



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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China to continue providing new opportunities to Pak

Detailed News On Page-08

US Envoy for overcoming challenges

Detailed News On Page-08



Ramiz gives pep-talk to Pak team in Melbourne

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

World needs climate finance alliance

DNA

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Friday said the world needed a climate finance alliance to deal with the future tsunami of environmental disasters. Speaking at the 27th meeting of the conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) Forum on Climate Change in the Asia-Pacific Region of the United Nations, the Minister demanded that a public and private financing system should be created at the forum to assist worst impacted countries due to environmental degradation for enhancing climate resilience and preparedness. Senator Rehman said climate change events were on the rise in the Asia-Pacific region, adding, "This is a period of much-needed adaptation for us."

Mumtaz Zahra new FO spox

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former ambassador to Korea, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, has been appointed as the new spokesperson for the Foreign Office in place of Asim Iftikhar, the FO said in a statement on Friday. Prior to her appointment as the spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch held senior positions in Pakistan and in the country's foreign missions. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch is currently serving as Additional Secretary (Asia and Pacific) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She is likely to take charge in the coming days. Separately, Saima Sayed was appointed as Deputy Spokesperson for the Foreign Office. She is serving as Director General (Strategic Communication Division) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.
- Editor

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No issue if army chief appointed on merit

PTI Chairman Imran Khan says absconder Nawaz making country's biggest decisions from London

GULZAR NOSHI

GUJRAT: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the absence of rule of law is the main root cause of all problems being faced by Pakistan. Addressing PTI long march rallies in Gujrat and Kamalia through video link, he said the appointment of the next chief of army staff (COAS) must be made according to merit. However, he said that those in power had not done anything on merit and questioned if they would rightfully select the army chief on merit. "They want their own army chief because they want to steal." PTI Chairman Imran Khan lashed out at PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and premier Shehbaz Sharif. "The one [Nawaz] who looted country for the 30 years will make decisions about army chief's appointment, elections date and caretaker setup," he said. "No one can even imagine that this can happen in a civilised society because rule of law prevails there." "Shehbaz Sharif had met

FIR shows absence of rule of law: Qureshi

YOUSAF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said that the first information report (FIR) of Wazirabad attack without inclusion of Imran Khan's version showed absence of rule of law in Pakistan. Talking to the media in Gujrat from where he will lead PTI's rolling long march, he said that PTI's lawyer Zubair Niazi sought justice from a lower court on the FIR matter. He claimed that Wazirabad Police SHO refused to register FIR having plaintiff's version.

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Senior-most to be the COAS: PML-N

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif consults Nawaz Sharif in London

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Following his crucial meetings with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and other party leaders in London, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday maintained that the army chief's appointment will be constitutionally decided. The prime minister is expected to reach Pakistan today from London. The process of the appointment of new army chief shall start upon his return, sources say. "Army chief's appointment is a constitutional matter. It will be decided according to the constitution," PM Shehbaz said. On November 2, the premier departed for London after wrapping up his two-day visit to Egypt to attend the COP27 summit. The premier - after his fourth meeting during which he also met with Vice President Maryam Nawaz for over two hours - is on his way to return to Pakistan. In London, the prime minister and the



PML-N chief have taken important decisions which also include deliberation over the next army chief's appointment. Two rounds of the meetings were also attended by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Punjab PML-N leader Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan. The Sharif brothers will also take the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) leadership into confidence on the matter. The prime minister's visit to London came two weeks before the end of Chief of Army Staff Qamar Javed Bajwa's tenure, who will retire on November 29.

LHC declines request to halt PTI's long march

"Don't waste time," he said, adding that "we had also handed in a decision about the demonstration of Maryam Nawaz," Justice Hassan remarked further

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday rejected a plea seeking a halt to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) 'Haqq-e-Azadi' long march. The high court also sought replies from concerned quarters by November 14 on a plea against the long march and subsequent protests which allegedly "ruined the life and liberty of the business community". Petitioner, Muhammad Naeem Mir, chairman Supreme Council of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran (APAT), had requested the court to halt the long march and protests till a decision on the petition. However, the court rejected the request and issued notices to the concerned quarters and sought their replies by the next date of the hearing. As proceedings commenced, Justice Jawad Hassan remarked that under

Punjab govt changes head of JIT

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government changed on Friday the head of the joint investigation team (JIT) formed to probe the assassination attempt on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan a day after the committee was formed. The provincial interior department had initially appointed Director Inspector General (DIG) Establishment

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KARACHI: Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan Jose A de Ory meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. - DNA

Farewell tours COAS talks to troops in Multan



NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa Friday visited Multan Garrison, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. According to the military's media wing, the army chief interacted with officers and men of Multan Garrison. While interacting with strike formations' troops, COAS commended their extraordinary professional competence and devotion to duty in the service of the motherland, the ISPR said. Earlier on arrival, COAS Bajwa was received by Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz Satti, Commander of Southern Command.

Yesterday, army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa kicked off his farewell visits as he visited Sialkot and Mangla garrisons, said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement. The military's media wing in a statement said that COAS visited Sialkot and Mangla garrisons as part of his farewell visits to various formations. The army chief met officers and men at both locations and addressed the troops, the ISPR said. "COAS appreciated formations for their excellent performance during various operations, training, and natural calamities," according to the ISPR press release.

Khurram, Waqar conspired to kill Arshad Sharif

The minister terms Sharif's murder as "target killing" and says that this was not case of "mistaken identity"

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday alleged that the Ahmad brothers - Khurram and Waqar - killed senior journalist and anchorperson Arshad Sharif with Kenyan police. Speaking during a TV PROGRAM, the federal minister termed Sharif's murder as "target killing" and said that this was not the case of "mistaken identity". Sanaullah said that the Ahmad brothers killed Sharif with the Kenyan police and tried to paint another picture. "Both the brothers are not even providing access to their mobile phone's data," he said. The interior minister said that Sharif went to Kenya from Dubai on Waqar's sponsorship and he was staying in his flat. "This is a joint conspiracy of Waqar, Khurram and five Kenyan police officers," said



Sanaullah, adding that there were torture marks on Sharif's body. He continued to say that those who fired at the journalist knew who they were shooting at. They knew which side Sharif was sitting, he said. "We have the evidence against those who forced Sharif to leave the country. Some people called him and told him to leave while some say that Sharif left due to the situation in the country. However, Arshad Sharif did not want to leave the country," he added. Sanaullah also said that a threat alert was issued to scare the slain journalist.

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IHC CJ, three judges take oath

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior judge of the Islamabad High Court Justice Aamer Farooq has taken oath as the Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath at the President House in Islamabad on Friday.

Justice Aamer Farooq became the new chief justice of the Islamabad High Court after the elevation of Justice Athar Minallah to the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Meanwhile, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed took oath as judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial administered the oath.

71 dengue patients admitted to allied hospitals

RAWALPINDI: As many as 71 patients were admitted to three hospitals in the city, out of which 52 tested positive while the remaining results were being processed. District Coordinator of Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Friday informed that 28 patients were admitted to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 27 to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and 16 to the Holy Family Hospital. He added that out of the total diagnosed with dengue positives, 44 belonged to Rawalpindi, while two patients were in a critical position at BBH. Dr Sajjad informed around 26 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 4,577. The health official said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 3,030 FIRs, sealed 679 premises, issued Challans to 7,864, notices to 14,120, and a fine of Rs 10, 678,118 imposed on violations of anti-dengue SOPs from January 1 to date in various areas of the district. Dr Sajjad added that dengue cases were decreasing with turning weather cool which was not suitable for the survival of the dengue parasite.—APP

Sindh seeks 3-month delay in LB polls in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh government wants postponement of local government polls in Karachi by three more months, it emerged on Friday. Sources said that the Sindh cabinet on Friday approved a proposal seeking the adjournment of the polls. The provincial government has also written to the election commission for the postponing the by-polls for three more months. Meanwhile the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will discuss the issue of LG elections in Karachi and Hyderabad on Nov. 15. PPP leaders will explain the government position to election commission. The Karachi administrator will brief the electoral body about the law and order situation in Karachi. Other political parties will also share their opinion about the issue. The Sindh government argues that additional police personnel have been sent to Islamabad at the interior ministry's request ahead of the PTI's sit-in. According to a report, police personnel cannot leave the flood-affected areas. In view of the shortage of the police force, peaceful local government are not possible at this moment, the report added.

CCP recommends to issue show cause notice to online education provider

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Friday recommended to issue a show cause notice to online education provider M/s. British Lyceum Private Limited, which was engaged in deceptive marketing practices and acting prima facie violation of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010. A press release issued here Friday said that in this regard CCP conducted an inquiry, which found M/s.

Turkish Airlines to facilitate business community in travels

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Turkish Airline serves 252 international destinations in 122 countries and Pakistan has no direct air links with Central Asia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the close cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey was important to promote trade and exports of both countries. He said that direct air links play an important role in promoting business and people-to-people relations. He lauded the initiative of PIA and Turkish airlines to sign a code-share agreement on the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations that would enable Pakistani passengers to fly to Europe, UK and USA from Istanbul that would also help the business community in accessing these markets. He said this while talking to Ali Battal, General Manager Islamabad & North, Turkish Airline during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Turkish Airline serves 252 inter-

national destinations in 122 countries and Pakistan has no direct air links with Central Asia. He pro-

posed that Turkish Airlines should consider direct flights from Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi to

helpful in exploring various potential markets for trade and exports. He said that the Turkish Airline

and proposed that Turkish airlines should also consider such a facility for ICCI members.

Speaking at the occasion, Ali Battal, General Manager Islamabad & North, Turkish Airline said that their Airline is connecting Pakistan with different countries, which will be beneficial for further improving bilateral ties between our two countries. He said that Turkey and Pakistan are brotherly countries based on common religion & culture and Turkish Airline is planning to extend its services in Pakistan to provide best services to the business community and the public passengers. He assured that Turkish Airline will do its best to facilitate the ICCI delegations in visiting foreign countries for business tours. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari, Amir Hamza, Rizwan Chheena, Raja Imtiaz, Abbas Hashmi, Maqsood Tabish, Parveen Khan, Nasira Ali and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful proposals to promote strong cooperation in aviation sector between Pakistan and Turkey.



posed that Turkish Airlines should launch flights from Istanbul via Pakistan to Central Asian States that would help Pakistan to improve trade ties with these coun-

other countries to facilitate the business community and the general passengers. He said that at least one flight in a week for the business community would be

should cooperate with Pakistan in improving the performance of PIA. He said that PIA has offered discounts to ICCI members on domestic and international flights

Diplomat wants Pakistani businessmen to exploit US expertise

PESHAWAR: The United States has long been Pakistan's largest export market, importing more than \$5 billion Pakistani goods that is surpassing any other country and we want bilateral economic relations to be further strengthened by inviting Pakistani businessmen to come to US and get advantage of United States expertise in different sectors. This was stated by Nathan Seifert, Counselor for Commercial Affairs during his meeting on trade-ties between Pak-US with Member Board of Investors and former convener of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia Shahid Khan Shinwari on Friday.

The two held an hour-long meeting and thoroughly discussed Pakistan-US trade ties and exchange of visits of Pakistani businessmen to US to have business-to-business meetings with different US companies for extending trading ties and to get benefits from the US expertise in fields of business. Ayaz Ali Khan, Commercial Specialist of the Embassy of the United States of Amer-

ica in Islamabad was also present at the meeting. The main products that Pakistan exports to the United States are house linens, knitted sweaters, and other clothing articles. During the last 25 years the exports of Pakistan to the United States has increased at an annualized rate of 4.79%, from \$1.26B in 1995 to \$4.04B in 2020. The United States is also one of the top trading partners of Pakistan. Pakistan is importing aluminum, aircraft, spacecraft, dairy products, honey, edible products and manmade staple fibers. Mr. Nathan said, we work closely with Pakistan on a wide array of issues ranging from energy, trade and investment, health, clean energy and combating the climate crisis. The United States has been one of the largest sources of foreign direct investment in Pakistan and remains Pakistan's largest export market, he said. Trade and investment relations between the United States and Pakistan continue to grow and the U.S. government supports this relationship by organizing business to business trade delegations, providing techni-

cal assistance, and promoting business opportunities for U.S. companies to develop U.S.-Pakistan commercial partnerships. For more than 70 years, Pakistan has been an important partner and that is why we want that the businessmen of Pakistan including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should come up to various trade expos for interaction with various US companies for expanding their business sphere. Such direct communications with companies based in the US would help them learn more about expanding their businesses, Mr. Nathan Seifert said. He said Pakistan is the fifth largest country in the world with regard to population and ranked as the 44th largest economy in 2022 according to IMF estimates. The United States has long been Pakistan's largest export market, importing more than \$5 billion of Pakistani goods in 2021, far surpassing any other country. The United States has also been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years. In the most recent fiscal year, U.S. direct investment in Pakistan increased by 50 percent, it is now the highest in over a decade.

