



# Islamabad POST

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**“End War’: Joko Widodo urges at G20 Summit opening**

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## Briefs

**PM tests positive for COVID-19**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif – who was unwell for the last few days – has contracted the deadly coronavirus, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said Tuesday. In a tweet, the federal minister said PM Shehbaz was unwell for the last two days and after consulting the doctors, he got tested for coronavirus. The minister appealed to the nation and PML-N workers to pray for the health of the prime minister – who is also a cancer survivor. This is the third time that the prime minister has contracted the deadly virus – first in June 2020 and second in January 2022.

**Alvi wishes PM early recovery**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday expressed good wishes for the health of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after he tested positive for coronavirus. The president prayed for the early recovery of PM Shehbaz Sharif and also emphasized taking good care during the phase of illness, the President's House said. Earlier, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb in a tweet had posted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tested positive for coronavirus this morning. She mentioned that the prime minister was feeling unwell for the last two days and got himself tested on the advice of a doctor.

**Discussions to start this week: Asif**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif Tuesday said that consultation will be held on November 18 or 19 on the appointment of a new Army Chief. Kh Asif talked to the media in the Parliament House on Tuesday and confirmed that there is no favorite name of the Nawaz League for the new Army Chief. There is no consultation regarding name of Army Chief yet, then how a deadlock could have emerged?

## Imran Khan says Early election only way out of fiscal woes

PTI chairman again accuses CEC of being the “henchman” of ruling PML-N

KAMRAN GUJJAR

SARAI ALAMGIR: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has accused the incumbent government of destroying the country's economy, saying the 'economy is on verge of default amid rising default risk'. "Foreign investors will be wary of investing in Pakistan amid rising default risk... I ask those who hatched conspiracy who is responsible for this mess?" he said while addressing a PTI's long march via video link on Tuesday. The former PM was referring to Pakistan's risk of default, measured through the five-year currency default swap (CDS) index, which spiked 4.2 percentage points to a new high at 64.2%, suggesting that the country lacked resources to meet the growing import payments and foreign debt repayments on time. Pakistan is scheduled to repay \$1 billion against a five-year Sukuk (Shariah-compliant bond) maturing on December 5, 2022. "The default risk is increasing under the incumbent government as country could fail to pay off its external debts," Imran said inflation has doubled since the coalition government led by PML-N came to power with all economic indicators including exports, remittances and tax collections are on the decline.

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**SC issues notice to Imran Khan in ECP reference**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notices to former prime minister Imran Khan, and PTI leaders Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry in cases pertaining to the contempt of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ayesha Malik and newly elevated Justice Athar Minallah heard the case at the apex court in Islamabad. Earlier, a petition was moved through Advocate Sajeel Sheryar Swati on behalf of the ECP with a request to order consolidation of all six petitions before one high court instead of defending the commission's stance over the issuance of contempt notices against PTI leaders in different high courts.

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## COAS urges cadets for professional excellence

Gen. Bajwa paid farewell visits to PMA Kakul and Baloch Regimental Centre

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As part of his farewell visits, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul and Baloch Regimental Centre Abbottabad, media reported on Tuesday, citing military's media wing. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), COAS Bajwa paid farewell visits to Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul and Baloch Regimental Centre Abbottabad. The army chief laid a floral wreath at Martyrs' Monument and offered fatha. He also interacted with the cadets and officers of

PMA. While addressing the officers, he appreciated exceptionally high standards of Pakistan Army's premier training institution and its efforts towards grooming future leaders. He also advised cadets to focus their energies on pursuit of professional excellence. Upon his arrival at PMA, the army chief was received by Commander Rawalpindi Corps Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza. Later on, Gen Bajwa visited Baloch Regimental Centre in Abbottabad. After laying floral wreath at the Shuhada monument, he interacted with serving and retired officers and troops of the illustrious Baloch Regiment. He paid rich tribute to their supreme sacrifices. Earlier on arrival at Baloch Regimental Centre, the COAS was received by Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas. Earlier on November 12, COAS Bajwa visited Lahore Garrison and inaugurated Institute for Special Education, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The army chief inaugurated Lahore Garrison Institute for Special Education and visited various school facilities for special children. He also interacted with officers and men of Lahore Corps and Pakistan Rangers Punjab.

## Wrangling over Ukraine war dominates G20 summit

The summit is the first G20 leaders' gathering since Russia sent its forces into Ukraine

NEWS DESK

NUSA DUA: A Western-led push to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine dominated Tuesday's Group of 20 summit on the Indonesian island of Bali where leaders of major economies grappled with a dizzying array of issues from hunger to nuclear threats. President Vladimir Putin's Feb. 24 invasion of neighbouring Ukraine has pummelled the global economy and revived Cold War-era geopolitical divisions just as the world was emerging from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As at other recent international forums, the United States and its allies were pursuing a statement from the two-day G20 summit to condemn Moscow's military actions. But Russia said "politicisation" of the summit was unfair. "Yes, there is a war going on in Ukraine, a hybrid war that the West has unleashed and been preparing for years," said Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, repeating Putin's

line that military alliance NATO's expansion had threatened Russia. A 16-page draft declaration seen by Reuters, which diplomats said was yet to be adopted by leaders, acknowledged the rift. "Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy," it said. "There were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions." The summit is the first G20 leaders' gathering since Russia sent its forces into Ukraine. The 20 nations account for more than 80% of the world's gross domestic product, 75% of international trade and 60% of its population. Hosts Indonesia have pleaded for unity and a focus on action to resolve problems like inflation, hunger and high energy prices, all exacerbated by the Ukraine war. "We have no other option, collaboration is needed to save the world," said Indonesian President Joko Widodo. "G20 must be the catalyst for

inclusive economic recovery. We should not divide the world into parts. We must not allow the world to fall into another Cold War." The draft summit document also said G20 central banks would calibrate monetary tightening with an eye on the global inflation problem, while fiscal stimulus should be "temporary and targeted" to help the vulnerable while not hiking prices. On debt, it voiced concern about the "deteriorating" situation of some middle-income countries and stressed the importance of all creditors sharing a fair burden. But it did not mention China, which has been criticised in the West for delaying efforts to ease debt strains for some emerging economies. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the summit in a virtual address that now was the time to stop Russia's invasion and implement a 10-point peace plan he has proposed. Kyiv is demanding a full Russian withdrawal from occupied territories.

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KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah visit Sindh Police Display during 11th edition of Defence Exhibition-IDEAS 2022. – APP

**MOFA working without foreign secretary**

Jauhar Saleem serves as acting secretary since the retirement of Sohail Mahmood



SYRUS QAZI

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan is being run without a full time foreign secretary ever since the retirement of Sohail Mahmood. The senior most Additional Secretary Jauhar Saleem is taking care of the Ministry since then. Muhammad Syrus Qazi who was Pakistan's ambassador to Turkiye has been tipped as the new foreign secretary however the government is waiting for his promotion to the Grade 22. Daily Islamabad POST had broken the news of Syrus Qazi elevation to the post of foreign secretary on 21 July 2022 when he was still serving in Turkiye as ambassador. According to the Establishment division the promotion board shall take place soon in which among others Syrus Qazi is also likely to be promoted to the Grade 22.

## Imran's politics revolves around an 'appointment': FM

Bilawal says none of allies or anybody else should speak about such things

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Berating PTI Chairman Imran Khan for "unnecessary politics" on the appointment of the next army chief, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that his politics has revolved around that appointment since the beginning. He made the remarks while addressing a programme organised to celebrate 75 liver transplants by Dow University of Health Sciences at their Ojha campus. The foreign minister said that none of our allies or anybody else should speak about such things in public meetings amid the prevailing economic situation. He maintained that the coalition government was taking measures to steer the country out of economic challenges. Pakistan is now out of the default threat, he added. Speaking on the occasion,

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**FM inaugurates 11th IDEAS expo**

DNA

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inaugurated the 11th edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar 2022 (IDEAS 2022) at the Expo Centre in Karachi on Tuesday. Federal Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Israr Tareen, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and senior civil and military officials attended the inaugural ceremony. The exhibition will continue till Friday and 300 exhibitors from 32 countries will display their latest and innovative products, whereas over

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# CDA conducts operation against encroachments

**DNA**  
ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of the Capital Development Authority Chairman Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis, the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday, with the assistance of the ICT administration and Islamabad police, conducted grand operations against illegal constructions in different areas of Islamabad. As a result of these operations, dozens of illegal constructions were demolished with the help of heavy machinery. During these operations 60 kanals of land were retrieved and also 13 trucks of encroachment material were also confiscated. These operations were started from Mouza

Kuri Dhok Balag, a suburb of Islamabad, where the land mafia was trying to occupy the government land. Revenue Department CDA carried out a demarcation process and these constructions were found on the land acquired by CDA. In light of the indications of the environment department, the attempt of 60 kanals of land by demolishing the vast four walls built on the CDA land was foiled. Similarly, in line with the directions of Chairman Usman Younis, the Enforcement Department has started a special campaign to eliminate encroachment from public corridors, public passages and footpaths in the marakiz and commercial areas of Islamabad.

Operations are being carried out in various marakiz and commercial centers of Islamabad on a daily basis. During this campaign, the enforcement department took full action against encroachments in Sector F-11 Markaz, F-10 Markaz, F-7 Markaz, and G-9/4 Peshawar Mor, during which roadsides, public passages and dozens of stalls on the footpath were removed and 9 trucks encroachment material was also confiscated. Apart from this, two trucks of encroachment material were also confiscated while removing encroachments in Margalla Town Phase-I and from Motorway Chowk. Moreover, a new house was being constructed in Saidpur Model Village on the

land of the National Park area. An attempt to occupy government land was foiled by demolishing the house. Moreover, in front of Shifa International Hospital in Sector H-9, the footpath was encroached upon by making a motorcycle parking lot, causing serious problems for pedestrians. During the action against this illegal parking, several motorcycles were confiscated while the footpath was cleared. On this occasion, Chairman CDA lauded the efforts of the Enforcement Directorate and said that by modernising the affairs of the Enforcement Directorate, Islamabad will be made an encroachment-free city so that all possible facilities could be provided to the resident.



**BUCHAREST:** Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Sajid Hussain Turi met Minister for Labour and Social Solidarity of Romania Marius-Constantin Budai in Bucharest. – DNA

## Experts for updating maritime policy to promote 'blue economy'

**KHAYAM ABBASI**

ISLAMABAD: The experts on Tuesday underscored the need for updating maritime policy, vision to cope with challenges and lift the blue economy as the country had immense potential in the sector to expand and uplift national economy. The experts made these remarks during the Webinar titled "New Technology for Greener Shipping" organized here by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) following the launching ceremony of the special edition of "Economic Affairs" magazine on World Maritime Theme Day 2022. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Admiral (R) Abdul Al-

eem said Pakistan had unparalleled resources in marine life, but unfortunately the country was lagging behind developed countries due to lack of technology, comprehensive maritime policy and vision. "We have not given enough importance to the shipping industry as Pakistan had 70 ships five decades ago, that reduced to merely 13 ships in 2022 which covers only ten percent seaborne trade of the country," he added. He said that Pakistan had over 1,000 kilometers (km) long coastline which could attract thousands of tourists and become a tourism magnet of the region like Maldives with shining gold like sand dunes and unique coral reefs that were of exot-

ic nature. Professor, Bahria University Azhar Ahmad said that media should play its role to highlight the importance and challenges of blue economy as Pakistan had immense resources in the sector which were still untapped demanding exploration. Highlighting the impediments of blue economy in Pakistan, he said sea blindness was a common phenomenon in developing nation including Pakistan as the sector had been neglected in the country due to land oriented mindset and understanding of the actual potential. Former Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had major connection with

Pakistani marine life as the country carried out 91% of its trade through sea. Therefore, it was high time to hold conferences, media campaigns, road shows and academic activities to underscore the potential of blue economy in the country. "Our interest in maritime industry has reduced over the years due to strings of reason, but institutes like NIMA are playing instrumental and remarkable role to revive one of the game changer agents of Pakistan's economy," she added. Chief Executive Officer, Engro Vopak Ismail Mahmud on the occasion briefed the forum that Engro terminals were working on the "Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration project".

## US govt supports more than 6,000 Pakistani Small and Medium Enterprises

ISLAMABAD: The United States (U.S) government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), celebrated the successful conclusion of its six-year-long Small and Medium Enterprise Activity (SMEA) at a ceremony organized here on Tuesday. The event, which coincided with Global Entrepreneurship Week, recognized the achievements of Pakistani entrepreneurs who received

funding and support under SMEA to establish and expand their small and medium enterprises (SMEs), said a press release. Through SMEA, the U.S. government supported Pakistani entrepreneurs to overcome challenges, secure private sector funding, and strengthen their businesses. Entrepreneurship and innovation help boost employment, productivity, and trade, as well as drive a nation's economy.

