

Samahad

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US says Saudi crown prince immune from Khashoggi lawsuit

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Australia will continue with submarine deal

Detailed News On Page-07



Flood again pushed country towards default

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IHC CJ says intel

suspects another

bid on Khan's life



Briefs

COAS to be appointed as per law

NAZIR SIYAL



President of Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) Asif Ali Zardari has said that

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will appoint the new COAS in line with the law and the Constitution. According to the spokesman for the Bilawal house, here, on Friday, Asif Ali Zardari said that "they strongly believe in the system of promotion in the Pakistan Army". He said that all the "three-star generals are equal and they are fully able to lead the Pakistan Army". He was of the view that the matter of new COAS appointment must not be "politicized" at any cost, which could cause "damage to institution". Meanwhile, President Arif Alvi has said that he will follow through on PM Shehbaz Sharif's advice regarding the appointment of the next army chief, sources told Friday. În a conversation with his aides about the appointment of new COAS, the president said that he could not create hurdles in much-anticipated process.

Pakistan has no fear of default

SAIFULLAH



State for Finance and Revenue Dr Ayesha Ghaus Pasha Friday said that half of the busi-

nesses are running without taxes, tax payers must think that they must have a part in the country's economy. Ayesha Ghaus said that Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) needs to change its policy. FBR should register new tax defaulters, there is no possibility of default in the country. She said that when the current government came into power, country was on verge of default. International Monetary Fund's (IMF) programme was not functional and now it has been initiated again. "Now, the country has no fear of default," she said.

Holiday Notice

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

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COAS Appointment

President to implement PM 's advice

Fawad Chaudhry says the president would fulfil his constitutional duty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has said that he will follow through on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice regarding the appointment of the next army chief, sources told Friday. In a conversation with his aides about the appointment of the new chief of army staff (COAS), the president said that he could not create hurdles in the much-anticipated process. "I do not have the legal authority to stop the prime minister's advice; I have never interfered in the affairs of the state," President Alvi - a leader of the PTI - stressed.

The statement comes after PTI Chairman Imran Khan - who has time and again called for the appointment of the army chief on "merit" - said that his party will be sitting back and watching, as the government decides to appoint the next army chief. The incumbent army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, is set to retire later this month and he has ruled out an extension in his tenure — and so has the military. In response, PTI Vice President Fawad Chaudhry said that president would fulfil his constitutional duty when it comes to the crucial appointment. "Let me make it clear, whatever the president decides, it will have Imran Khan's complete support," he added.

Dar briefs President on economy

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday briefed President Dr Arif Alvi on the country's financial and economic outlook, a statement released by the President's Secretariat said. During the meeting at Aiwan-i-Sadr, they also discussed various financial and economic matters. Dar informed the president about government measures to provide relief to the people, especially those who were underprivileged or affected by this year's destructive floods. The meeting comes amid delays in finalising a schedule for formal talks on the overdue ninth review of a \$7 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Continued on Page 06

Khan claims COAS, Alvi discussed 'early polls' PTI chairman claims government making

amends to Army Act for its own benefit

DNA

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday claimed that President Arif Alvi has met Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Baiwa to discuss immediate and transparent elections. Earlier, President Alvi said that he will follow through on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice regarding the high-level appointment and he could not create hurdles in the much-anticipated process. Sources said that Khan made the claim during an informal discussion with senior journalists in Lahore, where he also spoke regarding the army chief's appointment. "Appointment of the chief of the armed forces should be done like that of the Supreme Court's chief justice," Khan said, according to the sources. The PTI chairman also added that the incumbent government is making proposed amendments to the Army Act for its own benefit. "The proposed amendment to the Army Act will be challenged in the Supreme Court," the former prime minister said and informed journalists that he hasn't met General Bajwa in Lahore. Speaking about hitting the road during his party's long march as it moves ahead in Punjab's Gujar Khan, Khan said that his doctors will examine him tomorrow and give their opinion accordingly, "I will lead the long march myself from Rawalpindi," the PTI chief said, according to sources. Commenting on his attacker being present-

ed in the court a day earlier, as per sources, the PTI chairman said: "Prime suspect of the Wazirabad attack was produced in the court after 14 days. I'm afraid that the evidence will be lost in these 14 days." Khan, when commenting about his party's relations with the PML-Q, said that the "Q league is our ally. We have an excellent alliance with [Chief Minister Punjab] Pervaiz Elahi." Khan said that the biggest hurdle in the registration of the first information report (FIR) in relation to his attempted assassination was the former Inspector-Gen-

eral of Police in Punjab Faisal Shahkar. PTI chief Imran Khan, in an interview with National Public Radio, explained the need for early elections. The former premier alleged the economy was "sinking", remittances and exports were declining and Pakistan was "staring at default". "... And the sooner we get elections, [the sooner] a stable government comes in that will lead to political stability, which will then have a chance for Pakistan to get out of this mess," he said. Asked whether it is in the country's best interest to be staging protests, Imran said even if the government waits till next year to announce elections, his party was only getting stronger. "We are gaining from lack of economic performance but the country is sinking. My only worry is that the one year which is left, the country might just be pushed to the point where it might go out of all control. That may be impossible to pull it back."

bury 21

lia refugee camp.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, calls on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

COAS to be appointed 'in a day or two': Rana

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday said the matter of the next army chief's appointment would be settled in a "day or two". In an interview with private media channel, Sanaullah said: "I believe the prime minister has completed this process (of consultation about the army chief appointment) and will bring it to paper, today or tomorrow or the next two days, [it] takes no time." Upon further questioning, the interior minister seemingly reproached the interviewer and said: "I will also request you that this is a matter of a day or two so don't ask questions which can lead to unnecessary speculation," adding that in his opinion there "is not a lot of time left to this decision and it will come before you". Sanaullah said that a further delay in the matter would not be "appropriate" and the next army chief would be appointed in next two days.

Palestinians people killed in Gaza fire

WEB DESK

GAZA: Mourners flooded the streets of Gaza on Friday as they carried the shrouded bodies of 21 people, including at least eight children, killed in a fire in an apartment block where residents had planned to celebrate the homecoming of a relative. Most of the dead were members of the Abu Rayya family, their bodies wrapped in Palestinian flags and brought into a mosque for prayers over their souls, before being buried at the Cemetery of Martyrs east of the Jaba

IHC CJ Farooq tells administration to ensure roads are not blocked, PTI provided venue for sit-in

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq remarked Friday that as per intelligence reports submitted by the police, there are fears of another attack on PTI Chairman Imran Khan - who survived an assassination attempt earlier this month. A gunman fired on the PTI chief in Wazirabad on November 3 during the party's long march, wherein he sustained multiple gunshot injuries and is now recovering at his house in Lahore's Zaman Park society - but addressing the marchers regularly. The IHC CJ's remarks came during a hearing of two merged petitions - PTI's plea seeking a non-objection certificate (NOC) for a protest sit-in in Islamabad and traders' petition for ensuring the citizens' rights to access the roads during the protest sit-in. During the hearing, the police presented a report before the court saying that recently analysed chatter suggests there is a possibility of another bid on the life of

CJP 'expects' march to be in limits of law

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial stated on Friday that he expected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan to hold his party's Hageegi Azadi March in accordance with the law. The apex court heard the federal government's plea seeking contemp proceedings against the deposed premier for violating the court's order during the May 25 long march. Justice Bandial asked Imran's counsel Salman Akram Raja if the court should expect a law breach during the ongoing march. Addressing the five-judge larger bench, Additional Attorney General (AAG)

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"People have rejected 'work from home' March"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says PTI s long march has become a work from home after being rejected by the people. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Friday, she said Imran Khan s real face has been exposed and the people of Pakistan will hold him accountable for his fake narratives and U-turns. The Minister said PTI chairman s blame-game has not even spared state institutions. She said Imran Khan compromised dignity of the country during his tenure by selling state gifts and ruining foreign policy. Contesting whether Imran was ever injured in the Wazirabad attack, the information minister asked the PTI chairman to dissolve

the Punjab government if he was unable to register a First Information Report (FIR) for the assassination attempt on his life as per his wishes.. "Imran wants to register an FIR based



on his whims," Aurangzeb said. Referring to new revelations in the Toshakhana reference, the information minister asked the former premier to present authentic receipts for the sale of the watch before the nation and clear his name. On the problem faced by sugar producers and millers, Aurangzeb accused Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi of not allowing mills to commence crushing.

Pak needs to review security, terrorism policies

FM Bilawal says there is a need again for a consensus on tackling this new wave of terrorism, suggesting again that an in-camera review was needed of state policy towards terrorism

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday said that Pakistan perhaps needed to review its internal security policies and decisions in the wake of rising terrorist incidents and protests against them. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Bilawal said the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and South Waziristan had always supported peace and confronted terrorism. "Obviously if they feel, right or wrong, that terrorists are returning, they are protesting which is their right. Our responsibility as the government and the state is to ensure peace, rule of law and the state's writ. "I suggested to one of the questions before you that perhaps it is time for an in-camera internal review on decisions regarding terrorism and internal security," the foreign minister said. To a later question about war or negotiation being the only methods available to deal with the banned militant Tehreek-i-Taliban group, FM Bilawal said: "I never think it is as easy as black and white — either war or negotiations." He said he had a "different approach" to the issue from the previous government's decisions in the past regarding it.

"At this moment too I think that it will be necessary for us to internally review this policy [of black and white] and I don't think there's anything wrong in admitting we were wrong in some things and right in other things and reexamining our approach and recalibrating the way that we deal with this issue in the context of the developments in our region." The foreign minister said there was a significant increase in terrorist attacks after regional changes in the past year or so, pointing to the Karachi University attack and numerous incidents in KP.

Bilawal said there was a need again for a consensus on tackling this new wave of terrorism, suggesting again that an in-camera review was needed of state



policy towards terrorism. "We can't afford a return to the dangerous days of terrorism.'

Questioned about the Chaman border attack and the Foreign Office's response to it, the foreign minister said that his ministry uses "diplomatic lan-

guage" when addressing any issue. Elaborating on the situation, he said that the border was closed despite not wanting to because of the "terrorist incident". "We condemn whichever group is involved in terrorism and expect our neighbouring country will take appropriate action against them," FM Bilawal added. On Afghanistan, Bilawal said Pakistan did not want to

take a "solo flight" on its recognition and rather, pursue the process with international consensus. He said Pakistan wanted Afghanistan to show progress in safeguarding its neighbours from terrorism and that the interim Afghan government should complete its promises to the world, including those about female education.

The foreign minister also stressed the importance of global engagement with Afghanistan, saying the humanitarian situation in the country had reached a "dangerous level".