Major U.S. investments are concentrated in consumer goods, chemicals, energy, agriculture, business process outsourcing, transportation, and communications. The United States has sought to deepen commercial ties with Pakistan, including through engagement by senior officials from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Department of State, and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) with Pakistani leaders. However, Pakistan's business climate has areas that needed to be strengthened, including regulation, intellectual property protection, and taxation. The United States continues to work with Pakistan to achieve business climate enhancements. Mr. Nathan said it is good opportunity for the Pakistani businessmen to visit and interact with leading companies of the world and through that way it would help Pakistan-US to deepen trade ties. Nathan Seifert and Shahid Khan Shinwari, CEO of Shahid and Brothers, pledged to strengthen trade ties and business-to-business contacts to enhance the bilateral trade volume.

AIOU organizes seminar

DNA

A national seminar on "Reconstruction of Religious Islamic Thoughts in Islam" was organized by Allama Iqbal Open University under the auspices of Iqbal Chair on Tasawuf and Muslim Thoughts. The event was presided over by the Professor Muhammad Rafiq Tahir, in charge Centre of Excellence, while the President of the Iqbal Chair, Professor Fateh Muhammad Malik was the keynote speaker. Among the other speakers were Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahr, Chairman of Urdu Department, Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashed and Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid. Students and teachers of Federal College of Education also participated in the seminar. While giving a lecture on the topic of Reconstruction of Religious Thoughts in Islam, Professor Fateh Muhammad Malik said that Iqbal's ideas and sermons are available in Urdu, Persian, Punjabi and other languages, they need to be read and understood. He clarified the difference between West and East from Iqbal's point of view and declared western science as our lost asset. He said that there came a time when we fell asleep and these sciences of ours were taken away by the westerners, we became careless, and they started to advance our sciences. Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik said that a joint struggle is required to make this country, as conceived by Quaid and Iqbal. Muhammad Rafiq Tahir said that the spirit of love and devotion to Allama Muhammad Iqbal is present in all the eastern countries. If there is less somewhere, that's in Pakistan. He further said that there was a need to highlight the love of Iqbal and the spirit of patriotism in Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Qayyum, Vice Chancellor AIOU, tried to fulfill this need by establishing a Centre of Excellence with three chairs, one of which is the Iqbal Chair. Under the umbrella of Iqbal Chair, we are continuously organizing events to promote Iqbal's ideas in Pakistan. Other speakers said that the creation of modern Islamic theology is a historic intellectual achievement of Iqbal which has been interpreted and translated into different languages. He said that Iqbal is the bright star of intellectual civilization and knowledge is the lost wealth of a believer. Get it wherever you find it. The speakers said that sermons are an important means of understanding Iqbal, and Iqbal and his words are our asset. For the formation of society, the young generation needs to study the sermons of Allama Iqbal.

ICT admin's action against beggars, profiteers

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration special teams on Friday arrested 22 professional beggars and imposed fines over Rs 26,500 on shopkeepers for overcharging. The shopkeepers of various markets were fined during surprise raids conducted by magistrates and assistant commissioners at 134 different areas, deputy commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon told APP. He said the administration was ensuring strict adherence to rate list of food items in markets to clamp down on profiteering, adding that he said, strict action was taken against profiteers in the city while heavy fines were imposed on the offenders on the spot for overcharging. DC said a special operation was also formed against encroachments at Bari Imam, Khanna Pul and F-11 markaz, carts and illegal stalls were removed from the main double road vegetable market. As per details, two violators were arrested and their stalls were confiscated, while 10 kilograms of polythene bags were also seized during the raid. Assistant commissioner secretariat visited Bhara Kahu and inspected dairy, chicken, milk shops, general stores, bakeries and fruit/vegetable shops, cash and carries for quality, general cleanliness and adherence to notified prices & display of DC rate list of essential commodities, violators were warned and fined as per law, ICT spokesperson told media.—APP

Russian CG calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI: Russian Consul General in Karachi Andrey Fedorov called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor's House here on Friday. Bilateral economic relations, investment opportunities in Sindh province, rehabilitation of flood victims, exchange of trade delegations and other issues were discussed during the meeting, said a statement. The Governor Sindh said that Pakistan-Russia relations are becoming more stronger with the passage of time. He said that the investment of Russia will help to create more employment opportunities in Sindh. Kamran Khan Tessori said that Pakistan is keen to increase trade with Russia, adding that there are vast investment opportunities in various sectors in Karachi, the economic hub of the country. The Consul General of Russia said that Russian investors are keen to bring investments in Sindh province.—APP

PIMS director's lies regarding Arshad Sharif exposed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Arshad Sharif Shaheed's family has demanded the martyr's post-mortem report from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) thrice, contrary to the claims made by PIMS Director Dr Khalid Masud, it emerged on Friday. Director PIMS Dr Khalid Masud claimed in a talkshow that Arshad Shari's family never contacted him or the hospital for the journalist's post-mortem report, adding that if they had contacted, he would have provided them the report. After Masud's statement in a prime time talkshow, it emerged that the family has contacted PIMS twice on November 1 and November 3 with the second request

being a letter addressed to Dr Khalid Masud. Masud had written on the letter that the family should get death certificate from police and the post-mortem report from the court. Despite all this, Masud not only lied on national television about having no knowledge of family's attempts to get Arshad Sharif's post-mortem report. After the interview was aired, Arshad Sharif's family again contacted Masud, upon which he again refused their request. As the family reminded him of yesterday's interview, he said that he will take back his statement. It is pertinent to mention here that the family has still not received the post-mortem report but a private TV channel's anchor received

graphic images of the martyr's body this week upon which the anchor claimed that Sharif was tortured for hours before being killed, a claim contradicted by Kenyan journalists. One of the top investigative journalists of Pakistan, Arshad Sharif was shot dead on the outskirts of Kenya's Nairobi city on October 23. He had worked for the country's top news channels and newspapers in the past. He was awarded 'Presidential Pride of Performance' for his exceptional journalism in the year 2019. His show 'Powerplay' was one of the most-watched talkshows in Pakistan and people loved the way Arshad came up with stories regarding the ruling elite's corruption and wrongdoings with strong evidence.

Azam Swati remains absent from committee's meeting

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri on Friday said Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Senator Muhammad Azam Khan Swati remained absent from two consecutive meetings of the parliamentary special committee formed to probe his video leak scandal. Talking to media after chairing the meeting as convener, he said four members of the upper house of parliament made contact with the PTI stalwart but he did not attend the meeting. The way Senator Swati had created hype in the media over his leaked video, he must come in the meeting so that the culprits should be brought to justice as soon as possible, he added. He alarmed that if he would not attend the meeting, it would raise question on the credibility of alleged video tape. He mentioned that the next meeting of committee would be held on Monday, November 14 to further deliberate on the matter. Haideri proposed the PTI's lawmakers to attend the committee's meeting as it has one-point agenda to investigate the Swati's indecent video tape.—APP

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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

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

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

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
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& Rescue Services.....	4451122
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Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Two crafts extravaganza at Serena Hotel kicks off

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels is sponsoring a two-day crafts extravaganza with Behbud Crafts Association called "Embroidering Dreams", which has kicked off on Friday with an inaugural event ribbon cutting ceremony launched by the Honorable Begum Samina Alvi. First Lady, Begum Samina Alvi graced the opening event which was also attended by notable members from the diplomatic missions, dignitaries, and people from the corporate and business sectors. Embroidering Dreams showcases and highlights the talented women of Pakistan, through their exceptional threadwork, and other handmade crafts and organic products.

This two-day exhibition is an ode to the skillset of these hardworking artisans whose skill with traditional needle works is enabling them to earn through their own capabilities and represents the traditional craftwork of different regions of Pakistan, forming a kaleidoscope of colours, exquisitely crafted thread work from across Pakistan. Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels discussed how Serena Hotels as an organisation actively projects and promotes traditional crafts as part of its overall vocational skill enhancement agenda of supporting and empower the rural women by enhancing their economic prospects. Mr. Boolani said Pakistan was blessed with so much talent in traditional crafts and it was a privilege for Serena to play a role in showcasing them. Ms. Abida Malik talked about



the intention behind Behbud, an organisation run entirely by women volunteers and has over the years evolved

into Pakistan's premier brand for ethnic and sustainable fashion. Behbud, inaugurated in 1972, is a non-profit

that focuses on empowering women through their skillset, aids marginalized women by providing them with free of



cost vocational training in local embroideries, free healthcare, counseling, and education for

their children. The two-day event was a visual delight for the attendees, where the local artisans

got global exposure as Serena Hotels has an international and national customer base.

Work completed on Water Plant in Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In order to provide clean drinking water to residents of Gwadar city, almost 30 percent work has progressed on the construction of 1.2 MGD (million gallon per day) Water Desalination Plant. The desalination water plant is being completed with the Chinese grant of Rs2 billion. Talking to Gwadar Pro, Dawood Baloch, Project Director of under-constructed Desalination Plant said that it is a matter of immense mirth that work continues to proceed on expeditious

and smooth manner as flow of civil work including foundation work and structure work did not suffer any stumbling block. "Event previous phase of comprehensive soil testing in the premises of Gwadar Port Free Zone area went uninterrupted under the guideline of Gwadar Port Authority and the government," he added. Alongside the ongoing construction of 1.2 MGD desalination plant, GPA rolled out a process to lay down around 1 kilometer long water supply line from plant site to Gwadar city's main water supply network, he revealed. He added that

through this connectivity, potable water will be supplied to inside taps of residents of Gwadar. He said that for this purpose, GPA has already commenced formal bidding process seeking services of qualified firms. After the tendering procedure enters into finality on November 16, selected enterprise will be awarded contract to proceed in accordance with rules and regulations. Another GPA official said that the 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant is spreading over approximately one acre. "The plant is supposed to complete in 12 months but hopefully it is

expected to be completed before April, 2023." He said that the water desalination plant is being completed in collaboration with GPA and China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC) The 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant project, he said, will be enough to meet the water demand of the Gwadar city and Gwadar port. He said initially a 0.5 MGD Water Desalination Plant project was inked with the conduct of feasibility and survey by government of Pakistan and China. On July 5, 2021, the government approved the 1.2 MGD Water Desalination Plant for Gwadar.

Women entrepreneurs' mega event today

ISLAMABAD: Lets' Grow Together – a community of entrepreneurs will hold a grand event of Islamabad Women Gala 2022 here on November 12 (Saturday) to promote home-based women workers and artisans. The two-day colorful gala is being organized for the third time featuring as many as 150 stalls of made-in-Pakistan homemade products by women entrepreneurs including a variety of lifestyle exhibits like fashion products, interior décor products, furniture, resin art, paintings, garments and jewellery etc while some stalls are also given to children to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship among the young minds and engage them in healthy activities. A food court would also be set up at F-9 park for women's gala to offer a variety of foods for the families and visitors in a cultural environment while some stalls would be dedicated to imported products for income generation of women entrepreneurs, said Amreen Haider, leader of Lets' Grow Together Community while talking to APP. Women Gala Islamabad is a fun-filled event encouraging women entrepreneurs across the country and over 150 women entrepreneurs to participate in the event working for the welfare of the local community of women entrepreneurs in Islamabad. Let's Grow Together Community is a dedicated platform for handmade, homemade, art and craft entrepreneurs, especially women working with the mission to create economic opportunities. —APP

ANF seizes over 45 kg narcotics; arrests five accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan on Friday seized over 45 kg of narcotics besides netting five accused during counter-narcotics operations in different areas of the country. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF arrested a female drug pusher, a resident of Mardan and recovered two kg of charras and one kg of opium from her possession. Another raid was conducted in Karachi 'Sohrab Goth' area and ANF rounded up three accused and recovered over three kg of heroin and 6.4 kg of charras. Meanwhile, another accused was nabbed from 'Korangi' Road, Karachi and ANF seized 1.7 kg heroin, 75 grams Ice drug and 50 grams of charras. ANF and FC in two raids in Khyber areas and recovered 30.9 kg of charras. —APP

Naveed for changing agricultural practices

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce and Investment, Syed Naveed Qamar has suggested that climate change practitioners focus on altering the current agricultural practices, which have perpetuated waterlogging and erosion. Speaking at the panel discussion on Living Indus, alongside Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman at Sharm El-Sheikh, the minister highlighted the importance of investing in re-educating and financing farmers to make modern and sustainable agricultural practices a priority. The minister shared his personal experiences of the 2010 floods and subsequent relief efforts and the lessons learned from them. Unfortunately, 10 years of drought allowed urbanization in the flood-prone areas, which made the 2022 floods even more devastating, the federal minister added. He also informed the panel about his experience regarding the relief drive of the area and the devastating impact he witnessed firsthand, the statement added. —APP