Over the past six years, this USAID-funded activity has supported more than 6,000 SMEs and awarded grants to 141 SMEs, generating \$158 million in revenue, leveraging \$51.5 million in private sector investment, and increasing exports by \$74 million. Out of the 6,000 SMEs that SMEA supported, 28 per cent were women-owned. SMEA also created almost 48,900 jobs, of which 30 per cent were filled by women. SMEA was part

of U.S. assistance to Pakistan intended to increase private sector-led inclusive economic growth by improving the business-enabling environment and increasing employment opportunities. Through its various initiatives, SMEA improved the competitiveness of Pakistani SMEs in target sectors including agribusiness, information and communications technology, textiles, hospitality, logistics and packaging, light engineering.—APP



**ISLAMABAD:** Spanish artists Javier Colina, Josemi Carmona and Bandolero perform during a music concert organized at the Spanish residence. Ambassador of Spain Jose A de Ory introduced the artists. All three artists presented a spell-binding performances and got huge applause from the audiences.—DNA

## Senator directs HEC to take action against fake institutions

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training Senator Irfan Siddiqui, while discussing the matter of fake institutions, directed HEC to take stern action against fake institutions and ensure the quality of education across the country. He also directed the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to submit a report before the committee in this regard. He was chairing the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee

on Federal Education and Professional Training here at Parliament House on Tuesday. During the meeting, the senate body unanimously passed the Bill titled "The Federal University (Amendment) Bill, 2022". Senator Seemee Ezdi, the mover of the bill, apprised the committee that the primary aim is to make internship mandatory part of the curriculum for all Public and Private Universities located in Federal territory. Furthermore,

the committee deliberated on the matter raised by Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi regarding the issue of examination faced by students of Law at Bahauddin Zakariya University. Mansoor Akbar Kundi, VC of BZU, apprised the committee that the matter is subjective and the university is unable to provide any date until the matter is adjudicated. Officials of the Law ministry told that there is no such bar for examinations of students in the 2nd and 3rd year and the bar is

only limited to 1st-year supplementary students. Senator Irfan Siddiqui with the consent of all members gave a ruling to conduct an examination of Law students, which is not restricted by the Supreme Court, by the 15th December of 2022. In addition, the senate committee was also briefed by the Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University regarding the responsibilities, administrative control, faculty, and fee structure of the university.—APP

## PCJCCI delegation meets Governor

LAHORE: A delegation of PCJCCI met Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Tuesday to discuss 'Pak-China Food and Cultural Analogue' to boost the cultural exchanges between the two countries. PCJCCI President Moazzam Ali Ghurki, Vice President Hamza Khalid, Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif, Executive Committee Members Daud Ahmed and Col (ret'd) Ashraf and PCJCCI Tourism Committee Chairman Syed Ali Raza Rizvi attended the meeting at the Governor's House.—APP

## Experts demand seamless transportation system

**SHUJAAT HAMZA**

ISLAMABAD: The experts at a dialogue on Tuesday stressed the need for a seamless and well-planned transportation system that could help provide the public affordable, accessible, environment and human friendly mobility. The Dialogue on National Transport Policy 2018 and Implementation was organised here by Institute of Urbanism (IoU) in collaboration with the Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Secretariat here at the Parliament. While chairing the dialogue in lie off Convener National SDGs Taskforce, Romina Khurshid Alam, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs, Shaza Fatima Khawa-

ja said there was a structural issue in ensuring safer mobility amid gender equality in the federal capital which should be resolved through expert and innovative interventions of the concerned. She suggested that the Capital Mass Transit Authority (CMTA) should hold a detailed assessment on the impact of mass transit Metro Bus facility to check decline in privately owned car users after increased ridership of public facility. The impact assessment of Metro Bus should also study women accessibility to the transport facility, she added. The SAPM also sought the Capital Development Authority (CDA) officials to widely display the Metro Bus routes map across the Capital for massive public awareness. She added that monitoring and evaluation of policy goals set

under such initiatives should be done and also vowed to ensure expedited action on Capital Mass Transit Authority Bill 2021. Senior Programme Fellow, IoU, Dr Ejaz Ahmad in his opening remarks briefed the chair and participants about the Institute and its endeavours so far. He informed that there were many dialogues held previously in which the parliamentarians' role and participation was imperative. He highlighted that the key thematic areas of focus of the Institute were redefining urban mobility, sustainable consumption patterns, eco-entrepreneurship and solid waste as a resource. "The IoU has conducted different studies and surveys to research on public response on available transport systems and their demands. Lack of parking fa-

cilities and encroachment of green belts in the capital for converting them into parking lots has been a serious concern in the Capital." Programme Coordinator, IoU Ayesha Majid presented a detailed overview of National Transportation Policy 2018. She said the transport sector had a huge carbon footprint in Pakistan whereas the UN's FAO study revealed 40% share of transport sector in air pollution in Punjab. She said the policy provided a clear roadmap for the future of transport sector and also promoted other zero emissions form of mobility. She told the forum that an IoU Survey in 2020 revealed that 97.7% in the Capital believed that air pollution was formed due to transport emissions, only 28.7% were

satisfied with current transportation system and 81% of them believed that investment in public transport would improve mobility. The sample size of survey was 300 masses including 51% women and 49% men which was conducted at three entry points of the Capital namely G-15, PWD, and Bhara Kahu. Member Punjab Assembly (MPA) Ramesh Singh Arora underscored that the regulations and laws enacted should consider public facility and convenience with substitutes being rolled out first for convenient enforcement and adoption of the new law. He said that there was no proper planning to manage private entities operating in the transport and mobility sector whereas the National Transport Policy 2018 needed to be looked in an overall ambit for a

## AJK CEC reassures LG polls to be held on November 27

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chief Election Commissioner ((AJK-CEC) Justice retired Abdul Rasheed Sulehria on Tuesday, while brushing aside rumours about the postponement of local government elections, assured that polls would be held on November 27 as per the previously announced schedule and all arrangements for in that regard had been made. Leading a presser here accompanied by a senior member of the commission, Raja Farooq Niaz, he said the required funds had been provided by the government and federal interior minister had assured him to provide 17,000 security personnel to maintain law and order during the polling. Rumors were spreading all over AJK

that the commission was going to approach Supreme Court to get its order for the conduct of LG polls before November 30 amended on the grounds that the federal government had expressed inability to provide security personnel due to reasons. "Government has provided us hundred percent required funds of which 280 million rupees have been spent so far and I, personally, talked to interior minister Rana Sanaullah, who assured me to provide security personnel to maintain law and order during the polling," Sulehria maintained. He advised political leaders to avoid spreading rumors and creating uncertainty about the elections going to be held after 30 years, and said firmly that the commission was committed

to conducting the polling on time on a single day. However, he said, the decision about conducting polling in the areas covered with snow would be taken near the polling date, and polling in such areas might be postponed depending on the weather conditions. Senior member commission Raja Farooq Niaz said the polling scheme and printing of ballot papers had been completed and polling material was distributed which showed the commitment of the commission to conduct the polling on time. He said a total of 2.95 million voters would cast their vote in the LG elections to elect their representatives in 10 district councils, five municipal corporations, 14 municipal committees, 12 town committees.—APP



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  - The Assistant Controller of Store (Pakistan Railway Locomotive Factory Risalpur, KPK) Phone: 0937-842523.
- Please also visit Pakistan Railway Website [www.pakrail.com](http://www.pakrail.com) and PPRA Web-Site [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)
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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### November

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

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

## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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

## Enquiry

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PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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# ICCI plans to establish TV channel to promote economy

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the Pakistani print and electronic media is stuffing politics in the minds of the young generation while there is a need to create better awareness in them about trade business, investment and economy to produce entrepreneurs

DNA

Islamabad: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that ICCI wants to establish its own radio and business TV channel to highlight the business and investment opportunities in Pakistan's economy that will help improve the economy. He expressed these views while talking to Pakistan Media Regulatory Authority's Director General Finance Shamim Gul Durrani, who visited ICCI to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the Pakistani print and electronic media is stuffing politics in the minds of the young generation while there is a need to create better awareness in them about trade, business, investment and economy to produce entrepreneurs. He said that instead of highlighting crimes and other negative news in print and electronic media, there is a need to highlight the economic potential of Pakistan to attract investment and promote a soft image of the country. He said that in western countries, the wealth creators are made role models, while in Pakistani society, instead of giving respect and honor to the wealth creators, they



are portrayed as anti-social class, which is unfortunate. ICCI President said that the Chamber is working on establishing its radio and TV channel to promote those who have created wealth with hard work and honesty as role models in the society. He said that ICCI wants to start working on a special program in which the Fed-

eral Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ms. Maryam Aurangzeb will be invited along with the representatives of print and electronic media to highlight the importance of wealth creators for the country. Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Media Regulatory Authority's Director General Finance Shamim Gul

Durrani said that PEMRA is ready to cooperate with ICCI in establishing radio and business TV channels. He said that Pakistan's prosperous future is linked to a strong economy and stressed that the print and electronic media should play a role in highlighting business and investment opportunities in the country

to attract the attention of investors. He appreciated the plan of ICCI for establishing a special technology park and said that Pakistan has a great potential to enhance IT exports by focusing on better development of this sector. It would also provide more jobs to the youth. Talking about giving representation to ICCI in the Council of Complaints

of PEMRA, he said that Parliament needs to amend the Act in this regard as there is no such provision in the existing Act. Both the institutions discussed various issues of mutual interest on this occasion. Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Raja Imtiaz, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

## Celebrations mark 30 years of DAFI scholarship programme

ISLAMABAD: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and Inspire Pakistan on Tuesday celebrated 30 years of the DAFI known by its acronym (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme for refugees in Islamabad. The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme has transformed the lives of over 2,800 refugee students across Pakistan since 1992, and over 21,500 learners around the world. The German-backed programme provides scholarship opportunities for third level undergraduate students, majoring in fields including medicine, engineering, social and behaviour sciences, business administration, mathematics and computer sciences.

The DAFI scholarship programme contributes to the promotion of self-reliance of refugees by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge and professional qualifications for future employment. The programme is aimed at the development of highly qualified and skilled human resources that can play a vital role not only in Pakistan but also for

the reconstruction of their country of origin. "By investing in education, students will contribute to the economy of their host country and support their communities once they return to rebuild their lives," underscored UNHCR Representative to Pakistan, Noriko Yoshida. "By enabling refugees to fulfil their potential, the scholarship programme has a transformative effect and changes their lives forever." The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis with regard to merit, excellence and financial need. The programme grants scholarships to deserving young refugees enrolled in recognised universities, colleges and polytechnics in Pakistan. In 2022, half of the 175 scholarships were awarded to women, compared to a quarter previously. This increase followed intensive outreach efforts to refugee communities and awareness raising on women's higher-level education opportunities and support available. In addition, a new two-year DAFI Bridge programme for science and technology aimed at women studying at higher secondary level was launched. "Education does more than teach academic skills - it provides students with a safe

place to grow and learn life skills, such as cooperation, responsibility, and respect," noted Qaiser M. Siddiqui, CEO of Inspire Pakistan, which is implementing the DAFI programme. Joining the celebrations was Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan, H.E. Alfred Grannas, Chief Commissioner, Saleem Khan, Commissioner of Afghan refugees (CCAR), as well as members of the international community. Noting that the funding for the scholarship programme illustrates the commitment of Germany to supporting refugees and host communities, scholars were eager to convey their appreciation to Ambassador Grannas as well as to the Government of Pakistan and third level institutions across the country for the opportunity to continue their studies to third level. "DAFI has opened so many doors to me and many others," concluded Marwah Sadat, a DAFI scholar and host for the event. "Thanks to the financial support of the scholarship programme, I could focus on my studies and achieve my dreams," noted the bachelor's graduate in Media Studies from Iqra National University, Peshawar. —APP

## HEC seeks applications from academia-industry

ISLAMABAD, Nov 15 (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced 4th call for proposals for Technology Development Fund (TDF) from academia & industry to strengthen linkages in Pakistan for inclusion, adoption and promotion of newly developed technologies and support viable commercial ideas. According to official sources in HEC, the objective of the initiative is the venture proposals invited from match-made academia & industry, with the mission to solve a current industrial, economic, or technological problem having a socio-economic impact, value creation, innovation, import-substitution and indigenization. HEC has announced the joint proposals from academia-industry initiated by Higher Educational Institutions through ORIC/Directorate of Research must reach HEC, no later than December 20, 2022. As per HEC, financial support up to 14 million PKRs will be provided to the successful proposals. HEC uplifted Made in Pakistan ambition through Technology Development Fund with over 150 products licensed to partner industries. —APP

