



Islamabad POST

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

China 'poses threat', but engaging with them important

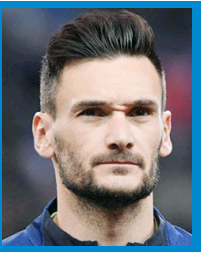
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Briefs

Palestine condemns attack on police officials

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Palestine has condemned terrorist attack on Pakistani police officials and expressed sympathies with the families of the victims. In a statement Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmed Rabei said 'We strongly condemn terror in all kind and manifestations and firmly stand with brotherly people of Pakistan. We are deep grieved over the martyrdom of six police officials. The ambassador wished that May Allah Almighty rest the departed souls in peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss.

Terrorism cannot deter resolve

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said the cowardly acts of terrorism could not deter the nation's resolve to eradicate the menace from the country. Condemning the terrorist attack on police personnel in Lakki Marwat, he said the nation was proud of the valuable sacrifices laid by the martyred policemen. The president paid tribute to the six policemen martyred in the terrorist attack and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of their souls.

FM reassures Pak support to Turkiye

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday reassured Pakistan's firm support to Turkiye in its fight against terrorism. FM spoke with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu to express condolences on Istanbul terrorist attack, FO Spokesperson posted on his Twitter handle. On Sunday last, at least six people were killed and 81 others wounded in an explosion, in a busy shopping street of Taksim Square area of central Istanbul.

Long March future PTI waiting for next army chief

Tehreek-e-Insaf wants to negotiate with the new military establishment

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is waiting for the arrival of the new army chief then it will decide as to when its march shall enter Rawalpindi or Islamabad. According to well informed sources the PTI Chairman Imran Khan has told his party leaders that they have to wait for the new appointment no matter who steps into the shoes of the outgoing army chief. The party believes there was no point in talking to the outgoing establishment because it cannot help them anymore. The sources say the government has made up its mind to announce the new army chief more likely on November 20. If it so happens then the PTI long march is expected to enter Rawalpindi on November 21. Sources claim the government has also decided the name of the new army chief and final announcement shall be made after the military forwards a summary to the government in this regard. According to sources the government also plans to amend the Pakistan Army Act in order to do away with the clause that gives government right to reappoint army chief and the chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff committee. If

the amendment is approved then the word reappointment shall be replaced with retention, and the retention may be for one week, one month and so on and so forth. The re-appointment means a full three years term. According to this amendment the government can also extend tenure of any officer whose retirement draws near but the government wants to retain him. As the army has announced time and again that it will no longer be part of any political activity, therefore if the incoming army chief remains neutral then the question is how these two forces i.e PTI and the incumbent alliance would settle their issues. If Lt General Asim Munir becomes the army chief then it will be difficult for the PTI to ask him for any role since the PTI Chairman had publicly announced he may not like this appointment, though later he changed his stance by saying his party had nothing to do with this appointment and it would welcome whosoever assumes this responsibility. In the given circumstances it appears as if the PTI had to do a lot of toil in order to get its demands met including holding of the early elections. Analysts believe, when a general is elevated to the rank of army chief then he only belongs of his institution.

Ruling coalition parties castigate Imran after Toshakana revelations

Maryam Nawaz asked Khan to provide receipts for the sale of the gifts

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Leaders from the ruling coalition berated PTI Chairman Imran Khan after a Dubai-based businessman revealed that he had purchased the Toshakana gifts given to the former prime minister by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman. After the startling revelations, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz asked Khan to not dodge the questions and provide receipts for the sale of the gifts. "Who sold the watch, tell me the name. How was the money transferred to Pakistan," the PML-N leader said, adding that the PTI chief, who termed others as thieves, has turned out to be the "biggest thief" himself. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar hinted that the government would start criminal proceedings against the former prime minister in the Toshakana case as

Imran disrespected PM's position: PPP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bukhari said Wednesday that Imran Khan had disrespected the position of the prime minister by selling the watch gifted to him by the Saudi crown prince. "Selling the gift of the Saudi crown prince at low price reflects the low mentality of Imran Khan. Imran Khan has emerged as a dishonest person after the buyer of Toshakana gifts came to the fore," he castigated. "The self-proclaimed Sadiq and

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ISLAMABAD: Mr. Charles Delogne, Ambassador of Belgium in Pakistan called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar. They took stock of bilateral relations while stressing the need for further enhancing trade and investment ties. Important regional and global matters were also discussed. — DNA

Warsaw, NATO say Russia did not hit Poland

NEWS DESK

WARSAW: A missile that hit Poland was probably a stray fired by Ukraine's air defences and not a Russian strike, Poland and NATO said on Wednesday, easing global concern that the war in Ukraine could spill across the border. Nevertheless, NATO's chief said that Moscow, not Kyiv was ultimately to blame, for starting the war in the first place and launching the attack that triggered Ukraine's defences. "This is not Ukraine's fault. Russia bears ultimate responsibility as it continues its illegal war against Ukraine," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels. NATO ambassadors were holding emergency talks to respond to Tuesday's blast that killed two people at a grain facility in Poland near the Ukrainian border, the war's first deadly spillover onto the territory of the Western military alliance. "From the information that we and our allies have, it was an S-300 rocket made in the Soviet Union, an old rocket and there is no evidence that it was launched by the Russian side," Polish President Andrzej Duda said. "It is highly probable that it was fired by Ukrainian anti-aircraft defense." Stoltenberg also said it was likely to have been a Ukrainian air defence missile.

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Appoint whomever you want: Imran

Says Nawaz Sharif wants to appoint an army chief who will protect his interests

ALI HAMZA

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday said that his party is sitting back and watching, as the government decides to appoint the next army chief. He took a dig at the PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif alleging that the former prime minister wants to appoint someone to ensure his protection. "Let them do what they want. Nawaz Sharif wants to appoint an army chief who will protect his interests. No army chief will go against the nation's interests," the PTI chief said commenting on the matter. In a meeting with senior journalists in Lahore, Khan also spoke about his ongoing Toshakana saga, a day after a Dubai-based businessman Umar Farooq Zahoore revealed about buying Toshakana gifts — presented to the former prime minister by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman — from Farah Gogi and Shahzad Akbar. The gifts also included an expensive Graff wristwatch — worth at least Rs2 billion — to him.

Imran to sue Umar Zahoore, others

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday said that he would approach courts against media Group in London and Dubai-based businessman Umar Farooq Zahoore in the gulf state for his "character assassination", saying that he had no hope in Pakistan's justice system. Speaking on the matter in a video address, Imran alleged that the PML-N, media group were in cahoots in conspiring and starting campaigns against him such as the foreign funding and Toshakhana references. "Yesterday, this combination of the PML-N and Geo brought a "fraud" whose prior history was quickly exposed by social media," Imran said. "They brought that fraud and did a whole programme where he said Imran Khan's watch was sold at such a high price ... and they did a whole propaganda campaign [against me]." — DNA

Continued on Page 06

COAS praises troops for flood relief efforts

COAS visited IDEAS Expo and Malir garrison



DNA

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited the defense-related exhibition IDEAS-2022 at Karachi Expo Centre on Wednesday. According to the military's media wing, the COAS witnessed various stalls at

the exhibition IDEAS-2022 at Karachi Expo Centre. The COAS also interacted with the cross section of visitors and delegates and held separate meetings with various visiting delegates including Bahrain, Italy, Sri Lanka, Libya, Zimbabwe, and UAE. Later, the COAS visited Malir garrison where he laid a floral wreath at Martyr's Monument. During his farewell address to officers and troops, the COAS lauded their professionalism and devotion to duty. He also praised the troops for their untiring rescue and relief efforts to assist the people during recent heavy floods. Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by Corps Commander Lieutenant General Muhammad Saeed.

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Trump launches 2024 US presidential run — Page 07

US initiative to enhance US-Pakistan bilateral trade — Page 08

Organized by PAEI Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry

2nd PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY EXPO AND CONVENTION

NEW DATES 16-17-18 December, 2022 10:00 AM TO 8:00 PM Pak China Friendship Centre, Islamabad.

Participating Exhibitors: PARKVIEW CITY, FAIR DEAL, MEGA CITY, MGC, EARTH LINK, SAMANA, ZAI, ZELCAN, LANDSTER, GIGA GROUP, GHAR, THE COLONNAGE, JEWEL, ASSET, JEENA, HANMER ASSOCIATES, CAPITAL RESOURCES, PAKIMMO, ASH WALL, F&M, THE SPOKESMAN.

Celebrations mark 30 years of DAFI scholarship

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and Inspire Pakistan, celebrated in Islamabad today 30 years of the DAFI scholarship programme for refugees. 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 ad-

ministration, 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 refu-

gees 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, Commissionerate 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.



KP CM inaugurates development projects in Timargarh, Bajaur

LOWER DIR :Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Wednesday paid one-day visit to sub-division Timargarh and Bajaur and inaugurated several development projects worth billions of rupees. Addressing the public gathering on the occasion he said that the provincial government was working under a comprehensive strategy to address the deprivations of the people of the backward districts, especially the merged tribal districts. Despite financial issues, he said KP government had increased the budget of the tribal districts from 24 billion rupees to 64 billion rupees and was taking steps beyond its capacity to fulfill the promises made to the tribal people. The CM criticized role of federal government towards the province and said that the funds of merged districts were stopped while the outstanding amount under net hydel profit was also not being paid. On the occasion, the CM laid foundation stone for construction of 52.5 km long roads at six different places in Bajaur district, besides establishment of 12 primary schools, up-gradation of six primary schools to middle, 17 middle to high schools and 17 high schools. He also inaugurated the completed Hockey Astroturf and Football Ground and Hostel at Sports Complex in Khar, Sports Stadium in Mohmand and Rescue-1122 building in Navagai, up-gradation of Category D Hospital in Maidan.—APP

Joint efforts against breast cancer needed to save lives: RCCI

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Saqib Rafiq, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has said that joint efforts against the breast cancer would lead to saving lives of thousands of women in the country. Speaking at an awareness session jointly organized by RCCI and Pink Ribbon at at Quaid-i-Azam School of Management Sciences Islamabad, he said the survival rate of breast cancer patients across the globe was about 95-98 per cent compared to 45pc in Pa-

kistan due to late diagnosis. A large number of students and faculty members participated in the awareness session. Chairperson Ms. Shadab Khan, Vice Chairperson Ms. Shamaila Shahzad and other RCCI Women members were also present in the session. "One in every eight women in the country is at risk of breast cancer, besides one woman falls victim to the disease every 13 minutes," he said, adding that there was a need to shun taboos associated with breast cancer and encourage women to seek timely medical consultation. RCCI chief acknowledged

the important role of women in society, said the chamber had taken several key initiatives to ensure their empowerment, including setting up business incubation centres. In order to address challenges pertaining to the well-being of women, the RCCI would continue to extend them support on health issues such as breast cancer, he said. He also proposed installation of a mammogram machine at every teaching hospital to train medical graduates about breast cancer screening.

Kaira urges for collective efforts to pull country out of crisis

ISLAMABAD :Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Wednesday urged that collective efforts were necessary along with unity among all stakeholders to bring out the country from economic and other crisis. Addressing a press conference, he said that country was facing many challenges and it was the need of the hour that all political parties and stakeholders should come forward to address public issues. He said that the former prime minister Imran Khan did not fulfill any promises with the masses he had made during his election campaign and during his democratic tenure. Kaira said there was Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in Punjab but so far the First Investigation Report (FIR) of attack on Chairman PTI in Wazirabad during long march was not reg-

istered, "he and his party workers are blaming the state institutions which is not good for the dignity of the country." PTI government had misused the powers of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly during the no confidence motion, he added. Qamar Zaman Kaira alleged that so far the Chairman PTI took the U-Turns on every narrative including foreign conspiracy, and the appointment of new Army Chief. "All political parties have strongly condemned the attack on Imran Khan and thanked that his life is safe and the culprit is arrested." National economic policy, foreign policy, political situation and freedom of media and expression were badly effected during the government of PTI in last three and half years, he said. After one year Imran Khan shared the details about

Tosha Khana and record of all gifts with court but after all he was found guilty in this case as he sold the precious gifts on cheaper prices through his friends in the market of Dubai which was a very shameful act and a question mark on the dignity of the country. Chairman PTI Imran Khan did not share the record of his income tax with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Qamar Zaman Kaira also requested the Chief Justice of Pakistan to take suo moto action and clear their position on the press conference of PTI leaders held today where they were showing no confidence on the judicial system of the country. He said that the Chairman PTI was misusing and misleading the youth of the country and they would make him accountable one day.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Political Officer of United States Embassy, Teresa Chang called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi. – DNA

US embassy political secretary calls on Kundi

Faisal Karim Kundi thanked her for the support US government provides to Pakistan in different sectors. While discussing the political situation in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Political Officer of United States Embassy Islamabad, Teresa Chang called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi at Islamabad. Ms. Teresa Chang covers domestic political issues, human rights, and labour. She was ac-

companied by Muhammad Aftab Qureshi, a political specialist at the United States Embassy, Islamabad. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi and Teresa Chang discussed matters of mutual interests. Faisal Karim Kundi thanked her for the support US government provides to Pakistan in different sectors. While discussing the political situation in Pakistan, Faisal Karim Kundi, said that politicians sit together and discuss the possibilities for the smooth running of the system. Despite the hard times in the Pakistan Peoples Party government from 2008-13, when terrorism was at its peak in Pakistan and the government was dealing with millions of IDPs, we tried to create environment of reconciliation in Pakistan, he added. Faisal Karim Kundi said that the first priority of the present government is to restore the trust of the international and regional powers. He also said that political gains must not hurt the international relations of Pakistan.