Recent agitations in Iran reflective of Islamophobia

Most importantly, theocratic influences within education systems through a coordinated effort also added to the agitation as Iran was a country that had always cherished cultural heritage

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: More than 40 years had passed since the Revolution, and Iran had experienced protests through the years over a series of issues. However, this recent chaos had been the most longstanding agitation staged since the Revolution, said Ambassador Riffat Masood. She was addressing a Roundtable Discussion, titled, "Contemporary Socio-Political Dynamics in Iran", arranged by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), here on Friday. She said that considering a plethora of linguistic and cultural communities, Iran's cultural fabric had always been more overpowering than religious supremacy and that relatedly, several concerns surrounding the recent agitation revolved around the cultural and religious identity of the deceased Mahsa Amini. The protests which had ensued following Amini's demise had triggered deep hatred against the conventional ruling elite in Iran. While the reasons were apparently different,

Peshawar to

be made city

of flowers

DNA

Amini's death had brought to the fore deep-rooted economic and political grievances that were so far concealed, she said. Ambassador Masood said that it was noteworthy that the recent agitations had turned into a major internal stressor pressurizing the regime survival, especially considering that 40 years of sanctions and a sustained campaign of repression by the IRGC and Basij had already made the regime unpopular, particularly among the 60 percent of youth and also, women. She stressed the expanding influence of the IRGC and the Basij, and said that the Iranians were done with the morality police and this was the main reason behind the longstanding persistence of the protests. Additionally, she said, social media regulations and controls had further exacerbated the situation leading to a state of suffocation among the public. Most importantly, theocratic influences within education systems through a coordinated effort also added to the agitation as Iran was a country that had always cherished cultural heritage. Ambassador Riffat added that it

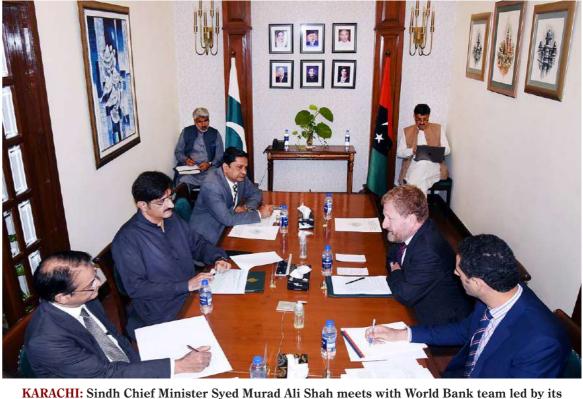
was important to note that in order to address rampant poverty, unemployment, corruption and poor economic progress generally, alongside the inherent nationalism rooted in the Iranians, multi-dimensional major reforms were required. The only way that the Iranian government could come out of the current agitation was via providing some sort of concessions to the Iranian people either economically or politically. Syed Fraz Hussain Naqvi, Research Lead Iran Program at IRS commented on the longevity of the current protests and said that there were several reasons as to why the protests will not succeed and might fizzle out in time. Firstly, the movement was by and large a leaderless protest steering into convenient directions with altering momentums during different times. He said, that other reasons to believe that short life of the ongoing protests were factors such as fake news, western involvement, lack of support from within Iran, and Islamophobic element attached to the movement.

Muslim countries, a massive market for halal cosmetics

FAISALABAD: The 2nd International Conference on 'Dermal Sciences' was organised by the Department of Dermatology Scienc-PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshaes, The University of Faisalabad (TUF), war Zubair Ali on Friday here on Friday. Indonesian Ambassador reiterated the resolve to to Pakistan Adam M Tugio attended the make Peshawar the city conference as the chief guest. The theme of flowers and address all of the conference was skin and cosmeceuthe issues including traffic ticals, production, practice and regulations. Addressing the conference, the ambassador problems through the involvement of stakeholders. praised the efforts of Madina Foundation in Addressing the members of educational and medical fields. He greeted TUF Board of Governors (BoG) Chairman traders and business community, he said a 25-mem-Haider Amin for successfully achieving the significant rankings for The University of ber committee comprising representatives of traders. Faisalabad. About halal cosmetics, Adam health, education, police, M Tugio shed light on the scope available in economy for halal cosmetics, especial-PESCO, SNGPL and line ly among Muslim countries. He said that departments would suggest more than 25 per cent of the global popumeasures to resolve the lation comprises Muslims, which makes most issue on priority basis. He said a delegation of exhalal cosmetics markets a massive opportuperts in traffic management nity for investors. He emphasised that the from Punjab was invited to expected volume in the economy for halal provide solution to traffic products would reach up to 6 trillion by 2024, so it must be the centre of attention

for all global investors. Discussing the demographical similarities between Indonesia and Pakistan, Tugio said that young influencers would play a vital role in promoting and marketing of halal cosmetics around the world, especially in Muslim countries.

He admired the fact that halal cosmetics would certainly face some challenges such as Islamophobia and misconceptions regarding halal products but intense research and brainstorming by institutes like The University of Faisalabad would help in facing such challenges. Earlier, the envoy inaugurated the 2nd international dermal conference at Ali auditorium where head of department dermal sciences Tanzila Khalid briefed the chief guest and other dignitaries about the aims of dermal conference and opening session which focused on halal cosmetics. In welcoming remarks, BoG Chairman Haider Amin thanked the Indonesian envoy for his visit at the 2nd international dermal conference. hE presented a memento to the Ambassador of Indonesia. Shields were also presented to Prof Dr Shaukat Parvez and Abiha Hamid. - APP



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with World Bank team led by its Regional Director Mr John Roome at CM House. Country Director Najy Bensassine joined the meeting through video link. APP

KPCSW organizes training on anti-rape act

PESHAWAR: A five days Training of Trainers (ToT) on Anti Rape Act 2021 and Gender based Violence (GBV) was organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women KPCSW here Friday. It was supported by Global Affairs Canada funded project WEPP- Cowater and was held here for Police department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was the first ever ToT on Anti-Rape Act 2021 in Pakistan which was attended by police instruc-tors from Police Training Centers across the province. AIG Police (Training) Dr. Quraish Khan, was chief guest of the concluding ceremony, says a press release. International Cowater Team Leader, Ms. Shabina Gulzar, Gender Advisor Ms. Zuhra Luqman and Director Programs KPCSW Ms. Amna Durrani were among the speakers. The participants were made aware of the different levels of investigation, rights of the victim, duties and responsibilities of the police, the health department, the community and other stakeholders in pro-

Pakistan, Sri Lanka vow to continue support in defence industry

ISLAMABAD: The third round of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Armed Forces Defence Dialogue (AFDD) was held in Expo Centre Karachi from November 16-17 where both sides agreed to continue to support each other at all regional and international fora. The Pakistan delegation was led by Secretary Defence, Lt General (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan, Sri Lankan delegation was headed by Secretary Defence, General (R) Kamal Gunaratne, said a news release issued here Friday. The delegations also agreed that the cooperation in the field of defence industry, military training, and joint exercises high level

During the Dialogue, Pakistan and Sri Lanka reviewed the existing scope of bilateral military relations and expressed satisfaction on the progress achieved under the umbrella of AFDD. Both leader exchanged views on regional security and upcoming challenges. It was agreed that Pakistan and Sri Lanka would continue to support each other at all regional and international fora. The cooperation in the field of defence industry, military training, joint exercises high level visits will continue. In the end, it was agreed that next meeting of AFDD will be convened in Sri Lanka on mutually agreed dates 2023.

LB polls to be held in AJK as per announced schedule on Nov. 27



We have full confidence in the federal institutions that they will cooperate with the government

MIRPUR: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the scheduled November 27 local bodies elections would be held in Azad Jammu Kashmir on time "People are happy to see the local body's elections are being held after a break

of more than three decades", the PM said adding that he was sure that Pakistan government provide the required security to ensure holding of the polls in free, fair and transparent manner During his informal chat at a private ceremony in Rawalpindi on Friday, the PM said that the government was committed to fulfill the commitment it had made with the people of the liberated territory. The Prime Minister said, "We have taken a clear position that the government will fulfill its responsibilities in this regard". He said that the decision to hold the polls as per the schedule has generated a lot of optimism amongst the people especially the youth who were actively participating in the election campaigns. "We have full confidence in the federal institutions that they will cooperate with the government respecting the wishes of the people of the

PU organises seminar on political polarisation

LAHORE: Punjab University (PU) School of Communication Studies (SCS) Friday organised a day-long seminar on 'Political Polarisation in Pakistan: Balancing voices Vs Journalists' Biases'. The seminar was held in collaboration with the SCS, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan Chair, PU Web TV and Department of Communication & Media Research (DCMR), savs a press release issued here. Director Prof Dr Noshina Saleem, Prof Dr Mian Hanan Ahmad. renowned journalists Rizwan Razi, Gohar Butt, Assistant Prof Dr Tanveer Hussain, Assistant Prof Dr Nasim Ishaq and students were present. In his keynote address, Rizwan Razi highlighted role of media in political polarisation in Pakistan besides shed light on its history and present practices in modern era. He said, after the emergence of new media, Pakistan's democracy had become polarised. - APP

PAF pavilion remained

NAZIR SIYAL

issues in Peshawar.

KARACHI: The 11th Edition of International Defence Exhibition and Seminar, IDEAS 2022, concluded on Friday at Karachi Expo Center. On the 4th and final day of the exhibition, the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) being the most appreciated project of the show, continue to gather admiration from the visitors, said a news release on Frithe project and its national significance has made it the most successful project at the exhibition. The NASTP project as per CAS vision and his own initiative has materialized in record time. PAF pavilion with the static display of state of the art JF-17 Thunder and Super Muhshak Trainer Aircraft remained iconic in the mega event with keen interest shown in the indigenously developed aircraft by the visiting delegates and

different countries. Earlier, on the 3rd day of the event, PAF's legendary Mirage aircraft presented a breath-taking flypast at Karachi Sea view. The event also included a paratrooping show of PAF's Air Borne team jumping from the mighty C-130 Hercules. The Flypast was witnessed by several key officials and delegates from friendly countries. The excited crowd gathered at the venue were over joyed to see the power

PAF aircrew. Both NASTP and the JF-17 Thunder aircraft together will serve as the leading defence productions to attract foreign delegates for joint ventures.

NASTP is all set to become one of the best Aerospace. Cyber and IT Clusters in the world and transform national landscape with design, R&D and innovation centers for emerging and disruptive technologies to foster research, innovation and devel-

IT and cyber technologies, products and services to accrue maximum social, economic, security and scientific dividends for the country. The mega event on one hand provided an opportunity to Pakistan Air Force to showcase its aircraft and indeginous productions infront of the audience from around the globe while on the other will pave the way for future defence collaborations with

viding justice to the vic-



Govt to provide legal cover to street vendor program: Faisal Kundi

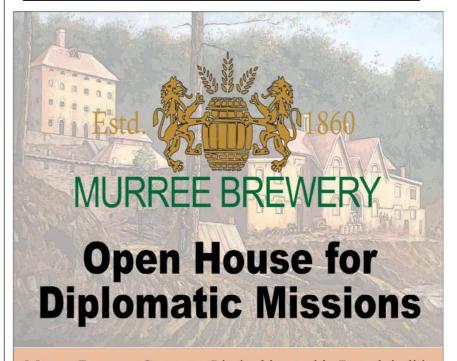
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi Friday announced that the present government will provide legal status to the street vendors program. He was presiding over a briefing on providing an enabling environment for street vending. Mr. Zia Banday, senior fellow Pakistan Institute for Development Economics (PIDE) and focal person of street vendors' program, gave a detailed presentation on the ongoing program in Islamabad, its challenges and future roadmap. The meeting was attended by Mr. Nadeem Afzal Chan, Former PPP MNA and high officials of the ministry along with representative street vendors. Faisal Kundi said that street vendors are an important part of society and by recognizing them through legislation and regulations we can build our economy. Zia Banday apprised Faisal Karim Kundi about the challenges faced by street vendors. The previous government didn't provide legal status

to Rehri Ban project due to which such a useful scheme had to face a closure in the initial stages, said Faisal Karim Kundi. The present government will provide legal status to the project, he added. Street vendors discussed their fears and expectations of the vendor's community with Faisal Karim Kundi. Kundi assured them full support for the welfare of street vendors. He said that vendors will only welcome this project if legal grounds are provided to the project. This project must be extended to the provincial level, he added. It was elaborated in the meeting that in comparison to other developing countries, street vendors remained a much neglected segment in Pakistan. It is left to fend itself on the cost of perpetual squeezing by predators from both private and public entities. Based upon a PIDE research survey, the street economy of urban Pakistan is conservatively estimated at around PKR 900-1000 billion with up to a million street vendors operating. This is an overwhelmingly cash,

unrecorded and informal economy with little graduation opportunities for Bottom of Pyramid (BoP) street vendors. Deprivation of legal status constraint effectiveness of street vending as a viable tool for poverty alleviation, job creation and livelihood for urban poor. In 2021, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation launched a street vendors' initiative at limited scale for formalization and financial inclusion of street vendors. Program components enabled over 200-street vendors to acquire eco friendly carts, micro-finance loans and vending licenses. Participating street vendors have organized themselves in an association. It is now facilitating digitalization of street vendors through their digital onboarding, bookkeeping, online payments, lending and ecommerce with engagement with tech companies. Mr. Nadeem Afzal Chan mentioned that ground realities of street vending demand a holistic engagement between political leadership and researchers for a sustainable solution. PPP has a long history

of struggle for the emancipation of poor and it is willing to expand the intervention footprint for street vending across the country. Participating street vendors also talked about their problems, where they are primarily facing problems of non-issuance and non-renewal of vending licenses. Their relief under the government program is under peril due to eviction threats from Municipality officials.