## Life expectancy declines to 65 years in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Life expectancy—average number of years that a person is expected to live—has witnessed slight decline in Pakistan and has been calculated at 65 years, according to Pakistan Demographic Survey (PDS) 2020 released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here. The figures depict decline in life expectancy when compared to Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey (PMMS)-2019 which had placed it at 65.4 years. According to the survey, female life expectancy is higher than male life expectancy as it is 64.5 years for males and 65.5 years for females. Females have lower death rates than the males for most ages specially a slight bump in mortality of men aged 25-29 can be seen which may be because of increased risky behavior and subsequent deaths due to accidents. The survey notes Sex and Age Specific Death Rate shows that after age 1, the mortality rate falls gradually, attaining minimum risk at age 10 the mortality rate is very low during childhood, then increases exponentially from age 30. The life expectancy has increased for age 1-4 both for males and females i.e. 70.6 and 72 respectively and 71.3 overall. The survey indicated that infant mortality rate was declining in Pakistan, as it was 62 in Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017-18, 60 in Pakistan Standard of Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) 2018-19, and now it is 56 for PDS-2020 but it is still higher. The probability of dying between birth and first birthday is much higher in rural areas 59 as compare to urban areas 50 due to better Neo-Natal and Post-Natal facilities. Male Infant Mortality Rate is 58 which is higher than female Infant Mortality Rate 55 in all areas. The Crude Death Rate i.e number of deaths during a year per 1000 persons has been calculated at 6.7 whereas the Infant Mortality Rate i.e number of deaths of infants under age 1 per 1000 live births in a given year is 56. According to the survey, the Rate of Natural Increase i.e difference between the Crude Birth Rate and Crude Death Rate has been recorded at 2. The survey calculated the Total Fertility Rate that is mean number of children a woman have by age 50 at 3.7 It is pertinent to mention here that PDS 2020 is the twentieth round of a series of surveys, initiated in 1984. —APP

## Kaira criticizes Imran's govt

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Tuesday lashed out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for ruining Pakistan's foreign policy in his previous tenure and isolating the country on the international stage.

Talking to a private news channel he said that Khan the former prime minister who ruled Pakistan since 2018 had done nothing for the country in both domestic and foreign affairs, adding, he has damaged Pakistan's relations with the United States for no reason, however, now Pakistani government was trying its best to restore its relations with the United States.

The minister said Khan always played with the destiny and dignity of the country and nation by pointing fingers at the world's superpower with whom Pakistan had a 70-year relationship. "Khan only wants power, he said, adding, his party leaders are scared of his confused policies".

Replying to a question, he said the appointment of the next army chief would be held as per the procedure laid out in the constitution and with the consultation of allied parties and we are standing with the government's decision.

He criticized that it was quite surprising that a person, who destroyed the country during his four-year rule, now considered himself a savior and wants every decision according to his wish. Qamar Zaman said the entire narrative of Imran Khan has one underlying goal to put enough pressure on the institutions, adding, Khan was putting pressure on Army for its neutral role. —APP

## IGP orders revamping of CIA Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has ordered to revamp of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad police to ensure the speedy disposal of cases professionally and purely on merit. According to the police source, the IGP directed that the investigation of cases with the investigation wing and homicide unit should be completed at the earliest and their challans to be submitted to relevant courts at the earliest.

He said that the Islamabad police chief has also directed all investigation officers to continue to probe the cases along with the law and order duties. He also ordered the investigation officers to improve their performance and no laxity would be tolerated in this regard. He said that investigation of the cases may be changed twice. For the first time, the investigation of the case would be changed by the board headed by SSP Investigation, while the board under the supervision of AIG Investigation will have the authority to change the investigation a second time if the complainant is not satisfied with it. —APP

## DC warns sheesha cafés of stern action

ISLAMABAD: Deputy commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Tuesday said that smoking sheesha would remain banned in public places and restaurants till the formulation of rules and regulations. On the instructions of DC, assistant commissioners visited sheesha centers and cafés, warned violators and directed them not to serve sheesha/hukkahs till the finalization of rules, otherwise, strict action would be taken against offenders, said a press release issued by the ICT administration. As per the direction of the Honorable Islamabad High Court, it had been directed to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (NHS-R&C) to formulate the rules and policies regarding the use of sheesha at public places, it added. —APP

# Alvi for enhanced trade with Serbia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday urged the need for substantially enhance the volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Serbia and promote business and trade activities between the two countries to fully achieve the potential of trade and economic cooperation. The president expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Serbia, Ali Haider Altaf, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Talking to the ambassador-designate, the president asked him to make efforts for establishing business and commercial linkages and increasing co-operation with the chambers of commerce of both the countries. He asked

the envoy to make efforts for increasing the frequency of bilateral visits between the two countries to explore new areas of cooperation, particularly in the fields of higher and technical education, Information Technology, and culture. He said that Pakistan offered a conducive environment for investment and opportunities for cooperation between Pakistan and Serbia in the fields of hydropower, railways, communication, industry and commerce, renewable energy and waste management technologies should be explored. The president also asked the ambassador-designate to make efforts for opening a presidential mission of Serbia in Islamabad, which would greatly facilitate businesses and people-to-people contacts. He congratulated Ali Haider Altaf on his appointment as

Pakistan's ambassador-designate to Serbia and ex-

pressed the hope that he would accelerate the Pa-

kistani mission's efforts to further improve bilat-

eral ties between the two friendly countries.





## Briefs

## Two arrested

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency Commercial Bank Circles (FIA-CBC) has arrested two persons from Rawalpindi for their alleged involvement in illegal business of currency exchange. During campaign against illegal currency exchange business, FIA CBC team conducted a raid at Raja Traders Bazaar Rawalpindi and arrested two persons for running illegal business of currency exchange without license by State Bank of Pakistan. The nabbed persons have been identified as Hamza Sohail Ghori (owner) and Amad Mehmood (cashier) while Pakistani and foreign currencies valuing Rs25 million have been recovered from them. The recovered amount included Rs1,31,60,000, US \$ 9302, Turkish Lira 177850, UAE Dirham 71465, Qatari Riyal 15009, UK Pound St. 2585, Malaysian Ringgit 2490, Chinese Yuan 8000, Euro 450, Omani Riyal 160, AUD 110, CD 5, Danish Krona 550, Swiss franc 230, Thai Baht 1190, Bahraini Dinar 45.50, Saudi Riyal 5751, AFG Rs. 3700, Korean won 20000 and three Kuwaiti Dinar.—APP

## NEPRA concludes hearing

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday concluded a public hearing into 1st quarterly adjustment of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs) for fiscal year 2022-23.

The public hearing was presided over by NEPRA Chairman Tauseef H Farooqi while member Sindh Engineer Rafique Shaikh and member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Maqsood Anwar Khan were also present.

Central Power Purchasing Agency Guarantee (CP-PA-G) on behalf of XWAPDA sought an adjustment of Rs 43.337 billion for the first quarter under the quarterly adjustment mechanism.

However, the officials of the Power Ministry requested the regulator to implement the adjustments in February and March of next year. They said that the NEPRA had earlier allowed charging of Rs3.30 per unit in the 4th quarter of the last fiscal year 2021-22 which would continue till January 2023. They were of the views that the new adjustments should be allowed once the earlier adjustments recovered.

The adjustments would be applicable to all consumers except lifeline and K-Electric. The power would likely to increase Rs 2.18 per unit with the 1st quarter adjustment.

Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) sought an adjustment of Rs 6.377 billion, Gujranwala Electric Supply Company (GEPCO) Rs 5.337 billion, Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) Rs 2.704 billion, Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Rs 9.101 billion, Multan Electric Supply Company (MEPCO) Rs 10.657 billion, Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Rs 2.129 billion, Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) Rs1.184 billion, Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) Rs 3.663 billion, Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SEPCO) Rs 905 million and Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) Rs 1.282 billion for the said period.

Chinese technology bolsters Pakistan's dragon fruit growth, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

"Pakistan has the natural advantage of growing dragon fruit. By promoting dragon fruit cultivation to Pakistani farmers, providing Chinese high-quality dragon fruit seedlings and its scientific management and planting technology, it is expected to turn dragon fruit into a new foreign exchange fruit with high commercial potential in Pakistan," highlighted Shan Ailin, owner of Tianian Farm in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Dragon fruit tastes delicious and has high nutritional value. It is a green and eco-friendly fruit with certain curative effects. According to the research and observation of Dr. Asif Javed, an expert who has been promoting

## Rs10,533 million toll revenue collected

ISLAMABAD: The authorities concerned have collected an amount of Rs10,533.67 million as toll revenue from April 11 to July 2022.

"The authorities have collected Rs10,533.67 million from the toll taxes of Highways and Motorways from April 11 to July 2022," an official told APP. He said an amount of Rs1,949.42 million was earned from toll taxes on Highways and Motorways from April 11 to 30, after the coalition government took over.

"Rs 2,896.22, Rs 2,898.57 and Rs 2,789.46 million, toll revenue was earned in months of May, June and July, respectively," he said.—APP

## Healthcare center organizes diabetic awareness camp

General Practice Healthcare Centre organized an awareness health camp at Centaurus Mall; a large number of people benefited from the camp



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: General Practice Healthcare Centre organized an awareness health camp at Centaurus Mall in Islamabad on Saturday, in connection with World Diabetes Day, being observed globally on the 14th November.

The purpose of the health camp was to raise awareness on Diabetes amongst the general population by offering free blood testing and screenings. The health camp was unique in offering a panel of experts comprising of Medical Specialists, Clinical Nutritionist, Dental surgery, General Surgery, Dermatology and Podiatry,

ENT and Psychology who offered free consultations, prescriptions, and advice to all patients presenting to the health camp with various health issues.

The 12-hour event also comprised of diabetes themed games and activities in which the participants received gift vouchers for various aesthetic and dental

procedures. The event was attended by Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, CEO Centaurus, as chief guest, who was presented with a commemorative shield, thanking him for his support and contributions towards healthcare services.

Dr. Tahira Shahid, renowned Dermatologist, TV personality, and Director

of General Practice Healthcare Centre, said the aim of this camp is to screen maximum people to detect diabetic patients who do not yet know about their disease.

She said detecting diabetes early enables patients to control it by diet and lifestyle changes alone and encouraged people to avail the

free screening and consultation services to address any queries they might have. On the occasion, talking to the press, CEO of General Practice, Dr. Fariha Javid said that the organization aims to conduct many such screening programs for early detection and most of all prevention of prevalent diseases like diabetes.

## Chinese technology bolsters Pak dragon fruit growth

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese technology bolsters Pakistan's dragon fruit growth, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

"Pakistan has the natural advantage of growing dragon fruit. By promoting dragon fruit cultivation to Pakistani farmers, providing Chinese high-quality dragon fruit seedlings and its scientific management and planting technology, it is expected to turn dragon fruit into a new foreign exchange fruit with high commercial potential in Pakistan," highlighted Shan Ailin, owner of Tianian Farm in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Dragon fruit tastes delicious and has high nutritional value. It is a green and eco-friendly fruit with certain curative effects. According to the research and observation of Dr. Asif Javed, an expert who has been promoting



the growth of dragon fruit in Pakistan for the last five years, dragon fruit is a tropical fruit that is well suited to Pakistan's tropical and subtropical climate. Prior to its local production, the dragon fruit was imported from Vietnam, Thailand and other countries. Half-ripe fruits are cut to extend their shelf life, greatly affecting the flavor and nutritional value. High transportation costs have made this "super fruit" difficult

to reach for Pakistanis. Dr. Asif Javed believes dragon fruit is a cash crop and the increasing operations in Pakistan could make it more profitable. "We supply these plants to farmers and amateur growers throughout Pakistan and also cover the transportation costs," claimed him. Dragon fruit cultivation in Pakistan is a long-cycle, high-investment facility agriculture. Commenting on the difficulties of growing dragon fruit in Paki-

stan, Mr. Shan said that there were no new good varieties in the market, and it was relatively difficult to improve them. "Lack of sophisticated planting techniques can cause great losses. In addition, some disease prevention drugs and fertilizers for dragon fruit are not available in Pakistan and have to be imported from China. It is also necessary to equip Pakistan management staff to localize the project," added him.

This year is also the fifth year that Shan has grown the Chinese mainstream varieties of dragon fruit in Pakistan. Since 2018, with the support of dragon fruit professional teams from Hainan, Guangxi and Guangdong provinces where dragon fruit is grown extensively in China, the farm has cultivated new varieties of dragon fruit suitable for Pakistan's climatic conditions, and summarized the management methods.

