



Islamabad POST

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Will not surrender an inch of Ukrainian territory to Russia

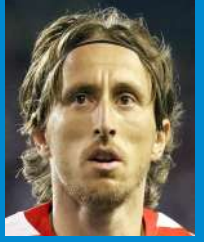
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Modric starts Croatia WC campaign

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Briefs

Prime Minister in London

DNA

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif left for London for a private visit after attending the 27th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb announced the PM's trip late on Tuesday night, stating that the premier had left for the United Kingdom on a private plane for a private visit. According to sources, PM Shehbaz will consult with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif on important issues in London, in which various issues including the current domestic political situation will be discussed.

Will disclose 1 more name involved

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: PTI chairman Imran Khan has said that he will disclose one more name involved in the Wazirabad assassination attempt. In a tweet, he said that the attack on him "followed a script", adding that he had discovered the assassination plot two months back. Meanwhile, president of PTI's Lahore chapter, Sheikh Imtiaz Mehmood, has said party chairman Imran will address marchers in Wazirabad via video link at 1pm on Thursday.

United States concerned over reports of violence

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US State Department spokesperson Ned Price while briefing the newsmen in Washington on Tuesday said that violence has no place in politics and we are concerned about what has happened in Pakistan in recent days, media reported. He said that all parties should never resort to violence. They should express their disagreements peacefully, using - employing universal rights - freedom of expression, freedom of assembly - but violence is never the answer.

Pak outclass NZ to qualify for WC final

Babar Azam (53) and Muhammad Rizwan (57) opening pair managed to score 105 runs partnership

SPORTS DESK / DNA

SYDNEY: Pakistan have qualified for the final of ICC T20 World Cup beating New Zealand by seven wickets at Sydney today (Wednesday). Batting first, New Zealand scored 152 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in stipulated 20 overs in the ICC T20 WC semi-final match. Pakistan have won the semi-final by seven wickets and reached the International Cricket Council ICC T20 World Cup 2022 final match. Superb batting performance by Pakistan, their best of the tournament. Babar Azam (53) and Muhammad Rizwan (57) opening pair managed to score 105 runs partnership. Pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi clean-bowled New Zealand skipper who made 46 off 42 deliveries as the Kiwis scored 133 runs for four wickets in the 18 overs. Earlier, New Zealand cricket team skipper Kane Williamson won the toss and chose to bat first in the high-voltage semi-final match against Pakistan at the international Sydney Cricket Stadium. Shaheen Shah Afridi managed to repeat his habit and got the wicket of Allen on the third ball of his

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Pakistan clinch bronze in hockey

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan have defeated Japan 5-3 to clinch bronze medal in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 on Wednesday in Ipoh, Malaysia. Pakistan have won a medal at the event for the first time in 11 years. In the first quarter, Kentaro Fukuda gave Japan the lead in the ninth minute but that was quickly cancelled out by Pakistan's Hanan Shahid in the 10th minute. Pakistan scored two goals in the second quarter, one each by Arbaz and Rooman, to take control of the match. Japan threatened to make a comeback, in the third quarter, after Yuma Nagai reduced Pakistan's lead to one goal in the 30th minute. However, Rooman once again gave

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SYDNEY: Pakistan cricket players greet fans after booking their place in T20 WC Final. - DNA

Stay focused on duties, COAS tells troops

The COAS appreciated the "monumental efforts of martyrs"

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Qamar General Javed Bajwa urged officers on Wednesday to stay focused on their professional duties and serve the nation, as he visited the Peshawar Corps Headquarters. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stated that the COAS was received by Peshawar Corps Commander Lieutenant General Hassan Azhar Hayat. According to the military's media wing, General Bajwa on the occasion laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada (martyr's) monument. Later, while addressing the officers, the COAS appreciated the "monumental efforts of the nation's martyrs" who he credited with achieving "peace and stability". "We owe it to the sacrifices of our martyrs for providing us with safety and enabling a fertile environment for socio-economic development in newly merged districts in particular, and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in general," said General Bajwa. The COAS also urged the officers to "always stay focused on your professional duties in the service of nation". Earlier this month, the COAS had visited the headquarters of the Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC). According to the military's media wing, during the visit, the COAS interacted with officers and troops and also appreciated their professionalism and high state of morale. It is pertinent to mention here that Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa is scheduled to retire on 29 November 2022 following the final day of his second three year term as army chief.

Govt mulls moving away from 'interest' based banking

Ishaq Dar says the government will withdraw the appeals against the verdict of the Federal Shariat Court

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: In a sudden decision, the federal government on Wednesday announced that it will move ahead to establish an interest-free, Islamic banking system and withdraw in the coming days appeals filed against it in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Announcing the decision, Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the government will withdraw the appeals against the verdict of the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) to end the interest-based banking system. He said that the appeals filed by the State Bank of Pakistan against the imposition of the Islamic banking system in the country. In a televised statement he said that in recent years the progress on imposing an 'Islamic' system of banking had faced hurdles and challenges. He further disclosed that when the Federal Shariat Court earlier this year issued its verdict to impose an Islamic form of financial and banking system, the government had knowledge that the

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Mariyum lauds PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Egypt was very successful. In a statement, she said that the COP-27 conference on the devastating effects of climate change was particularly fruitful for Pakistan. For the first time, losses and disasters were recognized as a cause of increased financial pressure on developing countries, she maintained. Taking a jibe at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan, she said on one side was Shehbaz Sharif serving the masses whereas on the other side was a proponent of chaos, mischief, and anarchy. She said for the first time, there was a global consensus on providing

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Pakistan, France vow to fight climate change

FM lauds the efforts of French President Macron

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his French counterpart Catherine Colona have expressed desire to collaborate on addressing the challenges of climate change, the Foreign Office said Wednesday. In a meeting held on the sidelines of Conference of Parties (COP27) summit in the Egyptian resort city, the two foreign ministers agreed to strengthen ties between Pakistan and France in diverse fields, the FO said in a statement issued here. FM Bilawal lauded the efforts of French President Emanuel Macron as part of global campaign to mitigate the effects of climate change. He thanked the government of France for extending relief assistance to the flood victims of Pakistan. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar was present in the meeting. - Agencies

FM Bilawal arrives in Saudi Arabia

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 9-10 November 2022. During the visit, the Foreign Minister will co-chair the Joint Sub-Committee meeting of the Political & Security pillar of the Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council (SPSCC) with his Saudi counterpart.

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PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Bajwa laying a floral wreath at Yadgare-Shuhada during visit to Peshawar Corps HQ. - DNA

Midterm elections race for US Congress tight

NEWS DESK

PHOENIX: Republicans made modest gains in U.S. midterm elections but Democrats performed better than expected, leaving control of Congress and the future of President Joe Biden's agenda unclear on Wednesday morning. Many of the most competitive races were too close to call and Republicans acknowledged that the election was not producing the sweeping "red wave" victory they had sought. The results appeared to show voters punishing Biden for presiding over an economy hit by steep inflation, while also lashing out against Republican moves to ban abortion. And poor performances by some candidates allied to Donald Trump indicated exhaustion with the kind of electoral and governing chaos fomented by the former Republican president, raising questions

about the viability of his possible run for the White House in 2024. While Democrats' performance defied expectations, they still face the possibility of losing their meager majorities to Republicans in the House of Representatives and maybe even the Senate, putting Biden's legislative agenda in jeopardy. Biden had framed Tuesday's election as a test of American democracy at a time when many Republicans embrace Trump's false claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him. A number of so-called election deniers who backed Trump's claims were elected to office on Tuesday, but fears of violence or other major disruptions by far-right poll watchers at voting stations did not materialize. In the House, Republicans were favored to win a narrow majority that would allow them to block Biden's legislative priorities and launch investigations

into his administration and family. By early Wednesday, Republicans had flipped a net six Democratic House seats, Edison Research projected, one more than the minimum they need to take over the chamber. That number could change as more final results roll in. But Democrats were doing much better than many had expected and seemed to have avoided the kind of heavy midterm election defeat that often plagues sitting presidents of either party. In a critical win for Democrats, John Fetterman flipped a Republican-held U.S. Senate seat in Pennsylvania, beating celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz and bolstering his party's chances of holding the chamber. The mood at the White House improved as the night wore on, with once-nervous aides celebrating Fetterman's victory. Control of the Senate depended on

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SAY NO TO INVISIBLE CORRUPTION.

Inside...

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Alvi for accelerating digitalization of governance systems

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR :President Dr Arif Alvi, here, on Wednesday called for further accelerating the pace of digital transformation of governance systems by equipping the bureaucracy with relevant tools and skills to put the country on the fast track of socio-economic development and efficient service delivery.

He added that a specialized cadre of bureaucracy could be raised to help governments speed up their digital transformation journey and facilitate in the digitalization of government services and business processes.

The president expressed these views during a briefing on projects related to the digital transformation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), at Governor House, Peshawar. The meeting was attended by the KP Minister for Science and Technology & IT, Food and Youth Affairs, Muhammad Atif Khan, and senior officials of the KP Information Technology Board. During the meeting, the president highlighted the need to digitalize all

aspects of governance by introducing e-governance at all levels of the Government, adding that access to Information Technology (IT) and basic IT infrastructure should be further improved throughout the country.

He said that digitalization of government business would ensure efficient and efficacious service delivery, besides helping reduce financial pilferages and leakages. The President urged the need to produce market-ready employable graduates by equipping them with marketable and in-demand skills through professional degrees as well as 2-year associate degrees.

He said that partnerships and collaborations among academia, industry and governments should be actively encouraged and pursued to produce market-ready skilled graduates and get them placements in the industry, which would help fulfil the market demand for skilled professionals.

He further stated that technical and vocational programmes and institutes needed to be strengthened and revitalized for youth's skill development as it would

help provide gainful employment to youth.

The president also underlined the need for more skill-development programmes on the pattern of Prime Minister's digiskills program, adding that almost 2.4 million people from different academic programmes had benefited from this online digital skill development programme.

He further said that online and virtual education could help enhance the number of graduates, who could be provided additional training of 3-6 months to make them ready as per market's needs. The President stated that IT and digitalization had opened up new avenues for businesses and commercial activity and now companies and people in remote areas could offer their services online in international markets. He said that steps should be taken to improve the internet connectivity and basic IT infrastructure in the country to fully benefit from emerging business opportunities.

The president further said that youth, particularly women, could offer their services online while working from home and earn foreign ex-

change for the country and improve their families' socio-economic status.

The officials of KP Information Technology Board briefed the President about different initiatives for the digital transformation of the province. It was highlighted that two incubation centres had been established in KP and \$500,000 had been disbursed to start-ups, which would help in strengthening the start-up ecosystem in KP. It was further informed that 100,000 had been trained under the KP Youth Empowerment Programme and Employable Digital Skills initiative of the government, besides providing internship opportunities to KP's youth and women in industry. It was also informed that AI-based Pilot Safe City project and Paperless File Management System in DC office had been initiated in Mardan, which could be replicated in other districts of the province for better service delivery.