They have requested Mr. Kundi to intervene in this matter. SAPM has shown his resolve in addressing the street vendors' issues in earnest He mentioned that the government will be engaging all stakeholders in first getting the street vendors' law promulgated and then oversee its implementation across the country. He recognized street vendors as an integral part of the urban economy, who have a legitimate socioeconomic role to play. He emphasized that the ministry of poverty alleviation will play a lead role in the provision of an enabling environment for street vendors in the country. – **APP**



state", he said. - APP

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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman Mobile: 0300 8553342

National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

November

Nov 01 / Algeria National Day

Nov 04 / Italy

Armed Forces Day

Nov 07 / Russian **Federation**

Socialist Revolution

Nov 09 / Cambodia National Day

Nov 11 / Poland Independence Day

Nov 14 / Jordan

Birthday of King Hussein Nov 15 / Belgium

Kings Day

Nov 15 / Brazil

Nov 15 / Northen Cyprus

Republic Day

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

Emergency

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

Enquiry

qo ,	'
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PIACargo	.9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange9	270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	.5555489
CAA	.9281092



Hospitals

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666	



Departments

9221334-43
9208301-04
9250360-6
5555864
5770886
ard 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Begum Alvi for maximum awareness on breast cancer

Begum Samina Alvi said that every woman should spare 5 minutes for health and self-examination

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi said that one out of nine women in Pakistan is diagnosed with breast cancer and fifty percent patient of this disease die due to late diagnosis and stressed for creating maximum awareness in women about this issue to reduce its death rate in the country. She said that many countries have achieved 99 percent recovery rate and 80 percent survival rate of breast cancer patients by creating better awareness in society and we have to work on similar lines to cope with this issue. She said that awareness sessions on breast cancer should be organized throughout the year instead of just in October so that maximum women can be sensitized about the causes and treatment of this disease. She said this while addressing as Chief Guest at an awareness session on breast cancer organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which was attended by a large number of women from

various walks of life. Begum Samina Alvi said that every woman should spare 5 minutes for health and self-examination. She said that she has been patronizing this campaign for the last 4 years

Consulting

Services

Contract

Signed for

King Salman

Hospital

ISLAMABAD :A ceremony

was held on Friday in Is-

lamabad, Pakistan, for the

signing of a consulting ser-

vices contract for the King

Salman Hospital project and

the Government College of

Home Economics and Man-

agement Sciences project in

The two projects come from

a grant provided by the

Kingdom through the Sau-

di Fund for Development

(SFD), with a total of \$ 26

The signing ceremony took

place at the headquarters

of the Pakistani Ministry

of Economic Affairs, in the

presence of representatives

from the Kingdom's embas-

sy in Pakistan, and several

Pakistani officials. The Paki-

stani side expressed thanks

to the Custodian of the Two

Holy Mosques King Salman

bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and

HRH the Crown Prince for

their keenness and gener-

ous support for Pakistan,

highlighting the positive

and economic impact of

such development projects

The King Salman Hospital

project in the suburb of Tar-

lai aims to provide high-qual-

ity health services to the

residents of Islamabad and

its suburbs, while the Fed-

eral Government College

of Home Economics and

Management Sciences for

females in Islamabad aims

to raise the level of higher

Mobile

import

decreases

64.94% in 4

months

ISLAMABAD :The import

of mobile phones witnessed

a decrease of 64.94 per cent

during the first four months

of the current fiscal year

(2022-23) as compared to

the corresponding period of

last year. Pakistan import-

ed mobile phones worth

US \$226.051 million from

July-October (2022-23) as

compared to the imports of

US \$644.672 million during

July- October (2021-22),

showing a decline of 64.94

per cent, according to the

latest data released by Pa-

kistan Bureau of Statistics

Meanwhile, on a year-to-

year basis, the import of

mobile phones also dipped

by 56.06 per cent during

the month of October 2022,

as compared to the same

month of last year.-APP

(PBS).

education.-APP

on the Pakistani people.

Islamabad.



due to which increasing number of breast cancer patients are now coming forward for check-up during the first and the second stage of this disease. She said that the society should support the breast cancer patients, which is very important for recovery. She said that 13 hospitals in Karaachi, 8 in Punjab, 5 in KPK are providing free treatment to breast patients and more are needed to make its treatment affordable for low income patients. She thanked the private sector, medical universities, media and others for supporting awareness campaign

on breast cancer. Samina Alvi appreciated ICCI for arranging health awareness session besides dealing with day-to-day business issues. She said this huge gathering of ladies in the awareness session indicates the important role of ICCI in eradicating the cancer and other diseases.

merce and Industry, said that breast cancer is spreading rapidly in Pakistan due to which Friday Nover 40,000 women die of this disease every year. He urged the government should set up a national cancer registry to collect data at the national level for better prevention of the disease. He said the basic health units in rural areas lack staff and facilities for this disease and demanded that the government should provide women medical staff and other facilities in rural health units for screening of breast cancer. He further said that the government in collaboration with private hospitals should launch a national screening campaign for the eradication of the disease across the country. He assured that ICCI would continue to conduct such awareness programs in future to create awareness among more women.

World

Children's

day to be

celebrated on Nov 20

ISLAMABAD: World Chil-

dren's Day will be marked

on November 20 (Sunday)

across the globe including

Pakistan to promote international togetherness and

awareness among children

UNICEF, the United Na-

promotes and coordinates

this special day, which also

works towards improving

The day promotes the wel-

fare of and understanding

The theme for this year's

Day is, "Inclusion, for every

child". This theme means

that every child belonging

to any society, community

or nationality is entitled to

equal rights. It also empha-

sizes on the eradication of

discrimination among chil-

dren of various civilizations.

Many schools and other ed-

ucational institutions make

a special effort to inform

children of their rights ac-

cording to the Declaration

of the Rights of the Child

and the Convention on the

Rights of the Child. Teach-

ers stimulate their pupils to

think about the differences

between themselves and

others and explain the idea

Karandaaz

leads con-

versation on

climate-smart

housing in

Pakistan

ISLAMABAD :Karandaaz

Pakistan held a webinar to launch its latest study on the

potential of Climate-Smart,

Low-Income Housing in

Pakistan. Industry leaders and stakeholders came to-

gether to deliberate on the

housing needs in Pakistan

and the impact green initi-

atives can have in meeting

the needs of populations

especially vulnerable to the

impact of climate change.

Between 2000 and 2019,

Pakistan was found to rank

eighth amongst the top ten

countries most vulnerable

to the negative impacts of

climate change, according

to a press release issued

here on Friday. This vul-

nerability became starkly

evident Earlier this year,

as one-third of the country

was flooded as a result of

unprecedented rainfall and

glacier melt. As estimated

by Karandaaz, over 33 mil-

lion people were displaced,

and one-seventh lost their

homes due to the floods of

2022. With an ever-increas-

ing frequency of severe cli-

mate-related events, deplet-

ing energy resources, and a

of "rights".-APP

Children's

children's welfare.

between children.

International

Children's Fund,

worldwide.

tions

Dr. Faryal Razzaq highlighted the importance of emotional stability, family support and

avoiding suppression of emotions to cope with breast cancer issue as emotional trauma is one of the major causes of breast cancer. Amna Salman Butt, a breast cancer patient shared her experience how to cope with breast cancer disease.

RCCI fears 30,000 poultry farms to be closed: Sa

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has cautioned the Government that due to non-availability of soybean meal, there is fear of scarcity of chicken, meat and food security across the country.

RCCI President Sagib Rafiq said in a statement that 130,000 tonnes of soybeans worth 22 billion rupees are lying in the open sky at the port.

Due to the lack of timely



clearance, there is a fear that 30,000 poultry farms will be closed, more than 300 feed mills will be direct-

ly affected and the investment of about 1200 billion will be stopped in this secHe said that the poultry industry accounts for 50% of the meat demand in the country, and more than 1.5 million people are employed in the poultry industry. Non availability of soybean

meal across the country has started to have an impact, increasing the price of chicken, and making it unaffordable for the common man, he said.

He informed that Soybean meal is the main ingredient of any feed without which the production of feed is

try farmer, fish farmer and dairy farmer will be ruined due to unavailability of feed, he cautioned. Saqib Rafiq further added

that in the next two weeks, not only chickens, eggs will not be available in the country, but there will also be a shortage of milk and meat in the entire country. This should be considered as an SOS call, he said. He demanded that the au-

thorities should realize the seriousness of the issue and immediately release the soybean seed at the port so that there is no food securi-

population growth rate that far outpaces the provision of housing, this webinar

ISLAMABAD:Food groups' exports from the country during the first four months of the current financial year increased by 4.27 percent as different food commodities valued at \$1.493 billion were exported as compared to the exports of \$1.432 billion in the same period of last year.

During the period from July-October, 2022 the commodities which witnessed positive growth in their respective exports included fish and fish preparations 39.65 percent as 50,859 metric tons of fish and fish products worth \$134.596 million exported as against the exports of 30,088 metric tons valuing \$96.384 million of the same period last year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, over 378,826 metric tons of vegetables worth 107.460 million were exported during the last four months as compared to the exports of 199,119 metric tons valuing \$68.154 million in the same period last year.

The exports of leguminous vegetables (pulses) witnessed a 100 increase as 48 metric tons of pulses valuing \$0.047 million were exported as against the same period of last year. The exports of tobacco grew by 55.79 percent as 6,980 metric tons of tobacco valuing \$17.792 million were exported as against the exports of 1,907 metric tons worth \$11.429 million in the same period last year. During the period under review, about 26,747 metric tons

of meat and meat products worth \$129.197 million were exported as compared to the exports of 24,256 metric tons valuing \$104.558 million in the same period last year, recording a growth of 23.56 percent increase.

On the other hand, the imports of food commodities into the country during the last 04 months also grew by 9.71 percent as the country spent \$3.431 billion on the import of edible commodities as against the imports of \$3.127 billion in the same period last year. The commodities that contributed to the growth of the im-

port bill included wheat, which grew by 96.14 percent, soyabean oil by 365.90 percent, palm oil by 23.68 percent, and pulses by 25.82 percent. During the period from July-October, 2022, 1.098 million

tons of wheat costing \$460.596 million were imported, besides importing 985,872 metric tons of palm oil valuing \$1.406 billion and soya bean oil valuing \$111.732 million to fulfill the local requirements.