## World's population reaches 8 billion

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The world's population reaches 8 billion, and half of the people that made up the increase from 7 billion in 2011 to 8 billion now are from Asia. Growing at an average annual rate of 1.9 per cent, Pakistan is home to almost 3 per cent of the world's population. Nearly 18,593 reported live births daily according to a press release issued by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Pakistan is among the eight countries where more than half of the increase in global population leading up to 2050 will be concentrated. These countries include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The 8 billion mark is a milestone for humanity and a moment of reflection. It is a time for Pakistan to take stock and drive action, no matter the direction of the population growth. Focusing on numbers alone may not present the full picture. It is time to look beyond the numbers and to keep counting for evidence-based decisions. The solution is not more or fewer people but more and equal access to opportunities for the people. Although the global family of 8 billion has come a long way in terms of welfare and development with better health systems, less poverty and fewer maternal deaths, the progress has not been enjoyed equally. Socioeconomic inequalities are widespread across provinces and regions. Access to health care, rights, and quality of life vary among various population groups. The universal lesson is that societies that invest in their people, in their rights and choices, take on the road to the prosperity.

## Pakistan's name in list of 'Global Shield Funding Countries'

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has hailed the decision and announcement in COP27 Summit in Egypt for including Pakistan in the list of Nations 'Pathfinder Countries' as Pakistan and other six countries will be the first recipients of 'Global Shield Funding'. He termed it as a resounding success of the Parliamentary and Foreign diplomacy of Pakistan. It was the National Assembly of Pakistan which first moved resolution for the creation of the Global Climate Fund at IPU General Assembly Session held in Rwanda recently. This resolution was titled "Creating a Global Fund/Financing facility for climate Vulnerable Countries to Address Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change" Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf also vehemently put forth the case of Pakistan while attending the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Canada in August 2022. Furthermore, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf remained at the forefront to sensitise the Parliaments of Asia Pacific regarding devastation of on the occasion of the 3rd IPU Regional Seminar for the Asia Pacific Region Parliaments on Sustainable Development Goals held successfully in the National Assembly of Pakistan.—APP

## NA Speaker commends minorities' role

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf Tuesday said that the Constitution of Pakistan ensured equal rights to citizens irrespective of caste, color, or creed as parliament alongside the government always played its part to safeguard the minorities rights.

He made these remarks in a meeting with notables from Christian Community, today at Speaker House, Islamabad. He acknowledged and appreciated the commendable services of the Christian community in the overall progress of the country particularly in education, health, social welfare and promotion of inter-faith harmony.

Speaker also lauded the community's role in strengthening democracy and promotion of democratic values in the country.

While talking to the delegates which included Mr. Roekh Yousaf Bhinder, Leader at HT Church of England Liverpool Diocese, Kashif Nemat, President Christian Lawyers Association in Pakistan, Mr. Samuel Maksin, Chairman Implementation Minority Rights Forum and Mr. Samuel Payara emphasized upon propagating the positive image of the country. He urged them to highlight the landmark achievements of the state in protecting their rights and creation of equal opportunities for minorities in the country.—APP

## Immediate action on child related issues

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly (MNA) Mehnaz Akbar has said that we need to enhance children's capacity building and knowledge for a flourishing Pakistan in future. "We need to respect and value the voices of children and observe their best interest in every sphere of life. We, all parliamentarians, stand with Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights," she said here on Tuesday. The caucus demanded immediate action on child-related issues of health, education, corporal punishment, bonded labour and all forms of abuse, and to make new laws and amend existing ones to create an equitable environment which was a child-friendly society. "For child prosperity, Children's Caucus was an invaluable forum that will help in advancing, protecting and uplifting children. To eliminate all forms of violence and abuse against children, she said we need to ensure the rights of children and their legal obligations in Pakistan, as enshrined in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected office bearers of students Council pose for group photo with chief guest Prof Farhat mujtaba principal Zuber mughal in oath taking ceremony held at Model college for girls G10/4 on Tuesday.—DNA

## IPRI's 2-day 'Margalla Dialogue' to start on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD: A two-day 'Margalla Dialogue' will be kicked off at a private hotel to push forward Pakistan's narrative on key issues through dialogue on critical national, regional and global issues on November 16 (Wednesday). According to a statement issued here on Tuesday, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) will hold its third 'Margalla Dialogue' on November 16 and 17 where scholars, academia and experts of international fame will have an interactive and policy-driven discussion. The dialogue will be expanded into four further forums to have a balance in different themes.—APP



## Cop27: this is no time for apathy

Climate change is a global problem that requires cooperation between all nations. That's why today more than 30 newspapers and media organisations in more than 20 countries have taken a common view about what needs to be done. Time is running out. Rather than getting out of fossil fuels and into clean energy, many wealthy nations are reinvesting in oil and gas, failing to cut emissions fast enough and haggling over the aid they are prepared to send to poor countries. All this while the planet hurtles towards the point of no return – where climate chaos becomes irreversible.

Since the Cop26 UN climate summit in Glasgow 12 months ago, countries have only promised to do one-fiftieth of what is needed to stay on track to keep temperatures within 1.5C of pre-industrial levels. No continent has avoided extreme weather disasters this year – from floods in Pakistan to heatwaves in Europe, and from forest fires in Australia to hurricanes in the US. Given that these came about from elevated temperatures of about 1.1C, the world can expect far worse to come.

As many nations seek to reduce their reliance on Russia, the world is experiencing a "gold rush" for new fossil fuel projects. These are cast as temporary supply measures, but they risk locking the planet into irreversible damage. All this underlines that humanity has to end its addiction to fossil fuels. If renewable energy was the norm there would be no climate emergency.

The world's poorest people will bear the brunt of the destruction wreaked by drought, melting ice sheets and crop failures. To shield these groups from the loss of life and livelihoods will require money. Developing countries, says one influential report, need \$2tn annually to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and cope with climate breakdown.

Rich countries account for just one in eight people in the world today but are responsible for half of greenhouse gases. These nations have a clear moral responsibility to help.

Rich nations should deliver on the promise of previously committed funds – such as the \$100bn a year from 2020 – to signal their seriousness. As a bare minimum, a windfall tax on the combined profits of the largest oil and gas companies – estimated at almost \$100bn in the first three months of the year – needs to be enacted. The United Nations was right to call for the cash to be used to support the most vulnerable. But such a levy would only be the start. These measures need not wait for coordinated international action. Countries could implement them on regional or national levels. A nation's cumulative emissions must be the basis of its responsibility to act. While private finance can help, the onus is on big historical emitters to stump up the money.

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## Solidarity, courage and conviction needed

What's wrong with the world? What should we do about it? These, as President Xi Jinping said in his remarks at the first session of the 17th G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on Tuesday, are the questions of our times.

He called on all countries to join hands to answer these questions so as to tide over the current difficulties and create a better future.

As he once again made clear, China's answers to these questions are: it is the divisions and confrontations within the international community that are the fundamental problem, and the remedy is for all countries to stand with one another in the face of risks and challenges, whatever their differences may be.

Certainly, as all must know, the challenges are taxing and many, from the stubborn COVID-19 pandemic and the fragile global economy to the tense geopolitical environment, climate change and the food and energy crises. And all of these issues are compounding one another due to the inadequate global governance that is a consequence of the lack of accord. Yet all these challenges brook no delay in meeting them with the conviction that they can be overcome with courage and solidarity.

Urging the other G20 leaders to recognize that divisions lead nowhere and solidarity is strength, Xi called on them to do their best for the cause of global development.

As its response to global crisis showed, the G20, which brings together the developed and major developing countries, can be an effective platform for action when its members take a concerted approach to address a crisis. As frontrunners in development, they have the capability to realize the summit's theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger" and ensure that in doing so no countries are left behind.

The Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative that Xi has already put forward are aimed at facilitating an international consensus on promoting common development and realizing peace and stability which are necessary for preventing a divergent and unbalanced global recovery, and many countries have already welcomed these prescriptions for the world's woes.

In his speech, Xi not only pointed the way for countries to cope with the pandemic crisis and accelerate an economic restart, he also pointed the way to inject stronger momentum into international cooperation to realize a global community with a shared future.

Solidarity and the shouldering of responsibilities were what Xi asked of his fellow leaders. How they respond to that appeal will to a great extent determine how the world emerges from the present headwinds.

# Political crisis in Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Khan has used his rallies and interviews to gain media attention, arguing that the fall of his government returned to power the corrupt politicians who are responsible for Pakistan's problems. His supporters, many of them middle-class, young and urban, and angry at Khan's informal, systematic ouster, echoed his words on social media. With this narrative of grievance, Khan aims to undermine the legitimacy of the new regime. His party has resigned from parliament and is calling for fresh elections.

Imran Khan was the first prime minister of Pakistan who was ousted by a no-confidence vote. He joined the office of Prime Minister for five years but Pakistan's major opposition parties established Pakistan Democratic Movement in 2020 to gain power of the country. Superficially, the opposition blamed governance and economic failures under Khan's leadership. But the main reason was that Khan had lost the support of the Pakistan Army, which helped him come to power. There were several factors responsible for the rift between the Khan and the army. The biggest deadlock was over the transfer of the Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in October 2021. Khan refused to sign off on the transfer of the director general, which had already been approved by the army. It was said that ISI chief is loyal to Khan, and there was also speculation that Khan wanted the next election (or perhaps even to appoint him as the next army chief). Thus, when Khan lost the support of the army and the army said it had become neutral the two smaller parties in the ruling coalition abandoned their alliance with Khan and turned Khan into the opposition.

Khan established a conspiracy theory to blame the fall of his government and alleged a US conspiracy to pursue an "independent foreign policy" and claiming that "local auxiliaries" were facilitators for the process of Imran Khan's ejection from the power. Although it is denied by the establishment but Khan and his allies have also hinted that the military is also responsible of his exit. Sometimes indirect language and sometimes pointing the finger at the "neutral," as they now refer to the military. In doing so, PTI has reached near the limits of political confrontation with the military.

Day after day, in huge meetings, seminars and rallies across the country they call the new government an "imported

government" and the new prime minister is a "crime minister". Khan has used his rallies and interviews to gain media attention, arguing that the fall of his government returned to power the corrupt politicians who are responsible for Pakistan's problems. His supporters, many of them middle-class, young and urban, and angry at Khan's informal, systematic ouster, echoed his words on social media. With this narrative of grievance, Khan aims to undermine the legitimacy of the new regime. His party has resigned from parliament and is calling for fresh elections. Now he is leading a "freedom march" to Islamabad. In contrast, supporters of the ruling parties see Khan's ouster as democratic and dangerous to his politics. Pakistan today is echoing the post-January moments (January 1, 1863 - The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union) in America, a polarization so deep that each faction sees no validity in the other's arguments. Khan's supporters are especially distrustful of anything and action of the new government or the military says. In recent weeks, politicians on each side have also resorted to using religion to attack other is so dangerous in the country where weaponizing religion can be punishable by death.

The new government under the leadership of Muslim League (N) Shehbaz Sharif is facing huge challenges not only from Khan. Shahbaz's brother, three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted on corruption charges in 2017, still is controlling the party and indeed the government of Pakistan. A three-time former Chief Minister of Punjab, Pakistan's largest province, Shehbaz has a more charismatic personality throughout his political career now going to be unsuccessful. Last month, the

prime minister and key members of his cabinet made a surprise visit to London to consult with Nawaz Sharif to get new instructions to mitigate the challenges government. He is living abroad and Pakistan's economy is ongoing to decline. The rupee has continued to fluctuate sharply against the dollar. The stock market also lost value. What worries the government is the limited time before the next election and the fact that it commands a loose coalition of rival parties, which will compete against each other in the next election. But part of the indecision has to do with the fact that the PDM's main objective was to oust Khan. PDM did not formulate any alternative governance plan or economic strategy before coming to power. This lack of planning is now showing in the face of Pakistan's economic crisis. A major question causing political uncertainty in Pakistan is the timing of the next elections, which should be held by the summer of 2023. Khan has made it clear that he wants to carry his current momentum to snap elections. In the days before his fall, his aim was to deprive the then-opposition from the runway of government by dissolving the extra-constitutional parliament but the decision was overturned by Pakistan's Supreme Court. The current government, for its part, used its time in power to turn things in its favor, including resolving outstanding corruption cases.

The question is whether Nawaz Sharif can return to Pakistan before the next election or not. If he does, it could strengthen the PML-N, but if he doesn't face legal action on their return, it will strengthen Khan's arguments that the Sharif family nurtured the culture of corruption in Pakistan. And The Muslim League (N) has politically manipulated in their cases of corruption and generated considerable

obstacles to make decision against them, including an economic crisis that is partly exogenous, a power struggle in Punjab province, and a president who belongs to and is loyal to Khan's party. The coalition government has said that it would not go to early elections. Former President Asif Ali Zardari has insisted that elections should not be held before Parliament can make electoral reforms.