The president appreciated the digital transformation initiatives of KP government and emphasised the need to further speed-up the efforts in this regard.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat e Islami Pakistan, Senator Siraj ul Haq meets Former PM Imran Khanto acquire about his health. - DNA

RTO seizes 786 cartons of non-duty paid cigarettes

PESHAWAR:Regional Tax Office has seized 786 cartons of non-duty paid cigarettes in different raids during last month. In a statement issued by Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Aqeel Ahmed Siddiqui here on Wednesday, the Surveillance Squad led by Deputy Commissioner Inland Revenue Mohammad Waqas conducted raids on different godowns and seized the above-mentioned cartons. He also served explanation notices to different cigarette manufacturing units found guilty of using non-duty paid tobacco for monetary gains. Similarly, the authority has initiated action against illegal dumping of more than 4.5 million kilograms of illegal tobacco worth millions of rupees.—APP

Evidence-based monetary policy imperative: Experts

ISLAMABAD: Experts on Wednesday suggested an evidence-based monetary policy to cope with the prevailing grave situation of inflation and ensure the provision of social justice in the country. They made the remarks while discussing the economic situation of Pakistan during a consultative meeting titled "Evidence-based Advocacy on Policies for Economic Justice and Development" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). Speaking on the occasion, the head of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Asia & Pacific) Mirco Günther said think tanks could play a vital role in the formulation of an evidence-based mon-

etary policy that may support governments in the provision of social and economic justice. He warned that Pakistan had been confronted with inflation for a long time, which may lead to higher inequalities. Therefore, aligning price stability was imperative to thrive socio-economic justice in the society. Executive Director, SDPI Dr Abid Q. Suleri called upon the government to come up with evidence-based policy solutions to provide economic relief to public while at the same time satisfy the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Joint Executive Director, SDPI Dr Vaqar Ahmad, said unpacking various forms of inequalities was a common global challenge, which would be

worsen amidst global stagflation, energy crisis and conflicts. He stressed the need for increasing public knowledge of monetary policy to enable them to demand better from political parties and influence inclusion of economic justice in party manifestos. Chief of SDGs Support Unit, Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ali Kemal said interest rate was "the income of capitalists" and social inequalities exacerbated by interest rate hikes as it contributed to inflation and emphasized on increasing financial services for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through commercial banks and tapping the potential of digital currency which was neglected in Pakistan.—APP

Minar-e-Pakistan illuminated with Azerbaijani flag



LAHORE: "Minar-e-Pakistan" - the historical & beautiful monument of Pakistan was lit up with the Azerbaijani flag colors to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Victory Day of Azerbaijan. First time in its history, this monument was illuminated with any foreign country's flag. —DNA

Finance Ministry, UNDP launch SDG investments

ISLAMABAD :Ministry of Finance and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan launched the SDG Investments and Climate Financing Facility on Wednesday to mobilize private sector investments and promote dynamic financing for the Development portfolio for Pakistan. According to a press release issued by UNDP, the SDG Investments and Climate Financing Facility will identify, develop, and leverage high-impact SDG-aligned and climate financing value propositions with the potential to attract investments from various national and international investors,

including financial markets. "This is a timely initiative for accelerating Financing for Development in Pakistan", said the honorable Finance Secretary, Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, while launching the Facility. "We must call on the private sector and international stakeholders to expand the financing pool and reach out to marginalized populations." In a video message, UNDP Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator, and Regional Director, Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific, Kanni Wignaraja, said "we will need to combine grants and credits, public.—APP

CM reviews security arrangements for long march

LAHORE:Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Wednesday reviewed security arrangements of the PTI long march caravan from Toba Tek Singh (TT Singh). Chairing a meeting here, the Chief Minister directed the police and the administrative officials with regard to making best security arrangements of the long march caravan to be led by Asad Umer for the Toba Tek Singh route. The meeting was briefed that starting its journey from TT Singh, the long march caravan would reach Rawalpindi after passing through Jhang, Faisalabad, Jaranwala, Chiniot and other cities. The

long march being restarted from Wazirabad tomorrow (Thursday) would reach Rawalpindi through its fixed route, while PTI Chairman Imran Khan would address the participants of the long march via video link, the meeting told.

The Chief Minister directed the authorities concerned to put in order foolproof security arrangements for long march. He said that long march route would be monitored through the drone and CCTV cameras and police commandos would be deployed on the roof tops of buildings along sides the route to maintain law and order, asserting that security plan would be

implemented in letter and spirit.

Chaudhry Parvez Elahi directed for making adequate food arrangements for security personnel and other officials to be deputed on the route, asserting that police control room would work 24 hours. Focal persons had been appointed in every district of the route in consultation with the PTI leadership and high-level security would be provided to political leaders and the participants of the long march, he maintained. The CM also directed to ensure the use of bullet proof rostrum and bullet proof shields on the long march container.—APP

Iqbal's birth anniversary celebrated in KP

PESHAWAR: Like others parts of the country, the 145th birthday anniversary of the great poet philosopher, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal was celebrated with national enthusiasm in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday. The day dawned with special prayers in mosques for progress and prosperity of Pakistan and eternal peace of all martyrs of the country including those Muslims, who laid down lives during Pakistan's freedom movement. The government had declared a public holiday in connection with the momentous day and all the federal and provincial government's offices, schools and colleges were closed. The poet of the east was born on 9 November 1877 in Sialkot. Dr Muhammad Iqbal came into political and literary horizon of the subcontinent when the Muslims were subjected

to an unending ordeal of discrimination, inequality and disparity after failure of 1857 war of independence.

"The Muslims, who ruled over the united India for over 800 years, had faced great mental agony, a sense of deprivation and dejection after they were pushed to the wall in terms of intellectual, political, economic and education decay after losing the war of independence in 1857," said Muhammad Younas Khan, Chairman Pakistan Studies Department, Islamia College University while talking to APP. However, the Muslims of British India were given a new hope and direction by social reformer, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and later by Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal who instilled a new vigour and inspiration into Muslims after an inspired teachings of the renowned religious leaders. Mojadad Alf Sani and

Shah Waliullah.

Brought about an intellectual revolution among Muslims through his educational, political and social reforms first by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and later by Dr Iqbal through his inspirational poetry, he said both these leaders had nullified the malicious propaganda of the colonial rulers, hindus and pessimist forces and gave a new direction to the Muslims to achieve their legitimate right of freedom. He said the historic Allahabad address delivered by the great poet philosopher during the 21st annual session of the All India Muslim League on 29th December 1930 had outlined a clear vision of an independent state for Muslim-majority provinces in northwestern India and thus became the first politician to articulate the two nations theory that Muslims are a separate and distinct

nation and deserve political independence from other regions and communities of united India.

"Pakistan Movement passes through different phases and finally achieved a clear shape in 1930 when Dr Iqbal presented his historic Allahabad address in 1930 that finally led to creation of Pakistan," said Muhammad Younas. He said the leaders of All India Muslim League had later gathered in London where Chaudhry Rehmat Ali had presented the name of Pakistan in 1933. Recalling Chaudhry Rehmat Ali's famous saying "Now or never or perish forever", he said Islamia College Peshawar's two former students, Aslam Khattak and Inyatullah Khan of Charsadda along with other Muslims leaders had endorsed the name of Pakistan. He said later the great Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jin-

nah had united millions of Muslims at Iqbal Park, Lahore where they unanimously passed the historic Pakistan's Resolution on March 23, 1940 and finally after a long committed struggle, Pakistan came into being on the world map on August 14, 1947.

Dr Younas said Dr Iqbal's political and poetry contribution can't be separated from the independence movement and his historic Allahabad address that outlined the shape of Pakistan came true in the shape of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. He said that the country's existing challenges can be addressed by taking guidance from Iqbal's inspirational poetry and philosophy of 'Khudi'. He advised youth, especially students, to read Iqbal's famous books of Bang e Dara, Bal e Jabri and others for knowledge, guidance and to excel in life.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

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

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

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

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

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Enquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ICCI for connectivity with the Central Asia

ICCI former Presidents, Executive Members and a large number of members were present in the meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps said that Turkmenistan and Pakistan have huge potential of bilateral trade that can be enhanced through people-to-people contacts. He said that Turkmenistan is rich in energy and can meet energy needs of Pakistan. He said that Turkmenistan wants more access through the sea, as it is a landlocked country. He said that transit trade is important for his country, as the shortest route of trade is through Karachi and Gwadar ports. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The Ambassador said that Turkmenistan is producing electricity at a very cheap rate and gave a detailed presentation on the TAPI project, which will help Pa-



kistan to meet the energy needs of its growing population. He said that both countries should be connected through optical fiber cable by Arabian Sea and Pakistan can benefit millions of dollars from it. He said that both countries have 30th years of diplomatic relationship and expressed a desire to strengthen these relations through trade and investment. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari,

President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoy mutually respectful and cordial relations, which are supported by history, culture and religion. He stressed that both countries should focus on enhancing bilateral trade and economic relations as they have good potential to do trade in many items. He said that CPEC provides a good opportunity to in-

crease bilateral cooperation and shift the focus of the relationship to address the socio-economic challenges, build economic linkages and enhance bilateral trade. He stressed that both countries should focus on developing strong business linkages between their private sectors to explore all untapped areas of mutual collaboration. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan should facilitate

frequent exchange of trade delegations and organize single country exhibitions on reciprocal basis to promote trade ties. He highlighted the connectivity issue and suggested that one Transport and Goods Company should be established to solve the logistic problems between the two countries. He also suggested a long-term visa for businessmen to facilitate frequent exchange of trade delegations from both

sides. He termed it important to establish air, road and railway connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asian Republics to improve trade relations. He underscored the importance of establishing road link via Istanbul, Turkmenistan and Karachi, which is the shortest route of 6 days for transport, even at a speed of 50 km/hour, whereas transportation of goods through sea takes about 35-day besides incurring huge freight cost. Mr. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President said that ICCI is planning to organize ECO Business Forum in which diplomats and relevant Government officials shall be invited to discuss important issues including TAPI project and developing direct links between Pakistan and Turkmenistan. ICCI former Presidents, Executive Members and a large number of members were present in the meeting.

Pakistan likely to receive \$450m loan from WB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is likely to receive a \$450 million loan from the World Bank as the international creditor confirmed that the country had accomplished all conditions attached to the Resilient Institution for Sustainable Economy (RISE-II) programme.

"Discussions are also under way whereby the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will grant approval for co-financing of \$450 million, so a total funding of \$900 million will be provided to Pakistan. All attached conditions have been fulfilled," top officials of the Finance Ministry confirmed.

The AIIB is also considering providing another \$500 million as co-financing of the ADB's Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditure (BRACE) programme and the Planning Commission's Central Development Working Party (CDWP) granted approval for the project, paving the way for fulfilling another condition to obtain a \$500 million loan from the AIIB.

In total, Pakistan is expecting \$1.4 billion from the World Bank and AIIB in the next few weeks, at a time when the country is experiencing a dollar liquidity crunch. The foreign currency reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) stand at \$8.9 billion despite the revival of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) programme giving \$1 billion as well as \$1.5 billion from the ADB.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance, Guangzhe Chen, World Bank's Regional Director for South Asia Infrastructure, called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar at the Finance Division on Tuesday.

Country Director World Bank Najy Benhassine, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, the secretary finance and other senior officers attended the meeting. The finance minister welcomed Guangzhe and highlighted the current economic outlook of Pakistan.

He apprised the delegation of various policy measures being undertaken by the government to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development by enhancing ease of doing business, encouraging exports and facilitating various sectors of the economy.

Saudi Arabia never interferes in Pakistan's affairs: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Wednesday clarified that neither Saudi Arabia nor Islamic world had ever interfered in Pakistan's internal and external affairs.

He, in an exclusive talk with APP, said there were certain elements who wanted to sabotage Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman's visit to Pakistan to meet their ulterior motives. He said: "Such a group gets activated whenever an important visit takes place in the country to create hurdles in the process of development and prosperity." He, brushing aside the speculation about Saudi Arabia's interference on the appointment of a particular position, termed it baseless and concocted as it was an attempt to create rift in the Pak-Saudi's diplomatic and fraternal ties.

He said the crown prince's visit to Pakistan was a living example of improved ties

between the two brotherly countries and it would help uplift the crippling econo-



my of the country.

Ashrafi expressed the hope that if internal conditions of Pakistan were stable, an investment of 25 to 30 billion dollars could be expected in the country in a couple of years. "Steps are being expedited once again for the financial support of Pakistan by the Saudi leadership. However, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain are all ready to cooperate with Pakistan on the matter," he added. He said the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) and the 2022 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP27) would

help Pakistan to deal with climate change challenges effectively and efficiently. He explained that the MGI signified the Saudi Arabia's commitment to international sustainability efforts and enabled the region to help protect the planet by clearly defining an ambitious road map that significantly contributed to achieving global targets.

"Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman has emerged as a great and visionary leader not only for the Muslim Ummah but also for the entire world," he added. He said under the patronage of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and with support of the government of Egypt, the World Conference on Environment had determined an effective and positive direction at the global level in general and in the Islamic world in particular.

He said Pakistan, besides assuring full cooperation, had already welcomed the Saudi Crown Prince's vision of Saudi and Middle East Green Initiative.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said religious leaders were constantly creating awareness on interfaith dialogue and climatic issues at the global level.

He said the conferences convened by Dar Al-Itfa Egypt and Bahrain Islamic Council raised an effective voice on the eradication of poverty and ignorance and thoroughly discussed the ways to create peace and tranquility in the comity of nations.