MOU between PSW & DRAP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today to further expand their partnership for trade facilitation through the integration of cross-border business processes of DRAP. The integration of DRAP systems under PSW shall provide the electronic submission, processing, and issuance of licenses, imported products (drugs, medical devices, health, and over-the-counter products), No Objection Certificates (NOCs), and other certificates, as prescribed for specified products falling under DRAP's regulatory jurisdiction. During the ceremony, the CEO PSW, Mr. Syed Aftab Haider, said, "The Pharmaceutical industry has long been identified as a priority sector by the government due to its size and contribution to the national economy and its potential for exports. Integration with the PSW system will help the pharmaceutical industry to reduce its time and cost of trading across borders by adopting the best practices in customs and regulatory clearances centered around technology and digitization of procedures and information requirements". The MoU signing ceremony marked the integration of DRAP under the PSW system that will help stakeholders in the clearance of pharmaceutical raw materials, products, and devices for imports and exports. Under the initiative, extensive business process reengineering of DRAP's cross-border trade has been carried out, resulting in the redesign of 31 processes and the digitization of 56 paper-based documents. Going forward, the system will create the enabling environment for further digitization of DRAP's back-end processes. DRAP CEO Mr. Asim Rauf said, "DRAP is mandated for effective coordination and enforcement of the Drugs Act, 1976 to regulate the manufacture, import, export, storage, distribution, and sale of therapeutic goods in the country. Integration with the PSW system will provide DRAP to get better visibility of all import and export transactions and help improve its control measures while facilitating trade through the implementation of the Integrated Risk Management System, digital payments, and electronic integration with labs and other relevant service providers. Going forward, the system will also provide an interface for the electronic receipt of commercial documents attested by Pakistani missions abroad to mitigate fraud risks and save time and cost of doing business".

China, Pakistan sign MoU on TCM cooperation

Looking forward, Que said that TCM education and ensued industrial collaboration in Pakistan will hopefully bring affordable medical services to the local people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on medical cooperation has been signed between a Chinese education group and a Pakistani university, as per a statement by China's Tang International Education Group. The MoU, which was signed between Tang International Education Group (TIEG) and Pakistan's Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), aims to boost cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) between the two countries, Que Haitao, vice director of overseas operation centre at TIEG, told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview.

Que noted, the cooperation is partly spurred on by the China-Pakistan Health Corridor. "Cooperation on TCM between the two countries has been ongoing for some time," the vice director said, "and we would like to push it forward through education collaboration." Speaking to CEN, Que said

the first step is to collaborate with Pakistani universities to build a China-Pakistan medical centre and cultivate TCM talent at technical, undergraduate and graduate levels. "More will be done to integrate education with the industry, such as formulating academic and industrial standards for TCM," highlighted the vice director, adding that the group has a team of some 20 international experts to work towards this goal. Such a tie-up may be a supplement to Pakistan's existing medical education. "Few universities

in Pakistan offer courses on traditional medicine such as TCM. Knowledge about traditional medicine may appear in the course of Pharmacy in some Pakistani medical schools," Prof Dr Yang Zhigang, deputy dean of the School of Pharmacy of Lanzhou University, told CEN in a written interview. Having conducted a field study of medicinal plants in Pakistan's plant-rich province of Gilgit Baltistan in 2017, Dr Yang told CEN in a 2021 interview that Pakistan has thousands of varieties of medicinal plants, and that

the country has fallen short on both health-related and economic use of medicinal plants, an integral part of traditional herbal medicine. "Pakistan only has a preliminary study and application of herbal medicine...A lot of valuable herbal plants are wasted during processing," said Que Haitao, "Working together, we can make better use of such resources and explore more." Looking forward, Que said that TCM education and ensued industrial collaboration in Pakistan will hopefully bring affordable medical services to the local people.



Briefs

3-week Theatre workshop kicks off at PNCA

ISLAMABAD: three-week Theatre Workshop started here on Friday at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), aimed to guide the young actors as how to take practical steps before acting and enthused performing art lovers.

PNCA along with senior artists and theater experts organized the workshop to provide institutional support to the theatre lovers of Pakistan and promotion of street theatre as well, said Waqar Azeem, Program Organizer and mentor while talking to APP.

The workshop would continue till November 27 while certificates would be given to the participants in a colorful concluding ceremony on November 30. At the end of the workshop, there will be a street theatre performance on the issues of persons with disabilities to be presented by the participants of the workshop.

The topics and content of the workshop includes introduction to the theatre, universal principles of acting, history of theatre and art of street theatre, the relationship between acting and dancing, acerbating and miming, Acting and overacting economy of gesture and voice, tools of acting, different limbs of body I their extremities and balance, body gesture movement.—APP

33,372 vehicles with non-pattern number plates fined during 2022

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police fined 33,372 vehicles and bikes during the current year for having fancy or non-pattern number plates. Inspector-General Police Islamabad, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan ordered action against vehicles with fancy and non-pattern number plates in the capital city. The action was also ordered against those preparing such number plates and vendors, according to the officials.

According to the information, Islamabad Capital Police under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer expedited the campaign and fined 33,372 vehicles and bikes for violating traffic rules and imposed fine on them.

The purpose this campaign is to ensure high alert security, maintain law and order situation, ensure protection to the lives as well as property of citizens and avert any untoward incident. Islamabad Capital Police as urged the motorists and motorcyclists to display the number plates issued by Excise and Taxation Office and also keep with them their driving licenses and vehicles' documents showing possession on their names or even authority letters.

Special squads have been also constituted to take action against those using authorized number plates, police spokesman said and urged the citizens to cooperate with police and display authorized number plates issued by Excise and Taxation Office.—APP

Video used in Swati case is probably Indian: FIA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Mohsin Butt on Friday said that the video used in the Azam Swati case is probably Indian. The FIA director general talked to the media after attending the Senate Committee on the Azam Swati case in Islamabad. Talking to the media, Mohsin Butt said there is nothing they have hidden in this case. He confirmed that the leaked video has an original clip of Azam Swati. The FIA director general also informed the media that on the direction of the Senate committee, the video will be investigated from some other aspects.

More than 33 million people affected by floods: minister

She emphasized on providing support to the country in channeling funds for its conservation and adaptation endeavors especially for initiatives like The Living Indus

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman has said Pakistan has gone through a traumatic and devastating flood impacting more than 33 million people. She expressed these views while speaking at the high-level segment in Water Pavilion: Thematic Day 3: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Sustainable Cities for improved Livelihoods at the Water Pavilion organized by International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and FAO at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh. She said almost one third of Pakistan was inundated and the loss and damage combined amounted to US \$30 billion according to the Post-disaster Needs Assessment adding that the livelihood,

agriculture and food are severely impacted and the century's record flood has changed the entire topography in the South of the country has changed and become unrecognizable, said a press release received here.

She emphasized on the flood losses to Pakistan incurred this year and the significance of the Living Indus Initiative in flood risk management, adaptation and resilience of the Indus River system. Continuing the conversation on Pakistan's recovery and adaptation needs, Sherry provided an overview of the Living Indus Initiative and how it would help in restoring the ecosystems of the Indus Basin.

"Restoring the ecological health of the Indus River system within the boundaries of Pakistan is a crucial step to ensure our climate

resilience, especially during natural calamities like floods," said the minister. To this end, the government's Living Indus Initiative is a call to consolidate all interventions that can help revitalize the jugular vein of Pakistan.

Federal Minister Sherry Rehman also spoke at a panel discussion titled "The Living Indus: An Axis of Adaptation" at the Pakistan Pavilion at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh. She was joined by Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar, Julien Harnais, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, and environmental journalist, Afia Salam. The panel was moderated by environmental lawyer and activist Ahmad Rafay Alam.

"It is an ambitious project and has a living menu from which investors and multilateral organizations can

prioritize investments. The Indus is the heart of our civilization; we need to revitalize it before it can protect us from climate threats caused by human activity, and become a crucial buffer against the kind of flooding we saw this summer. The Indus river system cuts through every province, and we need a consortium approach to preserve the Indus Basin, as well as rebuild communities that have lost everything in floods. There are several project interventions on ground focused on flooding risk and livelihoods, which should also assess biodiversity & ecosystem restoration needs. If the Indus were to speak, it would say "I want to live again", she said.

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Julien Harnais observed that the scale of climate stress is well understood by cit-

izens in Pakistan, but efforts to build resilience were needed on a massive scale. "The biggest threat to Pakistan's existence is its endangered river system, and there is nothing more terrifying than its collapse, given that 90% of life in Pakistan depends upon functioning river systems," he explained. In addition, in her engagements at COP27, Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andresen. Ms. Andresen offered condolences to the Minister on the devastation and loss and damage caused by the flood crisis. She emphasized on providing support to the country in channeling funds for its conservation and adaptation endeavors especially for initiatives like The Living Indus.

Justice Aamer Farooq sworn in as Chief Justice of IHC



DNA
ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif

Alvi on Friday administered the oath of office to Justice Aamer Farooq as the Chief Justice of Is-

lamabad High Court (IHC), at an oath-taking ceremony, held at Iwan-e-Sadr. The oath-taking cere-

mony was attended by Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, senior judges, high-ranking government officials, members of the legal fraternity, eminent members of civil society and the media persons.

The President had approved the appointment of Mr Justice Aamer Farooq, Senior Puisne Judge, JC as Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, under Article 175A (13) of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973.

Justice Aamer Farooq is a graduate of London University, UK. He earned his Barrister-at-Law degree from Lincoln's Inn, London in the year 1993. He was enrolled as an Advocate of the Lahore High Court in the year 1994 and as an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in the year 2007.

AlfaMall offers zero percent markup

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the world's biggest shopping day, 11.11, AlfaMall, Bank Alfalah's e-commerce marketplace for customers and merchants, has pledged to a seamless user experience with its 'Buy Now, Pay Later' feature. This will enable customers to avail zero percent markup and easy installments of up to 18 months. AlfaMall's '11.11 Sale', customers and merchants can save big while purchasing a range of products by using Bank Alfalah debit and credit cards and avail same day delivery in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

The promotion can also be availed on other banks' debit and credit cards. On this occasion, Mohammad Yahya Khan, Group Head, Digital Banking at Bank Alfalah commented "We at Bank Alfalah want to focus on creating innovative ways with flawless experience for customers and merchants.

ANF arrests female drug pusher

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Friday recovered two kilograms of hashish and one kilogram of opium from the possession of a woman drug dealer from Sialkot.

According to an ANF spokesperson, the forces conducted an operation in Sialkot city and arrested a female drug pusher, a resident of Mardan, and recovered two kg of hashish and one kg of opium from her possession. The case has been registered at ANF Police Station under CNS Act 1997 and further investigation is in process.—APP

Cricket commentary on Radio Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday felicitated the nation on the resumption of cricket commentary on Radio Pakistan after a gap of 13 years. "Congratulations Pakistan! Radio Pakistan as platform of thrilling cricket commentary has been rejuvenated after 13-year hiatus, enthralling coverage of ICC-T20 World Cup via its MW radio network across Pakistan, fostering sports diplomacy and kindling sportsmanship among youth," she tweeted.—APP

Critics express concern over misquoting Allama Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Linguistic experts and writers have expressed great concern over the wrongly attributed poetic verses to Allama Muhammad Iqbal and termed it unfair to share others' work under the impression of Iqbal. Talking to APP, writer, poetess and lecturer at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Dr. Snober Altaf said that Iqbal Day events and social media platforms are displaying wrongly attributed verses to Allama Iqbal which is unfortunate. She said social media has played the wrong role in distributing wrongly attributed poetry and quotations. She said the youngsters do not refer to the original work and books and rely on the information available online. She said messages are forwarded and shared without verification and sometimes the name of a famous writer or poet is attributed to writings with the purpose to make them popular and viral. "This has happened with Ahmad Faraz, Jauk Elia and now the same is happening with a national poet Allama Iqbal," she added. She said those people distant from the literature consider any poetic work as 'Kalam-e-Iqbal' that has the word 'Iqbal' in it. She said poetry having mystic colour is also attributed to the Allama Iqbal without confirming from the original sources.—APP

HESCO will have its own transformer

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Engineer Khurram Dastagir Khan, on Friday informed the National Assembly that Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) will have its own transformer repair workshop by June 2023. The ministry has issued directions in this regard and the work has been started, said the minister responding to a question raised by MNA Salahuddin. The minister said that HESCO during fiscal year 2020-21 spent 98.722 million on repair maintenance of transformers and during 2021-22 spent 175.899 million rupees while repairing 841 transformers. He informed that he visited Hyderabad on the direction of Prime Minister and spent five days during early time of floods in Sindh and was shocked to know about the issues regarding repair of transformers in Hyderabad. He told the house that HESCO had made an agreement for repair of transformers with three private companies and these companies following the guidelines of PPMs about repair and maintenance perform their job. Unfortunately, in some of

the areas people collect funds for repair and maintenance of transformers in this region and get them repaired through private vendors without following guidelines, he told the house.