Besides, about 77,898 metric tons of tea valuing \$129.474 million, and 23,107 metric tons of dry fruits, and nuts costing \$13.430 million were also consumed in the country during the first four months of the current financial year.

was arranged as a platform to bring together a wide set of stakeholders, including architects, urban planners, financiers and funding providers, etc. to discuss Pakistan's

arrests four

North in an operation at International in-filled capsules from a passenger, resident of Khushab going to Bahrain on flight no GF-771. In another operation near Islamabad Motorway Sangjani Toll Plaza, ANF recovered 90 kg charras and over 40 kg opium from the possession of an Afghan national. ANF Punjab in an operation at Larecovered four cocaine-filled capsules from the possession of a female who came from Nagaria via flight no QR-628. The spokesman in-

housing needs. -APP ANF seizes over 148 kg drugs, in six operations;

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan on Friday seized over 148 kg drugs, arrested four accused, including a foreigner while conducting six counter-narcotics operations throughout the country. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF

Islamabad Airport recovered 73 herohore International Airport. formed that ANF recovered 1.7 kg heroin, seven kg char-

ras, a pistol.—APP

not possible due to which the entire feed industry will shut down. Your poulty in the country. Food commodities valuing 1.432 billion exported

Afghan faculty meet HEC chief Faculty members appreciated HEC's initiative for

capacity building of Afghan teaching staff and showed interest in future collaborative research and projects learnings gained through

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad held an interactive session with 30 Afghan faculty members who are attending a three-week capacity building programme at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) under HEC Afghan Project. The Chairman urged the Afghan faculty members to act as master trainers and further delegate their key

building programme to their colleagues at universities and other academics to continue the learning process. The faculty members appre-

ciated HEC's initiative for capacity building of Afghan teaching staff and showed interest in future collaborative research and projects. While appreciating e-library facilities in Pakistan, Afghan faculty was interested in learning how to improve digital access of their libraries in Afghanistan, for which Chairman encouraged and assured support and facilitation. Acknowledging commit-

ment and resilience of the Afghan nation, Dr. Mukhtar encouraged Afghan faculty to establish people-to-people contact for enhanced research collaboration, policy input through South Asian Forum and spread positive message among Afghan youth to strengthen Pak-Afghan bilateral relations through higher education.



Briefs

Security, Traffic, Rescue plans in place for long march

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi

district Police, administra-

tion and Rescue-1122 on Friday finalized all the arrangements for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) long march. Police personnel including commandos from the Elite Force and sharpshooters would be deployed to provide foolproof security cover to the long march upon entering the jurisdiction of Rawalpindi district. The Rawalpindi administration has finalised the traffic, security and Rescue-1122 plans for the movement of rallies of PTI heading towards Rawalpindi to stage a protest. As per the programme of PTI, the leadership of PTI would be heading the rallies. According to City Traffic Police (CTP) spokesman, all the arrangements for Gujar Khan pub-

lic meeting and PTI Long

March had been finalized.

He said over 310 traffic

wardens had been deployed

to regulate traffic in Gujar

Khan area. Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic Headquarters Raja Nisar was monitoring all the arrangements, he added. Special diversion plans were also finalized to regulate traffic on city roads during the long march and public meeting. Enhanced number of traffic wardens would be deployed on alternative routes to ease traffic flow and facilitate the road users, he said adding, CTP would also try to spread awareness about up-to-date traffic situation through FM 88.6 and social media._APP

Police search 89 houses to net criminals

RAWALPINDI, Nov 18 (AP-P):Rawalpindi District Police on special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Friday searched 89 houses in the jurisdiction of different police stations to net criminals and other lawbreakers. According to a police spokesman, police launched search operations in different city areas in the jurisdiction of Morgah, Saddar Wah, Cantt, City, Sadiqabad and Gujar Khan police stations. He informed that heavy police contingents. Elite Force. Special Branch personnel and Ladies police under the supervision of senior police officers conducted search operations in different areas and searched 89 houses, 38 shops, and seven hotels, besides checking the particulars of 23 tenants. Over 236 persons were also checked during the operations, he added Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations, Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan said that search operations were being conducted to net criminals and other lawbreakers.-APP

18 drug peddlers, bootleggers arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police in their ongoing operations against lawbreakers, conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 18 drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders besides seizing over five kg charras, 16 liters liquor, nine pistols, a 12-bore rifle, a Kalashnikov and ammunition from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Wah cantt police held Abida Parveen for having 1250 grams charras while Patriata police rounded up Ghulam Akbar with 1050 grams. Airport police recovered 1270 grams charras from the possession of Mashir Khan. Waris Khan police also recovered 1510 grams charras from Sheraz. Other accused were sent behind the bars for possessing drugs and liquor. Civil Lines, Taxila, Wah Cantt, Rawat and Chontra police arrested Siraj ul Haq, Ethesham, Arif, Asghar, Dedar Khan, Usama, Mehdi, Imran, Yasir and Allah Ditta and recovered nine 30bore pistols, a 12 bore rifle, a Kalashnikov and ammunition from their possession.

Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway. Senior Superintendent of Police Operations said no one would be allowed to violate the law and violators would be treated with iron hands.-APP

Korea keen to enhance relations with Pakistan

Seminar was attended by senior level representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs Division, EXIM Bank of Korea, Korean Companies, Pakistani Business Community Members, and the UN

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Islamabad organized interactive seminar on the theme of Energy Infrastructure Enhancement in Pakistan through the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF). The seminar was attended by senior representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs Division, EXIM Bank of Korea, Korean Companies, Pakistani Business Members, Community and the UN.

The seminar's propose was to discuss ways to promote renewable energy especially solar power in Pakistan in a collaborative and synergetic manner where Korean companies showcased their experiences of undertaking renewable energy projects in Korea, Pakistan, and around the world, and to highlight



the receptiveness of the Pakistani Government towards utilizing the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), worth USD 1 billion for the years 2022 to 2026,

which was signed in June 2022 between the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) of Pakistan and the Korean Embassy towards enhancing Pakistan's renewable energy

output and making the country more climate resilient.

The Ambassador while speaking at the seminar said that Korea and

Korea aims to further enhance these bilateral relations between the two countries to new heights through renewable energy pro-

enjoyed cordial ties and jects. Country Director of KOICA, and CEOs of Korean Companies also expressed their complete willingness to assist Pakistan in this process.

CA to hold puppet show for children on Saturday

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has scheduled a colorful puppet show for children and students from various educational institutions of twin cities on November, 19.

The National Puppet Theater will showcase the skills of its puppeteers featuring vibrantly costumed puppets and present Folk Tales, Skits, regional dances and national songs to provide infotainment for young minds to engage them in healthy activities. The show will highlight various issues like health, education and environment etc, through stories with lessons.

Children along with parents are invited to attend the show. The show is a regular feature of PNCA and the National Heritage and Culture Division that promotes culture and traditions

among the children with an understanding of their folk legacies which is an important part of their training, said the organizers.—APP

Motorbike, three-wheeler sales decline 34.50% in 4 months

ISLAMABAD, Nov 18 (AP-

P):The sale of motorbikes and three-wheelers witnessed a decrease of 34.50 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review, as many as 412,111 motorbikes and three-wheelers were sold in July-October (2022-23) against the sale of 629,212 units in July-October (2021-22), showing a decline of 34.50 percent, according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA). The sale of Honda motorcycles went down 20.61 percent from 435,072 units last year to 345,381 units during the current year. However, the sale of Suzuki motorcycles witnessed an increase of 16.04 percent from 11,661 units to 13,532 units. Similarly, the sale of Yamaha motorbikes decreased from 8,098 units to 4,856 witnessing decreased by 40.30 percent while the sale of Ravi motorbikes witnessed a sharp decline of 83.70 percent from 1,810 units to 295 units during the period under review. The sales of United Auto motorcycles decreased to 30,337 units from 115,374 units while the sales of Road Prince motorcycles also decreased by 72.24 percent from 43,940 units to 12,194 units.— APP

Pakistan's fruits & vegetable export to China over \$54 million

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's fruits & vegetable export to China topped \$54.34 million, witnessing a massive increase in the month of January-September year-onyear, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday quoting data from General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

According to GACC, imports of dried leguminous vegetables (commodity code 07139090), amounted to \$6.17 million, with imports totaling more than 4,040 tons in the January-September period, compared with \$3.97 million in the same period last year.

Ahmed Raza, a Pakistani fruits & vegetable exporter. told China Economic Net that in wake of the high demand for fruits and vegetables in the Chinese market, Pakistani traders have an imperial opportunity to increase their exports and grow as a food basket for China.

'Chinese people like Pakistani fruits & vegetables because of their good taste and high quality. If we enhance the techniques used by China to offer high-end products, the export value will increase," he added.

He further said that the flood badly affected many sectors of Pakistan including agriculture. Many crops including rice, sugarcane, fruits & vegetables vanished by the flood but these crops should be replanted as soon as possible to cover the losses and increase experts, he said. "Due to climate changes,

when our farmers harvest fresh fruits and vegetables, they encounter difficulties in storage, transportation, and preservation. Pakistani farmers are very

helpless watching the fresh fruits and vegetables gradually deteriorate with the passage of time. To solve consecutive years.

this problem China and Pakistan should further enhance cooperation in the fields of vegetable & fruit planting, storage, processing and make it high-end products," he mentioned. It is to be noted that despite the pandemic of COVID-19 and the flood in Pakistan, bilateral trade between Pakistan and China has increased significantly. Pakistan's exports stood at \$ 2.57 billion in the first nine months (January-September) of FY22, up 2 percent from \$ 2.51 billion in the same period of the previous year, which grew for three

Turi meets with Portuguese counterpart

ISLAMABAD :Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) Sajid Hussain Turi met Portuguese Secretary of State for Labor Mr. Miguel Fontes and President of Public Works Department IEFP, Mr. Domingo Lopes in Portugal.

In the meeting, bilateral relations, facilitation of immigration process and issues of mutual interest were discussed. A detailed discussion was held on the process of further enhancing cooperation between Portugal and Pakistan in human. resources and labor exchange programs. Turi emphasised on increasing cooperation between the

two countries in the field of human resources as that can

benefit both sides, received a press release here on Friday. Federal Minister further expressed that Pakistan is proud of its cordial and friendly relations with Portugal. Pakistan and Portugal have always worked together to strengthen cooperation and relations with each other. He further added that Pakistan is interested to expand the relations in economic sector. He added that the sole reason of his presence in Portugal is to create opportunities for skilled and hardworking Pakistanis to work in Portugal. He elaborated that Portuguese companies can hire Pakistani IT experts and skilled workers. Pakistan is willing to assist Portugal by proving manpower in various fields. Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Hussain Turi said that proposed draft on Labor Mobility Partnership should be signed soon. The agreement on Labor Mobility Partnership will provide a legal framework for increasing cooperation between the two countries. Turi said both countries are working on student exchange programs. He said he is elated that Pakistani students can get a chance to study in Portugal. He added that Pakistan and Portuguese must work to expedite the process of immigration and visa acquisition. Minister expressed his gratitude for a warm welcome and his delightful visit to the beautiful country of Portugal. He expressed his best wishes to the Government of Portugal and the people on behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan.-APP

NA passes resolution to

protect children's rights

Palestine embassy hoists flag at half mast

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the State of Palestine, Islamabad Pakistan hoisted the flag at half mast according to the declaration of His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, today, Friday, November 18, 2022, a national day of mourning in which flags are flown at all Palestinian official institutions, mourning the lives of the victims of the unfortunate fire incident in a house in Jabalia, Palestinian Refugee Camp in the northern Gaza Strip, which resulted in the death of an entire family consisting of 21 people.