The leadership of all religions appealed to stop the war between Russia and Ukraine as the world was facing problems due to the wars, he said adding, "we have to promote peace and discourage wars". He further added that the fifth 'International Conference on Message of Islam, Pak-Saudi and Islamic World Relations' was being held on November 16, here in the federal capital in which the most important leaders of the Muslim Ummah would participate as keynote speaker.—APP

CDA conducted grand anti encroachment operations

ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of the Capital Development Authority Chairman Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis, the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday with the assistance of the ICT administration and Islamabad police, conducted grand operations against illegal constructions in different areas of Islamabad. As a result of these operations, dozens of illegal constructions were demolished with the help of heavy machinery. During these operations 60 kanals land was retrieved and also 13 trucks encroachment material was confiscated. These operations were started from Mouza Kuri Dhok Balag, a suburb of Islamabad, where the land mafia was trying to occupy the government land. Revenue Department CDA carried out demarcation process. These constructions were found on the land acquired by CDA. In the light of the indications of environment department, the attempt of 60 kanals land by demolishing the vast four walls built on the CDA land was foiled. Similarly, in line with the directions of the Chairman CDA Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis, the Enforcement Directorate has started a special campaign to eliminate encroachment from public corridors, public passages and footpaths in the marakiz and commercial areas of Islamabad. Operations are being carried out in various marakiz and commercial centers of Islamabad on a daily basis. During this campaign, the enforcement department took full action against encroachments in Sector F-11 Markaz, F-10 Markaz, F-7 Markaz, G-9/4 Peshawar Mor, during which road sides, public passages and dozens of stalls on the footpath were removed and 9 trucks of encroachment material was also confiscated. Apart from this, 2 trucks encroachment material was also confiscated while removing encroachments in Margalla Town Phase-I and from Motorway Chowk.—APP

Biting winter, adoption of solar energy should be accelerated

DNA

Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said the severity of winter is increasing therefore a large amount of LPG should be imported from Iran to save the people. Currently, LPG is being smuggled from Iran, which increases its price therefore this trade should be legalized to bring down prices, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that natural gas is in short supply in Pakistan, the current price of LNG in the global market is much

higher than our purchasing power and in these circumstances, the supply of LPG and solar energy are the only immediate options to provide relief to the people. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that natural gas reserves are decreasing by ten percent annually, while the use of LPG is increasing by seventeen percent annually.

At present, the consumption of LPG in the country is 1.3 million tonnes per annum, of which forty-one percent is used for domestic consumption, while 43 percent is used by the commercial and sixteen percent by the industrial sector, he said. He said that increasing the use of LPG can reduce the energy cri-

sis and provide some relief to the people. Mian Zahid Hussain said that despite the US sanctions on Iran, Turkey and many other countries are buying oil and gas from Iran, so Pakistan can also do the same, while LPG storage infrastructure can also be built across the country which will help balance prices. At present, the government is charging Rs34 per kg as general sales tax and petroleum levy on LPG, which if abolished, will make the fuel cheaper and the people will get some relief.

If LPG is promoted in Pakistan like in other countries, then the losses of the state-run gas companies can be reduced, which will also reduce the circular debt in this sector, he said.

Breast cancer treatable: First Lady

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi here Wednesday said that breast cancer was a treatable disease if diagnosed and treated at early stage and underscored the need for spreading awareness among women and girls about its causes, symptoms, prevention and treatment's options on constant basis imperative for its complete eradication.

Addressing as a chief-guest at an awareness seminar about breast cancer here at Northwest General Hospital Hayatabad, Begum Samina Alvi said that despite the fact that breast cancer was a curable disease with highest percentage of survival rate but still it take lives of a large number of patients every year in Pakistan due to lack of awareness, delayed diagnoses and treatment. The First Lady, who is spearheading an awareness campaign against breast cancer in the country, said that late diagnosis of the disease was the major cause of high mortality rate in women. She noted that it was a social stigma or taboo to speak about the disease, which resulted into delayed diagnosis and treatment besides leads to death of a patient. Begum Samina Alvi said Pakistan was also among the countries in the world where the ratio of breast cancer was high due to poor awareness, social-cultural barriers and late treatment.—APP

AIOU organizes Iqbal week to pay tribute to National poet

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has organized various programs to celebrate "Iqbal Week" on account of the birth anniversary of a great philosopher, thinker and poet, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. A seminar was organized on "Iqbal and Ishaq e Rasool", there will be a walk on November 10 to pay tribute to our national poet and a talk show on the life of Iqbal will be broadcasted live on Facebook and the university's web TV. A seminar on "Reconstruction of Reli-

gious Thought in Islam" will be organized by Iqbal Chair on November 11 whereas a speech competition on Iqbal's life is scheduled on November 14, Bait Bazi competition on Iqbal's poetry is scheduled to be held on November 15, and a constructive seminar on Iqbal and Maulana Rumi will be held on November 16. A delegation of Employees Welfare Association (EWA) visited the tomb of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his birth anniversary and offered Fatiha. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia

U-Qayyum approved the activities planned to celebrate Iqbal week and said that it is a matter of honor for AIOU to be named after Allama Iqbal. We are trying to fulfill our educational responsibilities regarding Iqbal and our head is high with pride. He said that Iqbal Chair on Tasawwuf and Muslim Thoughts has been established in the university for the promotion of Iqbal's thoughts, Iqbal Gallery in the Central Library is the center of research on Allama Iqbal.—APP

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Briefs

Iqbal's philosophy of 'Khudi', a beacon for humanity

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday paying rich tribute to Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his birth anniversary, said his philosophy of "Khudi" (self) was a beacon of the humanity. Allama Iqbal, through his inspirational message of Khudi, inculcated a visionary lesson of self-realization in the young generation, the minister said in her message on the Iqbal Day being marked today across the country.

She said the whole nation paid glowing tribute to Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his birth anniversary. He was a great poet, philosopher and thinker. Marriyum said the nation would have to pledge today that they would strive hard for realising Allama Iqbal's dream for a prosper Pakistan.—APP

ANF seizes over 17 kg narcotics

RAWALPINDI :Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Wednesday seized over 17 kg narcotics and 186 liters prohibited chemical in three operations conducted in different areas.

According to ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF in an operation at Lahore International Airport Cargo recovered 1550 grams weed from a parcel received from United States of America.

In another raid, ANF Balochistan conducted a raid in a Chaman area and seized 186 liters prohibited chemical. In third operation, ANF and FC in a joint operation conducted in Khyber area recovered over 16 kg charas. Separate cases have been registered against the accused, he said, and informed that raids were being conducted to net the accomplices of the accused.—APP

Bid to smuggle wheat & flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Wednesday foiled a bid to smuggle wheat and flour and seized 150 bags.

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Taxila police conducted a raid and rounded up a driver named Umar Hayat, who was trying to illegally ship out 600 wheat bags and 150 flour bags out of Rawalpindi division.

He said, the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids.—APP

Education ministry commemorates Iqbal Day

ISLAMABAD:Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training organized numerous events to celebrate the birth anniversary of the great poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal on Wednesday.

Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer was the chief guest of a commemorative event organized by the Federal Directorate of Education.

The Minister paid glowing tribute to the great philosopher and poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal and recalled that seeking knowledge and continuous hard work are the real objectives of life.

He said Allama Iqbal not only saw the dream of Pakistan but also highlighted the issues Pakistan had to encounter after its creation. Therefore, there was a great need to follow Allama Iqbal's message which focuses on joint efforts for the progress and prosperity of our nation by keeping our differences aside.

Rana Tanveer said that there is so much to learn from Iqbal's life as he guided the Muslims of sub-continent with his thoughts and poetry.—APP

Hurriyat urges people to keep an eye on India's collaborators

People of Kashmir had rendered unparalleled sacrifices for securing their inalienable right to self-determination

ISLAMABAD :All Parties Hurriyat Conference's (APHC) constituent organizations have said that the Kashmiri people must remain vigilant to ensure that no person or group should dare to come forward to cooperate with Bharatiya Janata Party-led Indian fascist government to further the Hindutva agenda of right-wing Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the territory. Jammu and

Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Hurriyat Front in their separate statements issued in Srinagar said that the Kashmiri people should not tolerate any traitor of Kashmir and collaborator of BJP and RSS, said a press release. They said

that the people of Kashmir had rendered unparalleled sacrifices for securing their inalienable right to self-determination and no person or group would be allowed to undermine these sacrifices. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and Home Minister, Amit Shah, who snatched the identity of Kashmiris in August 2019, should not be allowed to succeed in finding their collaborators in

occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the statements added. The Hurriyat organizations pointed out that the people of IIOJK have been facing the worst Indian brutalities since the Modi government scrapped the special status of the territory on August 5, 2019. They said the Modi regime has not allowed senior APHC leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, to offer Friday prayers for the last three years while

thousands of Kashmiris including APHC Chairman, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Aasiya Andrabi, Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar, Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani, Ayaz Akbar, Shahid-ul-Islam, Merajuddin Kalwal, Peer Saifullah, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Fehmeeda Sofi and Naheeda Nasreen are languishing in different jails of India and IIOJK.—APP

Marriyum hails success of The Legend of Maula Jatt

ISLAMABAD:Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday expressed her delight over the unprecedented success of Lollywood film "The Legend of Maula Jatt" in Pakistan and abroad.

In a tweet she said she was "delighted with the unprecedented success of 'The Legend of Maula Jatt' in Pakistan and abroad". The minister said the monumental success of the film was a testament to Pakistan's film making talent. The minister said the government was supporting Pakistani filmmakers to reach their potential. She urged everyone in the Pakistan film industry to play their part in the revival of local cinema.—APP

Sichuan donates goods to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan has entered the post-flood rehabilitation stage and keeping in view that the winter months are fast approaching, business entities and individuals of Sichuan, a province in southwestern China, donated goods worth approximately RMB 500,000.

According to China Economic Net (CEN) on We, the donated goods comprise much-needed items such as warm blankets, tents, water-resistant camp lights, water purification units, leather boots, etc.

In collaboration with the Pakistan Studies Centre of Sichuan University, donations in kind of up to seven tones were received by the Consulate General of Pakistan.

The companies which donated included, but were not limited to, Sichuan University, Sichuan K.cen Enterprise Group, Zhongke Industrial Development (Pakistan) Co. Ltd, Zhongjing Supply Chain Management Co. Ltd, Trunk Public Welfare Group, Chengdu Prige Business Service.

The Consulate General has arranged the first non-governmental arranged flight, PK871, which flew out of Chengdu where representatives from NDMA received the cargo. Agha Hunain Abbas Khan, Acting Consul General, said that the rains have finally stopped and the flood waters have started to recede. However, the true scale of the damage has just begun to reveal its ugly head. Initial estimates have put the total cost to Pakistan at around \$30 billion.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Riina Kionka making a victory sign in connection with Pakistan- New Zealand T20 World Cup semi final match.—DNA

SC hears Faisal Vawda's appeal against lifelong disqualification

ISLAMABAD, Nov 09 (AP-P):The Supreme Court on Wednesday heard former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Faisal Vawda's plea against lifetime disqualification over dual nationality.

A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by Fais-

al Vawda challenging his lifelong disqualification by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the subsequent ruling by the Islamabad High Court (IHC). During the course of proceedings, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said that two questions were asked at the previous hearing. There was a question as to whether the declaration of the High Court under

Article 62(1)(f) was maintainable or not while the second question was why not courts to exercise the power of Article 187 to meet the requirements of complete justice in the light of the facts, he added.

Advocate Waseem Sajjad counsel for Faisal Vawda said that he had submitted written responses to court questions. Upon this, the Chief Justice appreciated

counsel's response for submission of written replies to court queries and said that the bench would review them later.

He said that there was shortage of time and this bench would not be available next week due to formation of new benches. He said that the office would try to fix the case to a bench that had a member of the existing bench.—APP

Rich tributes paid to Allama Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for OP&HRD Saji Husain Turi here on Wednesday paid glowing tribute to the Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal on his 145th birth anniversary. The Minister said that the thoughts are available intellectual asset for the entire Muslim Ummah, especially the Pakistani nation, said a press release here.—APP

Minister urges masses to make Pakistan prosperous

ISLAMABAD :Minister of Federal Education & Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday urged the masses to work together to make Pakistan prosperous and formidable member of global community in the light of Iqbal's vision.

In his message, while paying rich tribute to the great philosopher and poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, on his birth anniversary, he said that it is an occasion

to recall that seeking knowledge and continuous hard work are the real objectives of life.

The beauty of Allama Iqbal's vision is that he not only dreamt of Pakistan but also highlighted the issues Pakistan had to encounter after its creation, he added. Therefore, Rana Tanveer said, there is a great need to follow Allama Iqbal's message which focuses on joint efforts for the progress and prosperity of our nation by

keeping our differences aside.

"There is so much to learn from Iqbal's life as he guided the Muslims of sub-continent with his thoughts and poetry at a time when they were lost in the darkness and were searching for their identity," he mentioned. Minister further said that with Iqbal's visionary approach and hard work, he showed the world how dreams are transformed into reality.—APP

PAF remembers 'poet of the East' Allama Iqbal,

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate General of Public Relations of the Pakistan Air Force on Wednesday released a short documentary video paying tribute to the poet of the East, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal on the occasion of his birth anniversary. The short documentary highlighted that Iqbal's poetry has depth of thought and insight. The creation of the motherland had been accomplished by his intellectual efforts, it added.