He said, his ministry has issued clear directions to HESCO to establish their own repair workshop before 30th June 2023.

About low voltage, the minister said that his ministry has already issued directions to make earthing of all transformers across the country along with balancing all three phases of transformer for ensuring provision of full voltage to the consumers. He said employees of distribution companies do not provide earth to the transformer and balance the load of three phases due to which transformer fails to provide full voltage.

Responding to another question regarding supply of free of cost electricity to the employees of power distribution companies, the minister said that according to their job agreement they are entitled to this facility however this facility can be withdrawn with the support of public representatives.—APP

Karot project to save 1.4 mln tons coal

ISLAMABAD: The Karot Hydropower Project is expected to save 1.4 million tons of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3.5 million tons each year, Vice General Manager of China Three Gorges International Limited (CTGI) and Chairman of CSAIL Qin Guobin said. With a total installed capacity of 720MW and an annual generating capacity of 3.2 billion kWh, Qin Guobin said, the Karot Hydropower Project was executed under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which can meet the electricity needs of 5 million people in Pakistan and play an important role in alleviating the power shortage in Pakistan, improving its energy structure and promoting the sustainable development of local economy and society and contribute to the global goal of "carbon neutrality" Qin Guobin spoke at China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL) held at "Public Open Day" event at the Karot Hydropower Project site. The participants included Pakistani government officials, community members of the Karot Project, teachers and students of surrounding schools.

He welcomed representatives of the Pakistani government, community members, teachers and primary school students for visiting Karot Hydropower Project. After seven years of transformation, the Karot Hydropower Project achieved full operation on June 29, 2022. After nearly five months of smooth operation, the first public Open Day of the Karot Hydropower Project was held, which welcomed the first group of visitors. With the theme of "Clean Energy, Karot Hydropower Project around me", the open day event led visitors to understand and visit the spillway, dam, power plant and other facilities of Karot Hydropower Project through promotional videos, and on-site visits, and interaction with project professionals, to experience the comprehensive benefits of the power project before and after its commissioning in providing clean energy, protecting the ecological environment, integrating into the local community and fulfilling social responsibilities. During the event, CSAIL issued appointment letters to localized employees and launched a vlogging campaign of "China Three Gorges in My Eyes" among the new employees, who had received the "China Three Gorges Corporation Scholarship". In addition, school bags and stationery items were donated to the primary school students, and the students drew "Karot in my mind" on the graffiti wall with paint brushes to express their interest in the Karot Project. During the construction of hydropower project, China Three Gorges Corporation actively took the initiative to fulfill its Corporate Social Responsibility. They have built more than 20 public welfare projects for local communities, including schools, hospitals and roads, carried out biodiversity conservation, and directly or indirectly provided more than 4,500 local jobs every year during the construction of the project. They have sponsored 33 students under their scholarship program to complete their undergraduate studies jointly in Chinese and Pakistani universities. The VC CTGI said the Public Open Day in Karot is a sign of openness, inclusiveness and integration. It is a vivid illustration of China-Pakistan friendship.—APP

Masood Mufti scholarship announced

ISLAMABAD: The Masood Mufti Scholarship has been announced for the students intended to pursue their studies in Urdu literature in order to encourage new generation towards literature. The Masood Mufti scholarship worth Rs. 50,000 will be given every year to a student of the Urdu department who is also showing his talent in literature. This year, the scholarship has been given to a student of Islami University, Javeria Batool, who is a student of 7th semester of BS Urdu. The scholarship has been launched by the family of prominent literary person Masood Mufti which will help enliven his literary contribution in the hearts and mind of literature lovers as well as will also revive the literary culture among youth. Masood Mufti was a noted Pakistani scholar who wrote short story, novels, drama and columns. He became famous for his books on the 1971 war. He has written a book Do Minar, just a few months before his death which is a comprehensive study of his life and Pakistan.—APP

COMSATS university among top 18

ISLAMABAD: QS has ranked COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) among the top #18 in Southern Asia and overall, among the top 150 among the Asian Universities, QS Quacquarelli Symonds Asia university rankings 2023. QS World University Rankings is a system that provides a detailed snapshot of an institution, identifying the best universities based on program strength, facilities, graduate employability, social responsibility, and inclusiveness. Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal, Rector CUI in his message appreciated the industrious efforts and important role of faculty members in achieving this milestone. He said that "This is indeed a moment of pride for COMSATS University Islamabad that QS World University Rankings: Asia 2023 has ranked CUI in the bracket of the top 150 universities of Asia. This great achievement was made possible with the diligent efforts and perseverance of faculty members and management of CUI." He added that researchers are required to particularly focus on Sustainable Development Goals and local development priorities before formulating their research projects. He called for enhancing collaboration with the industry to make research and education more impactful. In recent years, CUI has faced several challenges and is on the path of self-sustainability. He said that the university owes its success to the vision of its Chancellor, Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan and the Senate. The QS World University Rankings takes into consideration factors like Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty/Student Ratio, and Citation per Paper, Research Papers per Faculty, International Research Network, International Faculty, International Students, Inbound Exchange Students and Outbound Exchange Students.

MOITT launches 70 projects worth Rs 65bln through USF

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication through the Universal Service Fund (USF) had launched some 70 projects of optical fiber cable (OFC) and broadband infrastructure development in four provinces at a cost of Rs 65 billion. "In the province of Sindh alone, 20 projects of NGBSD and OFC worth Rs 16.3 billion have been started so far in 20 districts, including Tharparkar, Nawabshah, Khairpur, Larkana, Badin, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Mirpurkhas, and Dadu," said an official of the Ministry of IT. He said that projects of connectivity of the un-served and under-served communities of Baluchistan, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) provinces had also been launched. The Ministry, he said, through USF aimed to

connect all the citizens of the country as digitalization had become a priority for businesses and communities. Under its Next Generation Optic Fiber (NG-OF) Network and Services program, USF had contracted over 16,000 km of Optic Fiber Cable (OFC) to benefit 31.5 million populations across the country. About the Karachi IT Park, he said, it would be a gateway for an innovative future and a strengthened economy. "Karachi IT Park is the largest IT project of its kind in Pakistan, which will benefit not only the citizens of Karachi but also the IT professionals and companies of Sindh and the rest of Pakistan," he added. The IT parks across the country provide a place where innovative businesses could develop and prosper in a favorable environment. Most

Software technology/IT parks provide ample space for business development. Governments all over the world often invest in these technology parks to boost their regional and national economies. He said technology parks must comply with basic infrastructure requirements such as clean facilities and ample working space. However, tech parks were also equipped with the latest technology and telecommunication facilities that make it easy to establish and manage a business. The range of services offered by the parks was closely linked to the functions that they had to fulfill, he said, adding the benefits of the technology parks were not limited to enterprises and tenants of the parks, but also for companies outside the parks.—APP

PNCA holds workshop on Abstract painting

ISLAMABAD: Rakshanda Atawar, an established artist—here Friday taught the basic and advanced skills of abstract art to the art students and amateur artists in a day-long workshop at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). The workshop titled "Understanding Abstract Painting" was organized by Nomad Art Gallery in collaboration with PNCA as part of week-long art activities to celebrate cultural diversity of Pakistan and create social harmony through soft expressions of art. The activities including a group art exhibition, performance, workshops, storytelling and seminar by various artists will continue till November 16. A number of art students and artists from twincities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad got the training of abstract art by renowned artist Rakshanda. The students and amateur artists termed the workshop as an excellent opportunity to utilize their time in healthy activities and get extra skills to boost their talent. It also provided the participants with an opportunity to interact and learn from the professional artists.—APP

US midterm results: Red wave that wasn't

Some setbacks count almost as good news. Clearly, the Democrats have lost ground in the midterms. While it may be weeks before control of the Senate is determined, if Georgia goes to a runoff, the Republicans still appear likely to take the House, though more narrowly than hoped. They will use control to mire the administration in legislative deadlock and committee investigations. High-profile Democrats such as Stacey Abrams in Georgia and Beto O'Rourke in Texas were also easily defeated. But this was "definitely not a Republican wave, that is for darn sure", the senator Lindsey Graham acknowledged as early results came in on Tuesday night. The sense of the GOP falling short is not just about pre-poll punditry. Joe Biden may be on track for the best performance by an incumbent in the midterms since 2002, when George W Bush enjoyed extraordinary popularity in the wake of September 11. It was also a bad night for Donald Trump, expected to declare his 2024 candidacy this week. There will be an increased Maga caucus in the House (giving Kevin McCarthy, currently minority leader, a headache). But while the former president's support may be critical in primaries, it looks less helpful in general elections. True, JD Vance won his Senate race in Ohio; but the Democrat John Fetterman flipped Pennsylvania, defeating Mehmet Oz, and in Michigan, the governor Gretchen Whitmer saw off the challenge from Tudor Dixon. Two Republican victories were almost as unwelcome to Mr Trump: the re-election of Georgia's governor, Brian Kemp, who defied his pressure to overturn the results in the state in 2020, and especially the landslide in Florida for Ron DeSantis, seen as the most likely challenger for the presidential nomination - as Mr Trump's threats to the governor show.

In many ways the Democrats' performance looked more like the result of a vote against Republican extremism than a vote of confidence in Mr Biden's party. Inflation was the top issue for voters, but abortion came close behind - and outranked it in Pennsylvania. Despite GOP candidates' last-minute attempts to blur their headline anti-abortion stances, as they realised their unpopularity, voters turned out to defend women's right to autonomy and healthcare. California, Michigan and Vermont supported ballot measures that effectively prevent state legislators enacting bans. Overall the results are a flip for Democrat morale and, despite Mr Biden's relatively low profile in this campaign, strengthen his position in his party (though according to one exit poll, only 30% of voters said they wanted him to run again in 2024; 67% said they didn't). He will also retain precious authority in international dealings. All this is a relief. But after one of the most ferociously fought elections, with a staggering \$16.7bn spent, the US's challenges and divisions are as glaring as ever.

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Vision, Governance, and Accountability

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

The need for governance is always a matter of concern for any nation. A country should have visionary leadership working with a team of dedicated professionals each having a command over a diverse range of subjects.

It is high time that Pakistan is led by those who have the acumen and the experience to bring results. The corporate sector of Pakistan must envision the birth of such startups and companies that bring in economic revenue and create job opportunities. We should have at least one Unicorn. A Unicorn is a company that is valued at over \$1 billion.

For this to happen we first need to create scalability among the companies that are already working. Be it a national or a multinational company, the management and employees must share a vision for the future.

They should know their duties and responsibilities and must be proficient in their fields of interest. Good governance needs to be implemented across the board. The top management must know the criteria for hiring employees and the key performance indicators against which their performance should be evaluated. They need to ascertain that the moral fabric of the employees remains positive. With good governance comes accountability. Every employee must be made accountable for their duties. The internal mechanism of a company to do good must be well-established.

Each employee should be aware that he or she is being monitored. Their performance evaluation is to be conducted on how they fulfill their activities. Indeed, every employee may not have all these character traits. However, a team will have individuals exhibiting such traits.

A company grows when like-minded individuals become a part of a team and exhibit their values and principles to achieve their shared goals.

Is the murder of Arshad Sharif a message?

Attiya Munawar



Arshad Sharif always proved to be a fearless and audacious journalist and was never intimidated by any threats though, he was definitely forced to leave the country.

Arshad Sharif unwillingly went to Dubai but he was not allowed to live there in peace and then he had to depart to Kenyaware death was waiting for him.

Journalism has not been an easy task all over the world. A journalist has to do his work in extreme danger and the situation in Pakistan is more alarming for the journalist community than in other countries exceptionally there are threats to kill journalists every day or sometimes they are subjected to violence. Despite this atmosphere of fear and harassment, the journalist community is carrying out their duties with great courage but there is a large number of such journalists for whom such conditions are fabricated that they cannot resist leaving their own country. Incidentally, senior journalist and anchor person Arshad Sharif is also counted among the few journalists who were forced to leave the country. Arshad Sharif left the country against his will but he returned earlier- he went on foot but he returned in a coffin.