The unfortunate accident was the result of a fire in the family's stock of fuel to operate the electricity generator, which has become a necessity for every home in the Gaza Strip to overcome the crisis of power outages of about 16 hours per day as a result of the unjust Israeli blockade imposed on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip for the long period of time which is more than 17 years, which prevents the availability of fuel supplies on a regular basis, the power plant and the entry of materials necessary for the maintenance of electricity transmission and distribution networks. These humanitarian issues and much of the daily suffering of the Palestinian people cry out to the international commu-

nity to stand up to its moral and legal responsibilities by taking all legal and political measures to end the Israeli occupation of the lands of the State of Palestine and to stop the racist occupation practices that deprive the Palestinian people of their most basic human needs to live in dignity on the land of their homeland inherited for thousands years.-DNA

Wildlife painting show kicks off at PNCA

ISLAMABAD :As many as 77 paintings of wildlife and gems of nature by artists Ahsan Qureshi and Kamran Qureshi were put on display here on Friday at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to educate the masses about wildlife, environment and pollution issues. Fareena Mazhar, Secretary National Heritage and Culture inaugurated the show and termed the endeavor of the artists as most important message for the young generation. "It is the time that every segment of the society must come forward to play their role in saving our environment and highlight issues like climate change," she said, adding that visual art was a tool that works to create awareness on various

through "soft expressions and leaves deep visual impact". The show aims to generate collective actions to conserve nature where the existence of humans s dependent on the well-being of all other living things. Both the artists are brothers who spent their lives chasing wild game set in pristine wilderness that taught them to appreciate the flawless design and harmony of all creation, said the organizers. "We have used many a canvas to express ourselves, sometimes by portraying nature, sometimes by being part of it. We are self-taught weekend artists. Both of us share a passion for the conservation of nature. Our artwork aims to showcase gems of nature in their natural habitats and at their best. We hope to inspire

take collective actions to restore the balance of nature before it is too late," said Kamran Qureshi while talking to APP. "It is painful to see that many of our wild places are vanishing rapidly. Clear waters are becoming murkier, rubbish is finding its way to the remotest and cleanest places, forests are being cut and the air is becoming dirtier to breathe. Plants and animals are fighting for survival. We fear that this is becoming our legacy. Will there be anything left for our children to have a healthy life?" he said, adding that now was the time that "we need to focus on things we need to undo" that includes piles of damaging waste, poisoned air and water, loss of forests.-APP



Consumers demand price control list for dry fruits amid price hike

ISLAMABAD :Consumers of dry fruits have demanded of the government to regulate the prices of nuts as shopkeepers are selling the products at desired rates without any tariff or price control list. Talking to APP, Malik Yaseen said that the prices of dry fruits including peanuts, almonds, pine nuts, walnuts, pistachio, apricot, cashew and dried figs have witnessed an upward trend and there is no rate list available with the shopkeepers. Another consumer Nabeela Ahmad while talking to APP said that customers are confused about the quality of the dry fruits due to various varieties and no grading system. She said every merchant describes their products as best and demanded that a tariff should be available with the shopkeepers with the grade and its price. When contacted a dry fruit merchant at a local market. Ashraf Mahmood confessed that dry fruits are sold without any rate list. He said Quetta and Gilgit are hub markets and the prices of the products depend on the purchase quantity and transportation mode. He said local merchants purchase the dry

fruits from wholesale dealers

and refine the products by clean-

ing the zest and crushed nuts

that increase the price due to

enhanced quality.-APP

of climate change and feels strongly about the resulting suffering of 16 million children who have been impacted by the 'super floods' in Pakistan, and at least 3.4 million girls and boys who growth of children.

al Assembly (NA) on Friday unanimously adopted the resolution to acknowledge Children's rights on World Children's Day' celebrated every year on 20th November The resolution was moved by the Member National Assembly (MNA) Mehnaz Akbar Aziz. stated that this House realizes the negative effects

ISLAMABAD : The Nation-

remained in need of immediate, lifesaving support. The House recognizes the rights of every child born in Pakistan as well as mothers and the need for provision of the best available early care and safe environment for all children. This House understands the importance of the first thousand days of every child's life which is a unique period of opportunity for brain development and laying foundations of optimum health and future

This House condemns merciless practices of child trafficking, child abuse, child pornography and prostitution, and recommends strong legislation and implementation to curb these inhuman and brutal offences.

This House reassures to safeguard rights of all children as enshrined in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan, and under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, for a more equal and inclusive Pakistan. The House pledges to ensure inclusion of children's voices in important matters to establish peace and harmony in the society, creating conducive environment for a healthy life. This House reaffirms to tackle the menace of child and bonded labor as enshrined in Article-11 of the Constitution Meanwhile. this House commits to create equal opportunities for all to acquire quality education in true letter and spirit as enshrined in Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan. This House resolves to invest time and effort for reducing malnutrition in children and mothers, and combat the menace of stunted growth among children in order to protect the future of Pakistan.

This House further commits that the child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his condition. This House pledges to provide more opportunities for children's civic engagement and participation, as inclusion is pivotal to the future of democracy. This House reiterates to further support and strengthen the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights for the child-centered legislation, advocacy and oversight, and National Commission on the Rights of Child to ensure greater compliance.

It is to mention here that as many as 500 students along with the teachers from the seven federal public schools working under the ambit of Federal Directorate of Education were also present in the National Assembly to witness the proceedings on International Children Day. -APP

Pakistan's 50% economy undocumented: told NA

:Minister

ISLAMABAD

of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha on Friday said the Pakistan's fifty percent economy was undocumented according to the studies already indicated including International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). Speaking on the floor of National Assembly during question hour, she said the quarters concerned was making all out efforts to bring reforms in the tax collection system in a bid to generate maximum tax income in order to create further facilities both at the taxpayer and common man's end. She said basically there were two ways to bring improvement in the revenue collection; first by educating the business community about the benefits of becoming the taxpayer and second through taking enforcement measures. "We have to develop the civic sense in every Pakistani national that he or she has to pay the tax as per his/ her income honestly," she preferred. She said the government provided various facilities to the people such as; education, health, transportation, defense, water and others on the basis of overall revenue collection adding that Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio was nine percent which is very low in the world that was why; Pakistan was lagging behind others in the comity of nations.

She said the FBR should introduce people friendly policies so that they themselves should document their income accordingly.-APP

Working the room to foster solidarity

s an important platform for global coordination on economic and development policies, the G20 Summit brings together the leaders of the most influential economies in the world.

The G20 members represent two-thirds of the world population, account for more than 80 percent of the world's gross domestic product and 75 percent of international trade. Hence, by shoring up shared political will, the G20 leaders can make concerted efforts to jointly and effectively respond to the pressing challenges facing the world and work together to secure a global economic recovery and prosperity, as was demonstrated during the global financial crisis.

That the necessary unity has been found wanting in the past few years has allowed some of the global ills to intensify and others to fester and suppurate. President Xi Jinping's intensive diplomacy in Bali this week was a rallying call for the G20 countries, and the international community as a whole, to stand together and face the risks and challenges. Conducting intensive meetings with an array of world leaders on the sidelines of the summit, he has sought to bridge differences, foster mutual understanding and create a more enabling atmosphere for cooperation.

While Xi's meeting with US President Joe Biden on Monday, their first in-person talks since the latter took office in January 2021, naturally grabbed global attention given the tensions between the world's two largest economies, the Chinese leader was very active in talking to other attendees at the summit in an effort to foster agreement on affirmative action to replace division with unity, confrontation with cooperation, and exclusion with inclusiveness. In the process, Xi made clear China's stance on the Ukraine crisis, which has been subject to some distortion, stressing the urgency for de-escalation, a cease-fire and peace talks, and the imperative of preventing any use of nuclear weapons.

Deepening economic cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries has featured prominently in Xi's conversations with leaders from the region, including Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. And Xi's diplomatic overtures over the past few days have either cemented old friendships or struck up a rapport to ease previously troubled relations, which has renewed confidence that regional stability can be maintained.

It is evident that all countries are having a hard time to a greater or lesser degree in the face of the current headwinds. Xi's message was that by rejecting beggar-thy-neighbor practices and the building of small yards with high fences and by joining hands instead, the world can find ways to tide over difficulties and create the prospects for a brighter future.

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Utilizing resources for success

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

one are the days when people had to walk miles to read books in a library. Now they don't even have to travel as books and literature is available over the Internet. The youth of today has the resources to achieve success. Unlike their predecessors who had to perform manual labor, the youth of today can access all forms of content online. The need of the hour is to find a purpose and direction. With changing times, the youth needs to become aware of their society. They cannot live in isolation. The example of hundreds and thousands of freelancers working across Pakistan is an example. They actively share insights and discuss opportunities on social media. This creates a congenial environment for learning.

The youth should be made aware of the learning opportunities available online. They should enhance their skills to earn while gaining experience. This experience will help them to strengthen their skills, capitalize on their ability to solve problems and earn a side income. Interaction with clients and peers also creates new contacts.

Indeed, the world is moving towards a remote-work culture where companies will be increasing their dependencies on remote employees who do not need to show up at the office. This first experimented during the lockdown in 2020. The concept of freelancing was also accentuated during this period when more skilled individuals began selling their services online. The youth of Pakistan should learn how to use their available resources to achieve maximum output. They need to first identify their interest and develop a skill set that complements this interest. They then need to determine how to use social media to market their services and attract clients. The world is gearing for the fourth industrial revolution and much of it has already begun. This new era will require the youth to be agile to changing trends, be adaptive to the market's needs, and be focused on bolstering their skills.

US slow walks punitive measure against Saudi Arabia as tension spills into Qatar WC

James M. Dorsey

In the six weeks since the cut, Saudi Arabia has made several conciliatory gestures, including a vote in the United Nations General Assembly in favor of a resolution declaring Russia's annexation of swaths of eastern Ukraine illegal, and significantly increased humanitarian aid for Ukraine. The gestures failed to persuade Mr. Biden, buoyed by his Democratic Party's dashing Republican hopes, to take time out from this week's Group of 20 summit to meet with Mr. Bin Salman on the sidelines. However, that didn't stop the Biden administration from simultaneously seeking to bolster fledgling confidence in its commitment to the kingdom's defense by flying two B-52 bombers over the Middle East in a show-of-force message to Iran.

ecent Saudi efforts to appease the Biden administration in the wake of the kingdom's backing of last month's OPEC+ oil production cut take on added significance in the wake of this week's US midterm elections that have strengthened Joe Biden and weakened former President Donald J. Trump. Saudi insistence on a two million barrel a day cut in the wake of Mr. Biden's failed effort to persuade Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to delay the cut, if not increase production, in advance of the elections, was widely seen in Washington as an effort to bolster Mr. Trump's Republican Party.