By terming the young generation as Shaheen (Eagle), Iqbal wanted to inculcate in them a lofty idea, passion for action, wide vision and boldness, and also wanted to fully fulfill their curiosity.

According to Iqbal the Shaheen's life is self-deprecating, curious in its nature and swooping in its habit. "He is the only ruler of vast space who loves the skies and heights," the documentary mentioned the vision of Iqbal for youth as Shaheen.

The documentary renewed the pledge that every Shaheen of Pakistan Air Force was always ready to protect the motherland and would not spare any sacrifice if required.—APP

WAPDA issues inflows-outflows position in rivers, reservoirs

ISLAMABAD:Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has issued the position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs levels and the barrages for today (Wednesday).

According to a spokesman of WAPDA, inflows and outflows in River Indus at Tarbela was 28,900 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs while inflows and outflows in River Kabul at Nowshera will remain 13,300 cusecs and 13,300 cusecs.

Inflows and outflows in River Kabul at Khairabad Bridge was 17,600 cusecs and 17,600 cusecs, Jhelum at Mangla (Inflows 14,800 cusecs and Outflows 35,000 cusecs) and in Chenab at Marala (Inflows 11,700

cusecs and Outflows 4,800 cusecs) respectively.

In Jinnah Barrage inflows 59,900 cusecs and outflows 53,400 cusecs while in Chashma inflows and outflows were 61,400 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs. In Taunsa (inflows 57,800 cusecs and outflows 41,100 cusecs), Guddu (inflows 42,500 cusecs and outflows 34,800 cusecs) Sukkur (inflows 32,000 cusecs and outflows 9,400 cusecs) Kotri (inflows 31,300 cusecs and outflows 15,500 cusecs) Trimmu (inflows 13,900 cusecs and outflow 1,400 cusecs) and Panjnad inflows were 4,600 cusecs and outflows was recorded Nil cusecs.

In Tarbela, whose minimum operating level is 1,398 feet was operating at 1522.91 feet against max-

imum conservation level 1,550 feet, live storage today (Wednesday) was 4.336 million acre feet (MAF).

Mangla: Minimum operating level 1,050 feet, present level 1151.15 feet, maximum conservation level 1,242 feet, live storage today 1.822 MAF. Chashma: Minimum operating level 638.15 feet, present level 644.20 feet, maximum conservation level 649 feet, live storage today 0.105 MAF.

The inflows and outflows of River Indus at Tarbela, Jinnah and Chashma, River Kabul at Nowshera and River Jhelum at Mangla have been reflected as mean flows of 24 hours, whereas the other flows have been gauged at 6.00 a.m.—APP



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Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

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Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Developed countries must deliver on promises

FROM the conflict in Ukraine to the midterm elections in the United States, there are plenty of ongoing and impending events to distract countries and their leaders from this year's United Nations climate change conference now in session in Egypt. But the evidence of climate change's devastating impacts is accumulating, and without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors and regions, it will be impossible to keep warming below 2 C, never mind the hoped-for 1.5 C. As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned nations at the opening of the meeting, known as COP 27, we are "on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator". Solidarity and collective action are pressing imperatives. The highway to hell is littered with broken promises and these have become outstanding obstacles to a collective response to climate change. There have been too many hope-raising pledges made in the past by the developed countries that have not been met, not least because they are not the countries most affected by climate change. As the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change notes in a summary for policymakers, across sectors and regions, it is the most vulnerable people and ecosystems that are bearing the brunt of climate change, with Small Island States disproportionately affected the most. It is thus inspiring to learn that international leaders agreed on the first day of the meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh to put loss and damage on the agenda. This is a historic breakthrough for global climate negotiations, which may pave the way for badly needed compromises between major contributors to climate change and its most vulnerable victims, which will in turn facilitate joint actions.

An outstanding obstacle to a collective response to climate change has been the dispute over loss and damage, a divisive topic since it was first raised by a small group of island nations in 1991. As Seychelles President Wavel John Charles Ramkalawan said, "Our contribution to the destruction of the planet is minimal. Yet we suffer the most." A dozen years back, the richest, most polluting countries recognized they had an obligation to compensate. Developed countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States committed to contributing \$100 billion a year by 2020 (and through 2025) to poor countries for their mitigation and adaptation projects. Last year at COP 26 in Glasgow, the developed countries agreed to at least double funding for adoption by 2025 from 2019 levels, to around \$40 billion per year. None of these goals has been met. The wealthy countries have been dragging their feet on honoring their promises to help developing countries mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to new energy sources, technologically and financially. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was correct in saying, "The question today is: can we summon the collective will to deliver on those promises?" A meaningful collective response is imperative. The developed nations can no longer just pay lip service to the issue.



A green transition requires funding

MAKING a transition away from fossil fuels and towards low-carbon energy is the only way to keep our planet safe and habitable for future generations. That transition has thankfully begun, but it has a vast distance to go. And the kinds of changes that are needed cost money. Development of new technology has always required investment. This applies to the generation of renewable energy, and to the myriad lifestyle changes that follow from the shift away from coal, oil and gas. Electric cars and other transport are one example. Packaging to replace plastic (which is derived from oil) is another. Resources are also required to protect societies from the harms caused by the global heating that has already happened, and to help them adjust to altered conditions. A new report presented at the Cop27 UN climate summit says that about \$2tn (£1.75tn) a year will be needed by 2030 if developing countries are to make the necessary changes. One of the authors, Nicholas Stern, pointed to a crucial role for the World Bank as well as western governments in redirecting finance and reducing the cost of capital for investors (banks typically charge higher interest on investments in poor countries, due to perceived risks).

The pledge made in 2009 of \$100bn worth of climate finance annually from rich countries to poorer ones has been broken. But developing countries have succeeded in getting loss and damage on to the formal Cop agenda for the first time. So far, five European countries have agreed to contribute to a fund to help vulnerable countries manage global heating's destructive effects. These commitments are welcome, but insufficient.

The first three days of the conference have seen blistering words from leaders of vulnerable countries, who know that Cop27 is their best chance to be heard. But the circumstances are anything but auspicious, with the follow-up work on emissions promised in Glasgow last year mostly not delivered. Further progress on loss and damage, and other mechanisms to support a green transition in the countries that can least afford it, would be the best outcome from the negotiations. Until now, funding has been skewed away from adaptation and towards emissions cuts – which means that the poorest countries (with lowest emissions) have received the least. Channelling finance towards the countries that need it, if they are to pioneer this greener version of development, could not be more urgent, as the recent floods in Pakistan have tragically demonstrated. This is a moral imperative, since the people and places most imperilled by the climate emergency are those that did least to cause it. But it is in all our interests, in our interconnected world, to limit global heating as far as we can. Governments know that this was wrong. But still the countries and institutions with the most resources, and the greatest share of responsibility for the international money system, hesitate. If Cop27 can shift their priorities and rouse them to reject the broken model that got us here, it will have been a success. What the world needs more than anything is a far more ambitious set of climate finance arrangements.

Allama Iqbal and Karl Marx

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Allama Iqbal has written these and similar verses in praise of Karl Marx and Lenin. This is a tribute of approval on his part, as well as an indicator of the fact that, despite reaching the climax of intellectual thought, establishing a rationalistic system, and writing a book destined to cure human ills and misery, Marx is a Moses without divine. He leads and is a Christ who was not crucified in a divine cause. While these verses show extreme approval of Marx, on the one hand, they also expose his deprivation of visionary exposé and his...

INCLUSIVEISM is an approach of several to understanding different ideologies. Inclusivists hold many beliefs as true and accommodate with their own philosophy. Accommodativism is a doctrine that refers to appropriateness, conformances and reconciliation in socio-political and theological attitudes. According to Dr Muhammad Asim, "Accommodativism" means to accommodate distinct religious identities by government in a structural framework with regard to providing fundamental human rights, religious expressions and particular facilities". Accommodativism is observed in the social behavior when an individual reconciles himself with the belief of other's particularly for the endurance of economy and politics. "Inclusive Accommodativism means to seek similar traits between socio-political and/or cultural segments, market economies and religious/sectarian fractions by avoiding differences (even major or minor) just to avail Dr. Muhammad Asim's 3Ps (peace, progress and prosperity) Model, structural functionalism and cosmopolitanism". Allama Iqbal was also prominent philosopher who experienced such approach. He inhaled different ideologies and transmitted its intellectual development through his poetry. The Muslim community of sub-continent was and now is much impressed by his accommodativism approach and lyrical message to the Muslim Ummah. However, some are very confused by its philosophical thoughts because he himself was impressed by a number of personalities and philosophies that left a deep impact on him but it seems that he could not totally followed them.

One of them was Karl Marx whose socialist ideas were interpreted into action in 1917 by Lenin. Iqbal was greatly impressed by the Marxian thought and in his later poems,

published posthumously in his last collection 'Armughan-e-Hejaz', he described Socialism as the next greatest threat to all evils of the world. Even though he partially subscribed to the Marxian ideology, he had objections to its doubt, on the one hand, and its continuation of statehood on the other. Nevertheless, his sympathies with the peasants and workers and inclination towards Lenin and Marx were distinctive. Allama Iqbal has written these and similar verses in praise of Karl Marx and Lenin. This is a tribute of approval on his part, as well as an indicator of the fact that, despite reaching the climax of intellectual thought, establishing a rationalistic system, and writing a book destined to cure human ills and misery, Marx is a Moses without divine. He leads and is a Christ who was not crucified in a divine cause. While these verses show extreme approval of Marx, on the one hand, they also expose his deprivation of visionary exposé and his lack of insight into spiritual values and ecstasy. Marx has been called a materialist, that is, one who was devoid of the exhilarating and life-giving revelations brought by Hazrat-i-Jibreel.

Marx assumed that materialistic equality was the solution for human ills. Allah says that the roots of his (Marx's) imagination have not penetrated the depths of his heart, but are only floating in the most basic existence, and although his sympathy for humanity may give the impression that the heart of a believer, his insight, being deprived of divine revelation, the system produced by him through the innovations of his intellect is not beneficial. To be deprived of divine revelation is nothing more than the spikes of an unbelieving mind. Consequently, Iqbal has said that the problem would not be solved with the control of the government by the proletariat. On the contrary, the bourgeoisie

would parade with the mantle of the proletariat, because the true revolution is more a change of the basic sentiments of the heart than of the material resources and conditions, and so on.

Human nature loves extremism. It deviates between extremes rather than expanding. Iqbal was once fascinated by the Western system and later by communism. Very few people accept the positive aspects of these two as the lost heritage of the believers and reject the negative aspects because of their harmful effects. Iqbal praised the sentiments of human sympathy in Communism, Marx and Lenin and acknowledged their struggle to smash the idol of capitalism.

What attracted Iqbal the most was the nectar, which in the communist capitalist system proved to be the cancer of the idea of a national organization based on color, language and race and gave birth to a new concept of national ideology in Europe. Islam bases its own nationalism. This harmony of thought between the two created a soft spot for sharing in Iqbal's conscience. In other words, Iqbal happily saw the achievements of communism against capitalism as preparing the ground for Islamic revival. At the very beginning of the communist trial time, when he may perhaps was seeing the future of human between the two extremes of communism and capitalism from which the human race would benefit.

Though today when we study him after 80 years, he still remains worth-while because his imbalances philosophy is still persist. Although Subcontinent is free from imperialist rule, still faces the challenge of the dominating self of the West. The laziness of the centuries still to be broken and the passion for progress, devotion to ideal and dedication to action are yet to be acquired.

– The writer is PhD in Political Science

Vladimir Putin wants the world to forget Ukraine

Anton Barbashin

Russian president also addressed the Global South with an updated version of Soviet messaging: that Moscow respects sovereignty and right of every nation to "follow its own path", unlike Western colonial powers which historically have not. He also drew attention to continuing Western economic dominance and exploitation of developing countries through "neocolonial" globalisation. Putin also did not miss the opportunity to talk about the "ills" of Western societies, seemingly directing his words to those who oppose their governments in the West or disagree with mainstream cultural and societal norms

AS Vladimir Putin was finishing his first term in office in 2004, he sought to develop modern channels of communication with the world, especially the West. That is why the Valdai Club was launched, along with its annual conference in which the president would participate. It became one of the main venues where Russia's leader would address the rest of the world. From the mid-2000s to the early 2010s, he would spend hours at the conference answering the questions of top Russia experts, talking about the country's unique democratic development and openness to the world.