Arshad Sharif always proved to be a fearless and audacious journalist and was never intimidated by any threats though, he was definitely forced to leave the country. Arshad Sharif unwillingly went to Dubai but he was not allowed

to live there in peace and then he had to depart to Kenyaware death was waiting for him. Arshad Sharif was martyred by a bullet near Nairobi, Kenya. According to the Nairobi police, the killing of Arshad Sharif is the result of a mistaken identity where the driver of the victim's car made the mistake of not stopping the car on the bridge and this mistake has caused a fatal accident for Arshad Sharif, however, the questions raised by the Kenyan journalistic circles after reviewing the incident cast doubt on the statement of the police and a comprehensive investigation of the incident has become very necessary to resolve it.

It is gratifying that our government has decided to form a judicial commission in which will include representatives of civil society and journalistic organizations. It has been said that this investigation should not only be about the circumstances of what happened there whereas also about the scenarios why Arshad Sharif had to leave here and who has forced him to leave? These points are very important regarding the case and the comprehensive investigation

can reveal the real situation, which is the main cause of this heartbreaking incident. Prime Minister MianShehbaz Sharif has announced the formation of an investigation commission on this heartbreaking incident while our record in this context has been very upsetting.

Several investigation commissions have been formed in this country before and as an outcome of which no criminal was found or none of those caught have been punished because most of the cases do not even reach the trial court. Everyone has seen the closing of the files of the murders of many journalists in this country. Here, the killing of one journalist is a message for another journalist and the matter does not even stop at a single murder otherwise Arshad was the first journalist to be martyred and he will not be the last and Pakistan would not have been included in the list of the three most dangerous countries in the world where journalism and journalists are facing extreme dangers. Before the incident, journalists were considered unsafe inside the country but now they are not safe abroad either.

It is necessary for our state and government to conduct a transparent investigation by using their resources and diplomatic relations in a sincere manner. We have many international organizations active in the name of protection of journalists of which the credibility of some of them is questioned.

Government after identifying any such organization, should not request it to participate in the process of monitoring the fair and transparent investigation into the death of Arshad Sharif in mysterious circumstances because without a fair, transparent and credible investigation of this incident, the majority of people will think the same about the tragic death of Arshad Sharif, which is currently occupying their minds as at this time generality is living in doubt and no one is thinking of themselves as safe. A transparent and credible death investigation can be the real antidote to rumors and conspiracy stories and can also bring a sense of security to insecure people.

—The writer is a researcher who often writes on politics and environmental issues.

Role Of IMF, WTO and World

Shayaan Wadood

Their objectives were to provide finance for the reconstruction of the post-War world, but both institutions have become increasingly involved in the economic development of the Third World. The World Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credit and grants to developing countries, as well as loans to higher income developing countries. The WB provides an essential source of finance to poorer countries who are either unable to borrow money in international markets, or can only do so at high interest. In the past the WB operated on the basis that economic goals such as the relief of poverty were strictly separate from HR

Second World War. When the UN was founded, rights were not central to the idea of international order and the focus was on the co-operation between sovereign nations. As the UN system developed, the UDHR and the subsequent Conventions were seen as placing limits on the sovereignty of states. Indeed, in more recent years, HR have been linked to a vision of international development that place obligations on the developed countries to assist the social and economic development of poorer nations. HR have thus become central in articulating an international legal order committed to social and economic justice and have become an essential part of the management of the world economy. The IMF, the WTO and the World Bank are institutions of international law that were created by treaties. The WTO regulates and encourages world trade, and the IMF and the World Bank both regulate world finance, make loans to nations and assist in the economic development of poorer nations. The Articles of Agreement for the World Bank and the IMF were drawn up and adopted at Bretton Woods in 1944.

Their objectives were to provide finance for the reconstruction of the post-War world, but both institutions have become increasingly involved in the economic development of the Third World. The World Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credit and grants to developing countries, as well as loans to higher income developing countries. The WB provides an essential source of finance to poorer countries who are either unable to borrow money in international markets, or can only do so at high interest. In the past the WB operated on the basis that economic goals such as the relief of poverty were strictly separate from HR, but it now argues that HR are an essential part of the economic development of poorer countries. Furthermore, rights themselves are only considered possible within developed economies, in that they are product of people organised through government. For example, many public services will only reach the poor if governments are both capable of delivering them, and do so without the obstacles of corruption; laws created to end child labor will be more effective in economic conditions that allow families to live off of the incomes of parents; and legal rights are better pursued in effective court systems.

The IMF's Articles of Agreement indicate that it is directed to manage world financial systems. Its powers extend over international monetary co-operation, the maintenance of orderly exchange rate arrangements and the facilitation of world trade. A balanced growth of international trade will achieve high levels of employment, real income and the development of national economies. Another central task of the Fund is to offer 'temporary' financial help with 'adequate safeguards' to member nations having difficulties with balance of payments. The safeguards must ensure that the overriding objectives of international stability are achieved. Like the World Bank, these are first of all economic objectives. If one looks below the surface, however, all of the IMF's activities contribute directly or indirectly to reducing poverty and fostering human rights. Macroeconomic imbalances and high inflation are detrimental to the poor. The wealthy are partly protected against inflation because they own assets, whose prices rise during inflationary periods. The poor often have their real earnings eroded because prices may rise faster than wages. Moreover, inflation contributes to the misallocation of resources, which hampers economic growth and employment (Leite, 2001). This argument is similar to the one put forward by the World Bank. Trade may promote growth, and a rise in living standards. If this is coupled with a well-managed economy, a nation should be able to 'create an environment that supports poverty reduction'. Indeed, poverty reduction can be thought of as a precondition for a human rights culture.

The IMF understands its task in helping poorer countries by ensuring that economic concerns are linked to the creation of 'better governance' structures. For instance, a right to property would be vital in securing investment in a country. Investors would have to be sure that their investments were safe, and that the courts of that country would use the law to ensure that protection. Thus a functioning legal system is a precondition for the attraction of foreign investments that would aid in the development of a nation's economic prosperity. The WTO aims to regulate and co-ordinate world trade. It is a forum for negotiation between nations in relation to trading matters, and it also provides a dispute resolution mechanism. A num-

ber of key principles run through the agreements that the WTO oversees relating to the foundation and perpetuation of a multilateral trading system. Three principles are fundamental: (i) trade without discrimination: nations must treat their trading partners with equality; (ii) imported and locally produced goods must be treated equally with regard to tariffs and taxation; (iii) ongoing negotiations towards the realization of free trade is in the interests of all nations.

WTO take into account human rights obligations in regulating world trade? As Mary Robinson has argued that the world's economic system and human rights law have tended to develop separately from each other. For example, intellectual property rules have led directly or indirectly to the exclusion of many people from access to essential medicines, notably those needed by the developing world to inhibit the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB. Similarly, in many countries policies that promote the privatization of public services have made it more difficult for people to send their children to school, to secure safe drinking water, and to have access to health care.

These failures have undermined the legitimacy of national and global political institutions, and impacted negatively on the quality of life of millions of people. Mary Robinson points out that both international HR law and international trade law seek to improve standards of living. Although the primary objectives of these institutions are oriented towards the management of world trade and the world economy, they have begun to appreciate in different ways that human rights form a part of their remit.

The IMF and the World Bank finance loans to aid the development of the economies of the world's poorer nations. Human rights have increasingly come to be appreciated as central to economic well-being. Human rights are seen as an element in a broad approach to re-structuring economies. One way in which a government can be assessed in terms of its efficiency is the extent to which it has a functioning legal system that protects human rights. From the perspective of the WTO, there is a similar sense that rights and trade are not incompatible. One could consider, for example, the negotiations of the WTO in the area of anti-HIV/AIDS medicines and intellectual property rights.

It is necessary to place HR in a political and economic context in order to understand their global operation. The central position of HR in international law and politics is the result of gradual development following the

Briefs

No issue if
army chief
appointed
on merit

FROM PAGE 01
his older brother "lying absconder" Nawaz Sharif in London to discuss the appointment of the next army chief. Will a man wanted by the Pakistani courts and a prime minister who is involved in a money laundering case be allowed to select a general for the country, he said? He feared that Mian Nawaz Sharif would suggest a person who would later help him in settling his cases. He added that PM Shehbaz was brought into power through a conspiracy. He added that Nawaz Sharif has never made any appointment on merit. The ECP Chief is their servant, they do whatever they want using him, he added.

PTI chief Imran Khan also called on the nation to participate in the party's long march for future generations. He said that nations seldom had the chance to change their fate but said that now was the time for Pakistan. Imran Khan alleged that the "thieves" had come into power because of their "handlers". "There is murder of morality in this country," he said, adding that such things don't occur in civilized countries. "These thieves have only one other achievement apart from their corruption, they managed to slowly finish their cases," he said, adding that they had wreaked havoc in the country. He went on to say that a country is unable to prosper when it forgets its morals.

He stated that this scenario could never occur in any civilized country as rule of law prevails. He lamented that the corrupt were not facing the consequences as there was no rule of law in Pakistan. "I can't get a first information report registered as an ex-prime minister because a powerful person is in it," he said. He added that he strived for two years for EVMs, which could eradicate 90% of rigging in polls but they ended the project because they want to rig elections.

The former PM while raising question on presence of pictures of slain journalist Arshad Sharif said that his mother is not being provided the postmortem report despite repeated demands. "I knew the plan. The plot was prepared in September," Khan told his supporters, without presenting any evidence for his claims. "The march will just get strengthened after this incident." Khan has described the shooting as an "assassination attempt" and blamed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for being behind the attack.

Khan was ousted in April in a no-confidence vote in Parliament, but he says his removal was unlawful and a conspiracy by his political opponents orchestrated by the United States, a charge denied by both Washington and Sharif. Khan's protest convoy started from Lahore two weeks ago with Khan and thousands of his supporters - in trucks, cars or on foot - marching toward Islamabad for what was to be an open-ended rally until his demands were met.

FIR shows
absence of
rule of law:
Qureshi

FROM PAGE 01
Qureshi said that the lower court has sought answer from the police by Monday while expressing hope that they would be served justice. The ex-minister reiterated Imran Khan's stance that only societies with rule of law survive. He said there were huge differences between the judicial system of Britain and Pakistan. He contended that a British court has rejected Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif's request for an indefinite adjournment in the Daily Mail defamation case has been rejected. PM Shehbaz has been ordered to submit his response in the case by December 13, he added.

RCCI organizes "2nd Food Fest" for healthy activities



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Saqib Manan inaugurated the second edition of Pindi Food Fest (Food Mela) organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at Ayub Park here on Friday. RCCI officer bearers, Chair-

man RDA Tariq Murtaza, former presidents, representatives from trade associations and stall owners were also present at the ceremony.

The Commissioner lauded RCCI's efforts for promoting healthy activities along with trade activities. He also visited different stalls and appreciated the products.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq said that organizing the food festival was to



promote traditional and regional cuisine, introduce new flavours and provide opportunities to entrepreneurs for networking and branding. He said that more than sixty stalls of different types of food had been set up in the three-day fair. Women entrepreneurs associated with the food business were also allowed to launch their brands. "This will also enable them to expand

their business networks by interacting with other women entrepreneurs.

Another goal of this festival was to encourage and inspire women who have not yet started their businesses to enter into the field of entrepreneurship, he added. Saqib informed that on the occasion of the food festival, there was a musical evening and kid's carnival for the entertainment of families.

Bleak Melbourne
forecast puts final
under a cloud

MELBOURNE: England and Pakistan's staff will be poring over weather charts as well as tactics in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup final, with a gloomy forecast threatening to scupper the decider at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Heavy rain is expected on Sunday's match day and also the reserve day on Monday as a multi-year La Nina weather phenomenon continues to drench much of eastern Australia. The tournament has already seen a slew of Super 12 matches washed out, though the semi-finals passed without disruption in Sydney and Adelaide. While the forecast could put a dampener on the crowd at the MCG, organisers will plough ahead with the starting time of 7 p.m. (0800 GMT) on Sunday and hope each side can squeeze 10 overs in, the minimum required for the final. If the match starts on Sunday and is unable to be completed, it will resume at 3pm (0400 GMT) on Monday, leaving players with a nervous night's sleep. If Sunday is completely washed out, the match will start at 3pm on Monday, with the teams on notice to be ready to linger well into the evening if the weather forces it.

