine whether Democrats lose control of Congress, and with it the ability to push forward on President Joe Biden's agenda in the next two years. The party that controls the White House typically loses seats in midterm elections. Nonpartisan forecasts suggest Tuesday's results will be no exception, as concerns about high inflation and crime outweigh the end of national abortion rights and the violent Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol in voters' minds. Thirty-five Senate seats and all 435 House of Representatives seats are on the ballot. Republicans are widely favored to pick up the five seats they need to control the House, while the Senate - currently split 50-50 with Democrats holding the tie-breaking vote - could come down to a quartet of

officials caution that full results may not be known for days as they count ballots in close races - with control of the Senate perhaps not known until a potential Dec. 6 runoff in Georgia. In the swing state of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia officials on Tuesday moved to reinstate a process that can catch possible double votes from being counted but takes more time. This could shine a national spotlight on the state's largest city if its high-stakes U.S. Senate race is as close as expected. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Justice on Monday announced it would monitor compliance with federal voting rights laws in 64 jurisdictions in 24 states. Officials in at least one locality - Cole County, Missouri - pushed back against the move. There are 36 governorships and scores of other state-level races on the ballot, including hotly contested gubernatorial campaigns in the swing states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, Arizona and Georgia.

Bajaur tribes express confidence in Armed Forces, Judiciary

PESHAWAR: The Turkani and Atman Khel tribes of district Bajaur on Tuesday reposed full confidence in Pakistan Armed Forces and Judiciary and warned political parties to refrain from maligning the image of the state institutions for political gains. In a joint declaration issued by the tribal elders after a joint press conference at Bajaur Press Club, it was said that any conspiracy against the state institutions would be dealt with iron hands, adding that anti state elements wanted to destabilize the country. The tribal elders said that Pak Armed Forces were guarantors of the security and defense of the motherland and they stand united with the armed forces. They urged state institutions to work within their constitutional ambit for development and prosperity of the country. They said that tribal people always supported the armed forces of Pakistan and make it clear to all political parties and anti state elements that tribal people would not hesitate to make any sacrifice for development and prosperity of the country and honour of the state institutions. The press conference was addressed by tribal elders including Malik Bahadar Shah, Malik Shaheen Khan, Malik Sultan Zaib, Malik Hafiz ur Rehman, Malik Abdul Nasir, Malik Hazrat Noor, Malik Muhammad Akbar, Malik Muhammadi Shah, Malik Wazir, Malik Nasir and dozens of other tribal leaders. — APP