What we heard on October 27, at this year's Valdai event, was a radically different rhetoric.

Ahead of the event, presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov promised that people "will read and re-read" Putin's Valdai speech. This was likely what the president wished would happen, as he finds himself in a moment in history that will define his legacy and in which he certainly believes he is not going to be the loser.

But that was not how many saw his speech. Most of the address was full of complaints about the West, which led some Russia watchers to dismiss it as yet another rant by a bitter leader who is out of touch with reality.

But it is important to dig through Putin's quite direct and at times vulgar rhetoric to understand what his global strategy is. He delivered several messages directed at different audiences, trying to drive one key idea through: it is not about Ukraine, it is about much more than that.

Putin's main and most popular narrative directed at the international audience is the "end of the unipolar moment" and the "coming of multipolarity". He has been preaching about it for most of his presidency, picking it up from the writings of Russia's former prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the late Yevgeny Primakov. Unsurprisingly, it dominated much of his speech

at Valdai. He accused the West and the United States of triggering crises and sowing chaos around the world, and reiterated his conviction that the rise of other powers necessitates respect for their interests and participation in drawing the rules of how the world is governed. His key message – directed at other powers like China and India – was that the end of American hegemony should lead to the end of the Western promotion of democracy and institutions of governance, universality of human rights and what has become known as the "liberal world order" in general. It should also give space for a non-Western financial architecture to emerge – an idea that Russia has been running with for at least a decade. That is already taking place to a certain degree in the form of dedollarisation, but clearly not at the pace that Putin needs to fight the negative consequences of Western sanctions.

The Russian president also addressed the Global South with an updated version of Soviet messaging: that Moscow respects the sovereignty and the right of every nation to "follow its own path", unlike Western colonial powers which historically have not. He also drew attention to continuing Western economic dominance and exploitation of developing countries through "neocolonial" globalisation. Putin also did not miss the opportunity to talk about the "ills" of Western societies, seemingly directing his words to those who oppose their governments in the West or disagree with mainstream cultural and societal norms.

He specifically seemed to play on the sentiments of Western conservatives, bringing up "cancel culture" and presenting it as a despotic erasure of what is deemed wrong or no longer tolerable by liberal elites. He spoke about the traditional, Christian core of the Western civilisation, dismissing "strange ideas" like "dozens of genders and gay pride parades". Putin emphasised that his problem is with the West-

ern "elites" not the people of the West. The Russian president even tried to appeal to environmentalists, proclaiming that because of conflict with Russia, the West is ignoring climate change. In a nutshell, he gave everyone in the West, East and South a broad enough reason to think of their own problems and of global crises and to see the war in Ukraine through that prism: it is not about Ukraine; it is about much more.

This is the message Putin and the Kremlin are trying to convey to the world and especially the West – the cost of supporting Ukraine is too much, and its importance – too negligible, when compared with what the world is dealing with. It can be resolved simply with "dialogue on an equal footing". Moscow is, of course, playing an important role in stoking these crises: from waging a gas war on the European Union to undermining the United Nations grain deal, curbing Ukrainian wheat exports and exacerbating food shortages in the Global South. The goal is to distract the world from the war in Ukraine, to present it as a small, regional – if not domestic – issue.

Indeed, for those that do not follow the war in Ukraine closely, who do not understand the context and who mistrust the news of war crimes, what Putin is saying may seem reasonable enough. But unfortunately, what he envisions as a "dialogue" or a "solution" is, in fact, a full surrender of Ukraine – the West agreeing to step back and turn a blind eye to the horrors of the Russian war and occupation.

This is the multipolarity Putin is preaching – a world order that enables those that have the power to do what they want and to bend international laws. And while Putin wants the world to forget Ukraine, he is obsessed with it. For him this is a personal affair; it is about delivering "historical justice" in his Russian imperial understanding of it.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Pak outclass NZ to qualify for WC final

FROM PAGE 01
first over of the match. Full, straight and given again! Smacked on the front pad swinging across the line, and this one looks a goner, despite Allen's review. Pitching on leg, hitting middle and leg! Afridi counters to leave Allen pinned to the ropes after a frenetic three-ball stay. Pakistan fans in a full voice already at the SCG Shadab Khan's direct hit from mid-off took Conway's wicket. Another early victory for Pakistan. Captain Babar Azam said that they have made no change to the team which last played against Bangladesh. Earlier, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson won the toss and elected to bat against Pakistan in the first semi-final of the Twenty20 World Cup in Sydney on Wednesday. The Blacks Caps, who topped Group 1, are aiming to make the final for the second consecutive time as they target a maiden T20 title.

Pakistan clinch bronze in hockey

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistan a two-goal cushion in the 34th minute of the match. In the final quarter, Yuma Nagai pulled one back for Japan in the 49th minute but Abdul Rana added another goal for Pakistan three minutes later. It must be noted that Pakistan finished on the fourth position on the points table, with one win in five games. Pakistan securing a medal in the event is commendable bearing in mind the fact that many experienced players were not part of the squad. The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) was forced to send a young squad for the tournament after nine players, which included star players like Ammad Butt, Hamad Anjum, Moeen Shakeel, and Rizwan Ali, decided against joining the training camp last month. According to sources, lucrative contracts in England league hockey, as compared to those offered by the PHF, and reservations with the Pakistan team coaching staff were among the reasons behind players' decision to move abroad.

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Midterm elections race for US Congress tight

FROM PAGE 01
tight races in Arizona, Georgia and Nevada, where ballots were still being counted. The Georgia race appeared to be headed for a runoff vote on Dec. 6 because both the Democratic and Republican candidates were falling short of the 50 percent needed for victory. If the Republicans do take control of Congress, they plan to seek cost savings in the popular Social Security and Medicare retirement and healthcare programs run by the government. They also want to make permanent expiring tax cuts under a partisan 2017 law enacted by Republicans. At the same time, they have said they want to undo Biden's major achievements addressing climate control and prevent possible efforts to expand social programs to include childcare subsidies so more parents can hold jobs, for example. Republican push-back against increasing Washington's borrowing authority next year without major spending cuts also has begun to materialize. A Republican-run Congress could also block aid to Ukraine, although analysts say they are more likely to slow or pare back the flow of defense and economic assistance. House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy had hoped to celebrate a resounding victory that would propel him into the top job of speaker.

Delayed climate justice 'death sentence' for vulnerable

Senator Sherry Rehman stated that her agenda at COP27 was to ensure that Loss & Damage moves beyond a 'bumper sticker' catchphrase for the Global South, and some bargain is broken with parties from Global North

DNA

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: "There is a race against time now for adapting to the climate crisis, and those with better resources will adapt faster, whereas for others, it will be delayed. In every country the vulnerable will be the first to go down, and we are here to serve the reminder that delaying climate justice for the vulnerable is subjecting them to a death sentence," stated Senator Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator at the Pakistan Pavilion at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The senator was speaking at a panel discussion titled 'The Lost & the Damaged: Pakistan's Climate Catastrophe', and was joined by Vicente Paolo, Thematic Coordinator Loss and Damage G77, Liane Schalatek, Associate Director, Heinrich Bol Stiftung, Amb. Shaqat Kakakhel, Chairperson Sustainable Development Policy Institute, and Paul V. Desanker, Manager Adaptation Program, UNFCCC. The panel was moderated by environmental lawyer and activist Ahmad Rafay Alam, a news release here said. Senator Sherry Rehman stated that her agenda at COP27 was to ensure that Loss & Damage moves beyond a 'bumper sticker' catchphrase for the Global South, and some bargain is broken with parties from the



Global North. In response to a question on expectations from the loss and damage negotiations, Senator Rehman stated that these were political decisions waiting to be taken by the negotiating parties, and not based on financial or economic convenience. "This is the time now to ask for clarity and timelines. We can't be making the entire COP27 pivot on an adversarial ask, which is why we haven't gone into the business of

reparations. We are seeking to build consensus because the whole system hinges on it as every country has a veto. Without prejudice to longer goals, our ask is there should be enough appetite to hear us from the Global South, who are literally on the edge of a perilous new frontline to climate risk. It is time for us also to get our act together where we don't have to wait for somebody else to define it for us," she said.

Pakistan clinch bronze medal in Azlan Shah Cup

KARACHI: Pakistan have defeated Japan 5-3 to clinch bronze medal in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022 on Wednesday in Ipoh, Malaysia. Pakistan have won a medal at the event for the first time in 11 years. In the first quarter, Kentaro Fukuda gave Japan the lead in the ninth minute but that was quickly cancelled out by Pakistan's Hanan Shahid in the 10th minute. Pakistan scored two goals in the second quarter, one each by Arbaz and Rooman, to take control of the match. Japan threatened to make a comeback, in the third quarter, after Yuma Nagai reduced Pakistan's lead to one goal in the 30th minute. However, Rooman once again gave Pakistan a two-goal cushion in the 34th minute of the match. In the final quarter, Yuma Nagai pulled one back for Japan in the 49th minute but Abdul Rana added another goal for Pakistan three minutes later. It must be noted that Pakistan finished on the fourth position on the points table, with one win in five games. Pakistan securing a medal in the event is commendable bearing in mind the fact that many experienced players were not part of the squad. The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) was forced to send a young squad for the tournament after nine players, which included star players like Ammad Butt, Hamad Anjum, Moeen Shakeel, and Rizwan Ali, decided against joining the training camp last month. According to sources, lucrative contracts in England league hockey, as compared to those offered by the PHF, and reservations with the Pakistan team coaching staff were among the reasons behind players' decision to move abroad. "Our team will give their 100 per cent on the field in order to get some points and improve our rankings. It won't be easy since around ten players will debut for us in the tournament but it will give the youngsters international exposure," Pakistan captain Bhutta told geosuper.tv from Malaysia last week. - DNA

'Won't give up 'a single centimeter' to Russia'

DNA

KIEV: Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his forces would not yield "a single centimeter" in battles for the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk, while Russian-installed officials said Ukrainian forces were moving into a southern town with tanks. The focal points of the conflict in the industrial region of Donetsk are around the towns of Bakhmut, Solodar and Avdiivka, which have seen the heaviest fighting since Russian forces invaded Ukraine in late February. "The activity of the occupiers remains at an extremely high level - dozens of attacks every day," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address late on Tuesday. "They are suffering extraordinarily high losses. But the order remains the same - to advance on the administrative boundary of Donetsk region. We will not yield a single centimeter of our land," he said. The region is one of four Russia said it annexed in September. Fighting had been going on there between the Ukrainian military and Russian proxy forces since 2014, the same



year Russia annexed the south. A Russian-installed mayor in the town of Snihivirivka, east of the southern city of Mykolaiv, by Russia's RIA news agency as saying residents had seen tanks and that fierce fighting was going on. "They got into contact during the day and said there were tanks moving around and, according to their information, heavy fighting on the edge of the town," the mayor, Yuri Barabashov, said, referring to the residents. "People saw this equipment moving through the streets in the town centre," he said. Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian-installed administration in the Kherson region, said on the Telegram

messaging service that Ukrainian forces had tried to advance on three fronts, including Snihivirivka. Vitaly Kim, the Ukrainian governor of the Mykolaiv region, apparently quoting an intercepted conversation between Russian servicemen, suggested that Ukrainian forces had already pushed the Russians out of the area. "Russian troops are complaining that they have already been thrown out of there," Kim said in a statement on his Telegram channel. There was no official word on the situation in the town from military officials in either Ukraine or Russia. Ukrainian forces have been on the offensive in recent months while Russia is regrouping to defend areas of Ukraine it still occupies, having called up hundreds of thousands of reservists over the past month. Kyiv-based military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said on Tuesday that 21 Russian conscripts had surrendered to Ukrainian forces around Svatove in Luhansk region. "These poor mobilised men - really poor, they had had nothing to eat or drink in three days - of course, they decided to surrender," Zhdanov said on his YouTube channel.

Potter defends misfiring Sterling

MANCHESTER: Chelsea boss Graham Potter insists Raheem Sterling will overcome his poor form ahead of the World Cup because the England winger has already proved his quality at the highest level. Sterling has struggled since joining Chelsea from Manchester City in the close-season. The 27-year-old has scored just twice since Potter's arrival on September 8 to replace the sacked Thomas Tuchel, with his latest lacklustre display coming in Chelsea's limp 1-0 loss to Arsenal on Sunday. Despite his prolonged dip, Sterling is still expected to be a key figure for Gareth Southgate's team when the World Cup gets underway in Qatar in two weeks. Potter is confident Sterling's track record will ensure he returns to his best sooner rather than later.