In the worst-case scenario where Monday is also washed out, then the World Cup will have joint winners for the first time. However, Melbourne is known for having "four seasons in one day", particularly in spring, and forecasts are often wide of the mark. Pakistan played a full game against India in their Super 12 blockbuster at the MCG despite a dire outlook for rain. Rain was expected on Friday, too, but Pakistan trained under leaden skies at the MCG without ever running for cover. Pakistan team mentor Matthew Hayden, who accurately predicted struggling captain Babar Azam would return to form with the bat in the semi-final against New Zealand, was banking on the weather to cooperate. - Agencies

Telea to make Test debut
for changed All Blacks

EDINBURGH: Blues flyer Mark Telea is set to make his New Zealand debut after being named in a rejigged All Blacks' XV to face Scotland at Murrayfield on Sunday that sees positional switches for the Barrett brothers. The 25-year-old Telea replaces Sevu Reece on the right wing in one of seven changes to the New Zealand side that thrashed Wales 55-23 in Cardiff last week. David Havili's inclusion at inside centre has led New Zealand coach Ian Foster to start Jordie Barrett, who wore the No 12 shirt against Wales, at full-back from where his older brother Beauden has been moved to fly-half. Richie Mo'unga, New Zealand's starting No 10 in Cardiff, has been dropped from the matchday 23 completely.

Tela was first called into the All Blacks squad four months ago as Covid cover before being included as injury cover for an Autumn Nations Series that New Zealand started with a 38-31 win over Japan in Tokyo last month.

MULTAN: Players of Bangladesh U-19 cricket team busy in practice session for the ODI series against Pakistan U-19 at Multan Cricket Stadium. - APP

Inter-party exchanges urged b/w China, Pakistan

PM Shehbaz, who is also chairman of Pakistan's ruling Muslim League-N party, recently met with the head of CPC department in charge of foreign relations in his dual capacity as party and govt, highlighting the importance he attaches to the CPC and inter-party exchanges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inter-party exchanges between China and Pakistan will inject more impetus and vitality into bilateral relations of the two friendly countries. International Media experts are of the view that irrespective of their political affiliation, leaders of all the political parties in Pakistan support Pakistan-China friendship. In a recently published article by Chinese experts, it was noted that no matter how

the international situation and Pakistan's internal regime change, China-Pakistan relations will remain unaffected and the iron Pakistan will never rust. Among them, inter-party exchanges have played an important role. The Communist Party of China has established friendly relations with all political parties in Pakistan, regardless of their strength, power or ideological differences. The article mentioned that in recent years, there have been many platforms and activities for exchanges

between Chinese and Pakistani political parties, which have attracted wide attention. In 2019 at the proposal of the Communist Party of China, the political parties of China and Pakistan explored the establishment of a political party consultation mechanism for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, creating a new exchange platform for deepening China-Pakistan cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative and promoting the construction of the CPEC. The Pakistani ruling and opposition parties with dif-

ferent political views put aside their differences and gathered together to reach a high-quality consensus on co-building the corridor. Prime Minister Shehbaz, who is also chairman of Pakistan's ruling Muslim League-N party, recently met with the head of the CPC department in charge of foreign relations in his dual capacity as party and government, highlighting the importance he attaches to the CPC and inter-party exchanges. During his visit, speaking of the CPC National Congress, Shehbaz Sharif said bluntly

that the CPC National Congress has sent hope and confidence to the turbulent world and provided new opportunities for Pakistan's development. He said that the CPC has gone through a hundred years and led the Chinese people to make great achievements, which are a great inspiration to the Pakistani people. The experts of Pak-China relations say it is fair to say that in its foreign relations work, the CPC not only promotes mutual understanding through talks, but also "warms people's hearts"

through actions. In the flood-ravaged Balochistan province of Pakistan, the local victims waved the national flags of China and Pakistan and the Communist Party of China and shouted long live the Communist Party of China and long live the Pakistan-China friendship. In 2020, when Pakistan was hit by the COVID-19 epidemic, the Communist Party of China also donated anti-epidemic supplies to various political parties in Pakistan through inter-party channels.

Bismah Maroof and Laura Delany eye T20I series win

LAHORE: Pakistan pumped up with 3-0 win in One-Day International series eyed for another clean sweep over Ireland when both sides meet on Saturday at Gaddafi Stadium for the first of the three T20Is. The second and third T20I will be played on 14 and 16 November. Bismah Maroof-led Pakistan and Laura Delany-led Ireland are eager to showcase their talent, skill and temperament in the shortest format of the game.

All three matches will start at 1000 with the toss taking place at 0930. The PCB will continue to live-stream the series on its YouTube channel. Entrance for the matches is free for spectators with four enclosures - Imran Khan, Rajas', Fazal Mahmood and Saeed Anwar - open to the public.

Both teams have so far played 15 T20Is against each other, with the hosts winning 13 while the tourists overcoming the former in two games. The last time these two sides faced off in a T20I was in the tri-nation tournament held in Ireland in July this year where Australia were the third team. Pakistan and Ireland were involved in two matches in the tri-series with Pakistan winning the first one by 13 runs on DLS while the second match was abandoned due to rain. Tomorrow's



match will be the first T20I between the two sides in Pakistan.

In the current ICC Women's T20I Rankings, Pakistan are placed at sixth, four places ahead of Ireland. In the T20I rankings, Nida Dar - who was named ICC Player of the Month for October for her all-round performance - occupies the sixth spot in the all-rounders' rankings and 16th in the bowlers' rankings. Meanwhile, Tuba Hassan who was earlier ruled out of the ODI and T20I series due to injury in her index finger has been replaced by leg-spinner Ghu-

lam Fatima. Fatima picked up her maiden five-wicket haul in the third ODI and was named player of the match.

Left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal is also ruled out of the T20I series after injuring her right hand during the practice session. She is replaced by off-spinner Umm-e-Hani - who made her ODI debut in the third ODI. Fatima and Umm-e-Hani were part of the reserve players for the T20I series. Both captains while talking to the media in the pre-series press conference on Friday have set their sights on a series win. - APP

Ramiz gives pep-talk to Pak team in Melbourne

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Ramiz Raja met Pakistan cricket team and buoyed them up prior to the final match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 against England in Melbourne on Sunday. In a video, released by the PCB on Friday, Ramiz Raja is seen sitting with the team and coaching staff and delivering a pep talk.

Ramiz Raja congratulated the team on an incredible fight-back and comeback in the tournament due to unity among the team members. "Unity defines your performance and whatever be the circumstances, always give your 100 percent," Ramiz exhorted the team. Pakistan Cricket team is due to play against England in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup on November 13 (Sunday) which is almost replica of the ODI World Cup 1992 finals, which involved the same team at the same venue some 30 years back. Hailing the coaching staff, he said: "You have given a lot to cheer to the fans in Pakistan, and a unified dressing-room owes a lot to you." Ramiz Raja, who was part of the ODI World Cup winning team - led by Imran Khan - at the same venue in 1992, recollected the former skipper's words who had said: "This will not happen in your lives again, that is why go out and enjoy the moment." He advised the Babar-led team not to be bowed down by the critical analysis, as sometimes bashing may hamper performance, and inspired them by both hands. The former captain wished the team good-luck in the final against England. - APP

Punjab govt
changes
head of JIT

FROM PAGE 01
Chief Police Officer (CPO) Lahore Tariq Rustom as the head of the JIT. He has now been replaced by Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Ghazi Khan Syed Khurram Ali. Other members of the committee were RPO Khurram Ali, IG Investigation Punjab Branch Ehsanullah Chauhan, District Police Officer Wahari Muhammad Zafar Buzdar, and Superintendent of Police (SP) Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Naseebullah Khan. DIG Rustom will now serve as a member of the JIT. The JIT formed by the Punjab government will conduct a complete investigation into the Wazirabad attack and submit its report to the provincial home minister. A day earlier, Adviser to Punjab Chief Minister Omer Sarfraz Cheema during a presser said that the preliminary forensic investigation revealed two people were involved in the attack on Imran Khan while two types of bullets were recovered from the containers.

Khurram,
Waqar
conspired...

FORM PAGE 01
He also revealed that there is evidence of how Sharif was made to sit in the plane from Peshawar. He also said that the person who helped Sharif get an online visa was Waqar, adding that the latter did not know the former before. "We have the record of everything including why Sharif went to Waqar's house and stayed as a guest," said the minister, adding that Waqar is not being named in the case because the commission has yet to go and look into these matters. The interior minister said that he will request Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to talk to the Kenyan president again because the Kenyan police are not cooperating. Earlier today, the chairperson of Kenya's Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) said that Sharif's murder at the hands of Kenya's police is being fully investigated to establish the facts surrounding the shooting. IPOA Chairperson Anne Makori said the independent body has started a "full and thorough investigation to establish the circumstances surrounding the shooting" of Arshad Sharif on the night of October 23 by Kenya's General Services Unit (GSU) officers. The IPOA chairperson also addressed the reports claiming that Sharif was brutally tortured before being killed.

Juve striker
Vlahovic
named in
Serbia World
Cup squad

SPORTS DESK
Belgrade: Serbia coach Dragan Stojkovic named Friday his World Cup squad, that includes star striker Dusan Vlahovic whose recent injury raised fears at home that he could not join the team. They play in Group G along with Brazil - whom they face in their opening match on November 24 - Cameroon and Switzerland.

Squad:
Goalkeepers: Predrag Rajkovic (Mallorca/ESP), Marko Dmitrovic (Sevilla/ESP), Vanja Milinkovic-Savic (Torino/ITA)
Defenders: Stefan Mitrovic (Getafe/ESP), Nikola Milenkovic (Fiorentina/ITA), Milos Veljkovic (Werder Bremen/GER), Strahinja Pavlovic (Red Bull Salzburg/AUT), Strahinja Erakovic (Red Star Belgrade), Filip Mladenovic (Legia Warsaw/POL), Srdjan Babic (Almeria/ESP)
Midfielders: Nemanja Gudelj (Sevilla/ESP), Sergej Milinkovic-Savic (Lazio/ITA), Sasa Lukic (Torino/ITA), Marko Grujic (Porto/POR), Filip Kostic (Juventus/ITA), Uros Racic (Braga/POR), Nemanja Maksimovic (Getafe/ESP), Ivan Ilic (Verona/ITA), Andrija Zivkovic (PAOK/GRE), Darko Lazovic (Verona/ITA)
Forwards: Aleksandar Mitrovic (Fulham/ENG), Dusan Tadic (Ajax/NED), Dusan Vlahovic (Juventus/ITA), Filip Djuricic (Sampdoria/ITA), Luka Jovic (Fiorentina/ITA), Nemanja Radonjic (Torino/ITA)

Briefs

Pakistan-Iran
Joint Border
Commission
agrees on
boosting
bilateral
trade

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Iran Joint Border Commission have agreed on boosting bilateral trade. The two countries issued a joint declaration at the end of the 24th annual meeting of the commission in Islamabad. Pakistan-Iran Joint Border Commission has taken important decisions on border security, human smuggling and prevention of drugs, promotion of mutual cooperation for the establishment of peace and order on both sides of the border. The Commission also agreed on provision of facilities to businessmen for an increase in trade activities, exchange of sports and culture and educational delegations and other related issues. The Pakistani delegation was led by Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili while the delegation from Iran was led by Sistan-Balochistan Governor for Law and Order and Enforcement Ali Raza Marhamati.