If that was the Saudi strategy, it backfired. Mr. Biden's Democratic Party fared far better in the elections by holding onto control of the Senate and losing the House of Representatives to the Republicans by a much smaller margin than expected. Saudi Arabia has consistently denied the allegation, insisting the cut was economically prudent and constituted neither an attempt to sway US voters nor support Russia despite its invasion of Ukraine. In the six weeks since the cut, Saudi Arabia has made several conciliatory gestures, including a vote in the United Nations General Assembly in favor of a resolution declaring Russia's annexation of swaths of eastern Ukraine illegal, and significantly increased humanitarian aid for Ukraine. The gestures failed to persuade Mr. Biden, buoyed by his Democratic Party's dashing Republican hopes, to take time out from this week's Group of 20 summit to meet with Mr. Bin Salman on the sidelines. However, that didn't stop the Biden administration from simultaneously seeking to bolster fledgling confidence in its commitment to the kingdom's defense by flying two B-52 bombers over the Mid-

dle East in a show-of-force message to Iran. The demonstrative act was intended to deter Iran from acting on alleged plans to attack Saudi Arabia to distract attention from two months of anti-government protests that Iran claims were instigated by the kingdom, the United States, and Israel. The overflight also followed reports that Saudi Arabia had broken off Iraqi-sponsored talks with Iran designed to prevent differences between the two regional rivals from spinning out of control. It remains unclear whether the US demonstration has deterred Iran. Moreover, it has not stopped tensions between Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Israel and

Iran's domestic strife from potentially spilling into the Qatar World Cup.

Israel this week advised the up to 20,000 Israelis expected to attend the World Cup in a country that generally refuses to grant them entry to exercise caution, in part because of Iranian participation in the tournament. The expected presence has also sparked the ire of some Qataris because of Israel's policy towards the Palestinians. Former Qatari race driver Hamad Al-Suwaidi sparked outrage on social media by declaring that Israeli fans would be welcome as "brothers" in Qatar, which is "also their country." The outrage raised questions about what kind of reception Israelis can expect. Mr. Al-Suwaidi made his remarks shortly after becoming a media sensation in Qatar because he had installed a gigantic stone replica of the World Cup soccer trophy outside his home in Doha. In response, Ahmed Al Binali, a Qatari national, tweeted that "recently, there have been some lone voices calling for normalisation with the Zionist enwhen was Qatar their country? Since when were they our brothers and friends? We neither welcome nor will be friends with those who kill the people and children of Palestine." For his part, Carlos Queiroz, the Iranian football squad's manager, insisted that players would be allowed to protest. Some Iranian footballers, including the squad's star player Sardar Azmoun, have supported the anti-government protests in Iran. More than 300 protesters are believed to have been killed in tge past two months in brutal efforts by security forces to squash the unrest. Breaking with FIFA's fictional separation of politics and sports, Mr. Quieroz said that "players are free to protest as they would if they were from any other country as long as it conforms with the World Cup regulations and is in the spirit of the game." Meanwhile, in a bid to prevent tensions from spinning out of control and appease Iran, Qatar has refused to accredit the London-based, Saudi-backed satellite television broadcaster, Iran international, for the World Cup. Iran has accused the broadcaster of inciting the protests. The Islamic republic warned in September that Iran International would "pay the price" for carrying footage of the demonstrations. "I warn the Saudi regime to control your media, or the smoke will go in your eyes," said Maj. Gen. Hossein Salami, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The commander added, "this is our last warning because you are interfering in our inter-

nal affairs through these media. You are involved in this matter and know that you are vulnerable." Last week, Iran International asserted that British police had warned two of its British-Iranian journalists about a "credible" Iranian plot to kill them. Ironically, the crackdowns in Iran and Saudi Arabia share similar goals

They aim to avoid risks inherent in what political scientist Barbara F. Walter describes as anocracy, a regime that is neither fully autocratic nor fully democratic. Ms. Walter noted that "civil wars almost never happen in full, healthy, strong democracies. They also seldom happen in full autocracies. Violence almost always breaks out in countries in the middle." The political scientist was discussing domestic tensions in the United States, but her insights are equally valid for Iran and Saudi Arabia. The recent harsh sentencing of Saudi and US nationals to decades in prison for their tweets was widely seen as a way for Mr. Bin Salamn to poke a finger in Mr. Biden's eye after he warned that the oil production cut would have consequences for the already strained US-Saudi relationship. In recent months, Mr. Bin Salman's escalating crackdown on dissent has sent two women to respectively 34 and 45 years in prison and a 72-year-old American who was returning to his native Saudi for a vacation to 16 years behind bars for tweeting critically about the regime. Additionally, Saudi authorities recently detained a 34-year-old American woman, Carly Morris, after she posted on Twitter that she and her young daughter had been lured to the kingdom and trapped there since 2019. If Ms. Walter is correct, the repressive legal moves may have more to do with Mr. Bin Salman's sense of regime survival than with a shadow boxing match with Mr. Biden. Even so, Mr. Biden may feel he is winning the match on points. A senior US official asserted that "our displeasure has already been clearly stated and has already had an impact. We've seen the Saudis react in ways that are constructive." As a result, the administration is slow-walking efforts to make Saudi Arabia pay the price for the oil production cut. This week, the administration has told a US court that Mr. Bin Salman should be granted sovereign immunity in a civil case involving the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The advice effectively ended a last-ditch attempt to hold the crown prince legally accountable for the killing in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul. "We don't need to be in a hurry," said US National Security Council

Strategic location of Pakistan: Challenges and opportunities

Imtiaz Gul



Pakistan has to face challenges with respect to its strategic location. As it is present at the epicenter of the international political arena, so it was bound to play certain roles in various political and military related episodes for example SEATO, CENTO,

the erstwhile USSR invasion in Afghanistan, and the 9/11 incident. On its eastern front, there exists India, its eternal enemy.

Pakistan about 75 years ago came into being at the transit route of three ancient great civilizations i.e. Indus, Persian, and Chinese civilizations. It lies between 30.3753° N and 69.3451° E as far as latitude and longitude extents are concerned. It is surrounded by four countries and a sea; China in the North, Afghanistan, and Iran in the West, India in the East, and the Arabian Sea in the South. China is emerging as a superpower and believes in the multi-polarity of the world. India recently becomes the fifth largest economy in the world. Iran is under sanctions imposed by the western world but it has an immense treasure of oil and gas. Our neighbor Afghanistan is full of precious minerals and other untapped natural resources. Gwadar Port in Balochistan can contribute protecting our vital interests. The strategic location of Pakistan is a challenge and an opportunity for it at the same time.

Pakistan has to face challenges with respect to its strategic location. As it is present at the epicenter of the international political arena, so it was bound to play certain roles in various political and military related episodes for example SEATO, CENTO, the erstwhile USSR invasion in Afghanistan, and the 9/11 incident. On its eastern front, there exists India, its eternal enemy. Pakistan remains in a state of constant risk from the said front but our nuclear capability i.e. deterrence is working day and night silently, according to DG ISI. Pakistan enjoys friendly relations with China in the north. China always has helped Pakistan. Pak-China friendship is deep-rooted and eternal. Afghani-

stan has suffered immensely over four decades of wars and conflicts Millions of Afghans from the last three generations were displaced from their homes and forced to live in exile, some with formal refugee status and many with illegal status in a number of neighboring countries, including Pakistan. There exists always a troublesome on our western border. In the Middle Eastern region, Pakistan has to maintain a balanced posture between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Major Powers have their own interests in this region. The United States of America wants to exercise its own hegemony in South Asia. It always pushes India to contain the progress of China. By 2025, the trade volume between India and Russia will be 30 billion USD. International powers are trying to sabotage the CPEC. Gwadar is a priceless gift bestowed upon us by nature. It can serve our vital interests but this is not acceptable to such powers. So the trategic location of Pakistan becomes a curse.

But challenges always come up with opportunities. They are closely interrelated with each other. Challenges can be converted into opportunities. It can be seen over the period of our own history. In 1974, when India tested its nuclear devices, apparently it was a challenge for Pakistan to survive with a nuclear capable neighbor but later it became an opportunity to develop our own nuclear program to deter our eternal adversary. Eventually, we came up with an unshakeable defense. Today, Pakistan must have to convert the aforesaid challenges into opportunities. According to estimates, there

exists a potential of about 20 billion USD in trade between India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan where Pakistan will serve as a transit corridor. Pakistan can enhance its bilateral trade relations with Central Asian countries by utilizing Wakhan Corridor. It can boost the pace of CPEC Projects under BRI. Paperwork for foreign investment in SEZs can be minimized by digitalization. Maximum benefits can be gained from regional connectivity. Gwadar Port is situated near the Strait of Hormuz (International Oil Highway), witnessing roundabout seventy percent (70%) of world oil transportation and 100,000 shipments of annual trade transportation. This port has the ability to accommodate approximately 200,000 tons of supertankers. Pakistan can actually influence its neighbors through economic linkages. Ultimately, regional connectivity will turn Pakistan into an economic hub. For the effective utilization of such a vibrant strategic location requires honest, sincere, rational, and wise leadership that can formulate a unified, stable, specific foreign policy in accordance with "popular will" to protect the national interest across borders. The policy shift from geo-politics to geo-economics by Niazi's regime will be fruitful for Pakistan. We must avoid such intentions as placing Pakistan nearby Iceland as intended by a high ranked official. Foreign policy will serve as means and economic prosperity and progress will be the ends.

The author is a student of Strategic Studies at National Defence University, Islamabad.

Women's

ski season opens

DNA PARIS: Following a string of

cancellations, and almost a month after the men started their World Cup skiing sea-

son, the women finally hit

the slopes on Saturday and

Sunday above the Arctic Cir-

cle in Finland. The men man-

aged to ski the traditional

season-opening giant slalom

on the glacier in Soelden,

Austria in October but bad

weather prevented the wom-

en racing. A lack of snow

put paid to the next three

events: men's and wom-

en's weekends in Zermatt

in Switzerland and a mixed

weekend in Lech in Austria.

Lapland welcoming the ski-

ers with temperatures well

below freezing, the country-

side dusted in white and the

slopes covered snow stored

during the summer for the

World Cup piste in Levi,

thanks to investments in

"snowfarming". The women

will ski slaloms on Saturday

and Sunday, opening the

season with a duel between

the two best female skiers

in the world, Mikaela Shif-

frin and Petra Vlhova in

The American Shiffrin is

the reigning overall World

Cup champion but has been

deposed as slalom queen by

the Slovakian Vlhova, who

is Olympic champion and

holder of the small globe

of the speciality. Vlhova

has five victories in Levi,

including four straight: two

in 2020, two in 2021.

their strongest discipline.

Briefs

Dar briefs President on economy

From Page 01 loan programme and rising default risk. On Wednesday, Pakistan's default risk as measured by five-year credit-default swaps (CDS) insurance contracts that protect an investor against a default soared to 75.5 per cent from 56.2pc a day ago, according to data provid-

ed by research firm Arif

Habib Limited. Pakistan is scheduled to pay \$1 billion on Dec 5 against the maturity of five-year sukuk, or Islamic bonds. The finance minister has repeatedly assured sukuk payment, but the international market is not ready to rely on assurances as the country's economy struggles to avoid default by borrowing more from the markets, donors, com-mercial banks and friendly countries.

IHC CJ says intel suspects...

From Page 01 PTI Chairman Imran Khan during the protest, which Khan plans to join after recovering from his injuries. Justice Farooq further said the PTI would move the court again through a new petition as the one being heard had become ineffective. He said the administration should take a decision on PTI's request in accordance with the law and ensure that roads are not blocked while determining the venue of the rally, ensuring both the political party's right to protest and the fundamental rights of citizens.

As PTI counsel Babar Awan did not appear before the court, his assistant informed the CJ that the petitioner, Ali Nawaz Awan, was not available to attend the hearing and prayed to the court to adjourn the case.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Duggal told the court that the petition was filed on November 3 and had already become ineffective.