"You can tell by his reaction he is honest," Potter said ahead of Chelsea's League Cup third round tie at Manchester City on Wednesday. "Players about Raheem's quality and ability. He is a proven top player." Sterling scored three times for Chelsea before Potter took charge, but his last Premier League goal came against Southampton on August 30. Chelsea have lost their last two league games, their first defeats under Potter, and have not won in four top-flight matches.

Modric spearheads Croatia WC campaign

ZAGREB: Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic named his World Cup squad on Wednesday, with the 2018 runners up led by veteran captain Luka Modric. Dalic guided the side to the final four years ago, where they lost to France, a historic achievement for a country of 3.9 million people. "We are optimists with a reason but have to be realistic," Dalic told reporters presenting his 26-man squad. "We'll go step by step, we are rather self-confident after the Nations League matches," added the 56-year-old. In September, they secured their place in the last four of the Nations League. "There is no pressure, no big euphoria. The first game will be the most important," Dalic said. "Now we think (on how) to pass the group first," he added. Croatia play Morocco in their opening Group F match on November 23 before meeting Canada and Belgium. Modric, 37, said recently he would end his international career after the World Cup in Qatar. Apart from the Real Madrid star, veteran players include defenders Domagoj Vida and Dejan Lovren, both of whom Dalic stressed are in good shape. Asked to compare the team with the one four years ago Dalic said the then squad "played together for ten years before being rewarded in Russia". "They are potent and capable, but it (Croatia success) will not be possible without older ones." Squad: Goalkeepers: Dominik Livakovic (Dinamo Zagreb), Ivica Ivusic (Osijek), Ivo Grbic (Atletico Madrid/ESP) Defenders: Domagoj Vida (AEK Athens/GRE), Dejan Lovren (Zenit Saint Petersburg/RUS), Borna Barisic (Rangers/SCO), Josip Juranovic (Celtic/SCO), Josko Gvardiol (RB Leipzig/GER), Borna Sosa (Stuttgart/GER), Josip Stanisic (Bayern Munich/GER), Martin Erlic (Sassuolo/ITA), Josip Sutalo (Dinamo Zagreb). - APP

EU, Kazakhstan ink agreement on renewable Hydrogen

Prime Minister Smailov reaffirmed the country's readiness to become a regional center for renewable energy development as he presented the national vision on climate change issues at the COP27

DNA

ASTANA: The agreement focuses on the development of a secure and sustainable supply of raw materials and refined materials, renewable hydrogen and battery value chains, and contributes to the green and digital transformation, reported the press service of the European Commission. Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov, who represented Kazakhstan at the COP27, said that the document will create conditions for the establishment of financial and technological cooperation between Kazakhstan and EU industrial alliances.

"Our country has all the necessary attractiveness factors for European business, including diversified energy sources and high transit-transport potential. The EU remains one of Kazakhstan's largest and most significant trade partners, accounting for about 30 percent of the country's foreign trade. At the same time, today we see significant potential for building investment cooperation and increasing mutual trade," said Smailov, as reported by the PM's office. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen noted the partnership will build a cleaner foundation for both economies. "This partner-

ship with Kazakhstan shows Europe's commitment to work with partner countries on our shared commitments to a greener and more resilient future in line with the Global Gateway Strategy and the objectives of the REPowerEU Plan [A plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels and fast forward the green transition]," said Ursula von der Leyen at the document signing ceremony. It is reported that President von der Leyen and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev confirmed their readiness to deepen economic cooperation in the critical raw materials domain and agreed to intensify

work on a Memorandum of Understanding as part of the UN General Assembly in September 2022. Prime Minister Smailov reaffirmed the country's readiness to become a regional center for renewable energy development as he presented the national vision on climate change issues at the COP27. The Kazakh government reiterated its firm commitment to the goals and objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement. "Our country has set an ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060. As part of this, we plan to adopt a Low Carbon Development Strategy by the end of the year. This will be a

historic moment: for the first time in Central Asia, a country is adopting such an ambitious document," Smailov said. The country has about 3 percent of green energy as part of the total energy output. The goal is to increase its output to 15 percent by 2030, adding 7 gigawatts of additional power by 2030. The government intends to stimulate green investments with the Astana International Financial Center (AIFC) serving as a regional investment center for green finance. Kazakhstan's agenda also includes a fivefold expansion in energy production from renewables from 3 to

15 percent, doubling the amount of energy produced from environmentally friendly sources from 20 to 38 percent and expansion of the national carbon absorption capacity by planting more than 2 billion trees by 2025. A 30-percent reduction in the share of energy generation from coal, from 68.9 to 40.1 percent is expected as well. This year, more than 120 countries are taking part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 with a mission to ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. A high-level session mostly attended by ministers will take place Nov. 15-18.

FM Bilawal arrives in Saudi Arabia

FROM PAGE 01

The Foreign Minister will also hold a meeting with Secretary General of the GCC during his visit. Besides the official engagements, the Foreign Minister will have interaction with the local media and other dignitaries of the Kingdom. The visit of the Foreign Minister will further deepen Pakistan's engagement with Saudi Arabia for enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Govt mulls moving away from 'interest'...

FROM PAGE 01

State Bank of Pakistan and National Bank - both representatives of the government in the banking and financial sector - had separately filed appeals in the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the verdict. "Because this is ordained in the Holy Quran, I believe the barometer of our decisions is the Quran and Sunnah, we all should follow it," he said. Dar said that with permission from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and after due consultation with SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed, both the central bank and National Bank will withdraw their appeals from the Supreme Court and that their government will try their utmost to enforce the Islamic system of banking as soon as possible. He prayed for divine guidance on imposing this new, interest-free system. He, however, reminded that there are a lot of challenges in implementing this system since Pakistan's entire banking system in vogue for the past 75 years cannot suddenly move to a different system. "The government has decided in light of teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah that the two appeals against the Federal Shariah Court's verdict by the government will be withdrawn and work to implement the system in the defined timeline.

Marriyum lauds PM Shehbaz

FROM PAGE 01

financial resources to compensate for the losses of developing countries. About Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, she said on the one side was the person who has been busy serving the country and the people ever since he came to power. She said, on the other hand, there was the character who, ever since he entered politics, had been engaged in destruction, creating chaos and distraction. She said Shehbaz Sharif had been struggling to protect flood victims from cold, diseases and hunger. She lamented that on the other hand, there was a group of people led by a mischievous person who had blocked the roads for the sick children and the ambulances to reach the hospital. Appreciating Shehbaz Sharif, she said he has brought Pakistan's economy back from the brink of collapse and strengthened economic fundamentals. On the other hand, there is a mastermind of sit-ins, arson, killing and burning, who in lust for power was attacking every institution, public and private property. - APP

Wirecard fraud trial to start in December

FRANKFURT: Wirecard's former CEO Markus Braun will go on trial from December 8 to answer fraud charges in Germany's biggest-ever accounting scandal, a Munich court said Wednesday. Austrian-born Braun, 53, stands accused of "commercial gang fraud", embezzlement and market manipulation for his role in Wirecard's spectacular collapse two years ago. The higher regional court in Munich said it had scheduled 100 court dates for the mammoth trial. Once the standard-bearer for the German tech industry, payments firm Wirecard was plunged into chaos in 2020 after admitting that 1.9 billion euros (\$1.9 billion) missing from its balance sheets likely didn't exist. - APP

Briefs

Zelensky takes possession of Hollywood star's Oscar

WEB DESK

KIEV: Hollywood star Sean Penn has once again visited Ukraine and exchanged gifts with President Vladimir Zelensky, telling his "great friend" to hold on to his Oscar until Ukraine defeats Russia. "This is for you... When you win, bring it back to Malibu. I'll feel much better knowing a piece of me is here," Penn told Zelensky, according to a video shared by the president's office on Tuesday. "It's just a symbolic silly thing, but if I know this is here with you then I'll feel better and stronger for the fight."

An actor-turned-politician, Zelensky returned the favor by presenting Penn with the Order of Merit for "significant contribution to the popularization of Ukraine in the world." Penn has been vocal in his support for Ukraine and has repeatedly called on the international community to send more aid to Kiev. The 61-year-old actor initially went to Kiev shortly before the fighting broke out in late February to film a documentary for Vice Media about Kiev's war against the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics.

In March, he distinguished himself among Zelensky's many cheerleaders by demanding his "great friend" be given a platform to speak at the Academy Awards, threatening to not only boycott the event, but to melt down his own statues if he wasn't included. Even though Zelensky did not make an appearance at the Oscars, Penn has yet to follow through on his promise. Sean Penn is far from the only Hollywood actor to openly support Ukraine's cause. American actor Ben Stiller met with the Ukrainian leader in Kiev and called Zelensky his "hero."

Massive data leak in Australia

SYDNEY: Amid a standoff between hackers and an insurance company, data of around 10 million customers, including Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, has been compromised in Australia.

Medibank Private Limited, also known simply as Medibank, has admitted "data of 9.7 million past and former customers was breached when hackers gained access to a database," ABC News reported.

"This is really tough for people. I am a Medibank Private customer as well and it will be of concern that some of this information has been put out there," Albanese told a news conference. The company is one of the largest Australian private health insurance providers, covering around 3.7 million people.

Medibank refused to accept ransom demands of the hackers and warned it expected further data leaks, available on darkweb, from the cybercriminals.

"It appears the cybercriminals have published what they have termed 'naughty' and 'nice' lists of prominent people amongst the leaked data," the report said.

Australian police have said it stepped up "Operation Guardian" to "try and protect customer data."

"The naughty list includes around a hundred individuals, many with well-known surnames, who have undergone treatment for drug or alcohol use, or for mental health issues such as eating disorders," it added.

Sam Biondo, the chief executive of the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association, said: "The release of such private information could cause a lot of harm for the people affected."

"This was extremely concerning given the stigma that's associated with individuals who have alcohol or drug issues," he said.

Albanese said Medibank has "followed the guidelines effectively." "The advice is to not engage in a ransom payment. If you go down this road, then you end up with more difficulties potentially across a wider range. "But we will, through (Home Affairs Minister) Clare O'Neil, be responding extensively about this. We are concerned and we will continue to monitor what is occurring," the prime minister said.—Agencies

China, Pakistan may cooperate to control floods

Prof. Cui has long been engaged in mountain hazard research with a focus on debris flow and landslides, as well as water and soil conservation

DNA

BEIJING: China, Pakistan may cooperate in emergency management to control floods, said Prof. Cui Peng, Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Co-Director General of China-Pakistan Joint Research Center of Earth Sciences, Co-Founder of International Association for Disaster Risk Reduction (IADRR).

In an interview to China Economic Net (CEN), he said natural disasters are a common challenge for mankind, and disaster prevention and reduction is also a common topic for all countries in the world, especially in countries along the "Belt and Road Initiative."

Mentioning the floods in Pakistan, "We're happy to share our experience with Pakistan in many fields," Cui noted, adding that such fields includes systematic understanding of debris-flow formation mechanism, risk assessment, monitoring and early warning; the development of integrated disaster mitigation techniques; systematic understanding of the mechanisms for earthquake induced geological hazards such as seismic landslide and dammed lake, and risk assessment methods based on dynamic process and scale-up effect.

As per Prof. Cui, many countries are prone to natural disasters, and some of them are catastrophic. On average, the loss due to nat-



ural disasters in BRI countries is more than twice the world average.

And the casualties are even more, especially in South Asia, where the casualties in some cases have reached ten times. "Therefore, joining hands in the prevention and control of natural

disasters is of great significance," Prof. Cui told China Economic Net. Prof. Cui has long been engaged in mountain hazard research with a focus on debris flow and landslides, as well as water and soil conservation. As a scientist who has also

been devoted to applying disaster risk reduction knowledge and techniques in catastrophic events at home and abroad, as well as in mountainous areas, infrastructures and scenic areas, Cui has successfully applied mitigation techniques to the mega debris-flow events in Venezuela and Zhouqu, China, earthquakes in Nepal and Wenchuan, China, large dammed lake and geo-hazards along the Karakoram Highway in Pakistan.

When he attended the Parallel Session on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management under the Fifth Hongqiao International Economic Forum for the Fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) earlier this week,

he said that coping with the risk of catastrophic disasters often requires the joint response of many countries, and all parties must strengthen international cooperation for disasters such as the floods in Pakistan. "We must further explore cross-border disaster information sharing and disaster prevention mechanisms," noted Cui, adding that the top priority is to help Pakistan and other countries in need improve their natural disaster monitoring capacity, and then to establish a data sharing mechanism. "We are willing to share China's disaster reduction technology with Pakistan and promote them according to local conditions," he further said.