NY-bound
Emirates flight
returns to
Athens after
US tip-off

ATHENS: A New York-bound Emirates flight carrying nearly 250 people was Thursday forced to return to Athens shortly after take-off following a US security alert. Officials said the information related to "a suspicious person travelling on board". A police spokesman said the plane was accompanied back to the Greek capital's Eleftherios Venizelos international airport by two F-16 Greek air force fighter jets. Flight EK-210 was turned back 45 minutes after takeoff and landed at around 10:00 pm (2000 GMT), the spokesman said, adding that searches were ongoing on the plane. The flight was carrying 228 passengers and 18 crew members. Greek media reported that US authorities warned Greek police of the presence of a "suspicious person" on board the plane. Earlier on Thursday, another Emirates flight to Dubai was not allowed to take off from the Athens airport and all passengers were also checked over security concerns but nothing suspicious was found, police sources added. That flight took off after a five-hour delay. An Emirates spokesperson confirmed both incidents. "Emirates can confirm flight EK210 from Athens to Dubai on 10 November returned to stand before takeoff," the spokesperson said in an emailed statement to AFP. "Flight EK209 from Athens to Newark on 10 November also made an unscheduled return to Athens, due to security checks requested by the authorities," they added, saying passengers had been rebooked to travel on Friday and been provided with overnight accommodation.—APP

Tsunami
warning after
magnitude-7.1
quake near
Tonga

SYDNEY: A magnitude-7.1 earthquake struck in the sea off Tonga late Friday, according to the US Geological Survey, sparking a tsunami warning. According to the USGS, the earthquake hit 10 km (six miles) deep, about 200 km southeast of Neiafu, a town in the northeast of the Pacific archipelago nation. "Hazardous tsunami waves are possible for coasts located within 300 km of the earthquake epicenter," said the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. Seismic activity is fairly common around Tonga, a country with about 100,000 people spread across 171 islands. In January this year, it was rocked by the eruption of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano, one of the most powerful such events in modern times, according to researchers from the University of Bath.—APP

Air Chief witnesses Bahrain
International Air Show

The participation of JF-17 Thunder aircraft in the airshow has proved to be an excellent opportunity to showcase its cutting edge capabilities

DNA

BAHRAIN: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was in attendance at the opening ceremony of Bahrain Air Show in which "Pride of Pakistan" JF-17 Thunder aircraft also took part. A large number of delegations from different countries were also present at the occasion. The indigenously manufactured JF-17 fighter jet displayed alongside other aircraft and defence equipment at the event, remained the star attraction of the show. While interacting with the Pakistan Air Force contingent, the Air Chief lauded PAF personnel's performance in the airshow and said that their participation in the event was a matter of pride for the nation and appreciated their efforts for bringing laurels to the coun-



try. He also praised the PAF team for putting up a nice show at the mega event. Later on, he visited various stalls and met several high ranking officials. Earlier in the day, PAF personnel briefed the eager

crowd about the combat aircraft's operational capabilities and sophisticated weaponry. The spectators were ecstatic to see the pride of Pakistan in their midst. Apart from the static display, the Pakistan Aer-

onautical Complex-manufactured JF-17 aircraft also presented an aerobatics performance. The excitement of the eagerly awaiting crowd was worth watching as the aircraft roared in the skies of Bahrain. The

much anticipated display was thoroughly enjoyed by the spectators and they fervently clapped as the fighter jet landed back at the airstrip. The participation of JF-17 Thunder aircraft in the air-

show has proved to be an excellent opportunity to showcase its cutting edge capabilities. It has also given an opportunity to the potential buyers to assess the fighter jet's immense potential in the international market.

US midterms, where do
House, Senate races stand?

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: Three days after polls closed in the United States midterm elections, neither Democrats nor Republicans had attained enough victories to claim control of either the House of Representatives or the Senate. Counting was set to continue across the country on Friday, with Republicans closing in on the 218 seats needed to reach what is projected to be a far less than expected majority in the House. By late on Thursday, they had taken 211 seats compared with the Democrats' 192 in the 435-seat chamber. The Senate race remained far less certain, with counting continuing in key races in Arizona and Nevada.

Some trends from the tally have boosted Democrats' hopes of winning both races, and thus attaining a 50-seat majority in the 100-seat chamber, where the vice president — in this case Democrat Kamala Harris — breaks ties. Winning only one of the races in Arizona and Nevada would mean control of the Senate will be decided by a December 6 run-off in Georgia. Here's where things currently stand: Senate Arizona: Incumbent Democrat Mark Kelly appeared to widen his lead over Republican challenger Blake Masters on Thursday to an about 5.6 percentage point margin, but the results of hundreds of thousands yet to be counted mail-in ballots could quickly shrink the difference. Nevada: Republican candidate Adam Lax-

alt's lead shrank to less than 10,000 votes over Democratic incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto on Thursday, with an estimated tens of thousands of ballots still to be counted. Many of those include mail-in ballots, a segment of the vote Cortez Masto has performed well in. Georgia: With neither candidate — Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker — reaching the 50 percent threshold needed to win outright in Georgia, the race will be decided in a run-off election on December 6. That new election could also be the decider of Senate control, depending on the results in Arizona and Nevada. House Republicans are just seven victories away from claiming control of the House, with outstanding results in Alaska, Arizona, Cal-

ifornia, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New York, Oregon and Washington. California and Arizona: Analysts say Democrats still have the narrowest of paths to taking control, a scenario that would require a near clean sweep of the most competitive remaining races concentrated in California, where 16 races remain uncalled, and Arizona, where three races are outstanding. Colorado: Incumbent Republican Lauren Boebert, a ferocious supporter of former President Donald Trump and proponent of the QAnon conspiracy theory, has expanded her lead over Democratic challenger Adam Frisch. Some have viewed the unexpectedly close race as a referendum on the electability of the Republican party's farthest-right members.

France accepts
migrant ship as row
with Italy blazes

TOULON: A rescue ship carrying 230 migrants docked at the French port of Toulon on Friday amid a blazing row between France and Italy over which country is responsible for them. The Ocean Viking, operated by a French NGO, had picked up the migrants at sea near the Libyan coast before spending weeks seeking a port to accept them. France had never before allowed a rescue vessel carrying migrants from the Mediterranean to land on its coast, but did so this time because Italy had refused access. The rescue came a day after French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said that the migrants were Italy's responsibility under EU rules, and that the French move was an "exceptional" measure. He said Italy's refusal to accept the migrants was "incomprehensible" and that there would be "severe consequences" for relations with Italy which he said had "lacked humanity". On Friday, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni condemned what she called an "aggressive reaction" by the French government, telling reporters that it was "incomprehensible and unjustified". The Ocean Viking ship had initially sought access to Italy's coast, which is closest to where the migrants were picked up, saying health and sanitary conditions onboard were rapidly worsening. Italy refused, saying other nations needed to shoulder more of the burden for taking in the thousands of migrants trying to reach Europe from North Africa every year. "Everybody is very, very tired, but also relieved to set foot on land, it's the end of an ordeal," Laurence Bondard, a member of SOS Mediterranee, the NGO operating the Operation Viking, told.—APP

Finland's forest-
ers decry 'unfair'
EU climate plans

ASKOLA, FINLAND: Standing next to a freshly cut clearing the size of seven football fields, Finnish forest engineer Matti Jappila pointed to growth rings in a tree stump up to 300 years old. "I have started to systematically carry out these loggings, sort of in advance," he said. Like many Finns, Jappila fears that an upcoming EU biodiversity strategy, which aims to protect 30 percent of the land in the EU, will make his forestry livelihood "completely unprofitable". The European Union proposed a new Nature Restoration Law in June that aims to restore by the end of the decade 20 percent of nature areas like forests and wetlands to the state they were in 70 years ago. In a report last year, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said restoring natural forests and drained peatlands and improving sustainability of managed forests "generally enhances the resilience of carbon stocks and sinks." But in Finland, where forests cover around 75 percent of land, the proposals by Brussels have sparked outrage in the forestry industry, as well as a rift in the coalition government. On Friday, the centre-left government survived a no-confidence motion brought by the main opposition parties over its handling of the issue, with 103 votes in its favour to 73 against. "This regulation proposed by the Commission is exceptionally unfair to Finland," Saara-Sofia Siren, an MP in the opposition National Coalition Party, told AFP. The loud noise of a clearing saw filled the thick boreal forest of spruce and birch, as Jappila prepared another part of his estate to be cut down in December — before the EU can force him to protect it.—APP

ASEAN leaders struggle with
Myanmar crisis at summit

WEB DESK

PHNOM PENH: Southeast Asian leaders have demanded that Myanmar's military rulers implement a peace plan aimed at stopping the bloodshed in the country where thousands have been killed since the army seized power in a coup last year. The Myanmar crisis dominated the first day of talks on Friday at the summit of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh. ASEAN leaders blocked Myanmar's military ruler, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, from attending the gathering over the spiralling violence in his country, and amid frustration that the generals in Myanmar are uninterested in imple-

menting a peace plan. Leaders of the regional power bloc had agreed to a "five-point consensus" peace plan with the Myanmar leadership in April last year, but the military has so far ignored it. Indonesian President Joko Widodo told reporters on the sidelines of the summit on Friday that he had proposed broadening the ban on Myanmar political representatives at ASEAN events — something urged by human rights groups. "Indonesia is deeply disappointed the situation in Myanmar is worsening," Widodo said. "We must not allow the situation in Myanmar to define ASEAN," he added. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said the ASEAN leaders had agreed

on a 15-point plan the military must act on or face serious consequences. "This is a warning, this is a strong message from the leaders," Marsudi told reporters. But critics will see another warning to Myanmar as largely kicking the matter down the road. Later on Friday, the leaders stressed the need for "an implementation plan that outlines concrete, practical and measurable indicators" with a firm timeline for the implementation of peace — but they did not agree on one. They also said they would call upon the United Nations "and our external partners" to support ASEAN's peace efforts. With Myanmar excluded, talks among ASEAN's nine

other members — Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei — about how to pressure Myanmar's military to comply with the peace plan had been continuing in Phnom Penh since midweek. Singapore and Malaysia, and at times Brunei, backed Indonesia's calls for strengthening the measures against Myanmar, according to a diplomat with access to the discussions. However, Thailand — backed by Cambodia and Laos — has been pushing back against the Indonesian proposal, arguing that extending the ban on Myanmar's representation would amount to a de facto suspension, the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Air Vice Marshal Khalid Mehmood Air Officer Commanding Southern Air Command at CM House.—DNA

EU warns of 'difficult
months' as eurozone
faces recession

BRUSSELS: The EU warned on Friday the eurozone was set to fall into recession this winter as Brussels hiked inflation forecasts for 2022 and 2023 on the back of high energy prices. Europe is reeling from the economic shockwaves unleashed by Russia-Ukraine conflict, which have fuelled a spike in energy costs and hit the wallets of consumers around the continent. The EU's executive arm said increased uncertainty and prices "are expected to tip" the eurozone and most of the bloc's member states into recession in the last quarter of this year. "The contraction of economic activity is set to continue in the first quarter of 2023. Growth is expected to return to Europe in spring," the European Commission said. "With

powerful headwinds still holding back demand, economic activity is set to be subdued, with GDP growth reaching 0.3 percent in 2023." Brussels predicted that the EU's biggest economy Germany would fare the worst of the member states with a contraction of 0.6 percent next year. Overall, eurozone GDP growth for 2022 was put at 3.2 percent after early strong months of the year. But the EU's economy commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said "the impact of soaring energy prices, rampant inflation, are now taking their toll." "We have some difficult months ahead of us," Gentiloni said. He cautioned that "the potential for further economic disruptions due to Russia's war is far from exhausted." The downturn

forecast came as the commission sharply raised its predictions for inflation in this and next year. It said eurozone inflation was expected to stand at 8.5 percent for 2022, a point higher than earlier forecast, and 6.1 percent in 2023, over two points higher than predicted previously. "Inflation has continued to rise faster than expected, but we believe that the peak is near. Most likely at the end of this year," Gentiloni said. "We are projecting a very gradual reduction of inflation because inflation next year is still projected to be quite high." He warned however that inflation could end up two points higher in 2023 if the EU "fails to prepare" adequately in advance for next winter by filling up its gas stores.—APP

Ethiopia govt
says army
controls 70
percent of
Tigray

NAIROBI: The Ethiopian government said on Friday that 70 percent of the war-stricken northern region of Tigray was now under federal army control. "70% of Tigray is under ENDF (Ethiopian National Defence Force)," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's national security adviser Redwan Hussein said on Twitter. "Aid is flowing like no other times," he added. AFP was not able to independently verify the claims. Access to northern Ethiopia is severely restricted and Tigray, which has a population of about six million people, remains inaccessible to journalists. Ethiopia's northernmost region is in the grip of a severe humanitarian crisis due to lack of food and medicine, and there is limited access to basic services including electricity, banking and communications. Redwan's comments come more than a week after the government and the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) reached a deal aimed at ending their brutal two-year conflict. Talks have been underway in the Kenyan capital Nairobi this week between representatives of the warring sides to discuss plans for disarming the rebels.—APP

Kenya court
drops \$60M
corruption
case of
deputy
president

NAIROBI: A Kenyan court on Thursday dropped a \$60 million corruption case against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, citing insufficient evidence. Anti-corruption Magistrate Victor Wakulile also rebuked the prosecution, saying that Kenya's judicial system should not be treated as a "doormat." Gachagua was among four people who were charged with corruption in July 2021, before he became the deputy president. They were all released on bail in August last year. Wakulile said that they may be rearrested if any evidence against them is acquired by the court in the future. Since Kenyan President William Ruto was elected as the East African country leader on Sept. 13, many charges involving corruption affecting his allies have been dropped.—APP

Weekly
inflation
continues to
increase: PBS

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has a weekly report on inflation registering another increase in inflation by 0.74 percent. The overall rate of inflation in the country was recorded at 29.24 percent by PBS. The PBS data shows that during the week, out of 51 items, 22 items' prices were increased, 14 decreased, and 15 remained unchanged. In a week, onion became expensive by 27.16 percent, potato price increased by 5.13 percent, tea increased by 4.62 percent, sugar by 3.6, eggs by 2.13 percent, and chicken by 1.98 percent. The cost of firewood has also increased by 1.21 percent, according to the Bureau of Statistics. In one week, the prices of 14 commodities decreased including pulses, cooking oil, ghee, flour, LPG, and garlic.—APP

Biden
faces high
expectations
at UN climate
talks

SHARM EL SHEIKH: US President Joe Biden arrived at UN climate talks in Egypt on Friday armed with major domestic achievements against global warming but under pressure to do more for countries reeling from natural disasters. Biden will spend only a few hours at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, three days after US midterm elections that have raised questions about what the result could mean for US climate policy. Climate action in the United States — the world's second biggest emitter — was given a major boost this year when Congress passed a landmark spending bill, the Inflation Reduction Act.—APP

Briefs

Azam Swati arrest: PTI senators hold rally

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senators belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday held a sit-in outside the parliament building to condemn arrest of senior leader senator Azam Swati. Swati was arrested last month by the Federal Investigation Agency after he tweeted about the army chief. He later alleged that he was beaten by the FIA officials in his house and the car in which he was taken away. Earlier the PTI senators marched from Parliament house to the Supreme Court (SC) in protest against the torture on several parliamentarians. They demanded justice for Azam Swati, allowing him to file a case. The PTI senators first held a token sit-in as a protest outside the parliament house on Friday. After that they marched towards the SC building. They also demanded registration of case about the attack on Imran Khan in Wazirabad on Nov. 3.