Advocate General Jehangir Jadoon said there was no knowing when would they (petitioners) be in Islamabad. Justice Farooq remarked that the cause of action on which this petition was based did not exist anymore.

"The court cannot suggest a place for the protest. It is for the capital city's administration to decide if it wants the PTI to pitch their protest camp at D-Chowk or F-9 Park," Jus-

tice Farooq said. He added that the code of conduct for the protest demonstration could only be agreed upon with the administration. Addressing the PTI lawyer, the IHC CJ said: "You (PTI) blocked the GT Road, the motorway, and other important highways. You should also have shown some responsibility."

CJP 'expects' march to be in limits of law

From Page 01 Chaudhary Amir Rehman requested that the respondent - Imran Khan should be required to follow the law if the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration allowed the PTI to hold its

When the bench asked Salman Raja to respond, he maintained that he had not obtained specific instructions on the matter.

march in Islamabad.

The counsel for the interior ministry, Salman Aslam Butt, called for the bench to pass directions for obtaining call direct records (CDRs) in order to verify that phones were working in the area where Imran's convoy was protesting on May 25.

Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi questioned how the CDRs would be helpful, and asked how the May 25 order was communicated to Imran Khan as the PTI chief may not have been in possession of his phone at the time.

EU agrees to climate damage fund at COP 27

Shauna Aminath, the climate minister for the Maldives – which faces inundation from climate-driven sea-level rise — said that the new EU offer had buoyed hopes among climate-vulnerable nations for a deal

News Desk

LONDON: Climate negotiators on Friday agreed to a European Union proposal aimed at resolving an impasse over financing for countries hit by climate-fuelled disasters and pushing the UN climate summit in Egypt closer to a final deal.

After mulling over the EU proposal, the par-

ticipants agreed to set up a special fund for covering loss and damage in the most vulnerable countries - funded from a "broad donor base". That suggests high-emitting emerging economies like China would have to contribute, rather than having the fund financed only by rich nations that have historically contributed the most to global warming. "What we would propose is to establish a loss and damage response fund for the most vulnerable countries," EU climate policy chief Frans Timmermans told the COP27 summit. The loss and damage issue has dominated this year's summit, with more than 130 developing countries demanding that the meeting deliver a deal on a new fund to help them cope with the irreparable damage of floods, drought and other climate impacts. The United States and the EU had previously resisted the idea, fearing it could open the door to spiralling liabilities for countries whose historical emissions fuelled climate change. Shauna Aminath, the climate minister for the Maldives - which faces inundation from climate-driven sea-level rise - said that the new EU offer had buoyed hopes among cli-

mate-vulnerable nations for a deal. She said, "On loss and damage, we welcome



the interventions and openness and the will to forge an agreement." "We're very close to an agreement, and let's engage with one another and make this happen," she added. The EU attached conditions to its offer - including that countries agree to step up their ambition to cut planet-warming emissions. The 27-country EU has among the most ambitious climate targets of major greenhouse gas emitters and has urged China to upgrade its own. Asked by Reuters about the EU proposal, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that developed countries should fulfil their obligation to provide finance to developing countries, and all countries should translate their climate targets

into "concrete actions". "The Chinese side hopes that COP27 will focus on the full and accurate implementation of the principles and objectives of the Paris Agreement," Mao said. The US has not responded publicly to the new proposal. "The US seems cornered," one observer in the negotiations said. The EU said countries must agree to phase down all fossil fuels and phase down unabated coal-fuelled power generation as soon as possible - with countries submitting progress reports to make sure this gets done. A senior Egyptian official said the conditions that the EU attached would not be accepted by some countries, without specifying which. "It seems there is a broad

the official said. "The different views are the sequencing and the timing," he added. The Alliance of Small Island States and the G77 club of 134 developing countries - who have both pushed for a new fund - were consulting on their response. Pakistan's Ambassador to South Korea Nabeel Munir said that Timmermans' proposal was "positive news" but some divisions remained. "For us, the success of COP27 depends on what we get on loss and damage," he said. Deals at UN climate talks must be made with support from all of the nearly 200 countries involved. The EU offer is at odds with a proposal by developing countries and China that had said all developing countries should have access to the fund. The above-mentioned proposal used a UN definition that would have allowed China to receive, not contribute, money. The UN climate agency published a draft proposal for a loss and damage deal late on Thursday. While published before the EU made its proposal, the text laid out three options for a possible deal. The first suggests establishing a new fund for climate-vulnerable countries. The second, delaying the decision on a fund until next year's COP28 summit. The third calls for deciding on funding arrangements at COP28, with no mention of a new fund. Henry Kokofu, Special Envoy representing the Climate Vulnerable Forum of 58 countries, said the group supported the first option for setting up a fund – which appeared to align most closely with what the EU had proposed - but wanted a firm commitment that countries would add money to it. "Without an actual commitment to funding, we may well just end up with an empty bank account," Kokofu said.

Utd take 'appropriate

steps' against Ronaldo

LONDON: Manchester United say they are taking "appro-

priate steps" after Cristiano Ronaldo's interview in which

he said he was "betrayed by the club". The Portuguese forward said he had "no respect" for manager Erik ten Hag and

is being forced out of Old Trafford. "Manchester United has

this morning initiated appropriate steps in response to Cris-

tiano Ronaldo's recent media interview," said a club state-

ment. The club will not comment further until "this process

reaches its conclusion". After a wide-ranging interview with

Piers Morgan for TalkTV, the future of Ronaldo at Man Utd

is in doubt. The 37-year-old Ronaldo will captain Portugal at

the World Cup in Qatar, with their opening Group H game

agreement on having a fund or facility,"

Modi regime cannot affect disputed status of IIOJK

DNA

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, political analysts and civil society members have said that Jammu and Kashmir is a United Nations-mandated disputed territory and Narendra Modi-led Indian government's illegal actions of 5th August 2019 cannot change this reality.

Talking to Kashmir Media Service over phone from Srinagar, the political analysts and civil society members said that India itself had taken the Kashmir dispute to the UN Security Council and the World Body had passed successive resolutions, calling for its settlement through plebiscite.

They demanded restoration of pre-August 5, 2019, position in IIOJK and revocation of land and domicile and other laws introduced in the territory by the Modi regime. The members of Political Peace Movement, Kashmir Peoples Forum, Forum for Peace and Justice J&K, Sikh-Muslim Intellectual Circle, and JK Justice & Peace Initiative maintained that Kashmir is a political humanitarian issue and deplored that the world community had overlooked the important human and political dimensions of the lingering dispute.

Saudi Arabia launches digital platform 'Nusuk'

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq Al-Rabiah has announced the official launch of the online platform 'Nusuk' for pilgrims. He said that the platform, Nusuk, offers more than 100 services that help enrich the experience of pilgrims visiting Saudi Arabia, as part of the goals of Vision 2030. Al-Rabiah said that Nusuk offers 75 services to businesses and 45 for individuals. He added that it will help more than 30 million people, in cooperation with more than 10,000 entities in the business sector and 25 government agencies. He said that Nusuk was part

of the Vision 2030 Pilgrim Experience Program, which is being run in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and the Saudi Tourism Authority. Al-Rabiah said that the platform aimed to introduce pilgrims to all stages of performing Umrah and to the historical areas and religious sites in Makkah and Madinah, Arab news reported.

He said Nusuk was a reliable platform providing integrated services with full transparency. It offers a planning gateway and introduces health services, regulations and procedures and guidance for pilgrims. - APP

Kazakhs abroad to cast vote on Sunday

News Desk

ASTANA: Few days before the election day in Kazakhstan, Kazakh citizens will be able to cast their vote in 53 countries. According to the Kazakh Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Aibek Smadiyarov, on election day citizens of Kazakhstan will have the opportunity to cast their ballot in 68 polling stations opened in the country's diplomatic and consular posts in 53 countries. As explained to The Astana Times by Timur Sultangozhin, chair of the electoral commission in the polling station opened at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Brussels, "in order

to vote, on the election day

any compatriot with an ac-

tive voting right, residing or



educational, business or tourist purposes in Belgium or Luxembourg and holding a valid passport of a citizen of Kazakhstan, may request his or her ballot by visiting our polling station.

Voting, in accordance with the constitutional law on elections, will be carried out on election day, Nov. 20, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time. "Through our webpage and social media channels, as well as any other communication means we could use, we have tried to inform as many of our ble of their chance to vote in the forthcoming election. Among them are students studying in Belgian and Luxembourgish universities, compatriots working in local and international companies and organizations, and members of families with Belgian citizens or residents. We look forward to seeing them on Sunday. For those who wish it is also a good opportunity to meet new people and maintain a sense of connection to their homeland while staying abroad short or long term. So, it is an important date for the entire nation but also for Kazakhs all around the world," said Sultangozhin, Assem Assanivaz, a postgraduate student at Regent's University London, said she is "looking

compatriots here as possi-

in the upcoming presidential elections this Sunday." "Participation in the elections is a demonstration of an active civic position, which, in its turn, is largely driven by the responsibility to the country. I assume that the interest of the Kazakh vounger generation plays a special role, as the future of the country depends on our involvement," she told The Astana Times. She cites growing geopolitical tensions during the post-pandemic period, saving she "will vote in favor of peace and stability." Zhanat Mirzayeva, 59, a native of Shymkent, has been living in Sweden for six years. According to her estimates, there are around 300 citizens of Kazakhstan who live in the Stockholm area.

against Ghana on Thursday. He has not played because of an unspecified illness since he captained United in their 3-1 defeat at Aston Villa on 6 November Ronaldo was dropped for the Premier League game at Chelsea last month by Ten Hag after refusing to come on as a substitute against Tottenham three days earlier. The Red Devils, who beat Fulham 2-1 on Sunday, are fifth in the Premier League in Ten Hag's first season as manager. Manchester United wanted to see the full extent of Cristiano Ronaldo's interview. Now they have acted. The club are refusing to say what precisely 'appropriate steps' are but cancelling Ronaldo's contract and/or taking legal action are likely to be high on the list. United remain solidly behind manager Erik ten Hag, who bore the brunt of a number of Ronaldo's criticisms. One Ronaldo claim was that Ten Hag only wanted to bring him on in the final minutes of last month's win over Tottenham to prove a point, Ronaldo adding that he has no respect for the Dutchman. The club have also expressed pride in the club and its staff, who were derided by Ronaldo as part of his view of United

being stuck in a time warp.-Agencies

Saeed wins qualifying round of 7th Thal jeep rally ing competition. round. Stock category com-

MULTAN : Raja Muhammad Saeed bagged first position in qualifying round of the 7th Thal Jeep Rally as he completed the 2.8 kilometres distance in one minute, 34 seconds and 83 milliseconds while defending champion Zain Mahmood clinched second position. Nadir Magsi stood third in

the qualifying round. Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Samiullah Farooq and MPAs Niaz Ahmed Gashkuri and Ashraf Rind inaugurated the qualifying round. Talking to media, Deputy Commissioner said that Thal Jeep Rally was not only an event for the people of Muzaffargarh and Kot Addu, but it is a great entertainment for the peo-

ple of South Punjab. A fair is held in the desert of Thal, where local cultural games are also organized along with a jeep rally, which includes horse riding, javelin and kabaddi competitions. He said that the Thal Jeep Rally was organized with the support of Punjab government and TDCP and better entertainment opportunities were being provided to the people as per vision of Punjab Chief Minister. MPA Niaz Ahmad Gashkuri said that the district administration has made exemplary arrangements and such events should continue to be held to provide entertainment opportunities to masses. Ashraf Rind said that 'we have to promote

our cultural sports during the Thal jeep rally and this rally will continue and will be organized in a better way in future. Earlier, Managing Director TDCP Agha Muhammad Ali Abbas also

inaugurated the second phase of Thal Jeep Rally and dispatched the vehicles of Syed Asif Imam and Sajid on the track by flagging off. As many as 115 vehicles