Pakistani handmade carpets attract Chinese customers

DNA

BEIJING: Exotic Pakistani handmade carpets attracted Chinese customers at China International Import Expo, China Economic Net (CEN) reported it on Wednesday. "This is one of the best opportunities we have every year!" said Imran Rah, CEO of ASIYA International Trading (Shanghai) Co., Ltd adding, "CIIE is a 6-day event, but it helps us get together with a lot of customers for 365 days a year. With branding motions here, customers who love our products continue buying from us."

Scheduled from November 5 to 10, the 5th China International Import Expo (CIIE) provides a platform for companies from around the world to display their products, promote their brands, and find more business partners in the world's second-largest economy. Showcasing the exotic handicrafts, such as hand-made carpets, shawls and scarves, Imran told the



reporter that "Our main goal for the expo is not just the six days. We promoted throughout the year, and we can continue to do business with the customers we met here." "We had a great experience in participating at CIIE because it's helped a lot in growing our business and also interacting with other business partners," said Javed Mohal, Assistant to the CEO of founder of WINZA Jewelry and CEO of Atlantis Co., Ltd., a Pakistani jewelry brand, adding that they would like to

spread the Pakistani culture of art, handmade crafts, and share its essence and elegance with the world. Ismail, sales manager of ASIYA, said "You can get in touch with a lot of very high-quality customers that you don't normally meet. When the expo ends, we discuss the details of cooperation with our clients and the final turnover may be equivalent to the turnover of several of our stores in a year." "This pattern [on the carpet] has been passed down for hundreds of years

China, Australia see 'positive changes' in bilateral relations

BEIJING: The bilateral relations between China and Australia have seen "positive changes" in the recent past, the top diplomats from the two countries viewed during a phone call on Tuesday. This comes ahead of the G20 summit in Indonesia later this month where President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will come face to face.

A readout from China's Foreign Ministry said Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Australia and China have "maintained effective communication and contact." It was their third call in the past five months. "Through unremitting efforts, the relations between the two countries have seen positive changes," the readout quoting Wong said, adding that Canberra asserted its "one-China policy" to "develop a more stable and mutually beneficial relationship with China on the basis of mutual respect." Wang Yi, China's top diplomat said, the "common interests" of China and Australia "far outweigh the differences." The bilateral relations between Beijing and Canberra nosedived under former Prime Minister Scott Morrison as Australia joined western allies seeking a probe into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic besides launching a trilateral nuclear cooperation with the UK and the US, known as AUKUS. Australia also joined the so-called Quad, led by Washington, which includes Japan and India as well. It is a loose security alliance aimed to counter China's expanding military and economic influence in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

"The relaxation and improvement of China-Australia relations conform to the fundamental interests of both sides, as well as the common expectations of the two peoples and the international community," Wang said. Beijing imposed trade restrictions on Australian exports throughout last year and during 2020. The bilateral trade volume between the two countries is around \$160 billion. "The two sides should continue to adhere to the consensus on the basic orientation of a comprehensive strategic partnership, uphold the spirit of mutual respect.—DNA

EU threatens to retaliate over Washington's green initiative

BRUSSELS: The European Union accused the United States of breaking World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules with its flagship green technology legislation, promising to take retaliatory measures.

The warning highlights concern over Washington's so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which provides for vast spending on green energy initiatives and includes subsidies and tax credits for American producers and consumers. Brussels says those benefits for American electric vehicle makers would put EU manufacturers at an unfair disadvantage in the lucrative US domestic market. It demands that the US give EU companies the same treatment as other trading partners, including Canada and Mexico. According to the Financial Times, Brussels wants changes to nine of the provisions in the legislation, which restrict subsidies and tax credits to products made in the US, or companies

operating there. The incentives affect manufacturing and investment in products including solar panels, wind turbines and clean hydrogen. Meanwhile, EU Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton has threatened to take "retaliatory measures" against the US, calling the subsidies "contrary to World Trade Organization rules." If Washington doesn't take into account the views of its EU partners, the bloc could "go to the WTO" and make its arguments there, Breton told TV station BFM Business on Monday.

The US Inflation Reduction Act, which was signed into law by President Joe Biden over the summer, includes an estimated \$369 billion investment in energy security and climate action.

The EU welcomed the Biden administration's commitment to fighting climate change, however, it noted that "the green transition is not something to be achieved at the expense of others.—DNA

Türkiye inaugurates new consulate in S. Kazakhstan

NEWS DESK

ASTANA: Türkiye's new honorary consulate in Kazakhstan's Shymkent will contribute to the furthering of bilateral relations, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşo lu said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the consulate, Çavuşo lu underlined that this move would strengthen the ties between the peoples of Türkiye and Kazakhstan while the consulate would serve both countries' citizens.

Türkiye's top diplomat highlighted that the country has reached 256 foreign representations throughout the world and that this number would increase to 257 soon. The country also boasts 108 honorary consulates.

"Serving our citizens is one of the most important priorities of our foreign policy. It is our duty to serve our citizens, our compatriots and our relatives wherever they are in the world."



Touching upon economic ties, Çavuşo lu said that the two countries aim to reach a bilateral trade volume of \$10 billion. "We have reached \$5 billion. Our investments have surpassed \$4.5 billion," he outlined. Noting that they recently discussed how to strengthen cooperation with Kazakhstan, especially on logistics and transportation, Çavuşo lu said that they established the Türkiye-Kazakhstan-Azerbaijan tripartite mechanism.

Çavuşo lu also underlined the importance of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's recent visit to Kazakhstan. Upon the invitation of his Kazakh counterpart Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Erdoğan visited Kazakhstan on Oct. 12-13 2022. The fourth meeting of the Türkiye-Kazakhstan High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, organized as part of the visit of Erdoğan to Kazakhstan, was an important step in

strengthening the cooperation between the countries. The presidents expressed their views that this visit will contribute to the further consolidation of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership between the two countries in their joint statement after the meeting, and underlined the importance of continuing the political dialogue between the states through mutual visits and talks at various levels.

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US-China rivalry to dominate ASEAN summit

PHNOM PENH :The US-China rivalry and growing fears of a new North Korean nuclear test will loom over a meeting this week of Southeast Asian leaders attended by US President Joe Biden. Leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will meet in Phnom Penh from Friday, kicking off a diplomatic blitz in the region that also takes in next week's G20 in Bali and an APEC summit in Bangkok. Biden's administration has identified China as the only global rival to the United States, saying Beijing is attempting to remould the world order in "its own authoritarian model". Making his second trip to Asia this year off the back of bruising midterm elections at home, Biden faces another tough battle to woo ASEAN leaders, many of whom are wary of overtly

taking sides against a giant neighbour and key trading partner. A senior US official said Biden would push the importance of peace in the region, including Taiwan, and respect for the "rules-based international order". An ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in August was dominated by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and the furious response from Beijing, which claims the self-governing island as part of its territory. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang stole a diplomatic march on Biden on Tuesday, arriving in Phnom Penh for talks with Cambodian leader Hun Sen.

At a summit with ASEAN leaders in Washington in May, Biden pledged \$150 million in support for Southeast Asian nations - dwarfed by the \$1.5 billion that China promised to the region

last year in Covid aid alone. The US-China relationship is deteriorating over issues including Taiwan and alleged rights abuses in Xinjiang, and other Western governments have complained about Chinese activities on their soil, including harassment of dissidents. Chinese President Xi Jinping has said Beijing and Washington must "find ways to get along", but at the same time has continued to enforce a far more muscular foreign policy that shows no deference to the United States. Xi is expected to attend the G20 summit in Bali, where he will have his first face-to-face meeting with Biden on its sidelines.

In Phnom Penh, Li can expect a warm reception, having cultivated close ties with most ASEAN members, including host Cambodia. "China will seek to consoli-

date her relationships with Southeast Asian countries, in order to either shore up regional support for Beijing or make sure that they do not end up being on the US side against China," analyst Yongwook Ryu of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy told AFP. The war in Ukraine is also likely to weigh on leaders' minds at ASEAN.

Kyiv will sign a "treaty of amity and cooperation" with ASEAN on Thursday, a first step towards establishing formal relations with the bloc. And Cambodia has said it is considering a request by President Volodymyr Zelensky to address the meeting by video link. China has refused to join Western sanctions on Russia, and Washington has accused Beijing of providing diplomatic cover for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has been invited to the ASEAN summit but it is not clear who will represent it. N. Korea missile drama - Leaders are also expected to discuss the growing crisis on the Korean peninsula, where Pyongyang carried out a spate of weapons tests last week - including an intercontinental ballistic missile. Washington and Seoul have warned that the launches could culminate in a nuclear test, which would be the exclusive communist state's seventh.

North Korea, whose closest ally is China, has said its tests were in response to the largest-ever military drills between the United States and South Korea, which ended at the weekend. Biden is also expected to hold talks with counterparts South Korean Yoon Suk-yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, either on the sidelines

of ASEAN or at the G20, according to Japanese media. ASEAN leaders will also tackle Myanmar, where bloody conflict rages between the junta, which seized power in February last year, and civilian militias trying to oust it.

Leaders of the 10-member bloc, which has led so far fruitless diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis, are expected to discuss ways to implement a "five-point consensus" peace plan agreed upon with Myanmar last year. Because of the lack of progress on the plan, ASEAN refused to invite junta supreme Min Aung Hlaing to the summit. The United States has urged ASEAN - long decried as a toothless talking shop for authoritarian regimes - to take tougher action on Myanmar and Biden is likely to press the case.—APP

Meta to begin mass layoffs

NEW YORK: Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, is expected to start firing staff on Wednesday, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The reductions come as part of the first major effort to cut costs since the founding of Facebook in 2004. The drastic measure follows a sharp slowdown in digital advertising revenue and disappointing earnings for the company.

The unnamed sources told the media that Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg had spoken to executives on Tuesday to prepare them for the cuts, with people affected by the move to be told starting Wednesday morning. According to a separate report by Insider, the reductions will affect about 10% of the company, which employed over 87,000 people as of September 30.

In September, Zuckerberg warned employees that Meta intended to reduce its expenses and restructure its teams. "This is obviously a different mode than we're used to operating in," Zuckerberg said in a Q&A session with employees at the time. "For the first 18 years of the company, we basically grew quickly basically every year, and then more recently our revenue has been flat to slightly down for the first time. So we have to adjust." The layoffs come amid similar steps taken by tech rivals. Snap is scaling back as well, saying in August that it would eliminate 20% of its workforce, while Twitter fired around 50% of its employees following the sale of the company to Elon Musk.—Agencies

UK minister resigns after bullying allegations

LONDON: The government of Britain's new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, which was appointed just two weeks ago, lost a cabinet minister on Tuesday.

Sir Gavin Williamson, considered to be Sunak's close ally, announced his resignation due to allegations of bullying, which, he said, were "becoming a distraction for the good work this government is doing."

Williamson, who previously served as defense secretary under Theresa May and as education secretary under Boris Johnson, but was sacked on both occasions, found himself in hot water again after it was revealed that he had sent expletive-laden texts to former chief whip Wendy Morton, raging over not being invited to the Queen's funeral in September.

He allegedly blamed Morton for "rigging" the allocation of tickets to the event and warned that "there is a price for everything."

"I have apologized to the recipient for those messages," Sir Gavin said in a statement. However, the Guardian reported that the claim was false, with Morton not having received an apology from him. Another report by the Guardian on Monday claimed that while defense minister, Williamson told a senior civil servant to "slit your throat" and "jump out of the window." On Tuesday, former Tory MP Anne Milton told Channel 4 that Sir Gavin behaved in a "threatening" and "intimidating" way towards fellow Conservative party members when he was the chief whip five years ago.—DNA

Eco-protesters attack Warhol artwork

CANBERRA: Eco-activists from a new campaign group calling themselves Stop Fossil Fuel Subsidies (StopFFS) vandalized Andy Warhol's famous 'Campbell's Soup I' at Australia's National Gallery in Canberra on Tuesday. The incident is the latest action in a recent trend that has seen climate change protesters targeting famous artwork in Europe and beyond. "Andy Warhol depicted consumerism gone mad in this iconic series. And now we have capitalism gone mad," one of the activists, Bonnie Cassen, said after gluing her hand to the pop art masterpiece. The painting is protected by a glass frame and was thus not damaged. According to the protester, described by StopFFS as "a mother of three and battling incurable cancer.—DNA

Briefs

China gifts 100,000 doses of Hepatitis A vaccines

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China has donated one hundred thousand doses of Hepatitis A vaccines to Pakistan. It was informed by the Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel while addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Wednesday. The minister thanked the Chinese gesture saying this is a timely support and the vaccines will reach vulnerable people whose livelihoods have been affected by the recent floods. The Minister said China has always supported Pakistan during difficult times. He said both the countries will work together in the health sector. China has given full support to Pakistan in every difficult hour. Pakistan is still struggling with one of the worst floods in history, Abdul Qadir Patel added.