PRCS distributes relief items

PESHAWAR:Pakistan Red Crescent Society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has so far distributed relief items worth more than 560 million among more than 935,000 flood affected people of the province in the early emergency phase. Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Habib Malik Orakzai on Wednesday presented a detailed report to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash on the relief and damage caused to the victims during the recent floods. According to the report, the relief items included shelter, food, hygiene kits, cash, kitchen sets, blankets, warm clothes, mobile cards, clean drinking water, and free medical facilities at the doorstep along with free medicine. On this occasion, Chairman PRCS KP Habib Malik Orakzai briefed Chief Secretary Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash on the role of PRCS during the recent flood situation. He said that we have been able to provide help to 500,000 victims. This was provided with the help of its resources and other partners including IFRC, ICRC German Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross. While now after the emergency phase, work will be started from the beginning of the New Year on the recovery and rehabilitation of the flood affected. This will include small cash grants for the victims to start businesses, a role in the restoration of infrastructure, provision of free fertilizer and urea to farmers, etc.—APP

Ashrafi elected chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council again

DNA

LAHORE: The Central Executive and Advisory Body of Pakistan Ulema Council elected Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi as Central Chairman and Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi as Central Secretary General of Pakistan Ulema Council. The Central Advisory Body also decided to organize the Pakistan Ulema Council in all areas across the country and to arrange 'Pakistan Stability Conferences' and seminars all over the country. The meeting of the Central Executive and Advisory Body was attended by the Ulema-Mashaykh and important office bearers of Pakistan Ulema Council from all over the country. The declaration issued by the council following the meeting said:

1) The prevailing circumstances and situation in the country requires that political and religious parties should adopt an attitude of understanding and harmony for the economic stability in Pakistan, and continue efforts for the elimination of interest system and for eradication of extremism, terrorism. For the cause of reforms in the justice and electoral system and to ensure economic development in the country, trends of extremism and intolerance should be eliminated. Tehreek-e-Insaf and the government should start meaningful dialogues and leadership of PTI should return to the parliament making an end to long-march politics. 2) The campaign against the Pakistan's security forces and the officials of the country's security agencies

should be stopped immediately. All the officers of the Pakistan Army are patriotic and highly competent. The matter for the appointment of the Chief of Army Staff is clear according to the constitution and law. Baseless statements and rumor-mongering on the issue of appointment of the Chief of the Army Staff should be stopped immediately. 3) In the case of Arshad Sharif's murder, attack on Imran Khan and on the incident of Azam Swati, blaming the officials of the security institutions without any investigation and evidence is not right. 4) The Prime Minister of Pakistan has requested an inquiry commission in this regard, so the Supreme Court's Chief Justice is appealed to constitute an inquiry commission immediately.



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

Islam guarantee equal rights of minorities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shaqoor on Wednesday said that Islam and Constitution guaranteed equal rights of minorities. He said this in a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins who called on him here in the ministry. He held a detailed discussion on the promotion of interfaith harmony, peace and development in the region including Afghanistan and other issues. He said the desecration of all prophets, religions and holy books was a crime in Pakistan. He said all the assemblies in Pakistan had reserved seats

for the minority community members. The minister said Pakistan and

Afghanistan had been suffering from terrorism for a long time due to ex-

ternal powers adding that Taliban had won against extremism, terrorism and

external forces. He made it clear that women's Hijab was part of religion and culture and Taliban had never made women's education prohibited. Mufti said currently, industry and livelihood, health and sustainable peace were the major problems of Afghanistan. He said former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) were badly affected in war on terror. He said there was a dire need to create education, health and employment opportunities in erstwhile FATA. On this occasion, Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins said more than 100,000 Pakistanis lived in Australia. He said cricket had played an important role in connecting Pak-Australian people.



National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

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

Hotels & Restaurants

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

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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PIMS.....	9261170-79
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Shifa International.....	4603666



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Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawalpindi.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Pak great scope to enhance trade with Vietnam: Envoy

Ambassador says Vietnam's turnover in the first 10 months of 2022 was US\$ 675 billion with imports of US\$ 333 billion and exports US\$ 342 billion



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD : Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan said that Vietnam's turnover in the first 10 months of 2022 was US\$ 675 billion with imports of US\$ 333 billion and exports US\$ 342 billion, therefore, Pakistan has great scope to enhance its trade and exports with Vietnam. He said that Vietnam is importing many products including cotton & yarn, medicines, surgical instruments, leather products, fabrics, chemicals, meat & mutton products, pet food, fertilizers and Pakistan should enhance exports of these

products to Vietnam to take the bilateral trade to over US\$ 1 billion. He said that Pakistan has a talented workforce in IT and software field and Vietnam has good demand for these professionals, so Pakistan can increase the export of its IT manpower to Vietnam. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Vietnam Ambassador said that ICCI should form a delegation for Vietnam and he would fully support in making its visit successful. He said that exchange of trade delegations is important to explore new avenues of mutual cooperation. He

termed consistency, continuity and stability as key requirements for Pakistan to attract foreign investment from Vietnam, ASEAN and other countries. He appreciated the ICCI plan for organizing Pak-ASEAN Forum and assured that he would fully support it.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan and Vietnam are enjoying cordial relations, but their bilateral trade was just around US\$ 700 million in 2021, which was far below their actual potential. He said that the main reason of low trade is the lack of awareness about business opportunities between

the enterprises of both countries. He stressed for promoting strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries in order to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation in order to make significant growth in trade volume. ICCI President said that Pakistan and Vietnam can cooperate in many sectors including IT & software, agriculture, education, energy and culture. He said that both countries have been discussing a Preferential Trade Agreement, which should be finalized to boost bilateral trade. He said that Vietnam is an important member of ASEAN block and close cooperation of Pakistan with it can

provide us easy access to the big ASEAN market. He stressed that the investors of Vietnam should explore business opportunities in CPEC and in other sectors of Pakistan's economy. He said that Vietnam should consider investing in smartphone and computer chips, parts and accessories in Pakistan as Vietnam is one of the most advanced and large-scale producers of these products.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, Mian Shaikat Masud and others also shared useful ideas for improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Vietnam.

Second Pakistan property exhibition on Dec 16: Barlas

A large number of prominent builders, developers, from across the country will participate in the exhibition

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The meeting organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was chaired by Khurshid Barlas, in which after mutual consultation with all stakeholders, taking into consideration the political situation of the country, the second Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention, which is from 18 to 20 November, was to be held at the Pak-China Friendship Centre. After the unanimous decision, the new dates of the Sec-

ond Pakistan International Property Exhibition have been announced, which will be held from December 16 to 18 at Pakistan-China Friendship Center. A large number of various business community associated with bank projects and tourism industry including prominent builders, developers, allied construction industry from across the country will participate in the three-day exhibition. It is one of the most important investment fairs that will boost Pakistan's economy, creating great opportunities to attract investment from national to international levels.



Capital police introduces e-health system

ISLAMABAD : Islamabad police have introduced a 'capital police e-health system' for the provision of outstanding health facilities to the personnel of the force and to ensure their fitness by reducing health-related risks. This initiative has been taken following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan who has committed to ensuring welfare steps for the cops of the force including the provision of health facilities to them. The incumbent chief of Islamabad police has implemented a number of welfare initiatives including an increase in salaries as well as perks and privileges

for the personnel. The initiative of improved health facilities for the personnel would boost the morale of the force which would ultimately improve the performance. This system is being initiated from police lines headquarters in Islamabad and a database of all the people living in police lines headquarters will be compiled. This data would also categorize those living legally or illegally on these premises. A health card system would be introduced for the serving cops while medical tests would be conducted and medicines to be provided through a telehealth system as per international standards. According to the sys-

tem, medical tests of police personnel would be mandatory every year and the concerned doctor will suggest the medicines and medical rests for the officials. As per the recommendation of the medical staff, the duties would be assigned to the policemen. IGP Islamabad said that personnel of the force have risks of diseases like heart attack, blood pressure, mental stress due to old age, and tough duties, and this system will help to improve their health facility and mitigate such risks. He further stated that this system was the need of the hour which would help to ensure timely medical checkup and treatments to the officials. —APP

Capital's air quality healthy after rain subsides ambient pollutants

ISLAMABAD : The Federal Capital's air quality on Wednesday was healthy as air polluting particles and pollution was recorded low in the atmosphere amid cold and dry weather and less anthropogenic activities. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) daily air quality report noted that the air pollutants ratio recorded were below permissible limits and the air quality was healthy. The air quality data was collected by Pak-EPA for 24 hours based on three intervals of eight hours of data collection from different locations of the federal capital. The Pak-EPA data revealed that the air quality throughout the three intervals of data monitoring remained low as the ratio of pollutants was below the permissible limits of national environmental quality standards (NEQS).

The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a lethal atmospheric contaminant, remained 26 micro grammes per cubic meter on average which is lower than the NEQS of 35 micro-grammes per cubic meter and denotes the air quality healthy. The PM 2.5 is generated through combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material and dust blown up by fast moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads. —APP

Atta Tarar unveils facts behind rare watch-set gift

ISLAMABAD : Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Attallah Tarar on Wednesday unveiled the facts behind a rare and priceless watch-set gift, containing pen and cufflinks embodied with 12.24 karat diamonds, which was handed over to former prime minister Imran Khan by the Saudi Crown Prince but the PTI chairman sold it out in a 'criminal way' without realizing 'importance and uniqueness of the gift. "It is the only watch got prepared by the Saudi Crown Prince for gifting to Pakistan, so its price can't be matched with other ones. Its unique dial is of Khana Ka'aba (Baitullah Sharif) shape," he said while showing documentary evidence of the gift's details and the price evaluation. He said as per rules, any gift received from abroad was first deposited in the 'Toshakhana' and later on another procedure of market evaluation was carried out if the recipient wanted to keep it. "But nothing such thing happened in this case." However, he said, as per the market evaluation that had been carried out in a thorough professional and technical way, its price stood at around \$12 million, almost Rs 1.7 billion at that time and now Rs 2 billion. He said Imran Khan bought the watch set at Rs 20 million only, without adopting the laid down procedure. "And now, he (Imran) has confessed to committing two crimes which are buying and selling it." He regretted that the unique gift was not meant to sell in the open market as it was given as a gesture of great love and respect to Pakistan. He demanded Imran Khan to tender his resignation from the chairmanship of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf as he had declared a certified thief after selling the "made to order" watch in the market. He believed that the gift given by the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia to Imran Khan was for the people of Pakistan. Tarar hinted that the government would start criminal proceedings against Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case as per the order of Pakistan's Election Commission of Pakistan. He said that the government will also issue a red warrant for the return of Farah Gogi from the UAE. About the Daily Mail case, he said, that the trial of the case would start next year. To a question, he said that the provision of security to Imran Khan during the long march was the responsibility of the Punjab government. He said that FIR should be registered against Chief Minister Punjab Pervaiz Elahi for the security lapse. —APP

HEC invites applications for GRE training

ISLAMABAD : The Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Wednesday has invited applications from outstanding Pakistani/ AJK nationals for comprehensive online/physical GRE Training of prospective students and non-Ph.D. faculty aspiring for a PhD scholarship under "US - Pak Knowledge Corridor" an initiative of HEC. According to official sources, minimum 4 years bachelor's degree holders (BS/B.Sc./B.E/16 years formal education) with no 2nd or 3rd Division in entire academic career are eligible to apply for the training. Meanwhile, maximum age on the closing date shall not exceed 38 years, in case of regular Government employees/regular faculty members of Public Sector Universities and Govt Colleges/ Regular Researchers of registered