Whenever the next elections are held, it is not clear what the outcome will be. What matters in Pakistan's parliamentary system is which party can attract the most "electables" powerful politicians in local constituencies. Large civic rallies validate Khan's personal popularity, but not necessarily how his party performs in parliamentary elections. The second factor, which has historically determined which party politicians align with and which side the military leans toward, and this system, is the hurdle in the way of growing democracy in Pakistan.

The foundations of this system in Pakistan remain the same since the creation of Pakistan. What matters for political success is whether you have the support of the Pakistan Army. Political parties now directly refer to military intervention in politics, but only when they are in opposition. When they are in government and enjoy this support and do not challenge it. This was true of Khan's party when it was in power, and it is true of Sharif's government now. Pakistan's growing political tensions and the race for power have turned the country into a political flashpoint. And it does not address the problems of common Pakistanis, who are continuously paying the price for the country's political instability.

## Trustworthiness index

While looking through the Global Trustworthiness Index 2022 I recalled two instances of early 1990s related to my friends. One of those friends was doing house job after completing MBBS, once he said that being a doctor entails a great deal of responsibility because people share such a personal detail with doctors which I sometimes wonder that probably it may not be possible to share such information even with your spouse. Then he stressed that besides professional competence there should be significant emphasis on moral development of doctors to cope with exposure to sensitivities of medical treatments. One day when we met to our other friend, in a hospital where he was pursuing a course of medical technician, we found him quite furious; upon enquiry he named a doctor and said I simply can't tolerate the doctor here because today when the doctor was examining a young lady he was extending his access where it wasn't required.

In the report 59% respondents rated doctors as trustworthy, which mean doctors survived the test of credibility over times and proved to be the guardian of personal information of their patients/ clients. Report further suggests, "While 57% say the same about scientists, with teachers in third place at 52%. As in previous years, politicians are considered the least trustworthy with just twelve per cent considering them trusted. They are followed by government ministers (16%) and advertising executives (18%)." Clergy as a profession stands at number eleven earning trustworthiness of 26% respondents and remained forth for untrustworthiness by 40% of respondents.

A few weeks back in a meeting in my office I commented on a picture of

two renowned religious scholars of Pakistan, one of those pursued careers in judiciary & education and has recently been ranked among top ten most influential Muslims globally while other is in politics. My guest a family member of the former responded to my skepticism of both being together and said actually in politics it is always about negotiating positions, exerting pressures, manipulations, slogans and exaggerated projections which attract attention of potential constituencies; therefore, people find space to malign a religious political leader. But this report equally undermines religious leaders if not exactly Muslim religious leaders; however, trustworthiness of religious leadership remained under scrutiny in numerous countries and certainly needs attention to restore their respect. Demonstrating trustworthiness is critical to our success. When people know they can count on you to do what you say you will do, it builds trust, leading to better outcomes. It is more important than ever to demonstrate trustworthiness in today's environment. Why? Because flood of information and dominating social media led overarching cynicism in human society. However, an absence of trust can turn partners into opponents, making it hard to get things done.

Trust is one of the most critical things in human relations. When we trust someone, we are willing to put our confidence in them, allowing us to cooperate and collaborate. When we trust someone, we are also more likely to share information with them

for effective and efficient procedures. Conversely, lack of trust impedes progress, eliminates confidence on institutions and peoples both leading to unrest and chaos in a society. It is because of this reason that some institutions such as judiciary and police are required to earn maximum trust of the public to maintain peace and harmony. But surprisingly both of these institutions have failed to record sufficient trust of public even in countries such as United States, Italy and Japan.

According to the website of Merrimack College, "In many professions, it's easy to overstate the importance of the job. But in the case of our educators, it's more likely that people will underestimate the importance of teachers in our society. For those who have dedicated their lives to teaching others, it's good to reflect on the vital importance well-educated, quality teachers play in shaping the world around us. Taking on the task of shaping young minds is a big responsibility. To say that teachers can change lives is not an exaggeration. The truth is, outside of their own home, one of the biggest role models in a young person's life is standing at the front of the classroom. Teachers are people to look up to and emulate. Nearly everyone has a teacher (in many cases, quite a few teachers) who they admired and who provided them with an example of how to conduct themselves." It was indeed pleasant to see teachers at number three in the index. Together with doctors and scientists top three slots clearly indicate where societies are successful in delivering the promise. It is all about dedication and commitment

which earns trust of the society. There is no space for manipulations, exaggerations and complacency to earn respect and trust of masses as it is evident that advertising executives, business leaders and civil servants are at the bottom in terms of trustworthiness and also occupy top upper slots for untrustworthiness. It emphasizes the need for relevant educational and training programs for these professions to inculcate conscientiousness among those who aspire to pursue their careers in these areas. Armed forces are among top five professions to secure maximum trustworthiness of their people little more than ordinary men/women. It means discipline facilitates people to deliver duties responsibly according to common expectations.

However, interesting observation is to note trustworthiness for ordinary men/women. All these professions emerge from respective communities; people from the society chose these professions and perform given duties. Then what happens when we join these occupations and start losing trust of others. Is it the environment of that particular profession? Is it about surrounding forces which compel nonconformities? Or is it the self-interest which deviate innate tendencies? Whatever is the reason but results suggest it is not the usual environment which is to blame but the specific settings of these professions which need attention to earn trustworthiness of relevant societies.

**Associate Professor Management Sciences**  
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Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

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## Briefs

Early election  
only way out  
of fiscal woes

FROM PAGE 01

Imran while quoting Pakistan Economic Survey said economy witnessed historic growth during his nearly four-year tenure. He went on to say that the economy started declining after the incumbent rulers were "imposed" on the country through "conspiracy". Reiterating his demand for early elections, the PTI chief said snap poll was the only way forward to steer the country out of crisis. "Our income is declining as exports and remittances have fallen... so how do we earn to pay off our debts. There is only one way out of this crisis - elections." Imran said in case of default, Pakistan will be forced to compromise on its "most important national security element" to avail bailout package from foreign powers. "As Americans say there is no free lunch." The PTI chief said the root cause of all issues is the absence of rule of law and prevalence of "law of jungle" in the society. "We can never prosper until our justice system strengthens." He also requested Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial to ensure justice in three landmark cases including journalist Arshad Sharif killing, alleged torture on PTI Senator Azam Swati over critical tweet and failed assassination attempt on the PTI's chief's life. "Police officials have rejected to lodge FIR due to the pressure of 'very powerful' people". The PTI chairman once again accused Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja of being the "henchman" of ruling PML-N. "Election commissioner is on agenda but he is not only close to PML-N but he is being controlled by his handlers," he alleged. The ex-PM said free and fair polls in the country are not possible under the incumbent officials of the election commission.

Denmark goes  
to World Cup,  
but officials  
stay home

COPENHAGEN: A vocal critic of World Cup host Qatar, Denmark has been told to leave its pro-human rights jerseys at home, and now its government and royal family have said they'll stay home too. The team on Tuesday flew to the emirate, where the players' symbolic statements and gestures will be closely scrutinised by human rights activists and FIFA officials. Denmark has been one of the most vocal opponents of Qatar's hosting of the tournament due to its human rights record. FIFA last week denied the Scandinavian country's request to wear training shirts emblazoned with a human rights message. Over the weekend, the Danish government announced that no ministers nor the Danish ambassador would attend the opening ceremony or any matches. The official reason given was that Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen currently heads an interim government following her November 1 election victory and is busy with negotiations to form a new cabinet. "The focus is currently on forming a new government. In the meantime, Denmark will not be officially represented at the World Cup in Qatar," Ane Halsboe-Jorgensen, Denmark's sports minister, told news agency Ritzau.

Newspaper Berlingske said the explanation was a convenient excuse for the government, noting that "with less than a week to the opening match, the prime minister was saved in the 11th hour by the long negotiations. Phew." The royal family has also passed on the event, with 54-year-old Crown Prince Frederik, a staunch fan of the Red and Whites, announcing that he would align himself with the government's decision and stay home. "The national team has my full support, wherever they play in the world. This time I'm looking forward to cheering on the team from home," he said in a post to Instagram on Monday after meeting with the Danish players. The Danish Football Association (DBU) was first chosen to host the World Cup in 2010, and has been at the forefront in recent months by demanding more rights for migrant workers and the LGBT+ community in the emirate. - APP

Pakistan eyes co-op with  
China in sports goods

The "tango" balls pioneered the use of rubber inlaid over seams to prevent water from seeping through, becoming the first water-resistant ball in FIFA world cup

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan eyes cooperation with China in sports goods as Pakistan soccer balls to hit the upcoming 2022 FIFA world cup to be held in Qatar from Nov 20, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Made-in-Pakistan soccer balls will make a glamorous appearance in the upcoming event. Al Rihla, the official ball of the international event, is made in Sialkot, a city that is home to premium quality sports goods. The Sialkot produces about 600 million soccer balls per year, accounting for more than half of the world's total production. "Sialkot has been meeting up to 70% [soccer ball] requirement of the world," Saad Ghani, marketing manager of Talon Company, told Gwadar Pro, adding that "a little of its share has been reduced since more countries have ventured into the industry." Debuting in the 1982 Spain World Cup, Sialkot-made soccer balls have shone at the apex of the football kingdom for nine times (upcoming one in Qatar included). The "tango" balls pioneered the use of rubber inlaid over the seams to prevent water from seeping through, becoming the first water-resistant

ball in the FIFA world cup. "No one can make football like it is made in our country even China can't make it. The quality of our football is so good that it is used all over the world," exclaimed Imran Zaidi, a local sports shopkeeper. Apart from a powerhouse of soccer balls, Sialkot also produces a wide range of other sports goods. As per the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), the city has been the "centre of excellence for the production of sports goods" with nearly 95 percent of the sports industry's total production in the country. The report added, despite booming sports goods industry in Sialkot, industry is far from being a rosy undertaking. One of the major hurdles is a lack of large-scale mechanisation. "In Sialkot, most sporting goods are made by hand, with long production cycles and high production costs," said Assad Baj

wa, general manager of Talon Group.

In the case of cricket balls, "a worker hand stitch one ball in 25 minutes and a machine is stitching 50 balls in 25 minutes," said Rana Tahseen. In its 2021 Sportswear Report, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) says that Sialkot is plagued by the absence of materials testing laboratory and state-of-the-art dyeing units and diversified product lines. To rev up the sports industry, SMEDA suggests bringing the

products which we can produce here under their supervision which we had to import from them," local sports goods manufacturer Nauman Babar told Gwadar Pro. According to media reports, a Chinese firm called Challenge has planned to invest US\$ 150m in setting up a textile industrial park in Lahore, which will house fabric units, dyeing facilities, and garment manufacturing units to enhance sportswear exports from Pakistan to America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and other regions. The company's managing director predicted, in a

February interview with media, that once industrial park goes into operation, the company's sportswear exports from Pakistan will grow to US\$120 mln in the first year and then, to US\$400 mln over the next few years. In his address at a webinar on Pak-China sports goods cooperation in Sept 2021, CEO Sun Yongming of a Beijing-based sports goods firm envisioned that Pakistani and Chinese enterprises can set up joint ventures in cricket goods. "One possible area of cooperation is that Chinese firms provide high tech such as sensors and Pakistani enterprises incorporate such technology in the products during manufacturing," Sun told Gwadar Pro in an interview after the webinar.