The party says the police have not yet registered Imran Khan's FIR about attack on him. He wants to nominate Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, and a senior intelligence officer for making a plan to kill him. PTI has already rejected an FIR registered by a police official at Wazirabad. The Supreme Court had ordered registration of the FIA.

India's top court frees Rajiv's killers

NEW DELHI: India's top court on Friday ordered the release of six people convicted over the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Gandhi was 46 when he was killed by a woman suicide bomber at an election rally in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in 1991. The assassination was carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a Sri Lankan armed separatist group. India's Supreme Court said the convicts were being released based on their "satisfactory conduct" in prison and that they had served over three decades of jail time. The six - three of whom had been condemned to death before their sentences were commuted - are the last still in prison for the assassination, although two were already out on parole. "I am very happy... I am very thankful to each and everybody," Nalini Sriharan, one of the two on parole, told broadcaster CNN News18. The "last 32 years have been a struggle," she added. She and her husband - another of the convicts ordered released by the court - were both initially condemned to death. Earlier this year the court freed another convict who had faced execution, AG Perarivalan, citing good conduct. - Agencies

China to continue providing new opportunities to Pak

Ambassador Nong Rong says that China views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective and considers it as a priority in its neighbourhood diplomacy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China says its unique bond of mutual trust with Pakistan will further thrive as the close coordination between the two countries has gone beyond the bilateral level to the multilateral and international arena. In an article, Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said both countries are heading to jointly promote the implementation of Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative to make global governance more just and equitable. Alluding to the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the ambassador wrote that the Chinese President vowed that China will continue its fundamental policy of providing new opportunities to Pakistan and the rest of the world through continuous development. The Chinese ambassador said Shehbaz Sharif was the first head of government to visit China after the 20th National Congress of Communist Party of China and met President Xi twice



in less than two months which well demonstrates the matchlessness of Pak-China ties. Nong Rong said the uniqueness of Pak-China

iron-clad bond lies at the highest levels of strategic coordination and mutual trust as they support each other's core interests and their bilateral ties are cornerstone of their foreign policies. He said that China views its relations with Pakistan from a strategic and long-term perspective and considers it as a priority in its neighbourhood diplomacy. He mentioned how two countries helped each other in natural calamities and continuing their cooperation in defense, security and socio-economic development and prosperity. Alluding to the flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor project, Nong Rong said 47 projects under this corridor have already been started or completed while in the next phase the two countries are stepping up cooperation in industry, agriculture, health, science and technology sectors. He said Pakistan's agricultural trade surplus with China reached 640 million dollars last year and is expected to exceed 4 billion dollars this year. He said Pakistan's efforts to strengthen security guarantees for Chinese investors will further encourage Chinese investors to start businesses in Pakistan and unleash a broader potential for business cooperation.

Daily Mail case: British court quashes stay order of Shehbaz

Mariyam Aurangzeb says PM Shehbaz has won the case; claims the newspaper is adopting delaying tactics

DNA

LONDON: A court in the United Kingdom threw out a petition filed by Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif on Friday seeking a stay order in the defamation case against the British newspaper Daily Mail. According to British media, Justice Matthew Nicklin heard the case. It was also reported that the court denied more time to the applicant, PM Shabbaz, whose hands are full with the PTI's long march. PM Shabbaz's counsel pleaded with the court to issue a stay order for an indefinite period in the case. The PM's counsels, in their reply to the court, said the prime minister was currently engaged in professional responsibilities and the court was requested that he be granted time to sub-



mit the answers. To this, Justice Nicklin said, "in his court, the prime minister and the common man are equal", as per media reports. If PM Shabbaz and his son-in-law Ali Imran fail to respond to Daily Mail's lawyers in court, they would have to pay the defendant all the cost of the legal proceedings. In 2019, the prime minister served a legal notice on the British daily and its journalist David Rose for blaming him for misappropriating public funds. "The article is gravely defamatory of Shabbaz, including false allegations that he misappropriated UK taxpayers' money in the form of Department for International Development (DFID) aid intended for the victims of the devastating 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. Shabbaz denies these allegations," the legal notice said.

ECP, federal govt seek more time on IK's removal

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the federal government have pleaded for more time in Lahore High Court (LHC) to respond if Imran Khan could be removed as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman. Justice Sajid Mehmood Sethi took up the petition filed by Advocate Muhammad Afaque. Lawyers representing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the federal government requested LHC to grant more time to submit a reply to disqualification plea. The LHC granted two weeks to respondents to submit their replies and adjourned the hearing till November 25. The petitioner argued Imran Khan cannot head a political party under the Political Parties Order after his disqualification from the NA-95 constituency following Toshakhana reference. He argued that Imran is still chairman of PTI which is violation of the laws. The ECP disqualified the former prime minister for holding parliament membership in the Toshakhana reference under Article 63(1)(p). The ECP stated that Imran Khan submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices. The election body also ordered registration of criminal cases against the PTI chairman. - APP

China confirms Xi Jinping to attend G20 summit, meet Joe Biden

BEIJING: Xi Jinping will attend the G20 summit in Indonesia next week and meet his US counterpart Joe Biden, Beijing's foreign ministry confirmed on Friday, in their first in-person talks since the Chinese president sealed a historic third term as leader last month. The two met prior to Biden taking office in January 2021 and have spoken by phone a number of times since then, but the Covid-19 pandemic have prevented them from meeting in person. Foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a regular press briefing Xi will meet Biden and French counterpart Emmanuel Macron next week in Bali, between November 14 and 17, as well as Senegal's Macky Sall and Argentina's Alberto Fernandez. He will then travel to Thailand from November 17 to 19 to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, Zhao confirmed. The White House has already said Biden will meet Xi on Monday, when the "leaders will discuss efforts to maintain and deepen lines of communication", as well as how to "responsibly manage competition and work together where our interests align". - APP

Banks to get punishment for over charging on LCs: Pasha

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha wowed on Friday to give exemplary punishment to the commercial bank who were over charging on Letter of Credits (LCs) payments. Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue the minister of state said that the banks responsible for over charging would be fined heavily so that they should avoid such actions in future. The meeting of the committee was held under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. Governor State (Bank of Pakistan SBP) Jameel Ahmed said that when the commercial banks faced shortage of dollars they started charging extra dollars on payments of LCs. He said that the Central Bank had thoroughly investigated the matter. Senator Kamil Ali Agha enquired whether the businessmen who were over charged would get back their money. The governor SBP said that they would not get their money back but action would be taken against the banks involved in the matter. Senator Faisal Raheem proposed to cancel the license of the concerned banks. The Governor SBP said that for 80% LCs, the banks don't need our permission while permission for 20% of LCs was obligatory. He said that the payments of LCs of up to \$100,000 would start this month. Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad briefed the committee about the issue of dismissal of daily

wages employees of Pakistan Customs in Balochistan. He informed the committee that in Balochistan "we needed around 30 helpers adding that some employees were given employment for 3 months and some for 6 months. He said that these were local based and engaged in contract-based employment adding that they were paid from the special fund of Customs. The Chairman highlighted that around 15 employees of them misused their powers and on the report of the agencies, we have dismissed 15 employees. Senator Kamran Murtaza asked FBR to provide relevant documents in this regards next meeting. The Chairman FBR also explain the committee on containers stuck at Port-Qasim due to custom. He said that around 2800 containers are stranded at Port Qasim due to various issues including unopened LCs and import ban. He said that 100% surcharge has been imposed on some containers resultant the peoples do not want to take out containers by paying surcharge. Governor SBP said that more than 500 containers have been cleared and gradually this problem will be solved. Among others the meeting was attended by Minister of State for Finance Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Senators Mohsin Aziz, Faisal Saleem Rehman, Dilawar Khan, Kamran Murtaza, Kamil Ali Agha, Fida Muhammad, Hidayat Ullah, officials of Finance Division and FBR are also participating in the meeting. - APP

Lahore CCPO Dogar's suspension is unlawful: FST

DNA

LAHORE: The Federal Service Tribunal (FST) on Friday ruled that the federal government's move to suspend Lahore CCPO Ghulam Mahmood Dogar was unlawful. Regarding the suspension of CCPO Ghulam Mahmood Dogar, the FST rendered a thorough decision. Asim Akram and Mushtaq Jadoon's tribunal reached a conclusion. "The November 5 notification for the transfer of Lahore CCPO is suspended," the ruling read. The suspension of CCPO by the federal government violates the law. The Lahore CCPO's appeal is approved.

'New army chief to be from 3 senior officers'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday said the new Army Chief will be selected from among 3 senior officers next week. Rana Tanveer Hussain talked to the media in Sheikhupura and said the decision on the appointment of the Army Chief will be made in the next week. The federal minister termed the cancellation of the passport of Nawaz Sharif as wrong and assured the nation that the former premier will come to Pakistan this year. Rana Tanveer Hussain added Imran Khan will not be able to win even from a single constituency after the return of Nawaz Sharif. Criticizing PTI Chairman Imran Khan's long march, the minister said he has become worried after flopping his drama of attack. He said the high-ranked army officials have exposed Imran Khan in their press conference about how he contacted the institute to save himself.

Pak demands of India to reverse illegal steps

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has demanded that India should reverse illegal steps taken since August 5, 2019 in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and cease demographic engineering there. Indian human rights record has come under scrutiny during the ongoing 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Pakistan called on India to demonstrate its commitment to international law by complying with Article 25 of UN Charter and implementing UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. At UPR, Peer review Pakistan has urged India to accept recommendations made in the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. Kashmir reports and allows the Office and independent observers access to the occupied territory.

US Envoy for overcoming climate, agri challenges

United States exported \$700 million in cotton to Pakistan, whose textile makers turned around and sent \$4.6 billion in textiles back to United States

LAHORE: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome has said that the U.S.-Pakistan Green Alliance will help meet climate and agricultural productivity challenges of the present and future. Speaking at the Oil Seeds Summit at a local hotel on Friday, he said the U.S. soy industry has a great story to tell about U.S. farmers' sustainable stewardship of soil and water resources, and "I'm sure that U.S. representatives will be excited to share that story with their partners here in Pakistan." Highlighting the U.S. soybeans' contribution to Pakistan's food security and the important partnership between U.S. soybean producers and Pakistani soy processors, he discussed at length the "robust economic relationship" between the two countries. As part of his visit to promote the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral partnership in agriculture, trade, and economy, the envoy met with representatives from the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) to discuss how to deepen the already thriving relationship between Punjab's textile sector and U.S. cotton producers. He said one of the great eco-

nomics success stories of the U.S.-Pakistan partnership is the relationship between U.S. cotton and Pakistani textile producers - and this success is centered in Punjab. Blome said, "The two-way trade in cotton and textiles was \$5.3 billion in 2021, which is more than half of the \$8.9 billion trade between our nations." He said the United States exported \$700 million in cotton to Pakistan, whose textile makers turned around and sent \$4.6 billion in textiles back to the United States. This two-way trade keeps growing, and it is centered in Punjab. Ambassador Blome also met officials of the Corteva - a U.S. agrisciences company, and learned how U.S. hybrid seed corn is contributing to Punjab's farmers' yields and incomes. He said the United States is working with Winrock International on a \$20 million agricultural development project to strengthen the agricultural sector in Southern Punjab. Ambassador Blome also interacted with farmers from the Southern Punjab and listened to their problems. He said the project will improve their horticultural crop outputs via this U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded project.

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