R&D Organizations. Evidence to this effect, in the form of a letter from the relevant employer (Organization), shall be submitted by the applicant once short-listed. While the maximum age is 33 years in all other cases. The candidate must not be availing any other HEC Scholarship. Those who have previously availed this training opportunity are not eligible to apply. A concessional fee of Rs. 2,500/- will be charged from participants in case of online training and Rs. 5,000/- in case of physical training. The remaining amount of training fee will be paid by HEC. The application shall be submitted via Google Form until December 10, 2022. The candidates are not required to deposit fee at this stage. Details regarding fee deposit will be shared with shortlisted applicants. —APP

USAID KPRM hands over solar energy system to KPRA

ISLAMABAD : The USAID-funded Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilization Activity on Wednesday handed over 30 Kilowatts Solar energy system to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) to overcome its power outages issues in its South Region Office. A proper handover ceremony was held at the KPRA head office on Wednesday in which the USAID-KPRM Chief of Party, Temur Aziz handed over the system to KPRA Director Administration and HR Mr. Aftab Ali Ghazi. The 30 Kilowatts solar energy system has been installed at the KPRA's regional office located in Bannu with the financial and technical assistance of USAID-KPRM. Speaking at the occasion, KPRA Director Administration and HR Mr. Aftab Ali Ghazi thanked USAID KPRM for assisting KPRA in overcoming power issue of the KPRA's South Region. "We needed the solar energy system for our regional office Bannu for uninterrupted power supply during office hours." "The system will not only be helpful in overcoming of power issue in our regional office Bannu but will also help KPRA in facilitating the taxpayers who visit the office," Mr. Aftab said adding "They are thankful to USAID KPRM for handing over the Solar Energy System to them." —APP

Recent floods cause Rs 1.383 bln damages

ISLAMABAD : The recent catastrophic floods have caused an estimated Rs 1.383 billion damages to the transmission network and infrastructure of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO). The said estimated damages were based on the survey of affected areas, told official sources to APP here Wednesday. They said that power supply to approximately 95 per cent affected areas has already been restored. Rehabilitation work of remaining area of 11 kV Hanna Urak feeder, which was completely washed out, was partially restored and left over work was under process, they said. They said that Board of Directors (BoDs) of QESCO has also approved the estimate and was in process for request to the federal government for grant. They said QESCO has started rehabilitation of transmission and distribution Network on war-footing. All material available in stock has been utilized for emergency rehabilitation works, they said. —APP

World Philosophy Day to be marked tomorrow

ISLAMABAD : World Philosophy Day will be marked on November 17 (Thursday) across the globe including Pakistan to honor philosophical reflections around the world it is a day for people to share thoughts, openly explore and discuss new ideas and inspire public debate or discussion on society's challenges. World Philosophy Day is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) initiative that draws people around the world to engage in shared reflection on contemporary issues. Various events and activities included Philosophical dialogues, debates, lectures, and meetings involving renowned philosophers. International conferences on philosophical topics such as the connection between philosophy, education and culture. Exhibitions and philosophy book fairs. Philosophy cafes. Philosophy has opened the door for new concepts and innovative ideas, laying the foundations of critical thinking, independence and creativity across cultures for many centuries. —APP

Briefs

ANF seizes over 48 kg drugs in six operations; arrests four

RAWALPINDI :Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized over 48 kg of drugs, arrested four accused and impounded a truck while conducting six counter-narcotics operations throughout the country during last 28 hours.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, he has recovered 690 grams Ice drug in an operation at Lahore International Airport from the possession of a passenger, a resident of Nankana Sahib, going to Indonesia.

In another operation on National Highway Hyderabad, ANF recovered 41 kg charas from the secret cavities of a truck and arrested a resident of Naseerabad.

ANF Balochistan also recovered three kg charas from the possession of an accused who was rounded up from Quetta.

ANF North conducted a raid at a private courier office in Islamabad and recovered 22 grams Ice drug from a parcel of women's sandals booked for Australia.

ANF and ASF in a joint operation at Sialkot Airport seized 960 grams of heroin from the possession of a passenger named Waleed, a resident of Sialkot, going to Kuwait through flight no GF-769.—APP

17 brands of mineral water unsafe

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) in its first quarterly bottled water quality monitoring report for the current fiscal year 2022-23 issued here on Wednesday declared 17 brands as unsafe for human consumption due to microbial, chemical or both types of contamination.

For the quarter of the year 2022 (July to September), 165 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from 20 cities. A comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of the Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 17 brands were unsafe for human consumption.

Nine brands (Andani Premium Drinking Water, Indus, Barsay, Best Natural, Faris, Nest Pure Live, Volvo, Eltsen, Dhoom) were found to be unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium. Two brands (Pure Handsome Water, Aqua one) were found unsafe due to the presence of high level of Potassium than the permissible limit, while, seven brands (Nayab Pure Life, Indus, ECO, NEO, Blue plus, Aqua Bello, Freshino) were found microbiologically contaminated and thus were unsafe for drinking purpose. The general public is encouraged to look at the detailed report to know about the status of the water quality of bottled water brands they consume.—APP

Land allotted for new police station in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD :Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Wednesday has allotted 16 kanals of land for Bani Gala police station in Islamabad which would assist to ensure effective policing in the area and provide prompt relief to citizens. Following special interest of Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan, a total of 16 kanals of land has been allotted for the Bani Gala police station. The Capital Development Authority has issued an allotment letter for the new building.

Similarly, an allotment process is underway for buildings of Khanna, Lohi Bher and Nilore police stations which will be completed soon. IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has also pursued allotment process along with his team for land of Bani Gala police station. The IGP said that a state-of-the-art building would be constructed for the Bani Gala police station, where separate offices would be constructed for the investigation officers. The residential barracks equipped with all facilities will be constructed there for the officials, he told.—APP

Ayaz Sadiq lauds WB for socio-economic uplift

ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq here on Wednesday appreciated the World Bank (WB) for its decades-long assistance, which he said had played and would continue to play a vital role in the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan.

The minister was talking to Regional Director for the WB South Asia, Sustainable Development (SD), John A. Roome and Country Director WB, Najy Benhassine who called on him here.

Ayaz Sadiq appreciated WB for being one of the major development partners that extended substantial financial support of US\$ 31.1 billion to Pakistan since the 1950s. He also expressed gratitude to the World Bank for its flood relief assistance to Pakistan.

"We are well-supported by the World Bank's team," said the Minister and highlighting that bank's interventions cover all major sectors of the economy including infrastructure, agriculture, rural and urban development, human capital, social service as well as economic growth.



The minister said the Ministry of Economic Affairs has now changed its role from just a facilitator in the signing of agreements to ensuring monitoring and fund utilization of projects in the most optimal way. On the occasion, the Regional Director that the Ministry was monitoring the pro-

jects through continuous meetings of the National Coordination Committee on Foreign Funded Projects and Steering Committee for Coordination regarding International Assistance for Flood Relief Activities. On the occasion, the Regional Director, Roome appreciated the facilitation

and proactive role of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

He discussed the WB's pipeline projects for supporting post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, particularly in the province of Sindh and Balochistan, and highlighted the need to push forward the imple-

mentation of these projects through effective coordination with the provinces.

On the occasion, Secretary EAD assured complete assistance from the Ministry in pushing forward the delayed approvals and implementations of the projects. He stated that the Ministry has categorized the projects

into three categories including satisfactory, unsatisfactory and problematic, while Ministry's special focus is on the problematic projects. He further apprised that the Ministry was working actively with the World Bank team in ensuring faster implementation of projects.—APP

Wheat stocks stood over 6.445 million tons

ISLAMABAD:The strategic wheat stocks of the country during current week recorded over 6.445 million tons, which were sufficient to fulfill the domestic requirements as well as keeping the demand and supply smooth, besides ensuring price stability of the commodity in local markets.

The total availability of the grains during the period under review were registered over 9.250 million tons as so far the government had released about 4.204 million tons to local flour mills in order to provide wheat flour and its other by products in local markets on affordable rates, said Food Security Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research

Imtiaz Ali Gopang. Talking to APP here on Wednesday, he said that local carry forward stocks of grains during current week recorded at 1,831,019 metric tons, adding that over 6,614,103 metric tons of wheat procured during last season to maintain the strategic reserves in the country. Meanwhile, the government had also imported about 805,444 metric tons of wheat in order to bridge the shortfall and ensure sufficient supply of the commodity during the season to provide wheat and its by products on sustainable rates for local consumptions, he added.

He said that private sector had also procured over 3.837 million tons of wheat

and out of the procured commodity about 2.868 million tons grinded and about 969,076 metric tons of wheat available in private stocks. The Food Security Commissioner further informed that crop sowing said that wheat sowing for crop season 2023-24 was in full swing and government was taking all possible measures to enhance area under crop production in order to achieve the wheat production targets.

He said that wheat sowing in Punjab Province has been completed over 13.9 percent area as the crop cultivation witnessed about 0.1 percent increase against the cultivation during the corresponding period of last year. By the first week of current

month (November), wheat crop sowing completed over 2, 257 thousand acres as against the set targets of 16, 220 thousand acres fixed for crop season 2022-23. According to data provided by the crop reporting department of Punjab, the wheat sowing was gaining momentum in rain-fed areas of North Punjab due to timely rains and favorable weather conditions as wheat sowing was achieved by 12.1 percent and in South Punjab it was completed over 16.6 percent as against the set targets.

Meanwhile, wheat sowing targets in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was achieved by 15.71 percent as the crop sowing completed over 141,400 hectares as against the set targets of 900,000 hectares.—APP

EPA to hold public hearing on Bhara Kahu Bypass project

ISLAMABAD :The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) will hold public hearing of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report for the project construction of Bhara Kahu Bypass intended to provide safe traffic and mobility to the residents of the Federal Capital. The Bypass would be constructed at Bhara Kahu on National Highway N-75 that links Islamabad, Satra Mile, Lower Topa, and Kohala which was 8.6 kilometers (km) from zero point. The intersection would commence near Jalani Town, Bhara Kahu and end point was at near Qaziabad.

The project would comprise of Bhara Kahu Bypass Road of 4km length which will be a Grade Road meaning the measurement of the road's inclination and slope. It will also have a signage or drainage, two underpasses on Shah Dara Road and Kiani Road respectively, and elevated highway with ramps, said the EIA Reported submitted at the Pak-EPA.

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is the project proponent undertaking the initiative to construct Bhara Kahu Bypass as part of its traffic improvement in the Federal Capital. The project has been planned to facilitate the commuters particularly the local community of Bhara Kahu, nearby vicinity sectors and also travellers heading from Islamabad to Murree by maintaining the regular flow of traffic to avoid traffic congestion and reduce environmental pollution by limiting vehicular emissions in peak hours traffic stagnation.—APP

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Similarly, an allotment process is underway for buildings of Khanna, Lohi Bher and Nilore police stations which will be completed soon. IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has also pursued allotment process along with his team for land of Bani Gala police station. The IGP said that a state-of-the-art building would be constructed for the Bani Gala police station, where separate offices would be constructed for the investigation officers. The residential barracks equipped with all facilities will be constructed there for the officials, he told.—APP

Pakistan's first energy booster juice of fresh fruits

ISLAMABAD :Iftekhhar Ahmed and Company, one of Pakistan's leading exporter of fresh fruits and value-added products, has announced launching of country's first instant energy booster juice prepared from pure pulp of apple, beetroot and carrot to make human immune strong by providing rich nutrition along with the elimination of toxins from the body.

"The energy drink has been introduced under the brand of 'Fruit Nation' with title 'ABC Juice' to promote health and nutrition by providing premium quality juices, nectar, fruit drinks and food products," Waheed Ahmed, Director Iftekhhar Ahmed & Company (IAC) informed here Wednesday. Talking to APP, Waheed Ahmed who is also patron in chief of Pakistan Fruits and Vegetable Importers and Exporters Association (PFVA), said that IAC is among the 200 companies in the world that has supply of fresh fruits and vegetables from its own gardens, state of the art processing, facility and food and beverages consumer products.

"The IAC has been in the business for 62 years and made an investment of US dollar 10 million to export company's brands to more than 25 countries besides manufacturing and exporting mango pulp, apple concentrate and other fruit pulp," Waheed appraised APP.