Nida Dar boosts-up  
in ICC T20I Rankings

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan all-rounder Nida Dar has been rewarded for her good start to the ongoing white-ball series against Ireland by making gains on the latest MRF Tyres ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings. Dar has been in form with both bat and ball during the opening two matches of the three-game series in Lahore, with the 35-year-old currently the leading run-scorer from the first two games of the T20I series and the joint leading wicket-taker, said a press release. The right-hander scored a half-century during Pakistan's six-wicket loss to Ireland in the opening game of the series and backed that up with a decent knock of 28 in the second match. That form has seen Dar rise three spots to 35th on the latest Women's T20I rankings for batters, while she also moves up one place to equal 15th on the list for bowlers following three wickets from the opening two matches of the series. Teammate Nashra Sandhu improves four spots to equal 25th on the Women's T20I bowler rankings, alongside Ireland seamer Arlene Kelly following her 25-place jump. Kelly isn't the only Ireland player to make an eye-catching move, with young batter Gaby Lewis up one spot to 29th on the latest T20I batter rankings. Fellow young gun and teammate Orla Prendergast also makes her move, with the 20-year-old jumping 12 places to 60th on the batter rankings and an impressive 18 spots to 21st on the list for all-rounders. The final match of the ODI series between Pakistan and Ireland also saw some players make moves up the latest ODI lists, with Pakistan's Omaidha Sohail and Ireland's Lewis the biggest risers near the top. Sohail moves up five spots to 42nd on the latest ODI batter rankings, while Lewis improves four places to 30th on the same list. - APP

France, UK to cooperate  
in Channel crossings

DNA

PARIS: The British and French home affairs ministers reached an agreement to strengthen their cooperation in stopping asylum-seekers crossing the English Channel in small boats. Under the agreement, signed in Paris by Gerald Darmanin and Suella Braverman, the British will pay France more than €72 million for the year 2022-2023 to fund increased security at ports. The agreement is part of the so-called Sandhurst Treaty, which organises cooperation between the UK and France in the management of their common border, the English Channel. According to the two countries' ministries, it will be used to fund "advanced surveillance technologies",

which should help detect and prevent illegal crossings. This will include drones, CCTV, helicopters and detection dog teams, the UK department said. According to their joint statement, an investment will be made "in reception centres in the south of France to deter migrants entering France via the Mediterranean migration route from travelling to the Channel coastline [...] and to offer them safe alternatives". No details on these "safe alternatives" have been given at this stage. However, NGOs have pushed back at the agreement, citing its inefficacy at tackling the underlying 'push factors' that drive asylum-seekers to make the dangerous crossing. The Refugee Council, a UK-based charity established

in 1951 following the UN Refugee Convention, tweeted: "A deal is needed that focuses on creating more safe routes such as family reunion and working with the EU and other countries to find global solutions to share responsibility for what is a global challenge as more people are displaced by war, terror and violence." The money will also allow for "a 40% increase in the number of UK-funded officers patrolling French beaches". The British will be integrated into French teams to allow for better sharing of information and intelligence for a better "understanding of the threat", in the words of the joint statement. The statement also says that in 2022, 30,000 crossings could have been prevented if the countries had better cooperated, up from

23,000 in 2021. The joint intelligence unit has led to the dismantling of 55 organised crime groups and more than 500 arrests since 2020, when it was set up, with the aim of also curbing smuggling activity. According to a British source close to the matter, the world is expecting "a global migration crisis, with 100 million displaced people around the world who could fall prey to exploitation by criminal gangs of smugglers." To combat people smuggling, the source added, the business model of these gangs must be "broken", with "life sentences" for smugglers and "an end to the merry-go-round of legal challenges that can be used to prevent the deportation of people who have no right to be in the UK".



KUALA LUMPUR: A delegation from the management of University Technology Malaysia (UTM) Islamic Centre & UTM Prihatin called on Pakistani High Commissioner Amna Baloch to present a donation cheque for the flood-affectedees in Pakistan. - DNA

Qatar responds to  
criticism ahead  
of World Cup

BRUSSELS: Qatar's labor minister responded to allegations about the conditions of migrant workers involved in construction work for the World Cup, saying a mechanism is already in place for those seeking compensation. In response to boycott calls from some politicians and human rights organizations in European countries following reports of some workers dying or being injured during the construction work, Ali bin Samikh Al Marri said: "Have you ever boycotted any previous editions of the World Cup?" "I just would like to confirm that each and every one of you is welcomed in Qatar to attend the matches," he added. Touching on allegations that some workers in Qatar have been unjustly treated, Al Marri said "there is a mechanism to which everyone can resort in order to seek remedy and get compensation." "At least \$350 million has been given as compensation to workers," he said. The allegations about his country may have derived from a lack of communication, he said, adding the proper information on the issue should be received from the right source. Al Marri invited everyone to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup, saying: "I can confirm to you that the Qatar World Cup will be the best in football history." The 2022 World Cup, hosted by Gulf nation of Qatar, is set to kick off on Nov. 20 and end on Dec. 18. - APP

## Novak Djokovic to be granted visa for AO-2023

'I hope to have an answer in the next few weeks - whatever that answer might be, but of course I am hoping for a positive one - so that I have enough time to prepare for the start of the season, if that start is going to happen in Australia'

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Novak Djokovic is poised to return to next year's Australian Open as the tennis star's ban from the country is set to be reversed. The Serbian will be given the right of entry by immigration minister Andrew Giles, scrapping the three-year ban imposed by the former government in Canberra. Australia is seeking to avoid a repeat of controversy from this year, when the then world number one's visa was cancelled just before the tournament and he was deported after being detained alongside asylum seekers. Multiple Australian media outlets reported that he will receive a visa, with his refusal to be vaccinated against Cov-

id no longer held against him. Unlike this year, Tennis Australia have wisely stayed neutral on the issue of the nine-time champion's participation, whose dominance of Melbourne has approached that of Rafael Nadal in Paris. Yet as far back as Wimbledon there was the belief that the sanction would likely be withdrawn, with much of the sting now taken out of the issue. A significant factor has been a change of government, with Tony Albanese - who happens to be a tennis nut - taking over from Scott Morrison, whose administration used its powers to bar the Serbian. While domestic public opinion is in favour of his deportation ten months ago, a recent survey suggested

it had very much softened. Djokovic, currently playing at the ATP Finals in Turin, has largely kept his own counsel on the matter. This is in contrast to the public relations disaster that unfolded during January's fiasco, which was marked

by angry press conferences given by his family. It was initially sparked by a social media post on his departure for Australia, which smacked of entitlement. Djokovic's refusal to take the vaccine has seen him miss everything in North

America this year. He will be favourite to win another title in 2023, although Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has emerged as another genuine challenger in recent months. Djokovic was denied the chance to win his 10th Australian Open title in succession and claim a 21st grand slam, which would have put him one ahead of arch-rival Rafael Nadal and claim the all-time men's record. Instead he had to watch Nadal take home the crown and the prize as the first man to break the 21 mark. Djokovic has since won Wimbledon but still trails Nadal by one after the Spaniard beat him in the final of the French Open. He earlier told Serbian website Sportal there were 'positive signs' coming from Australia but they were 'un-

official'. 'We are communicating through my lawyers in Australia. In fact, they are communicating with the authorities in charge of my case,' he said. 'I hope to have an answer in the next few weeks - whatever that answer might be, but of course I am hoping for a positive one - so that I have enough time to prepare for the start of the season, if that start is going to happen in Australia.' 'I really want to go there, I am over what happened this year and I just want to play tennis, it is what I do best. 'Australia has always been the place where I have played my best tennis, the results speak for themselves, so I am always extra motivated to go there. This time even more so. 'I am hoping for a positive answer.'

SC issues  
notice to  
Imran...

FROM PAGE 01

However, the recipients had challenged the same before different high courts, including the Lahore High Court, its Rawalpindi bench, the Sindh High Court and the Islamabad High Court, on the grounds that Section 10 of the Elections Act, the statutory provision about the commission's power to punish over contempt, was against the Constitution. According to the Election Act 2017, Section 10 titled "Power to punish for contempt" states that the "election commission may exercise the same power as the high court to punish any person for contempt of court and the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003 (V of 2003), or any other law pertaining to contempt of court shall have effect accordingly..." The PTI leaders had also sought from the high courts a declaratory relief from the charges.

Wrangling  
over  
Ukraine...

FROM PAGE 01

Zelenskiy called for restoring "radiation safety" at the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, price restrictions on Russian energy resources, and an expanded grain export initiative. A U.S. official said Washington wanted a clear G20 message against Russia's invasion and its impact on the global economy, while German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said there were encouraging signs of consensus that the war was unacceptable. Lavrov said he listened to Zelenskiy's address. He accused him of prolonging the conflict and ignoring Western advice. Russia has said Putin was too busy to attend the summit. There was an encouraging sign on the eve of the summit, however, when U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, whose nations have been increasingly estranged, met and pledged more frequent communication. Both men stated their opposition to the use of nuclear weapons, according to readouts from both sides. Russia has said it reserves the right to use any means including nuclear capability to defend its security. China and Russia are close, but Beijing has been careful not to provide any direct material support for the Ukraine war that could trigger Western sanctions against it. Xi told French President Emmanuel Macron during another bilateral meeting that Beijing advocated a ceasefire in Ukraine and peace talks, Chinese state media reported.

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Imran's  
politics  
revolves...

FORM PAGE 01

Bilawal extended congratulations and best wishes to Dow University of Health Sciences on celebrating the successful establishment of liver transplant services in the city. "We can strengthen our healthcare system and improve the delivery of healthcare by joining hands with well-trained human resources; the up-bringing of the healthcare system and its successful conveyance to the common man has always been our priority," he added. Earlier, Chairman PPP inaugurated a new OPD Complex comprising four blocks constructed at a cost of Rs500 million. He also performed the groundbreaking ceremony of the Oncology Unit Foundation and planted a tree.

Foreign  
Minister  
inaugurates  
11th IDEAS...

FROM PAGE 01

500 national and international delegates are taking part in the exhibition. High-level defence delegations of friendly countries are also participating in the IDEAS-2022. Apart from the six halls of the Expo Centre, three marquees have also been set up, one of which has been named after Kashmir. A Karachi Show will also be held on Thursday at Nishan-e-Pakistan on the beach for citizens.



## Briefs

## IMF sees 'gloomier' world economic outlook

ISTANBUL: The global economic outlook is "gloomier" due to the Russia-Ukraine war, interest rate increases and pandemic's ongoing effects, an IMF economist said. Trygvi Gudmundsson, an economist at the IMF's Research Department, said that there is a "steady worsening" in recent months for purchasing manager indices (PMI). While gross domestic product releases for the third quarter surprised on the upside in some major economies, October PMI releases point to weakness in the fourth quarter, particularly in Europe," Gudmundsson added. He said China's pandemic lockdowns and its struggling real estate sector are contributing to a slowdown in investments, industrial production, and retail sales. "This will inevitably have a significant impact on other economies due to China's large role in trade," the economist said. Tightening fiscal and monetary policies to lower inflation rates will continue to weigh on economic activity, he underlined.—DNA

## Germany, Spain to train Ukraine troops

BRUSSELS: Germany and Spain are planning to train thousands of Ukrainian troops under an EU programme to help bolster Kyiv's fightback against Russia, officials said Tuesday. Their assistance adds to announcements already given by other EU countries that they will train Ukrainian soldiers on their territories. The European Union is launching its largest ever military training mission aimed at preparing an initial 15,000 Ukrainian troops for the battlefield. The main hub for the mission will be in Ukraine's EU neighbour Poland, with a secondary headquarters set up in Germany. Germany's Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht said at a meeting of EU counterparts in Brussels that Berlin was planning to train 5,000 Ukrainians "in a wide range of skills" by next June. Spanish Defence Minister Margarita Robles said her country would train 400 troops every two months, with a total capacity of 2,400 a year. She said facilities had already been put in place at a training facility in the central city of Toledo to house the troops.—APP

## Japan's economy shrinks in third quarter

TOKYO: Japan's economy shrank in the three months to September due to slower-than-expected consumption, official data showed Tuesday, dashing hopes of another quarter of growth. Higher import volumes and costs fuelled by the weak yen and the soaring price of commodities such as oil weighed on the world's third-largest economy. And private consumption did not see a significant jump, despite the end of Covid-19 restrictions. The surprise negative reading follows three consecutive quarters of growth, after an initial negative reading in the first quarter was revised upwards. From July to September, Japan's gross domestic product contracted 0.3 percent quarter-on-quarter, missing market expectations of 0.3 percent growth, the government data showed. Corporate investment was up for the period but private residential investment declined, while an increase in imports overwhelmed an increase in exports, the cabinet office said. In the three-month period, private consumption grew 0.3 percent, down from 1.3 percent in the second quarter. The data is preliminary, and GDP figures are often revised in later months. Taro Saito, senior economist at NLI Research Institute, predicted the gloomy result would be short-lived. "The contraction this quarter is a one-off phenomenon, and we think the October-December quarter will see growth again," he media AFP.—APP

## 'End war', Joko Jokowi urges at G20 opening

ANTARA

BALI: President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo on Tuesday urged G20 leaders to "end the war" as he opened a summit dominated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Washington and allies heaping pressure on Moscow. "Being responsible means creating not zero-sum situations, being responsible here also means that we must end the war," Jokowi said. The United States and its allies are looking to pin painfully high global food and fuel prices squarely at President Vladimir Putin's door during the gathering. Eyeing a joint G20 declaration that would condemn the eight-month-old invasion and threats to use nuclear weapons, US and European officials have painted the summit as evidence of Russia's deepening isolation. "I think you're going to see most members of the G20 make clear that they condemn Russia's war in Ukraine," a senior US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Russia's war of aggression is being condemned in the strongest possible terms," the official said, adding that many "see Russia's war in Ukraine as the root source of immense economic and humanitarian suffering in the world." It remained far from clear that Russia's G20 allies



China, India and South Africa would sign up to language that would condemn Putin's war so explicitly. Such a condemnation at the G20 would be a heavy diplomatic defeat for Moscow, which has been keen to paint opposition to the conflict as Western-dominated. There was a hint at growing Chinese unease with Russia's prosecution of the war through when presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden met late Monday. Both men voiced opposition to the "use or threat of use" of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, the White House said. European Council president Charles Michel signaled

that while a draft agreement had been agreed to in principle, there was still work to be done. "I am absolutely convinced that we should try to use the meeting today and tomorrow to convince all of the parties to put more pressure on Russia," he told the media as the summit opened. G20 leaders are gathered in Bali as soaring inflation drives millions more into poverty and tips several nations toward recession. US allies hope to find common ground with G20 nations that, while cautious about denouncing Russia, are deeply concerned about rising prices. G20 members Argenti-

na and Turkey are among the countries worst hit by food inflation, while India and South Africa have avoided criticism of Moscow. Putin is skipping the summit after a string of embarrassing battlefield defeats in a war that his supporters believed would be over in days. Rubbing salt in the wound, Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky - fresh from a visit to liberated Kherson - addressed G20 leaders in a video message. Russia is represented by Sergei Lavrov, despite the veteran foreign minister making two Bali hospital trips in as many days for an undisclosed ailment.