Change of Guard ceremony held at Iqbal's mausoleum

DNA

LAHORE: A prestigious change of guard ceremony was held here on Friday at the mausoleum of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal in connection with the 145th birth anniversary of the great poet, philosopher and visionary. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy, clad in immaculate whites, assumed ceremonial guard duties with traditional spirit and enthusiasm. Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman and Major General Muhammad Shahbaz Khan Garrison Commander also visited Mazar-e-Iqbal and offered fateha and laid wreaths. On the other hand, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, a public holiday has been declared across the country today (Wednesday).

Alvi approves appointment of IHC CJ as SC judge

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday approved the appointment of three judges in the Supreme Court of Pakistan including Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court Justice Athar Minallah. The president also approved the appointment of Sindh High Court judge Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed of Lahore High Court as the judges of the apex court, a President House statement said. President Alvi also approved the appointment of Justice Amir Farooq as Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, who would replace Justice Athar Minallah.

Russian occupation figure dies, bridge gets blown up

Russia has ordered the evacuation of civilians from the area - Ukraine calls measures a forced deportation - in anticipation of a major battle, while also hinting that it could pull back to more easily defended lines across the Dnipro

NEWS DESK

KYIV: The main bridge on a road out of Kherson city was blown up and one of the top figures in Moscow's occupation administration died on Wednesday in what Russian state media called a car crash, bringing more turmoil to a Russian-held area where Ukraine's forces are advancing. Images on the internet showed the span of the Dariivka bridge on the main highway east out of the city of Kherson in southern Ukraine completely collapsed into the water of the Inhulets River, a tributary of the Dnipro River that bisects the country. Reuters was able to verify the location of the images, though not how the bridge had been destroyed or by whom. Ukrainians who posted the photos speculated it had been blown up by Russian troops in preparation for a retreat, but Oleh Zhdanov, a Ukrainian military analyst, told Reuters it could have been destroyed by Ukrainian saboteurs to isolate Russian forces on either side and "cut the fighting unit in half".

Russian news agencies reported the death of Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian occupation administration in Kherson, saying he had been killed in a car crash, though giving no further details of the circumstances. Stremousov, one of the highest profile occupation figures, had hinted in recent days that Moscow might pull its forces out of the Russian-controlled pocket on the west bank of the Dnipro, the most closely watched sector of the front line. Russia has ordered the evacuation of civilians from the area - Ukraine calls the measures a forced deportation - in anticipation of a major battle, while also hinting that it could pull back to more easily defended lines across the Dnipro. Kyiv says it does not expect the Russians to leave without a fight. Russia's military said it had repelled a Ukrainian advance at Snihurivka on the frontline 50 km (30 miles) north of Dariivka along the Inhulets. The Russian-installed mayor there was cited by Russia's RIA news agency as saying residents had seen tanks and that fierce fighting was going on.

"They got into contact during the day and said there were tanks moving around and, according to (residents') information, heavy fighting on the edge of the town," said the mayor, Yuri Barabashov. "People saw this equipment moving through the streets in the town centre." Vitaly Kim, the Ukrainian governor of Mykolaiv region, which borders Kherson, suggested that Ukrainian forces had pushed the Russians out of the area. "Russian troops are complaining that they have already been thrown out of there," Kim said in a statement on his Telegram channel. Further east, in Novolexandrivka, a village on a hilly bank of the Dnipro in territory recaptured by advancing Ukrainian troops last month, the thunder of near constant rocket and artillery fire echoed on Wednesday from the front 10 km away. "We're kicking them off this bank and we will kick them off the other bank," said Oleh, a Ukrainian soldier. Since pulling out, the Russians have pounded the area every day, villagers and soldiers said. Around a third of residents,

some 230 people, have stayed behind. "They won't let me die in peace. I want to be able to die in peace at the end of my life," complained Mariia Lytvynova, 92, as she leant on a walking stick under a trellised archway hung with vines ripe with red grapes leading to her small home. "I have already survived one war," she said, referring to World War II, when the region was occupied by Nazi Germany. "What will happen with the young people? I am done with my life. But they have to carry on." Her son Mykola, 67, a retired agricultural worker, said he only comes up to fetch water, and then heads straight back into the cellar for shelter: "You should do the same," he advised a Reuters reporter as crumps of artillery echoed over the village. In Kherson city, the only regional capital Russia has captured since its invasion in February, power has been out for days. Russia blames Ukrainian sabotage. Kyiv says the Russians severed the power lines and have been trucking looted household appliances and building materials across the river.

Man arrested after eggs thrown at King Charles

DNA

YORK: A man was detained by police on Wednesday after eggs were thrown at King Charles and Camilla, his wife and queen consort, as they carried out an engagement in northern England. Footage on social media showed four eggs flying past the British monarch and his wife and smashing on the ground as they arrived for a traditional ceremony in York. They appeared to be unmovable by the incident and carried on with the engagement. Police officers rushed in to drag away a protester who was shouting slogans. Others in the crowd jeered him, and chanted: "God save the king". "A 23-year-old man was arrested on a suspicion of a public order offence following an incident on Micklegate in York," police said in a statement. "He currently remains in police custody."

Several cities witness pro-Pakistan Army rallies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rallies were taken out Wednesday in Jhelum and Dera Bugti to show solidarity with Pakistan Army. A Rally in the favor of Pak-Army was held from Akram Shaheed Park to the Shaandar chowk in which the participants held placards and printed flexes to show their support with the army in Jhelum. A display of messages showing solidarity with the Army and Inter-Services Intelligence ISI on the placards and flexes along with great sloganeering was seen in the Jhelum rally. A large number of the general public and trader community gathered to show their love for the Army and ISI.

Elections are of no use without reforms: JI Ameer

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Sirajul Haq inquired after the health of PTI chairman Imran Khan at Zaman Park on Wednesday. He prayed for the recovery of the PTI workers injured in the attack. During the meeting, Sirajul Haq proposed to introduce the proportional representation to make the electoral issues transparent. Imran Khan agreed to forward the proposal in party meeting. Talking to the media after the meeting, Sirajul Haq said that the general elections are of no use without electoral reforms. "Under the present circumstances, no one will accept the election." He welcomed the decision of the establishment, saying that the politicians should let the establishment away from politics.



LAHORE: Change of guard ceremony being held at Mazar-e-Iqbal. - DNA

Elon Musk sells Tesla shares worth \$3.95bn



CALIFORNIA: Tesla top boss Elon Musk has sold \$3.95 billion worth of shares in the electric-vehicle maker, regulatory filings showed, days after he closed the \$44-billion deal for Twitter. The latest sale brings the total Tesla stocks sold by Musk to

about \$36 billion since November last year, leaving him with a roughly 14% stake in the world's most valuable automaker, according to a Reuters calculation. Musk unloaded 19.5 million shares between Friday and Tuesday, filings published by the US Securities and Exchange Commission showed late Tuesday. Tesla did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on the purpose of the share sale. Analysts had widely expected Musk to sell more Tesla shares to finance the Twitter deal even though world's richest man had asserted several times that he was done selling Tesla stock. He sold \$6.9 billion worth of Tesla shares in August and had amassed about \$20 billion in cash through multiple stake sales from November last year to August. This would have left him in need to raise an additional \$2 billion to \$3 billion to finance the Twitter deal, according to a Reuters calculation. The billionaire last month closed the deal with \$13 billion in loans from banks and a \$33.5 billion equity commitment, which included his 9.6% Twitter stake worth \$4 billion and \$7.1 billion from investors including Oracle Corp co-founder Larry Ellison and Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal. Shares of Tesla were up by 0.7% to \$192.64 in pre-market trading. The company has lost nearly half its market value ever since Musk bid for Twitter in April. - DNA

PTI protesters still clogging Motorways for 3rd consecutive day

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers continued their protest for the third consecutive day on Wednesday in Islamabad by blocking M-1 and M-2 motorway creating difficulties for commuters. A long queue of vehicles could be seen stuck on the motorway. People are unable to reach their places of work and students can't go to their educational institutes. Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Wasiq Qayyum asked the PTI workers to continue their protest against the assassination attempt on their leader Imran Khan for the third day. Traffic and other routine activity all but came to a halt in Rawalpindi with sporadic traffic jams witnessed on major arteries and connecting roads. Murree Road, Pirwadhai Mor, Gulzar Quaid Old Airport Road, Sarai Kal Chowk Taxila, Rata Shah Chowk Margalla, Motorway M2, Islamabad near Lahore Toll Plaza have been closed due to ongoing protests at various places. Protesters have also blocked the road towards Rawalpindi near Swan Bridge SOS Village, while traffic is being directed on one side of the road, due to the closure of roads. The

traffic system in Murree remained severely affected for the third day today. On the other hand, the PTI's sit-in near the GT Road Swan Bridge caused long lines of cargo vehicles and halted other traffic, including that of passenger cars. As a result commuters faced immense difficulties, including school going children, patients, office workers and others. Many businesses located near the protest sites were also impacted. A day ago, the federal government reminded the provincial governments of Punjab to maintain law and order in their respective territories after protesters blocked highways leading to the federal capital at the edge of respective provinces. However, reports were circulating that the PTI party decided to call off its protests but later, Punjab govt spokesperson Musarrat Jamshed Cheema categorically said that the party has not issued any directives to end their protest and blockade of key arteries heading to Islamabad. Cheema said that PTI will continue their protests across the country. PTI activists also blocked the road leading to the Islamabad Intl Airport (IIA) by placing tyres across it and setting them alight. - DNA

SC adjourns case against Vawda's disqualification

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Wednesday adjourned the hearing of a case against the lifetime disqualification of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Faisal Vawda till the week starting from November 21. A three-member bench, headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), conducted the hearing. "At the last hearing, we had asked two questions. Faisal Vawda's lawyer

Waseem Sajjad has submitted a reply after working really hard," CJP Umar Ata Bandial remarked. "New judges are coming to the Supreme Court. This case can be handed over to a new bench. One of us will join the new bench," he added. "My request is that this very bench should conduct one more hearing and end the case," lawyer for the election commission pleaded with the court. "We will make a decision regarding the formation of the bench and let you know," the CJP said to the lawyer for the election commission. "A copy of the reply of Faisal Vawda's lawyer should be provided to the lawyer for the election commission," he directed. The hearing of the case was then adjourned till November 21. - DNA

American instructors were present where Sharif was last seen

NAIROBI: Around 10 American instructors and US national trainees were present at AmmoDump Shooting Range where Arshad Sharif had spent his last night before being gunned down by the Kenyan police. A trusted Kenyan government official has told Geo News that Sharif had dinner with other guests at the site including American instructors on October 22 and 23. Sharif left AmmoDump Kwenia Range - also known as AmmoDump Shooting Range - in dark at 8pm on October 23 with his host Khurram, brother of Waqar Ahmad, for Nairobi. He was fatally shot dead an hour later. Pakistani investigators have asked in writing to the Kenyan authorities to provide "names and contact details of the instructors and trainers who were getting training at AmmoDump Training Camp at the time of the shooting" but didn't name nationality of the instructors and trainees. Kenyan govt official shared that his government has asked the Pakistani brothers to share full details of everyone who was present on the site that night and the reason behind their presence. The Kenyan source said the authorities of East African country were working on Pakistan's request. There are two roads that lead to Tinga before one connects to Nairobi from the Ammo Dump

shooting joint. One is located on the right side of the main entrance and the other one heads to the left which passes through the shooting range. Khurram usually used the one that passes through the shooting range. A worker at the site who spoke in confidence as they are not authorised to address the media said: "He usually goes through this side but on that day they used the opposite direction." The usual path they used to follow is known to be short and they could have arrived their destination faster compared to the one they used the night Sharif was killed. On its publicity pages, AmmoDump Kwenia Range describes itself as a "heaven" where shooting practises, weekend camping, spot shooting weekending, biking trails, tended lodges, archery and roading, game drives and farm tours are offered. AmmoDump Limited's website says it's a Kenyan registered company whose parent company AmmoDump Securities Incorporated is registered in Ontario, Canada. Its website boasts: "We specialise in Defence and Security equipment. Ammo Dump was formed in 2015 by a group of likeminded individuals who sought to combine best-in-class brands, assets and people within the complex risk management industry." - DNA

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11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165