He said that some specific juices and nectars introduced under the Fruit Nation brand were free from sugar and artificial food colors, while natural food colors had been used in other juices, nectars and fruit drinks.—APP

Renovated Islamabad Museum to inaugurate today

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs and National Heritage and Culture, Engr Amir Muqam, will inaugurate renovated Islamabad Museum here on November 17. The inauguration will be followed by introductory briefing of organization while PM's aide will also chair an important meeting at Department of Archeology and Museum (DOAM), said a statement issued here.

The Islamabad Museum is the entity of the Federal Department of Archaeology and Museums, National Heritage and Culture Division. The Museum was established in September, 2002. In the Museum, an effort has been made to delineate the saga of evolution of cultures and civilizations in Pakistan through display of artifacts, and works of arts. The Museum covers the history of Pakistan through the artifacts displayed in chronological order, incorporating one of the earliest man-made tool, dating back

to 2 million years, collected from Soan Valley, nine thousands years old objects from Mehrgarh (Balochistan), artifacts of world celebrated Indus valley civilization and statutory of Gandhara Civilization. The antiquity representing Kot Digi, Gandhara Grave Culture. Bhanbhore, Thatta and other regional cultures spell out the story of evolution of man. Other objects in interests are Astrolabe, Miniature Paintings Manuscripts and works of art of Mughal period, early Muslim pottery, Chinese ware and illustrations of historical monuments of Pakistan.

The museum has gone through renovation to extend the splendid attractive and informative display. As many as 46 artifacts confiscated in the USA have been repatriated to Pakistan and are displayed in the museum. New artifacts from reserve collection of Islamabad museum have also been displayed in the museum. Recent renovation and extension of museum has made great impact on the visitors, researchers, students and heritage professional that are eagerly waiting for formal inauguration of the museum. This new extension of Islamabad museum will open new vistas for cultural heritage visitors.—APP

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ISLAMABAD: Heads of the UN organizations based in Pakistan posing for a picture with the visiting EU commissioner.—DNA

Najam demonstrates skills of miniature art at PNCA

ISLAMABAD :Najam Kazmi, an established miniature artist on Wednesday demonstrated traditional and contemporary skills of miniature art besides briefing about the history during a seminar here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). The seminar was a collaborative event of PNCA and Nomad Art Gallery while five contemporary artists including Areej Nasir, Iman Pirzada, Khurram Abbas and Tauqeer Hilbi also demonstrated their skills for amateur artists and students from various educational institutions of Federal Capital. The participants also created some drawings with help of a demonstration by Najam Kazmi. The seminar was part of ongoing week-long activities to celebrate the cultural diversity of Pakistan and create social harmony through soft

expressions of art. The activities included a group art exhibition, performance, workshops, storytelling and seminar by various artists on the subject 'Diversity and Social Harmony' featuring traditional and contemporary arts. Najam Kazmi is working as a miniature, contemporary and traditional artist since 1989 to date. He was conferred the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan and honored by the life time achievement award by the Rawalpindi Art Council. He has exhibited in many countries including Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Algeria, Sri Lanka, India and the Gulf. Mughal style of miniature painting was responsible for the amalgamation of indigenous themes and styles along with Persian and later European themes and styles. The

arts of this period reflect a synthesis of foreign influences and indigenous flavour, said Nageen Hyat, Director Nomad, while talking to APP. Pakistani art has a long tradition and history and Pakistani artists are very talented. It consists of a variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, miniature, calligraphy, pottery and textile arts etc. The arts are a vehicle through which human beings cultivate distinct social, cultural and individual identities, while transmitting values, impressions, judgments, ideas, visions, spiritual meanings, patterns of life and experiences across time and space, she added.

Khurram Abbas demonstrated his work that was based on social injustice and his war trauma. As the memories never fade he express-

es them in his painting, the visuals of which help him to alleviate their impact. His work is meant to be an expression of protest in silence. For Areej Nasir, art comes as a form of expression, she like to express the feelings and experiences that she got by living in the Asian social order. "I am partial to making the viewer think by commenting on what I feel are the errors and realities of society. My work is more about unnoticeable issues in a society's eye that later causes bigger issues and stops society from growing. I think now is the time to move forward and leave such errors behind to regulate the modern world order. I would describe my work as a modern drama with trenchant wit assimilated into a century-old technique of painting.—APP

Court Notice

In the Court of Muhammad Amar Sultan Kalachi Civil Judge 1st Class Gujrat

Title: Muhammad Rizwan Versus Ghazanfar Ali etc.

Notice to: 5.Zafar Hussain Son of Fatima Bibi (Son of Muhammad Akbar) Caste Gujjar Resident of Nathowal Tehsil and District Gujrat Suit for Permanent Injunction

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 19-11-2022, otherwise case will be decided ex parte. Qaisar Warraich

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 93

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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

Proper perspective can mend relations

THE meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, should serve as a harbinger for the mending of the damaged bilateral relations between the two countries. Just as President Xi said in the talks, China and Australia are both important countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and they need to improve, uphold and further develop their relationship, which not only serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples but also helps to promote peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Xi said that there are no fundamental conflicting interests between China and Australia. Instead, the two countries have a traditional people-to-people friendship, highly complementary economic structures, and shared commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Indeed, the "potential illicit Chinese political influence" Australia has galvanized to counter the "Chinese military presence" in the South China Sea that some Australian politicians consider to be a potential threat to the country's national security is nothing but a pretext some Australian politicians have fabricated to follow the strategy of the United States to contain the rise of China. These politicians have turned a blind eye to the fact that it is not in the national interest of Australia for it to blindly follow the strategy of the US in its geopolitical game. As a result of their blinkered view of relations, trade between the two countries has been impaired, and Australian enterprises engaged in trade with China have suffered. China's trade with Australia has also suffered. No wonder, the damaged bilateral relations, as President Xi said, are the last thing China wants to see. It is natural for countries with different political systems and cultures to have differences and disagree on some issues as far as the international situation or global governance is concerned. What is of consequence though is into what perspective politicians put such differences and disagreements. China has consistently maintained that it pursues a peaceful development path. It is natural for China to modernize its military as all countries do. It is disingenuous of some Western politicians to cry in alarm about a "China threat". That is all much ado about nothing. It has been five years since relations between Australia and China met with difficulties. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations, which should be an opportunity for endeavors on both sides to mend their relations. For Australia, it is important to think about how it can well manage the differences and disagreements between the two countries and not let them stand in way of improving political trust between them, and thereafter gradually bring bilateral ties onto right track.



'Loss and damage' funding a justified demand

THE low-income nations, which have done the least to cause climate change, often bear the brunt of the disastrous consequences of global warming ranging from floods, hurricanes to sea-level rises. The dire situation that many developing countries have found themselves in as a result of a warmer world has prompted them to call for the establishment of a fund through which the rich countries most responsible for climate change compensate the hardest-hit nations for their "loss and damage". Yet as the two-week COP 27 United Nations climate conference, being held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, nears its half-way point, little progress has been made over the question of whether and how the most vulnerable nations should be compensated. European Union negotiator Jacob Werksman said EU members were not ready to agree on a single funding solution, although he expressed the hope COP 27 would achieve more than just scheduling further talks on climate compensation. The United States and the EU have long resisted calls for a new fund for fear of spiraling liability. This, in addition to difficulties associated with how "loss and damage" are to be assessed, has made it almost impossible for any consensus to be reached on a special compensation fund at COP 27. US President Joe Biden vowed at the climate summit on Friday that the US was on track to slash its carbon emissions, urging all nations to ramp up their own efforts to avert catastrophic global warming. Yet, in his speech, he fell short of addressing the "loss and damage" mechanism idea. The indifference toward the justified demand of so many developing countries is disappointing. Especially since many are linking the success of the climate summit with the outcome on the funding mechanism. Indeed, the rich countries have so often failed to live up to the expectations of the developing nations. Little progress has been made so far even on the technical details of how to deliver on deals and pledges already made in previous years. For example, wealthy nations have largely failed to fully deliver on the \$100 billion promised annually for climate adaptation. Last year's transfer came to only about \$83 billion, mostly in the form of loans. Forecasts from the Institute for Economics and Peace predict that 1.2 billion people could be displaced globally by 2050 due to climate change and natural disasters. The developed countries, which are mainly responsible for historical emissions, have a moral obligation to extend a helping hand to the victims of climate change through a compensation fund. This is a matter of climate justice.

Trump, the loser, is back

Marwan Bishara

In 2016, candidate Trump promised that if he became president, the country would enjoy so much winning that people would get tired of it. Instead, President Trump led his party and country from one failure to another, until they got sick of losing. In 2018, Republicans lost the House. In 2020, they lost the Senate and the White House too. And last week, many of Trump's handpicked candidates lost the midterm elections and delivered a great deal of humiliation to their party, which, instead of a predicted "red wave", had to settle for a ripple. The party failed to retake Senate, and might even end up with fewer numbers than in outgoing chamber

FORMER US President Donald Trump's announcement on Tuesday that he will run in the 2024 presidential polls, only a week after his fiasco in the United States midterm elections, smacks of desperation and hypocrisy. But it will have key implications for his party and country. The long, "low energy" announcement was full of lies, half-truths and distortions about his record and that of President Joe Biden, especially on climate change, energy reserves and America's standing in the world. While it is true that Trump did not embark on big new wars, an accomplishment for an American president, international security, peace and stability suffered because of his abrupt hyper-nationalism.

In typically Trumpian fashion, it was all vanity and venom. The former president took credit for Republicans likely taking back the House of Representatives following last week's elections, albeit with the slimmest of majorities. The midterms elections were a referendum on Biden's management of the economy, as much as on Trump's menace to democracy. What historically and politically could have been an easy win for Republicans, especially with high inflation and Biden's low approval ratings, turned out to be a disappointing outcome for them. Once again, Trump, the de facto party leader, proved more of a liability than an asset.

In 2016, candidate Trump promised that if he became president, the country would enjoy so much winning that people would get tired of it. Instead, President Trump led his party and country from one failure to another, until they got sick of losing. In 2018, Republicans lost the House. In 2020, they lost the Senate and the White House too. And last week, many of Trump's handpicked candidates lost the midterm elections and delivered a great deal of humiliation to their party, which, instead of a predicted

"red wave", had to settle for a ripple. The party failed to retake the Senate, and might even end up with fewer numbers than in the outgoing chamber. The crushing defeat suffered by Trump's candidates is a testimony to America's rejection of his unsubstantiated claims that the 2020 elections were rigged, merely because he lost. In the process, tornado Trump ravaged the country's international reputation and shook the foundations of its democracy. And if that was not enough, he cheered as his supporters came to Washington to block the Congressional certification of the 2020 presidential elections. Now, following the midterms, it is clear that Trump the sore loser is a certified serial loser, too. And still, there appears to be no end to the nightmare.

The defeated, delusional and twice-impeached former president, who is facing many legal woes, has pledged to go on – despite growing opposition within the Republican party, as more and more of its leaders speak out against him. Referring to the last three election setbacks for the party, Maryland's Republican Governor Larry Hogan emphasised the need for Trump to step aside, using a popular baseball metaphor, "three strikes and you're out". Indeed, like baseball, US elections are competitive, expensive and long zero-sum games, producing net winners and losers, who are expected to accept the outcome. Not any more, alas. Not since Trump appeared on the field. Lacking all sportsmanship in life as in politics, Trump has rejected the most basic of rules of democracy and its basic pillars, such as a free media and an independent judiciary. Since he entered politics in 2015, Trump first changed the rules of the game to suit his interests, and soon enough changed the game altogether. Instead of baseball, Trump switched to tougher, more confrontational and vio-

lent American football tactics, where he has been mounting aggressive offensives, fierce defence, and brutal sackings. Indeed, Trump has embraced less democratic, more combative and confrontational means in campaigning and governing.

If he had won the 2020 elections, or if his minions had won the recent midterms elections, US democracy may have not been able to recover for some time – if at all. Thankfully, the country has pulled back from the edge, not once but twice, denying populist Trump the opportunity to demolish their liberal democracy. In fact, it is easy to see the feeling of schadenfreude among many of his detractors within the Republican Party: elated by his defeat, they might have been hoping for good riddance before he causes even more damage to the conservative movement.

But Trump's determination to run again for president may well take the Republican Party to the brink. Enjoying the strong and unwavering loyalty of some 40 percent of Republican voters, Trump is sure to present the GOP with an "after me, the flood"-type ultimatum: Nominate me or risk devastation. Although it is too early to tell, Trump may in fact get his way against a number of less committed and less-known candidates. And if an ageing President Biden insists on running again at the age of 82, well, Trump may have a real chance of bulldozing him come 2024.