Moscow denied the top diplomat had been hospitalized. Lavrov is not seen as part of Putin's inner circle - meaning the chance of a diplomatic breakthrough to end the war is vanishingly small. With Zelensky and Putin absent "there is little chance of any real peace diplomacy in Bali," said Richard Gowan of the International Crisis Group. Still, French President Emmanuel Macron has kept an olive branch extended. He will call Putin after the G20 summit, according to a senior French official. Grain corridor A deal allowing Ukraine to export grain

through the Black Sea is likely to be another focus of conversation. It expires November 19, and Russia has already threatened to rip it up. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Monday he was "hopeful" the deal would be extended, calling it crucial for food security. Ukraine is one of the world's top grain producers, and the Russian invasion had blocked 20 million tonnes of grain in its ports before the United Nations and Turkey brokered the deal in July. "We need urgent action to prevent famine and hunger in a growing number of places around the world," Guterres said. The summit build-up has focused on Xi, who is making only his second overseas trip since the pandemic. He meets Tuesday with French President Emmanuel Macron and Australia's Anthony Albanese, a day after a first presidential sitdown with Biden. The pair cooled Cold War rhetoric in a three-hour summit as they tried to take some of the heat out of their simmering superpower rivalry. "The world expects that China and the United States will properly handle the relationship," Xi told Biden. Former US diplomat Danny Russel described the meeting as broadly positive. "We should beware of prematurely declaring the strategic rivalry over."

## Moscow imposes sanctions on 100 Canadians

MOSCOW: Russia has slapped sanctions on 100 Canadians, banning them from entering the Russian Federation in reprisal for similar sanctions that have been imposed by Ottawa on hundreds of Russians over Moscow's ongoing war in Ukraine. The Russian Foreign Ministry announced the bans on Monday, saying the affected individuals included officials, business leaders, and people with "media and financial structures that are directly involved in the formation of an aggressive anti-Russian course." Among them was 60-year-old actor and comedian Jim Carrey as well as journalists, including state-broadcaster CBC's Murray Brewster, Margaret Evans, and Adrienne Arseneault. Russia said it decided on the new round of sanctions "in response to the practice, implemented by Justin Trudeau's regime, of imposing sanctions against the Russian leadership, politicians and parliamentarians, business representatives, experts and journalists, cultural figures." Canada has sanctioned more than 1,400 individuals and entities in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus since the beginning of the Ukraine war on February 24. The Kremlin says it launched what it calls a special military operation in order to defend the pro-Russian population in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk against persecution by Kiev.—APP

## Amazon to cut about 10,000 jobs

CALIFORNIA: Amazon is planning to lay off around 10,000 employees in corporate and technology roles beginning this week, a person familiar with the matter said on Monday, in what would amount to its biggest such reduction to date. The cuts, earlier reported by The New York Times (NYT), would represent about 3% of Amazon's corporate staff. The exact number may vary as businesses within Amazon review their priorities, the source told Reuters. The online retailer plans to eliminate jobs in its devices organization, which makes voice-controlled "Alexa" gadgets and home-security cameras, as well as in its human resources and retail divisions, the person said. Amazon's time frame for informing staff remained unclear. The source attributed the reduction to the uncertain macroeconomic environment faced by Amazon and other companies. The NYT report said that the total number of employees laid off could change.—APP

## First aid convoy arrives in Tigray capital

ADDIS ABABA: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said a medical aid convoy had arrived in the capital of Ethiopia's war-ravaged Tigray region Tuesday, its first since a peace deal between the federal government and Tigrayan rebels almost two weeks ago. The restoration of aid deliveries to Tigray was a key part of the breakthrough agreement signed on November 2 to silence the guns in the two-year conflict that has killed untold numbers of people and unleashed a humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia. "ICRC's first medical supplies have just arrived in Mekele," the ICRC's spokesperson in Ethiopia, Jude Fuhwii, told AFP. The agency said on Twitter that two trucks had delivered medicines, emergency and first aid kits to support health facilities in Tigray to treat patients with conditions that need urgent care. "This aid delivery is the first since the resumption of fighting last August and the signing of the Pretoria and Nairobi agreements," the ICRC added in a statement. It was referring to the "Cessation of Hostilities" agreement signed by the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) in South Africa on November 2 and a follow-up accord reached in the Kenyan capital on Saturday.—APP

## Shireen's family welcome news of US investigation

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The family of Shireen Abu Akleh say they are "encouraged" by the United States announcing an investigation into the Palestinian American Al Jazeera correspondent's killing in May. In a statement released on Tuesday, the family said the US decision, first reported on Monday, was necessary considering Abu Akleh's citizenship and the fact that she was killed "by a foreign military." Israeli forces shot and killed Abu Akleh, 51, in the northern occupied West Bank town of Jenin where she was reporting on an Israeli raid. Video footage, several witnesses and multiple investigations by independent media outlets showed there were no armed Palestinians in the area where Abu Akleh and other journalists were standing before Israeli soldiers started firing at them, despite initial Israeli claims that Abu Akleh may have been shot in crossfire between Israeli soldiers

and Palestinian fighters. Israel eventually admitted in September that one of its soldiers likely killed Abu Akleh, but said that no criminal investigation would be conducted. The US had initially resisted attempts to start an investigation into Abu Akleh's killing, arguing that Israel was able to conduct its own investigation. But the US Department of Justice has now informed its counterpart in Israel that the FBI is opening a probe into the incident, according to a report by Axios on Monday. Details about the investigation are unclear and a justice department spokesperson declined comment. The Israeli government has responded by criticising the US and insisting it will not cooperate with the investigation. "The decision taken by the US Justice Department to conduct an investigation into the tragic passing of Shireen Abu Akleh, is a mistake," said Benny Gantz, Israel's outgoing defence minister. Israel is set for a new government after former PM Benjamin Netanyahu was given the mandate to form a government after his coalition

won elections held on November 1. In their statement, Abu Akleh's family said they were "ready to support" the investigation, and added that they hoped it would be "truly independent" and "[follow] the evidence where it leads ... toward accountability." The family have conducted an international campaign over the six months since the killing of the veteran reporter, who was one of the biggest names in Arab journalism. That campaign has involved meetings with US government officials, an official complaint at the International Criminal Court, and a meeting with Pope Francis in the Vatican. Speaking to Al Jazeera on Monday, Bruce Fein, a constitutional lawyer and former justice department official, said the decision to launch an FBI investigation indicates that the US has "credible evidence" to believe an assassination was committed. Fein added that the US could put pressure on Israel in various ways to get it to cooperate, including military aid and regional geopolitics. "Those kinds of levers can change the minds of the Israelis," Fein said.

## US govt to continue to support F-16 sale to Türkiye

BALI: U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday said that his government will continue to support the potential sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye. The remarks came during a closed-door meeting between President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Biden on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. Both presidents discussed bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly trade and security issues, and regional developments, according to a Directorate of Communications statement. Biden thanked Erdoğan for his efforts to help remove obstacles in the Istanbul grain deal and to resume the exports from Ukrainian ports, the statement read. The U.S. president also said that Türkiye is an "important actor" in Sweden's NATO accession process, it added. Also, Biden conveyed his condolences to Erdoğan over Sunday's deadly terror attack in Istanbul. At least six people were killed and 81 injured in Sunday's bomb blast, which the Turkish government confirmed was carried out by the terror group YPG/PKK. The relations between Ankara and Washington have been strained in recent years because of the U.S. cooperation with the terrorist group YPG/PKK in Syria, its failure to extradite the wanted ringleader of the Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ), disagreements over Türkiye's purchase of Russia's S-400 air defense system and Washington's sanctions on Ankara. The U.S. has said it is cooperating with the YPG/PKK in northern Syria to fight the Daesh terrorist group, but Turkish officials say using one terrorist group to fight another makes no sense, morally or otherwise.—Agencies

## EU: Serbia, Kosovo on brink of crisis

BRUSSELS: Serbia and Kosovo are on the brink of a dangerous crisis, EU's chief diplomat Josep Borrell said calling both sides to fulfil their obligations under the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina dialogue. His comments came after meetings in Paris last week between the EU, France, and the leaders of Kosovo and Serbia, where hopes of a trilateral meeting between the long-term foes ultimately did not come to fruition. "We are very worried about the situation in the Western Balkans," Borrell said after a meeting of EU foreign ministers that discussed the situation in the region, adding "unnecessary and counterproductive tensions" between Kosovo and Serbia "are reaching a very, very dangerous level" and create a situation where "we are unhappily on the edge of another crisis." Referring to the latest tensions, he spoke of the most serious and most dangerous crisis of the last ten years and said the withdrawal of Serbs from Kosovo institutions had created a vacuum. "In this vacuum, the worst can happen, so both sides need to show more flexibility," Borrell warned. The situation in the north became more precarious in recent weeks as members of the Serbian community resigned from Kosovo institutions as a sign of opposition to the government's requirement that all cars owned by citizens of Kosovo should have Kosovo-issued plates. Serbia is against this as they continue not to recognise Kosovo's independence. "Both parties - both parties - need to urgently show readiness to find a way forward to lower these tensions.—Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bahrain to Pakistan casts his vote in the second round of voting for the Bahraini parliamentary elections at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain.DNA

## Germany in talks with Iran to buy crude oil

BERLIN: The chief economist of the partially state-owned bank LBBW in the southwestern German state of Baden-Württemberg is reported to have said that Germany is engaged in talks with the Islamic Republic to buy Iranian oil. "Intensive talks are already being held behind the scenes with Venezuela, Iran or Algeria to cover Germany's oil and gasoline needs," the Jerusalem Post quoted Moritz Kraemer, the chief economist of the Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW), as saying. The comments by Kraemer were made in the context of how Germany plans to cover its energy needs in light of the country's efforts to wean itself off Russian gas dependency, the Israeli newspaper wrote. Iran's oil exports have been affected by various sanctions for about a decade, with the former US administration even trying to reduce them to zero. Although the goal was never realized, Iran's oil exports and access to its money were severely limited after then president Donald Trump pulled the US out of the Iran nuclear deal in 2018 and decided to pile pressure on Tehran, including round after round of economic sanctions. With the inauguration of the new Iranian government in August 2021, efforts to ramp up Iran's oil

exports and develop the petroleum industry after a period of hibernation gathered momentum, and in the very first months, Iranian oil flowed back to the market through new routes so much so that President Ebrahim Raisi announced a 40% increase in oil exports at the end of the last Persian year in March. Last month, Minister of Petroleum Javad Owji said Iran's crude oil and petrochemical exports continue without dis-



ruption after the Biden administration announced a new round of sanctions against the Islamic Republic. "With the new procedures presented by my colleagues in the international affairs of the National Iranian Oil Company, we have been able to find good and attractive markets for Iran's crude oil, gas condensate, oil products and petrochemical products," he said. Owji said his ministry had found new markets and export processes through which, "we have been able to transform the export of crude oil and gas condensate compared to the last few years". His remarks came after the US Treasury announced new measures, targeting several firms based in China, the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and India that the United States accuses of involvement in the sale of Iranian petroleum and petrochemical products. Owji said "the sanctions of Western countries have not had any effect on our country's oil exports". Government data also showed Iran's income from the export of oil and oil products rose by 11 times last year which ended in March and eight times in the five months of this year.—Agencies



**Briefs**

**Pak abstains from UNGA resolution on Ukraine**

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan, along with 72 other countries, abstained when the UN General Assembly Monday voted to adopt a resolution calling for Russia to be held accountable for international law violations relating to the war in Ukraine, including by paying war reparations. Sponsored by 57 countries, the resolution garnered in the 193-member Assembly 94 votes in favour to 14 against, including Russia, China, Cuba, Mali and Ethiopia. It was the lowest level of support for any of the five resolutions about Ukraine that the General Assembly had passed since Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine on Feb. 24. Further, the resolution recommended the establishment of an international mechanism for reparation for damage, loss or injury arising from the Russian's wrongful acts.