The ramifications of a vengeful Trump returning to the White House for the country and the world may be too hard to fathom at this stage. But some things are clear: It would be a victory for the anti-democratic insurrectionist ultra-right faction that stormed Congress on January 6, 2021. It would be a victory for racism and hate. For too long Trump has managed to fail successfully. It is high time he fails miserably, once and for all.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

8 billion humans by year-end: Demography as destiny in a divided world

Mukesh Kapila

Turmoil among the teeming billions of China and India has geopolitical significance, as this would spill over into all domains of international relations. Hence the wisdom with which Chinese and Indian leaders govern their peoples matters for the world's well-being. At the same time, rivalry between the two neighbouring giants that has brought them into armed conflict on several occasions, is a serious risk to global peace. Dealing with the multiple dimensions of China and India is a top concern in world chanceries. Some – especially developing nations of Africa and Asia – seek to play off one against..

ALTHOUGH we are heading eventually towards convergence at the end of this century, our demographic destinies are currently diverging. The latest United Nations population report is a fascinating window into our shifting world that will have 8 billion inhabitants by end-year. This has huge implications for how we live with each other. The fast-progressing climate crisis shows that humanity's footprint is dangerously overshooting planetary carrying capacity. Population stabilisation is vital to sustain our future. The UN projects this will not happen till 2080 and by then there will be 9.7 billion of us. Women are having fewer children at 2.3, projected to decline to 2.1 by mid-century. It is worth celebrating that more of us are living longer; life expectancy has reached 72.8 years and will reach 77.2 years by 2050. Although we are heading eventually towards convergence at the end of this century, our demographic destinies are currently diverging. This points towards an unbalanced world with greater inequality and instability born out of the differing composition of our populations.

People in the least developed countries live 7 years less than the global average because poverty loads the dice against them. Meanwhile, their fertility remains high, for example, at 4.6 children per woman of child-bearing age in sub-Saharan Africa. Nations with youthful populations struggle to meet their education, health, employment, and other basic needs. As their prospects for the Sustainable Development Goals get dimmer, social and political instability are heightened at a time when the world is at its least peaceful since the Second World War.

But there is a silver lining for sub-Saharan Africa, and parts of Asia and Americas, where a bulging working population (25-64 years) means brighter prospects for economic growth. This demographic dividend contrasts with the demographic decline among 61 countries with falling populations, mostly in Europe and North America. Objects for pity. The world population is generally ageing. By 2050, one in six will be over 65 years, outnumbering children under five. The over-80s will treble to 459 mil-

lion. The current dependency ratio is 55 percent, which means, one non-working old or young person is supported by the labour of two. As fewer people enter the working-age cohort and more retire while living longer, dependency increases.

This has serious economic implications. A richer country needs to spend a fifth of its GDP on pensions, medical and social care for the elderly. Meanwhile, the reducing supply of labour is pressured to work harder and more productively while delaying retirement. These seed inter-generational conflict. The retirement crisis is already causing unrest in countries such as France. Historically, population imbalances were resolved through migration as surplus people moved to where they were more needed. Similarly, people facing poverty or catastrophe from conflict or disaster fled to somewhere better or safer.

The World Migration Report estimates that 281 million (one in thirty) are migrants bringing positive societal consequences. High-income countries with shrinking populations and workforces rely on migrants to keep going. But rising xenophobia has triggered a strong anti-migration movement, with serious political impacts such as Britain's exit from the European Union. It is against such tumultuous trends that a momentous milestone is approaching. Next year, for the first time ever, India will surpass China as the most populous country. Each currently hovers around 1.4 billion, but India will increase to 1.7 billion as China shrinks to 1.3 billion by 2050. Large, impoverished populations used to drag down their nations which were objects for pity and charity from others. Not now, as both rise up the World Bank middle-income table. China is the world's second-largest economy at US\$17.7 trillion and India sixth at US\$3.2 trillion, climbing to first and third place respectively by 2040.

A world where more than one in three is an increasingly-prosperous Chinese or Indian, inevitably shakes the world order, economically, politically, and militarily. Also culturally, as Indians constitute the largest global diaspora at 18 million and the Chinese contribute 10 million. Several Indian-ori-

gin and some Chinese-descent leaders have even headed other states and governments, and countless others occupy top positions in national and global institutions shaping our world. Of course, both great nations face huge domestic challenges, be it the discontent of still-poor millions or the disgruntlement of citizens, especially minorities, around identity and inclusion. Growing inequalities and human rights gaps may yet be their undoing.

Maximum self-advantage

Turmoil among the teeming billions of China and India has geopolitical significance, as this would spill over into all domains of international relations. Hence the wisdom with which Chinese and Indian leaders govern their peoples matters for the world's well-being. At the same time, rivalry between the two neighbouring giants that has brought them into armed conflict on several occasions, is a serious risk to global peace. Dealing with the multiple dimensions of China and India is a top concern in world chanceries. Some – especially developing nations of Africa and Asia – seek to play off one against the other, either to avoid being crushed economically by them or to extract maximum self-advantage from one or other. Underlying is raw politics around power: do you rule with Chinese control characteristics or the free-wheeling and chaotic Indian way? The ageing and faltering democracies of the Western Alliance face the same issue as they try to recalibrate against resurgent China and India.

From a geopolitical angle, a China-India conflict poses a threat to regional stability. It is in their own interests to avoid that by proactively managing their differences. Meanwhile, we have learnt from history that domination by any great power – whether the earlier Soviet one or the current American one – risks the shared aspiration for a peaceful and prosperous world. Similarly, any future hegemony by China or India would be equally undesirable. Instead, peaceful competition between them is safer, not least as a naturally-evolving explement on what ideas are best for running the world.

Courtesy: TRT World

Briefs

Appoint whomever you want: Imran

FROM PAGE 01
Zahoor said that he has evidence to back his claims. "The Toshakhana watch was sold in Islamabad and there is evidence [to prove it]," the PTI chairman said. Speaking about the alleged cipher and his claims regarding the United States' involvement in his ouster in April following a no-confidence motion, Khan said that his statement in relation to the US was wrongly presented. "I spoke about prioritising national interest over my own. America toppled my government, but good relations will be maintained with them due to national interest," the former premier said in meeting with journalists. Revealing about receiving an invitation to conduct negotiations, the PTI chairman said: "Message of negotiations is being sent to us, but we responded seeking an election date. Free and fair election has the solution to all the crises." Khan, when speaking about PTI's long march, said that the 'Haqqeeqi Azadi' movement is showing its effects. "The nation's awareness and movement stands strongly against the imported government. Attempts to bend the nation through oppression, fascism, and by violation constitutional rights are failing," Khan said adding that the attempts to kill him and clear the way through bloodshed in the long march also fell flat. The PTI chairman also reiterated his stance on the need for rule of law in the country to ensure progress. "Rule of law ensures an independent nation, which take the country toward progress," Khan said during the meeting.

Ethiopia to invite Pak business delegation

KARACHI: Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula Wednesday said his mission was planning to organize a visit of Pakistani business delegation to his country by the end of January 2023. This visit is solely dedicated to Pakistan, particularly for Karachi to help its businesspersons explore, understand and connect with the business community of Ethiopia, the ambassador said while addressing a press conference here. He said the Embassy of Ethiopia in Pakistan would invite the business community through Honorary Consulate in Karachi. "I can assure Pakistan investors that their investment in Ethiopia will be protected by the government and will also have an international guarantee as my country is a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency," Jemal said. "The government of Ethiopia is taking multiple steps to facilitate foreign investment in our country. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed chairs a meeting of the Board of Investment every two months to address the challenges faced by investors in our country," the envoy added. - APP

Court orders re-run of Berlin election

BERLIN: A German court on Wednesday threw out the results of Berlin's state election 14 months ago and ordered a re-run due to "systematic faults" in how the vote was carried out. In a ruling with national implications, Berlin's constitutional court found that the German capital, which is one of the country's 16 federal states, had failed to meet basic democratic standards with the September 26, 2021 ballot. "The linked elections for the state legislature and the (12) district councils for the entire constituency have been declared null and void," the court's chief justice, Ludgera Selting, said. The exceedingly rare move means that nearly 2.5 million eligible voters will be called back to the polls, possibly shifting majorities after a very narrow win for centre-left Social Democrat (SPD) Mayor Franziska Giffey. - APP

Ireland register historic series win over Pakistan

Ireland had defeated Pakistan by six wickets during the first women's T20I of the series in Lahore. Meanwhile, Pakistan bounced back to win the second T20I by six wickets

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Ireland women's team have defeated Pakistan in the third T20I to register an historic series win, 2-1, in Lahore on Wednesday. This is the first T20I series win for any Irish team in Asia, while also being the maiden away T20I series victory for the visitors. After deciding to bat first at the Gaddafi Stadium, Ireland posted 167-4 in their allotted 20 overs. Ireland's top-order contributed heavily in the team's score as opener Gaby Lewis led the way with 71 runs in 46 balls. Her impressive knock included 11 fours and a six. Lewis' fellow opener Amy Hunter scored 40 runs in 35 balls, meanwhile Orla Prendergast notched up 37 runs in 23 balls. For Pakistan, Nida Dar, Nashra Sandhu and Ghulam Fatima bagged one wicket each. While chasing the daunting target, Pa-



kistan were all out for 133 in 18.5 overs. Opener Javeria Khan scored 50 runs in 37 balls, with the help of seven fours, but she

didn't get able support from the other end as Pakistan kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Ireland's Arlene Kelly and Laura

Delany claimed three wickets each to restrict Pakistan during the run-chase. Gabby Lewis clinched the award for player of the match and

series. She was the top scorer in the three T20Is with 144 runs at a strike-rate of 130.90. Ireland had defeated Pakistan by six wickets during the first women's T20I of the series in Lahore on Saturday. Meanwhile, Pakistan bounced back to win the second T20I by six wickets on Monday. It must be noted that, before the T20I series, Pakistan clean swept the ODI series 3-0. Pakistan: Bismah Maroof (c), Aimen Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Javeria Khan, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali (wk), Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Nashra Sandhu, Sadaf Shamas, Sidra Amin and Umm-e-Hani Reserve player: Sidra Nawaz Ireland: Laura Delany (c), Amy Hunter, Arlene Kelly, Cara Murray, Celeste Raack, Eimear Richardson, Gaby Lewis, Jane Maguire, Leah Paul, Louise Little, Mary Waldron, Orla Prendergast, Rebecca Stokell, Shauna Kavanagh and Sophie MacMahon.

China 'poses threat', but must also engage with them

BALI: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has claimed that China poses "the single biggest state threat" to his country's "economic security", but insisted on engaging with Beijing on global issues. "I'm very clear that China poses a systemic challenge to both our values and our interests and it represents the single biggest state threat to our economic security and that's why it's right that we take the steps that are necessary to protect ourselves," Sunak claimed on Tuesday during an interview with Sky News on the sidelines of the G20 summit underway in Indonesia without elaborating on details. The British premier, however, added that he was still hopeful that he could meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping while at the summit's venue in Bali. "If we want to solve big global challenges like public health, Russia and Ukraine, fixing the global economy, or indeed climate change, it's important to have a dialogue and to engage with China as part of solving those challenges," Sunak then

asserted. This is while a bilateral meeting between the conservative British prime minister and Chinese President Xi Jinping - the first such talks between the countries in five years - was cancelled reportedly due to emergency meetings held in the aftermath of a missile strike in Poland that was initially blamed on Russia. It was later reported that the missile that killed two people was fired by Ukrainian forces. Downing Street stated that there were "movements with timings on both sides" that led to the cancellation of the meeting, but added that Sunak had wanted it to go ahead. "The prime minister obviously thinks it is still important to have that conversation with President Xi," his spokesperson said. According to UK-based media reports, a British prime minister has not spoken to



the Chinese president by phone for more than 18 months and has not had a face to face meeting since early 2018. Theresa May visited China for a three-day trade visit win January 2018 and Boris Johnson spoke to Xi during the COVID pandemic in March 2021. The reports cited unnamed British officials as saying that the talks would have had broad aims to find areas where the London and Beijing could start to make progress, including on energy security and the climate crisis, as well as encouraging China to play a more active role on Russia and Ukraine. Sunak's proposed meeting with Xi, meanwhile, had raised the hackles of a vocal group of Conservative MPs sounding alarm bells about China's actions - many of them under Chinese sanctions - who have

been pushing for the formal "threat" designation. Among those to have had Chinese sanctions imposed upon them are Sunak's security minister, Tom Tugendhat, science minister Nus Ghani, former Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith and chair of the foreign affairs select committee, Alicia Kearns. Smith said the change of approach was "drifting into appeasement" and Xi would take the rapprochement as a sign of weakness. "I am worried that the present prime minister, when he meets Xi Jinping, will be perceived as weak because it now looks like we're drifting into appeasement with China, which is a disaster as it was in the 1930s and so it will be now," he claimed. The former minister Tim Loughton, who is also under sanctions imposed by China, said Sunak must put the treatment of the seven MPs "at the top of his agenda" and added that "China may be a long way off being our ally but it helps no one if they carry on acting as an enemy of the west."

France captain Lloris will not wear armband

DOHA: France skipper Hugo Lloris has confirmed that he will not join other European national team captains in wearing an anti-discrimination armband during the World Cup in Qatar. Lloris had previously refused to say if he would participate in the initiative to support the season-long OneLove campaign to promote inclusion, which features an armband with a multi-coloured heart. "I have been quite clear about this and I don't want to add anything else," Lloris said in an interview with AFP. He said he wanted to "show respect" to host nation Qatar, whose treatment of migrant workers as well as women and the LGBTQ community have come under the spotlight in the build-up to the tournament. "When we welcome foreign visitors to France we often would like them to respect our rules and our culture. I will do the same when I go to Qatar," he said. His comments echoed those made by French Football Federation President Noel Le Graet, who has opposed the initiative. Lloris was missing due to injury when Manchester United defender Raphael Varane wore the multi-coloured armband in a UEFA Nations League match against Denmark in September. At the time, Varane called it "an honour". The initiative was announced in September, with Lloris and England's Harry Kane among the captains of 10 European nations who were expected to wear the armband in Qatar, where homosexuality is illegal. However, world football's governing body FIFA has not given its backing to the initiative. On Tuesday the France team did announce that they intend to donate money to human rights organisations from their 'Generation 2018' endowment fund, although Lloris did not reveal how much would be handed over. But Lloris, who starred in the French team that won the World Cup in Russia four years ago, admitted that he now wanted the focus to remain on football. - APP

Nadal ready 'to die' to return to his peak

TURIN: Rafael Nadal says he is "going to die" trying to return to the level of tennis that saw him capture a record 22 Grand Slam singles titles after his hopes of a first-ever ATP Finals title and becoming year end world number one were extinguished on Tuesday. The 36-year-old Spaniard fell 6-3, 6-4 to Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime in Turin to follow up on a defeat by Taylor Fritz on Sunday. To stay alive in the finals, Nadal needed Fritz to beat Casper Ruud in straight sets on Tuesday. But when Ruud won a set against Fritz, it meant a sharp exit for Nadal and also that his teenage compatriot, US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz, would finish the year as the top-ranked male player. Ruud went on to beat Fritz 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (8/6) to book himself a semi-final berth, while Fritz plays off with Auger-Aliassime on Thursday to determine which player goes through to the last four. Nadal needed to win the year-end title for the first time in his trophy-laden career to have a chance of preventing Alcaraz from finishing number one. "I mean, I don't think I forget how to play tennis, how to be strong enough mentally," said Nadal, who was playing in just his third singles match since the US Open in September. "I just need to recover all these positive feelings and all this confidence and all this strong mentality that I need to be at the level that I want to be. And I don't know if I am going to reach that level again. But what I don't have any doubt, that I going to die for it." Nadal - who has nevertheless won the Australian Open and French Open this year - praised 19-year-old Alcaraz, who is not able to play in Turin due to an abdominal injury. "Just well done for Carlos in this case," said Nadal. "Happy for him. Big achievement for him. Well done. Great news for our sport in Spain. He deserved it after a great season." Nadal's rustiness showed against Auger-Aliassime, who is in the form of his life having won three titles in October. "It is great to win against him, and stay alive in the tournament!" said Auger-Aliassime. "I have played some great tennis in the past month and to then beat a player of his stature is very special." - APP



KARACHI: Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf shakes hand with President Dr. Arif Alvi during a function in Karachi. - DNA

Pak stresses unfreezing of Afghanistan's assets 'pivotal'

Muhammad Sadiq said the int'l community should consider cooperating with the Afghan authorities on a 'hierarchy of priorities', especially where Interim Afghan government had shown a commitment to act on countering terrorism and combatting drug trafficking

DNA

MOSCOW: Special Representative on Afghanistan Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq on Wednesday stressing the region's role in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan said that exploring realistic pathways towards unfreezing Afghanistan's financial assets was pivotal. "A roadmap for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan is equally important," Sadiq said while addressing the 4th Meeting of the Moscow Format Member States. The fourth meeting of the Moscow format of consultations on Afghanistan was held in Russia, with the participation of representatives from Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Iran, Pakistan, China, Turkmenistan, India, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Muhammad Sadiq said the international community should consider cooperating with the Af-

ghan authorities on a 'hierarchy of priorities', especially where the Interim Afghan government had shown a commitment to act on countering terrorism and combatting drug trafficking. He emphasized that the pressing humanitarian needs of the Afghan people must be de-hyphenated from any political considerations. Beyond the confines of humanitarian assistance, he said that "we should focus on generating economic activity within Afghanistan to ensure a sus-

tainable future". He said after four decades of war and bloodshed, Afghanistan had turned a new page in its history, however, said that now that the war had ended, there was a unique opportunity to secure durable peace. Muhammad Sadiq said Pakistan was a firm adherent to the primacy of a regional approach to the situation in Afghanistan. He mentioned that the international community had consistently urged the interim Afghan government to promote greater po-

litical inclusivity. He, however, regretted that unfortunately, there was little to show on this count. He mentioned that despite assurances by the interim Afghan government, the rights of women and girls also appear to have regressed, not progressed. Sadiq pointed out that the footprint of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan had yet to be fully eradicated. He said the advent of the Afghan winter had exacerbated an already dire situation - the World Food Programme had already warned that over half the Afghan population could face a 'winter of famine' this year. He said the international commitments to provide humanitarian support to Afghanistan remained largely unfulfilled. Afghanistan remains cut-off from the international banking system and faces serious liquidity challenges, he added. "Billions of Afghan assets are frozen, thus deprived of being gainfully used for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan," he said.



Ruling coalition parties castigate...

FROM PAGE 01

per the order of Pakistan's Election Commission of Pakistan. "It is the only watch got prepared by the Saudi Crown Prince for gifting to Pakistan, so its price can't be matched with other ones. Its unique dial is of Khana Ka'aba (Baitullah Sharif) shape," he said while showing documentary evidence of the gift's details and the price evaluation. He said as per rules, any gift received from abroad was first deposited in the Toshakhana and later on another procedure of market evaluation was carried out if the recipient wanted to keep it. "But nothing such thing happened in this case." However, he said, as per the market evaluation that had been carried out in a thorough professional and technical way, its price stood at around \$12 million, almost Rs1.7 billion at that time and now Rs2 billion. The special assistant also said Khan bought the watch set at Rs20 million only, without adopting the laid down procedure. "And now, he [Imran] has confessed to committing two crimes which are buying and selling it." The PML-N leader regretted that the unique gift was not meant to sell in the open market as it was given as a gesture of great love and respect to Pakistan. Tarar demanded the former premier to tender his resignation from the chairmanship of PTI as he had been declared a certified thief after selling the "made to order" watch in the market. He believed that the gift given by the crown prince to Khan was for the people of Pakistan. He said that the government will also issue a red warrant for the return of Farah Gogi from the UAE. Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb heavily criticised Khan, asking him to decide when would he approach the court. The PML-N leader asked questioned the PTI chief, asking if he received the wrist-watch worth Rs20 million and sold it for Rs280 million. "Did Farah Gogi bring the money? Was the money declared?" she asked. She asked the former prime minister to share the receipt of the gift on Twitter as well. "Imran Khan's handlers - Farah Gogi and Shahzad Akbar - have been caught," she added. She said that Khan levels false allegations at others, and when he gets caught red-handed, the former premier terms them "baseless allegations". The minister said that Khan did not respond to any notice of the Toshakhana case nor did he join any investigation.

Imran disrespected PM's...

FROM PAGE 01

Amin has turned out to be a merchant of profitable business and the government's revenue. His so-called honesty and integrity have been exposed," he deplored. "A false slogan of change and Tsunami will soon go into obscurity. The so-called Sadiq and Amin did not disclose the income received from the sale of the gifts even in his assets," he loathed. "The money received from the sale of watches in Dubai should be traced out to know who is the beneficiary. If there is no bank transaction for the amount received, it is money laundering," he asserted.

Warsaw, NATO say Russia...

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Earlier, U.S. President Joe Biden had said the trajectories suggested the missile was unlikely to have been fired from Russia. The incident occurred while Russia was firing scores of missiles at cities across Ukraine, in what Ukraine says was the biggest volley of such strikes of the nine-month war. Kyiv says it shot down most of the incoming Russian missiles with its own air defence missiles. Ukraine's Volyn region, just across the border from Poland, was one of the many Ukraine says was targeted by Russia's countrywide attacks.

Briefs

European equities slip on Ukraine fears

LONDON :European stock markets slid Wednesday, with investors spooked over a deadly missile blast in Poland near the border with Ukraine.

London dipped 0.1 percent, also on news that UK inflation spiked to a 41-year peak in October on rocketing energy bills and food prices. Frankfurt fell 0.9 percent and Paris stocks sank 0.5 percent after Asia closed mostly in the red.

The dollar fell against the euro and pound but rose against the yen, while oil advanced.

"Fears that the conflict in Ukraine could escalate after a Russian missile appeared to hit a village in Poland, a NATO member country, have held back gains on global markets," said Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Susannah Streeter.

"There will be reassurance in words from (US President) Joe Biden that it was 'unlikely' to have come from Russia," she added.

The Kremlin has accused Ukraine of a deadly blast in Poland, with Belgium saying it was probably caused by Kyiv's air defences firing at Moscow's incoming missiles.—APP

Germany offers to aid Polish air patrols

BERLIN :Germany said Wednesday it could send its own warplanes to support patrols over Poland following a deadly rocket strike in a village close to the border with Ukraine.

"As an immediate reaction to the incidents in Poland, we will offer to strengthen air policing with combat air patrols over its airspace with German Eurofighters," defence ministry spokesman Christian Thiels said at a regular press conference. "This can happen from tomorrow, if Poland so wishes," Thiels said.

The sorties would be launched "from German airbases" without needing to relocate the jets to Poland, he said.

Such patrols take place in "specific airspaces", which are "agreed exactly with the Polish side", Thiels said. German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht would seek to speak to her Polish counterpart on the matter today, he added.

Officials are racing to clarify the circumstances of the missile strike near the Polish village of Przewodow, which killed two people. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz earlier on Wednesday warned against any "hasty conclusions" about the incident. Scholz stressed it was important to "make clear that this would not have happened without the Russian war against Ukraine.—Agencies

Musk to testify at trial over Tesla compensation

NEW YORK: Tesla tycoon Elon Musk will take the stand on Wednesday as part of a trial over his \$50 billion pay package as CEO of the electric car giant.

Musk will testify in the same Delaware court where he faced a lawsuit by Twitter to make sure he went through with his buyout of the social platform. The \$44 billion purchase of Twitter has put Musk under a deluge of scrutiny after he conducted massive layoffs, scared advertisers and opened the platform to fake accounts. The unrelated Tesla case is based on a complaint by shareholder Richard Tornetta, who accused Musk and the company's board of directors of failing in their duties when they authorized the pay plan. Tornetta alleges that Musk dictated his terms to directors who were not sufficiently independent from their star CEO to object to a package worth around \$51 billion at recent share prices. The Tesla shareholder accuses Musk of "unjustified enrichment" and asked for the annulment of a pay program that helped make the entrepreneur the richest man in the world. According to a legal filing, Musk earned the equivalent of \$52.4 billion in Tesla stock options over four and a half years after virtually all of the company's targets were met.—APP



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider welcomed a trade delegation of FPCCI Pakistan at the embassy and gave a comprehensive presentation on Pakistan-Belarus ties, trade and investment opportunities.—DNA

Trump launches 2024 US presidential run

FOREIGN DESK

Donald Trump, who has mounted relentless attacks on the integrity of US voting since his 2020 election defeat, has launched a bid to regain the presidency in 2024, aiming to pre-empt potential Republican rivals. Seeking a potential rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden, Trump made his announcement at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida a week after midterm elections in which Republicans failed to win as many seats in Congress as they had hoped. In a speech lasting little more than an hour, Trump spoke to hundreds of supporters in a ballroom decorated with chandeliers and lined with American flags. "In order to make America great again, I am tonight announcing my candidacy for president of the United States," Trump said to the phone-waving crowd, which included family members, donors and former

staffers. Trump steered clear of the name-calling that has marked other public appearances, opting instead for a critique of Biden's presidency and a review of what Trump said were the policy achievements of his own time in office. "Two years ago we were a great nation and soon we will be a great nation again," he said.