**Imran himself pulled back from narrative, says Saad**

DNA

LAHORE: Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that the cypher has been proved to be a lie, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan himself withdrew from the narrative of American conspiracy. Taking to Twitter, Saad said that PTI Chairman Khan's claim of "absolutely not" was turned out to be wrong. While he added that Imran Khan hired lobbyist firms for lobbying from America. "Imran Khan considered it a mistake to go to Russia during the war, foreign funding and theft of Toshakhana was caught, how much will Imran Khan steal and for how long," he questioned.

**Petroleum prices unchanged**

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday announced that there would be no change in the prices of petroleum products for the next fortnight till November 30. "The government has decided, after permission from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, that there will be no increase in any petroleum products. All the items, petrol, diesel, light diesel oil and kerosene [...] their prices will remain unchanged from Nov 16 to Nov 30," he said in a press conference in Islamabad. The current prices for petrol are Rs224.80 per litre, Rs235.30 for HSD, Rs186.50 for LDO and Rs191.83 for kerosene. On October 30, too, government had decided to keep the petrol prices unchanged. - DNA

**8 million people in need of medical help after floods**

"Shelter is also a high priority as winter sets in and millions still wait for their land to dry. Survivors are returning home to destroyed houses, ruined crops, and dead livestock"

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: As many as eight million people in flood-hit areas need medical assistance, a UN agency has said in its 100-day report, as diseases continue to spread unabated. The report, published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), said that about 13.5 million people are in need of protection services while the floods have impacted the education of 3.5 million children. Flooding and standing waters have unleashed waves of water and vector-borne diseases, and millions of people are facing food insecurity, the 100-day report of the UNOCHA said, adding that access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene remains a challenge. "Shelter is also a high priority as winter sets in and millions still wait for their land to dry. Survivors are returning home to destroyed houses, ruined crops, and dead livestock," it said. The report mentioned that people are displaced from place to place and protection of the most vulnerable and continued learning for children are of key concern. The report said that about a total of 33 million people have been affected with 20.6 million still in need of assistance. However, 9.5 million flood affectees have been provided assistance. Not just that, winter season is fast approaching, and the affected population will be severely affected by the harsh weather conditions in a few weeks, requiring adequate shelter and non-food items such as tents and blankets, it added.



According to the report, the flood water continued to recede in many areas of Balochistan and Sindh during the last weeks, although standing water remains in some districts. In Sindh, the most affected districts, such as Dadu, Khairpur and Mirpurkhas, remain underwater for nearly two months. The economic situation of Pakistan is expected to have a detrimental impact according to the post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA), which was completed under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Development with the Asian Development Bank, European Union, World Bank, and the United Nations system, the report said. "The economy has suffered a loss of \$15.2 billion while it requires \$16.3 billion for rehabilitation. The floods

have increased the poverty rate by 4% while up to 9.1 million people are below the poverty line." Pakistan requires a total of \$816 million to meet its needs out of which \$171 million has been funded while the remaining amount is \$644.5 million. As far as the infrastructure is concerned, 13,000 road lengths and 439 bridges have been damaged by the cataclysmic floods, the report mentioned. To date, more than 2.3 million houses have been damaged including 900,000 houses that are fully damaged across the country. Based on currently available data, some 5.4 million people remain displaced due to heavy rains and floods. The report further said that increased protection concerns include high levels of psychological distress and exposure of children and adults to a range of new flood-related physical risks and hazards, such as damaged buildings, drowning and snakebites. Marginalised people including people with disabilities are experiencing increased vulnerability due to disrupted access to essential services, and children and marginalised groups are vulnerable to abuse, violence and exploitation at distribution points, it said. The report added that safety issues have also reportedly arisen from the lack of proper toilets and bathing facilities. "The impact of floods have a negative impact on women's and girls' privacy, safety and security and access to basic humanitarian assistance, which has worsened pre-existing gender inequality, escalated needs for GBV services and risk mitigation across all sectors including higher risks of child marriages, harassment and possible trafficking."

**High-level Jirga to probe Chaman incident**

DNA

KABUL: Afghan Taliban Spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid on Tuesday said that the Taliban constituted the high-level Jirga to bring the criminals behind the Chaman's incident to justice. Afghan official Central spokesperson shared a tweet over the incident that happened on the road going to Chaman from Spin Boldak. He said, "Due to the firing of an unknown person, a Pakistani soldier was martyred, over which the Taliban's government expresses its grief. To probe the matter and bring the criminals to justice, a high-level Jirga has been established. Zabihullah further said, "The security institutions of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan are trying their all-out efforts to stop tragic incidents like these."

**Four terrorists killed as security forces foil attack**

DNA

DI KHAN: Four terrorists belonged to a banned organization were killed in a joint operation by police and personnel of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday. Dera Ismail Khan DPO Muhammad Shoaib said that a terrorist was killed in an exchange of fire with security forces during a search operation while three terrorists blew themselves up. He said that terrorists' hideouts were destroyed during operation. A huge quantity of weapons, including five SMGs, seven hand grenades, mobile phones and motorcycles were recovered from the terrorists. The joint CTD and police raided a hideout of the terrorists in DI Khan's suburban area of Tehsil Kalachi and killed a terrorist during an exchange of fire. The other three terrorists were killed in IED and landmine explosions which occurred while the gunbatle was under way.

**German gas reserves 100% full on mild weather boost**

FRANKFURT: Germany said Tuesday its gas storage facilities were now completely full, helped by a spell of unseasonably warm weather, as the country readies for a winter deprived of Russian energy. "The total storage level in Germany stands at 100 percent," the Federal Network Agency, the country's energy regulator, said in a daily update. Europe's largest economy, which for years was heavily reliant on Russian gas imports, has been scrambling to bolster its reserves after Russia cut deliveries in the wake of its February invasion of Ukraine. The German government had aimed to have its gas storage sites 95 percent full by November, but it reached the target ahead of time in mid-October. The better-than-expected savings drive was partly down to government efforts to find alternative supplies, especially through imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from countries such as Norway and the United States. Companies and consumers have also heeded good pleas to reduce consumption, made easier by mild autumn weather which has delayed the traditional start of heating season. - APP

**ECP reserves judgment in LG polls postponement**

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday reserved its judgment on the case of repeated postponement of Local Government elections in Karachi. A five-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja heard LG polls postponement case, saying that the commission will soon announce its reserved decision, a decision that could come into force. Administrator Karachi Murtaza Wahab said that the first phase of the local polls in Sindh have been completed, "while in Karachi we are ready to hold elections in two phases". Murtaza Wahab said the Sindh government was unable to hold elections currently. "It is our responsibility to hold elections, you have taken this power from us," CEC remarked. "Under which rule you have amended the local government law," ECP member Ikramullah Khan asked. "It is not possible to provide security forces and administrative staff for the elections in Karachi. About 1,300 polling stations in Karachi are sensitive, and every station requires eight officials," said Wahab. Member ECP said what the Sindh govern-

ment wanted. Murtaza said the provincial government has approved postponement of LG polls for 90 days. According to rules announcing elections was the right of Sindh government and the provincial government will announce holding elections in consultation with the election commission. Sindh Chief Secretary said due to floods, the deployment of 17,000 security personnel in Karachi was impossible. IG Sindh Police also backed the government's stance to put off local government elections. "Any untoward incident could happen, we have a shortage of 17,000 personnel," he said. "We can hold election on the order of the election commission but will face security issues," IG Sindh said. ECP special secretary Zafar Iqbal said that the LG polls were postponed due to floods in the province. Sindh government has already approved postponement of LG polls for 90 more days. He said the ECP was ready to hold elections in Karachi. Supreme Court has also ordered holding elections in Sindh. Zafar Iqbal said in light of the Supreme Court's orders local bodies' elections should be

held at the earliest. "Delay in the local bodies polls is a violation of the top court's order," the secretary said. The ECP secretary asked the Ministry of Interior about the position of Frontier Corps (FC) and Pakistan Rangers for the provision of security and maintenance of law-and-order situation during the local government polls. Interior ministry official said "We are not in a position to fulfil the security needs of the local government elections," the official said. "The situation does not allow us to deploy civil armed forces at these elections". Jamat-e-Islami Amir, Karachi Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, Representative of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Murtaza Wahab and leader of Muttahidda Quomi Movement (MQM) Wasim Akhtar, Inspector General Police, Sindh, Chief Secretary, Sindh, Secretary Local bodies were present. PTI lawyer Shahab Imam said, despite passage of 10 months to Supreme Court's decision to hold LG polls. Sindh government don't want to devolve powers to lower level. Sindh government has sent 6,000 personnel to Islamabad to stop long march, but refusing to provide security to elections. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque talking to chief Executive officer (CEO) Zong Mr. Wang Hua. - DNA

**'Not torture but resisting captors', doctors claim**

According to postmortem report prepared by doctors at PIMS in SIU, report confirms a 'wound' on Arshad Sharif's right wrist

ISLAMABAD: The postmortem report of senior journalist and anchorperson Arshad Sharif has made new claims, suggesting that he may not have necessarily been tortured; rather, he was resisting his captors when he was shot. Moreover, doctors suggested that he was shot from a relatively close range. According to the postmortem report prepared by doctors at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad Investigation Unit (SIU), the report confirms a 'wound' on Arshad Sharif's right wrist. The report further identified 12 wounds, bruises and marks found on Arshad Sharif's body. Of these, four to five wounds, doctors believe, were caused when he was resisting his captors or while being shot. However, doctors ruled out that the marks he suffered were caused by torture. They added that there was no evidence of bones breaking. Explaining the wound on his right wrist, doctors said it was probably caused when he tried to protect himself or resisted when he was shot, but it was not caused due to torture. On the distance he was shot from, doctors believe that the bullet which struck Arshad Sharif in the neck was shot from a relatively close range, probably up to three feet. The second bullet, which struck the journalist in the head, was shot from relatively further on, around three to six feet. The evidence that supports their theory is the presence of a black mark near the wound on the neck. In contrast, the Kenyan postmortem report suggested that Arshad Sharif had been targeted from a medium range. Arshad Sharif's death, doctors determined, was primarily caused by the two gunshot wounds he had suffered. - DNA

**EU vows to raise its climate target at COP27**

SHARM EL SHEIKH: The EU vowed Tuesday at UN climate talks to raise its emissions reduction target, as developing nations admonished rich polluters for falling short on efforts to help them cope with global warming. The COP27 conference in Egypt has been dominated by calls for wealthy nations to fulfil pledges to fund the green transitions of poorer countries least responsible for global emissions, help build their resilience, and compensate them for climate-linked losses. The meeting comes as global CO2 emissions are slated to reach an all-time high this year, making the aspirational goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to preindustrial levels ever more elusive. European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans told delegates that the European Union would exceed its original plan to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent by 2030. The 27-nation bloc will now be able to cut those emissions by 57 percent from 1990 levels, he said, pointing to agreements on phasing out fossil fuel-powered cars and protecting forests that serve as "carbon sinks". "The European Union is here to move forwards, not backwards," Timmermans told COP27 delegates. The invasion of Ukraine by energy exporter Russia has cast a shadow over the talks in Egypt, with activists accusing Europeans of seek-

ing to tap Africa for natural gas following Russian supply cuts. But Timmermans denied the bloc was in a "dash for gas" in the wake of the Ukraine conflict. "So don't let anybody tell you, here or outside, that the EU is backtracking," he said. Watchdog groups were not impressed. "This small increase announced today at COP27 doesn't do justice to the calls from the most vulnerable countries at the front lines," said Chiara Martinelli, of Climate Action Network Europe. "If the EU, with a heavy history of emitting greenhouse gases, doesn't lead on mitigating climate change, who will?" Addressing a high-level session, ministers from developing nations took turns criticising wealthy nations. Belize Climate Change Minister Orlando Habet called for more action from the G20 group of the world's wealthiest nations, which are responsible for 80 percent of global emissions and are meeting at a summit in Indonesia. "In how many COPs have we been arguing for urgent climate action? And how many more do we need, how many lives do we need to sacrifice?" Habet said. Shawn Edward, the sustainable development minister from the Caribbean island of Saint Lucia, said major emitters were "backpedalling" by making "small gains" in clean energy initiatives while raising fossil fuel investments and profits at same time. - APP

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