Trump laid out familiar dark themes from his playbook, denouncing migrants — "We're being poisoned" — and portraying American cities as crime-ridden "cesspools of blood." He said he would push for the death penalty for drug dealers and rehire members of the military who had been dismissed for refusing to get the Covid-19 vaccine. Although he assailed the US election process, Trump did not use his speech to revive his false claims of massive voter fraud in 2020 and did not mention the violent attempt by his supporters on Jan 6, 2021, to prevent

Congress from certifying Biden's victory. On a trip to Indonesia, Biden said "not really" when asked if he had a reaction to Trump's announcement. On Twitter, he posted a video criticising Trump's record in office. There is a long road ahead before the Republican nominee is formally selected in the summer of 2024, with the first state-level contests more than a year away.

Trump's announcement comes earlier than usual even in a country known for protracted presidential campaigns, and signals his interest in discouraging other possible contenders such as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis or his own former vice president, Mike Pence, from making a bid for the Republican Party's nomination. DeSantis handily won re-election as governor last week. Pence has sought to distance himself from Trump while promoting a new book. Other potential Republican presidential hopefuls include Virginia

Governor Glenn Youngkin, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Trump played an active role in the midterms, recruiting and promoting candidates who echoed his false claims that the 2020 election was stolen from him through widespread voting fraud. But many of his candidates in key battleground states lost, prompting some prominent Republicans to openly blame him for promoting weak candidates who derailed the party's hopes of taking control of the Senate. Control of the House of Representatives remains up in the air, but Republicans are on track to win a razor-thin majority.

Trump will seek his party's nomination even as he faces trouble on several fronts, including a criminal investigation into his handling of government documents, a congressional subpoena related to his role in the Jan

6, 2021, assault. Trump has called the investigations politically motivated and has denied wrongdoing. Trump, 76, is seeking to become only the second US president in history to serve non-consecutive terms, after Grover Cleveland, whose second stint ended in 1897. Biden, 79, said last week he intends to run for re-election and will likely make a final decision by early next year. In an Edison Research exit poll, seven out of 10 midterm voters expressed the view that Biden, who remains deeply unpopular, should not run again. In the same poll, six of 10 respondents said they had an unfavorable opinion of Trump. During his turbulent 2017-2021 presidency, Trump defied democratic norms and promoted "America First" nationalism while presenting himself as a right-wing populist. He cut taxes and secured a conservative majority on the Supreme Court. He alienated U.S. allies and praised author-

itarian leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin. He became the first US president to be impeached twice, though congressional Democrats failed to remove him from office. At a rally that preceded the Capitol attack, Trump urged supporters to march on Congress to "stop the steal," but the mob that stormed the Capitol failed to prevent Congress from certifying Biden's election victory. Even though court and state election officials rejected Trump's false election claims, about two-thirds of Republican voters believe Biden's victory was illegitimate, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. Trump has elicited passionate support from many Americans, especially white men, Christian conservatives, rural residents and people without a college education. Critics accuse Trump of pursuing policies built around "white grievance" in a nation with a growing non-white population.

Companies of China, Pakistan to enhance coop in trade, finance

DNA

BEIJING: Companies of China and Pakistan will enhance cooperation in trade and finance, it was agreed during a Forum held in Shanghai. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the companies from China and Pakistan agreed on enhancing cooperation in their relevant fields. On the forum, the project of China-Pakistan cross-border e-commerce (Bozhou) live streaming base was undertaken. On the occasion, Husain Haider, Counsel General of Consulate of Pakistan, Shanghai, and Falak Sher Zaman, Chief Representative of United Bank Limited in China conferred license for China-Pakistan cross-border e-commerce (Bozhou) live streaming base. A company has been registered for this purpose, according to Mr. Zhao Zhijiang, Director of Shanghai Huiguan Culture Media, an organizer of the forum. "With the support of NUST, Pakistan, the e-commerce base will introduce

more Pakistani products to China and vice versa", he said. Chinese importers, Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai, and UBL also reached the intention to enlarge seafood import from Pakistan. If a direct cargo charter flight can be opened between Karachi and Shanghai, it can become a business worth over one billion yuan annually. Mr. Zhao told CEN that the import has started after the first session of CIIE, but more opportunities are yet to be tapped given Pakistan's advantages in seafood production and China's vast market. Multiple companies in banking, financial investment, agriculture, automobile, aquatic, and trade sectors were also present to introduce bilateral opportunities. To further enhance bilateral investment and business exchanges, UBL awarded the China-Pakistan Honorary Advisor Certificates to over a dozen Chinese participants who have long been contributing to China-Pakistan friendship.

SHARM EL SHEIKH: As COP27 delegates in Egypt debate planet-heating emissions, the climate crisis is exacerbating devastating hunger across several African nations and will worsen further without urgent action, the UN said Wednesday. "If drastic measures are not taken urgently, hunger will increase as climate change is felt everywhere, most intensely in vulnerable areas, such as Sudan," said Zitouni Ould-Dada, from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Sudan is among the East African nations facing "acute food insecurity", the Famine Early Warning Systems Network warned earlier this month, highlighting the dire situation, especially in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. As the COP27 summit opened, a joint statement from over a dozen UN agencies and major charities warned the Horn of Africa was gripped by the "longest

and most severe drought in recent history", warning that parts of Somalia are "projected to face famine". Africa is home to some of the countries least responsible for carbon emissions but hardest hit by an onslaught of weather extremes. Sudan, like many other countries on the continent, has been hit hard in recent years by erratic weather patterns — harsh droughts and searing temperatures followed by torrential rains. Around a third of the population, over 15 million people, will need aid next year, the highest level for over a decade, according to the World Food Program (WFP). The climate summit in Egypt, billed as the "African COP", must be where the continent's food security is addressed, said Ould-Dada, deputy director of the FAO's Climate and Environment Division. But despite the vast resources of the continent, many nations are reliant on

importing food, Ould-Dada added. "It does not make sense for Africa to import 40 percent of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine when it itself is so rich in resources," he said, on the sidelines of the climate talks in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. "It takes political will to fight poverty and hunger globally." The FAO recently agreed a \$10 million project with Sudan's forestry authority to help support farmers, including by protecting crucial gum arabic trees — which provide a key ingredient for fizzy drinks — to combat rapid desertification. Sudan is already struggling with what experts and activists say is the result of shifting weather patterns: worsening conflicts over scarce land and water resources. Though linking the heating planet to conflict is complex, the International Crisis Group calls climate change "a threat multiplier" that increases "food inse-

curity, water scarcity and resource competition, while disrupting livelihoods and spurring migration." Sudan is the world's fifth most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change, according to a 2020 ranking in the Global Adaptation Index, compiled by Notre Dame University in the United States. Increasing demands on dwindling natural resources have fuelled inter-ethnic conflict in Sudan, including the 2003 war that erupted in the arid western region of Darfur. While a peace deal for Darfur was struck in 2020 with key rebel groups, violence continues. With agriculture and livestock accounting for 43 percent of employment and 30 percent of GDP, conflicts over livestock and access to water and land continue. According to the UN, 800 people have been killed this year and more than 260,000 displaced in conflict across Sudan.—Agencies

Azerbaijan MFA rejects French Senate resolution

Relations between Azerbaijan, Armenia have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh

ISTANBUL :Azerbaijan on Wednesday rebuffed a French Senate resolution calling for sanctions against Baku and its withdrawal from territory liberated from Armenian occupation in 2020. The resolution was "completely far from the truth, reflects false and slanderous provisions, and having the character of open provocation, serves to undermine the process of normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia," said a statement from the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. While noting that the resolution was not legally binding, the ministry said it once again demonstrated the "biased and one-sided political position of France as a country that has declared its intention to contribute to the normalization process. "In general, all the far-fetched claims mentioned in the resolution are another indicator of the ignorance of its authors about the historical facts and the current situation in the region." The statement stressed that the Senate had ignored Armenia's

occupation of Azerbaijani territory for nearly three decades, underlining that Karabakh is internationally recognized as Azerbaijani territory. "The rights and security of the Armenian population living in this region are an internal matter of Azerbaijan, and these will be ensured in accordance with the Constitution," it added. Relations between the two ex-Soviet countries have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Upper Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. New clashes erupted in September 2020, and a 44-day conflict saw Azerbaijan liberate several cities and over 300 settlements and villages that were occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years. A tripartite agreement was brokered by Russia to bring an end to the war in November 2020. The cease-fire is seen as a victory for Azerbaijan and a defeat for Armenia, whose armed forces withdrew in line with the agreement. Separately on Twitter, Azerbaijan's ambassador-designate to France, Leyla Abdullayeva, said: "The French Senate resolution of November 15, 2022, once again shows a biased position away from reality on the ground, does not serve the process of normalization between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and harms peace-building efforts in the region." Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron discussed the process of normalization between Baku and Yerevan during a telephone call on Saturday.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Argentine Ambassador called on Additional Secretary (Americas) Mudassar Tipu. AS reaffirmed commitment to widen ties with Argentina.—DNA

Liftoff! NASA launches mega Moon rocket

Kennedy Space Center, United States, Nov 16 (AFP/APP):NASA launched the most powerful rocket ever built on a journey to the Moon on Wednesday, in a spectacular blaze of light and sound that marked the start of the space agency's new flagship program, Artemis.

The 32-story tall Space Launch System (SLS) blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 01:47 am (0647 GMT), producing a record 8.8 million pounds (39 meganewtons) of thrust.

"What you have done today will inspire generations to come, thank you!" Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, NASA's first female launch director, told cheering team-mates.

Fixed to the rocket's top was the uncrewed Orion spaceship that will orbit Earth's nearest neighbor, in a test run for later flights that should see the first woman and first person of color touch down on lunar soil by the mid-2020s.

About two hours after launch, NASA said the spacecraft was on its trajectory to the Moon, and later released the first images taken of Earth receding behind the craft.

"Now we are going back to the Moon, not just for the sake of going to the Moon, but to learn how to live on the Moon in order to prepare to send humans all the way to Mars," NASA administrator Bill Nelson told a news conference after the launch.

"This is the next beginning, this is the Artemis generation," added Nelson, who said he watched the launch from the roof of the rocket assembly building along with a group of astronauts. America last sent astronauts to the Moon during the Apollo era, from 1969-1972.—APP

Medical labs in France on strike

PARIS: To protest government austerity plans, French medical labs are going on a three-day strike. Some 3,900 of France's 4,100 laboratories are suspending all tests, including blood and urine tests, except in emergencies.

In a bill on social security financing, the French government is demanding a 250 million (\$260 million) cut in the social security budget in this area. The bill aims to make up for the considerable profits seen since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, thanks to the numerous antigen and PCR tests carried out.

French Minister of Public Finance Gabriel Attal last week told news channel BFMTV: "These COVID tests have brought them a turnover of over 7 billion, financed by social security, that is, by all French people." While the laboratories are not opposed in principle to the government initiative, they are critical of how the state wants to achieve the savings by lowering rates for their services.

Francois Blanchecotte, head of the biologists' union, told Franceinfo, "This will have an impact on laboratories located in so-called medical deserts, where today we have no or few prescribers." French Health Minister Francois Braun accused the unions of "taking the entire population hostage" with the strikes.—Agencies

Briefs

Arshad Sharif's family demands UN probe

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The family of slain journalist Arshad Sharif has called for an independent investigation overseen by the UN Human Rights Office into the murder of renowned journalist in Kenya. International media outlet CNN has spoken to the widow and mother of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif who was shot dead in Kenya on Oct. 24 in unclear circumstances. Speaking to CNN, Sharif's mother has expressed reservations over separate probes being conducted by the PML-N-led federal government in Pakistan and Kenyan authorities. Arshad Sharif's widow Javeria Siddique in an interview with CNN journalist Larry Madowo said her husband had told her that he was hiding somewhere undisclosed in Kenya due to death threats. According to CNN, the slain journalist lived in Kenya quietly for two months and rarely went out until the day he attended a range shooting. As per the CNN report, the conflicting statements of the Kenyan police have raised questions over the probe being carried out in Kenya. The police have so far recorded the statements of 15 people, including 10 civilians and 5 police officers in the case. According to CNN, the question remained unsolved who shot one of the four policemen who was injured at the crime scene. The senior journalist was killed in Kenyan capital Nairobi on October 23 where he was living in self-exile. - APP

Court orders re-run of chaotic 2021 Berlin election

BERLIN: A German court on Wednesday threw out the results of Berlin's state election 14 months ago and ordered a re-run due to "systematic faults" in how the vote was carried out. In a ruling with national implications, Berlin's constitutional court found that the German capital, which is one of the country's 16 federal states, had failed to meet basic democratic standards with the September 26, 2021 ballot. "The linked elections for the state legislature and the (12) district councils for the entire constituency have been declared null and void," the court's chief justice, Ludgera Selting, said. The exceedingly rare move means that nearly 2.5 million eligible voters will be called back to the polls, possibly shifting majorities after a very narrow win for centre-left Social Democrat (SPD) Mayor Franziska Giffey. Any upset could also shift the balance of power in the Bundesrat, the upper house of the federal parliament, which represents the regional states. - APP

US initiative to enhance US-Pakistan bilateral trade

The project will also provide grants to firms registered in Pakistan that are interested in enhancing trade with the United States

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In honor of Global Entrepreneurship Week, U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome, joined by the Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Ayesha Ghaus Pasha, formally launched a United States government-led initiative to enhance U.S.-Pakistan bilateral trade. The United States has long been Pakistan's largest export market, with potential for further growth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the United States imported nearly \$5.3 billion in Pakistani goods in 2021, and U.S. investments in Pakistan went up by 50 percent in the past year. The Investment Promotion Activity (IPA), implemented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is a five-year project that will help strengthen Pakistan's business environment, build the capacity of Pakistani institutions focused on investment promotion, attract foreign direct investment, and



increase U.S.-Pakistan bilateral trade and investment. Overall, the project aims to reduce barriers to investment and trade by improving Pakistan's investment promotion capabilities. The project will also provide grants to firms registered in Pakistan that are in-

terested in enhancing trade with the United States and have the potential to attract foreign direct investments. These grants will play a critical role in connecting Pakistani firms with investors in the United States and other countries. During the launch event, a Fireside Chat

on U.S.-Pakistan Bilateral Trade Opportunities, Ambassador Blome remarked, "The United States has been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years, and U.S. investment in Pakistan is the highest it has been in over a decade. Building on and expanding that strong foundation of economic cooperation, we are continuously seeking to increase bilateral trade, boost investment, and improve entrepreneurial and educational opportunities for Pakistanis. As a part of the U.S. government's long-term commitment to helping Pakistanis secure a more prosperous future, USAID is working closely with the Government of Pakistan to streamline its business practices, improve governance, promote regulatory reforms and competition with the goal of lowering the cost of doing business and strengthening the investment climate for foreign investors in Pakistan. The newly launched activity will promote opportunities for enhanced trade and investment between American and Pakistani businesses.

Joint sitting put off again until Dec 20

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Wednesday again put off the joint sitting of parliament till December 20 (Tuesday) at 4 pm. The joint sitting scheduled to be held earlier on November 18, will now be held on December 20. The NA speaker rescheduled the session in exercise of powers conferred by proviso to Rule 4 of the Parliament (Joint Sittings) Rules 1973. Rule 4 of the Parliament (Joint Sittings) Rules 1973, states: "The speaker shall determine when a joint sitting shall be adjourned sine die or to a particular day, or to an hour of the same day: provided that the speaker may, if he thinks fit, call a joint sitting before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the joint sitting has been adjourned sine die." The present National Assembly had come into existence following 2018 general elections. - APP

Pakistan, Azerbaijan discuss cooperation in defence sector



KARACHI: Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen on Wednesday had a call-on meeting with

the Minister of Defence Industry of Azerbaijan Madat Guliyev on the sidelines of the International Defence Exhi-

bitution and Seminar (IDEAS 2022) here and discussed areas of mutual cooperation. Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov was also present on the occasion. On arrival, the minister welcomed the dignitary in IDEAS 2022, said a news release here received. Tareen said Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed cordial and brotherly relations. While mentioning deep-rooted mutual relations, the Minister reassured the visiting dignitary of Pakistan's whole-hearted support to defend the sovereignty and defence of Azerbaijan. Federal Minister for Defence Production mentioned that there were areas of joint venture to enhance mutual cooperation in defence production. Israr Tareen emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two countries. He offered to utilize the potential of Pakistan's defence industries to further strengthen defence ties. - DNA

Terrorist attack in Lakki Marwat martyrs six cops

LAKKI MARWAT: At least six policemen — including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) — were martyred when two terrorists on a motorcycle opened fire on their mobile during routine patrolling, officials confirmed Wednesday. The incident took place within the parameters of the Dadiwala Police Station when the cops were conducting a routine patrol near a fair in the city, a spokesperson for the city's police said. The martyred cops include ASI Ilm Deen, Detective Foot Constable Ahmed Nawaz, Lower Head Constable Zubair, Frontier Reserve Police's sepoy Usman Ali, Constable Mahmood Khan, and driver Dil Jan. The spokesperson for the district's police said that a search operation has been initiated to arrest the terrorists. In a statement issued shortly after the heinous attack, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned it and paid tribute to the martyred policemen. "The nation salutes brave officers who have sacrificed their lives for their motherland." Terming terrorists as the enemies of Pakistan, the prime minister vowed that the nation would stand strong against them. He then urged the KP government to provide the "Shuhda Package" to the families of the deceased. Taking notice of the incident, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah directed KP Chief Secretary Shehzad Bangash and Inspector-General of Police (IGP) KP Moazzam Jah Ansari to submit a report. Meanwhile, CM KP Mahmood Khan

strongly condemned the tragic incident and said such cowardly acts could not diminish the morale of Pakistan's security forces. He vowed that the provincial government would not leave the bereaved families alone in this difficult time. The chief minister also sought a report from relevant officials of the attack on the police van. In response to the tragic incident, Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah condemned the attack and offered his condolences to the martyrs' families. He said the deceased policemen have received the high status of martyrdom. "The cowardly act of terrorists should be condemned as much as possible." The Turkish Embassy in Islamabad also strongly condemned the terror attack. People in cities across the province have come out on the streets recently and demanded an end to terrorism, but authorities have time and again claimed to have the situation under control. In light of the incidents, CM KP Mahmood Khan earlier this month approved several proposals for strengthening the police department in the province, especially in the merged districts, and gave the go-ahead to the establishment of counter-terrorism department (CTD) offices in all districts. He okayed the suggestions while chairing the 10th meeting of the Provincial Task Force, where he pledged to provide all available resources to make the police force strong as per contemporary requirements, a handout had said. - DNA

Pakistan condemns India's irresponsible nuclear behaviour

"The report should have been qualified by stating that IAEA has no mandate on such matters"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Wednesday said that Indian media's reports about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general (DG) calling the BrahMos missile incident "not a cause of specific concern" were a "disingenuous attempt" to absolve India of its "irresponsible nuclear behaviour". The BrahMos missile — a nuclear-capable, land-attack cruise missile jointly developed by Russia and India — was fired into Pakistan territory on March 9, prompting authorities to seek answers from New Delhi on the safety mechanisms in place to prevent accidental launches. In a report on November 14, The Indian Express quoted international nuclear watchdog IAEA as saying that it did not see the incident as any cause of "specific concern". Respond-

ing to the development, FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the report should have "been qualified by stating that IAEA has no mandate on such matters". "The DG's response cannot be purposely misinterpreted to trivialise the incident of a nuclear-capable BrahMos missile fire with grave implications for regional and global security." "The incident has raised several questions about India's conduct as a nuclear state, including whether it was actually an accident. India also needs to answer questions about the underlying intentions, technical features and reliability of the missile system, safety, security and nuclear command and control protocols, and the presence of rogue elements in the Indian military," the FO spokesperson said. She added that India needed to explain "several repeated incidents" of nuclear and radioactive material theft and illicit trafficking, saying that they were more relevant to the IAEA mandate. Baloch went on to say that India was expected to report these nuclear security-related incidents under the IAEA Incidents and Trafficking Database. "These critical questions, which remain unanswered, should continue to be of concern to the international community."

WFP says its first aid convoy enters Tigray

ADDIS ABABA: The World Food Programme said its first aid convoy since the signing of a landmark peace deal between Ethiopia's government and Tigrayan rebels had arrived in the war-torn Tigray region on Wednesday. The restoration of aid deliveries to Tigray was a key part of the agreement signed in South Africa to silence the guns in the two-year conflict that has killed untold numbers of people and unleashed a humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia. "WFP convoy just entered North West #Tigray via #Gondar corridor for the first time," the UN agency said on Twitter, with a spokeswoman telling AFP it was the first to arrive in the region since the November 2 ceasefire agreement. The WFP announcement followed the arrival on Tuesday of a medical aid convoy from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the first ICRC trucks to arrive in Tigray since the deal between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). - APP

Iran releases Greek tankers seized in May: Athens

ATHENS: Iran has released two Greek tankers seized in May in retaliation after an Iranian crude oil cargo was held in Greece, the Greek merchant marine ministry said Wednesday. "After months-long talks with Iran, the Greek-flagged ships Prudent Warrior and Delta Poseidon seized since May 27 left today," the ministry said in a statement. Greece's deputy merchant marine minister was in Tehran Wednesday to broker the agreement, the ministry said. Most of the 50 sailors on board the two vessels had already been replaced weeks earlier. The Prudent Warrior's managers, Polembros Shipping, on Monday said seven of the original crew members seized in May were still on board the tanker before the deal was announced. "We have been innocent victims caught in the midst of political confrontations," the company said. The row began after a Russian-flagged tanker carrying Iranian crude was seized in April near Athens. The more than 115,000-tonne Pegas was originally headed to Marmara terminal in Turkey, according to the Marine Traffic website. Greek media at the time reported that the Russian tanker had faced engine trouble and was being escorted by a tugboat towards the Peloponnese, but was forced to moor near the island of Evia owing to poor weather. Greece said at the time it was enforcing EU sanctions imposed on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine in February. Though the ship was soon renamed from Pegas to Lana and changed hands, and Greek authorities said it would be released, the United States Department of Justice demanded that its Iranian crude cargo be seized. - APP

G20 deplores Ukraine war 'in strongest terms'

DNA

BALI: Leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) nations deplored Russia's aggression in Ukraine "in the strongest terms" on Wednesday and demanded its unconditional withdrawal in a declaration adopted at the end of a two-day summit. "Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine," the declaration said, signalling that Russia, which is a member of G20, opposed the wording. The positions taken by China and India, which abstained from a similar U.N. resolution in March, were not immediately clear. However, at least three diplomats said the statement, which recognised that "there were other views and different assessments of the situation and sanctions", was unanimously adopted. "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible," the declaration also said. "It is essential to uphold international law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. This includes defending all the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and adhering to international humanitarian law." Earlier, the day's schedule at the summit on the Indonesian island of Bali was disrupted by an emergency meeting to discuss reports of a missile landing in Polish territory near Ukraine on Tuesday, killing two people. U.S.

President Joe Biden said after the meeting that the United States and its NATO allies were investigating the blast but early information suggested it may not have been caused by a missile fired from Russia. NATO member Poland had said a rocket killed two people in eastern Poland near Ukraine, and it summoned Russia's ambassador for an explanation after Russia denied it was responsible. Leaders from the Group of Seven nations, Spain, the Netherlands and the EU, who were all in Bali for the G20 summit, attended the meeting. The G7 nations include the United States, Germany, France, Canada, Italy, Britain and Japan. After the meeting, the G20 leaders, dressed in white shirts and some with baseball caps with the G20 logo, took part in a ceremony to plant mangrove saplings to signal the battle against climate change. On the sidelines of the summit, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen held a two-hour meeting with Chinese central bank Governor Yi Gang, her first in-person talks with a senior Chinese economic official. She had said before the meeting she hoped to get new insight into China's policy plans and work toward more economic engagement between the two countries. WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told Reuters on the summit sidelines that several major economies faced a real risk of sliding into recession as war in Ukraine, rising food and fuel costs, soaring inflation cloud global outlook.

NOVEMBER 2022
Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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