Rakhshanda Jabeen, Rubab petitions will be held tomor-Sultan, Bushra Sultan, row (Saturday). Commissioner DG Khan division, Palvasha Hayat along with Maria Jabbar and Maham Liaqat Ali Chatha inaugurat-Shiraz from women pared the qualifying events of Thal Jeep Rally and flagged off the vehicles on the track. Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Samiullah Farooq also accompanied by him. Speaking on this occasion. Commissioner said that Thal Jeep Rally has become an identity of South Punjab as renowned racers from all over the country are participating in the rally. He said that in the coming years it will be made an

Al-Shabaab blockades exacerbating crisis

MOGADISHU: An ongoing blockade by al-Shabaab insurgents in parts of Somalia is worsening the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa country. Bakool in southwestern Somalia is one of the worst drought-affected regions. It has been under an al-Shabaab blockade for more than a decade, with the only means of reaching people in need of humanitarian assistance being by air or using donkey carts to transport food. Adam Ali, a 38-year-old businessman and father of eight who is currently in the capital Mogadishu, told Anadolu Agency that the people in the region are in dire condition. The blockade is worsening and families have been suffering under

a devastating drought for

the past four years, said Ali, adding that the drought is the worst he has ever seen. "I have a lot of family there, was born and raised there, and I know the situation. The people in the region are facing a double-edged sword - the drought and the al-Shabaab blockade," he said.

"If the government in Mogadishu and the state government continue to ignore how bad the humanitarian restrictions and blockade are, a lot of people will die of hunger or drought-related illnesses and malnutrition," he added. Omar Atu, mayor of Bakool's provincial capital Hudur, told Anadolu Agency that al-Shabaab terrorists last week torched more than four donkey carts carrying much-needed food supplies to the region. The neighboring region of Gedo has also been affected by the al-Shabaab blockade and humanitarian restrictions. Ali Yussuf Abdullahi, spokesperson for Gedo's regional administration, told Anadolu Agency that although the situation there is different, they have seen al-Shabaab terrorists restricting humanitarian activities. The terrorists also killed several engineers who were digging a water well in the region, he said. He said the terror group's main aim is to pressure the local population into abandoning their support for the government. "The terrorist group is hurting people by stopping humanitarian aid from reaching the areas they control and impos-

ing a blockade on government-controlled areas," he said. "Two months ago, the group killed 11 people who were engineers, including foreigners, just because they were building and digging a water well," he added. The Hiran region, which has seen an uprising after al-Shabaab terrorists destroyed water wells and burned vehicles carrying food supplies, has also been affected, although the government said it had liberated large parts of the region from the group. Mahas District Commissioner Mumin Mohamed Halane told Anadolu Agency that Somalis are fed up with the al-Shabaab blockade and extortion tactics. "We have liberated our areas, and wherever they are, people are getting the humanitarian

assistance they need. We will continue fighting because we are fighting to save lives,' he said. Four seasons of below-average rainfall in Somalia have constrained the supply of locally grown food in markets across the country. Estimates suggest that the rainy season in April-June and the off-season September-October harvest were both 50% below the long-term average, according to the UN. Soaring food prices in the international market have also worsened the situation in the country. A convergence of reduced local food supply and skyrocketing global food prices has resulted in record-high food prices in markets in Somalia. Currently, there are over 6.7 million people on the brink of starvation in the country, said Ishaku Mshelia, deputy

the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) office in Somalia. He said counterinsurgency operations, sieges by non-state actors around some towns, reprisal attacks, and threats of attacks are limiting humanitarian access in hard-to-reach areas. "Although some areas such as Ceelbuur, Jamaame, Hudur, and Dinsoor are classified as hard-to-reach, the FAO was able to reach some vulnerable households with critically needed cash transfers in some of these districts," he said. He added that the worst drought in the last 40 years and elevated global food prices have pushed more than 6.7 million Somalis to the brink of starvation.lot more challenging.-Agencies

international level rally which

will have a positive impact on

the economy of the area and

promote the culture of the

emergency coordinator for

area.—Agencies

Briefs

West could help organize peace talks, says Kremlin

MOSCOW: The West could help organize stable Russian-Ukrainian peace talks, the Kremlin said on Friday. "Communication with the West could also be a guiding, reinforcing, and strengthening element of such communication (Russian-Ukrainian peace talks), because the directives that come from there are very scrupulously implemented by Kyiv," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said at a press briefing in Moscow. Commenting on remarks

by Italian politician Silvio Berlusconi, who suggested "luring" Russia's President Vladimir Putin to a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Peskov recommended that Zelenskyy first be "lured." Moscow has repeatedly criticized Zelenskyy for ruling out talks with Russia's current leadership under a law he signed last month following the annexation of parts of Ukraine. Peskov also commented on a ruling by the Hague, recognizing the absence of direct guilt of Russia in the downing of Malaysian flight MH17, saying he regretted that Russia was not part of the pre-trial investigation. As for the verdict itself, he said Moscow would announce its assess ments after first deeply analyzing it. About a resolution by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday, calling on Russia to withdraw from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine, Peskov said Moscow would remain in touch with the international watchdog.-Agencies

German ex officer sentenced over spying for Russia

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: A German court on Friday sentenced a former military reserve officer to a suspended prison sentence over spying for Russia. The Dusseldorf Higher Regional Court found Ralph G. guilty of passing information about Germany the armed forces, and its high-ranking officers to a Russian intelligence service between the years 2014 and 2020. The 66-year-old was given a suspended prison sentence of one year and nine months. During the trial, Ralph G. rejected the accusation that he carried out spying activities for Russia's GRU and claimed that he did not know the people he met were Russian spies. He also stressed that his Russian wife has been an opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin's policies. The prosecutors alleged that the former lt. colonel of the military reserve had shared sensitive information about the German

UK schools struggle amid soaring energy bills

LONDON: Soaring energy

armed forces.

bills and the rising cost of living in the UK are being felt in schools across the country, with some experts warning that pupils might have to wear coats in classrooms, British media outlets reported Thursday. Richard Evans, the CEO of Vale Academy Trust, which is responsible for eight schools in Oxford and Abingdon, said that the staff and students at a group of schools are facing a "hard choice" between teaching and heating. "I don't want to be sensationalist but it's about reducing the time the heating is on, restricting the heating is an option we have to explore,' Evans was quoted by the BBC as saying. "We haven't as a trust decided yet what we have to do. But we might have to ask children to wear their coats in classrooms too, like we did in Covid times." He said that each primary school is facing an increase of £40,000 (\$47,575) in heating and staffing costs, adding: "And for the secondary schools it's in the region of £300,000 each, depending on staff numbers." Telling how the school budgets were set in April and so do not take into account the record 11.1% inflation. – Agencies

ISLAMABAD: President ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari presenting souvenir to Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci during his visit to

Australia to continue nuclear submarine deal

News Desk

CANBERRA: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Friday that his country has not changed its position and will build a fleet of submarines under the AUKUS deal, despite criticism from French President Emmanuel Macron. Speaking to reporters in Bangkok, Thailand's capital, the Australian premier said Macron is entitled to put forward his views, which he does in a very forthright way. "We are proceeding with the AUKUS arrangements, there's nothing ambiguous about it. That is our position," Albanese said,

according to a transcript published on his official website. "He's entitled to make whatever comments he wants as the Leader of France. We have a very cooperative relationship," he added. AUKUS is a trilateral security treaty for the Indo-Pacific region launched on Sept. 15, 2021, by Australia, the US, and UK.

Diplomatic relations between France and Australia soured last September when Australia signed the AUKUS deal with the US and UK to get nuclear-powered submarines.

Australia also canceled its Future Submarine Program (FSP) with France's Naval Group to buy 12 submarines worth 56 billion (\$57.2 billion). The decision irked Macron and his government, who expressed their dismay over the deal. On Thursday, French President Emmanuel Macron accused former Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison of provoking a "nuclear confrontation" with China and said he had helped Australia achieve "freedom and sovereignty" through the submarine deal, ABC News reported. "We were helping and accompanying Australia in building a submarine fleet in-house, an industrial cooperation," Macron said, quoted by the broadcaster. Albanese responded to a question, "Is this your first disagreement

with Macron?" He replied: "No

one has suggested that. I was with President Macron last night. We had a very friendly exchange as we always do." The two leaders are in Bangkok for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, which began on Friday.

Albanese said Australia would not support Taiwan's membership in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) because it is not a recognized state.

"The CPTPP is a relationship between nation states that are recognized. Taiwan is represented here because it is represented here as an economy," Albanese said, responding to a question that Canberra is now less likely to support Taiwan's entry into the CPTPP after his recent meeting with President Xi Jinping. "There is bipartisan support for the One China Policy. We support the status quo on Taiwan. And on the Taiwan Strait, we don't want to see any unilateral action which alters that status quo," he added. His remarks came after his recent meeting with President Xi in Bali, Indonesia. Beijing-Canberra relations soared after Australia joined

its Western allies in calling for an investigation into the origins of COV-ID-19, which first appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan in 2019. Later, China imposed tariffs of over 200% on Australian wine imports following an anti-dumping investigation.

Heathrow **Airport** faces 'major disruption'

WEB DESK

LONDON: As many as 350 workers at London's Heathrow Airport began a threeday strike early Friday over a pay dispute, according to the Unite Union. London's busiest air travel hub will face "major disruption" as ground handlers employed by aviation firm Menzies begin industrial action, the union said in a press release. "The dispute will lead to disruption, delays and cancellation for flights leaving Heathrow Terminals 2, 3 and 4. The strike action will particularly affect Air Canada, American Airlines, Lufthansa, Swiss Air, Air Portugal, Austrian airlines, Qantas, Egypt Air, Aer Lingus and Finnair," it added. Sharon Graham, general secretary of Unite, accused Menzies of not paying workers a "decent pay increase" despite being a "wealthy company." "It is greed not need which is preventing a fair pay offer being made," Graham added. The UK has seen dozens of strikes from workers in postal, railway and other services amid a cost of living crisis in recent

Azerbaijan, Russia eye development of ties

News Desk

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov met with Russian President Vladimir Putin's Special Representative for International Cultural Cooperation Mikhail Shvydkoy, Azernews reports, citing the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. The sides discussed bilateral and regional humanitarian and cultural issues. as well as measures to boost regional confidence.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov informed him of the normalization of Azerbaijani-Armenian relations in the post-Karabakh conflict. The Russian official stressed the importance of Azerbaijan's peace efforts. He expressed readiness to support the implementation of joint activities in the cultural and

humanitarian spheres. The sides also exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest. Azerbaijan and Russia cooperate in different fields, such as economy, agriculture, customs, communications, high technology, and others. More than 230 intergovernmental and intercompany documents have been signed between the two countries and six "road maps" are being implemented. Russia also played a prominent role in Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict resolution. The trilateral peace deal signed by the Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian leaders on November 10, 2020, ended the 30-year conflict between Baku and Yerevan over Azerbaijan's Karabakh that along with seven adjacent regions came under the occupation of Armenian armed forces in the war in the 1990s.

Symposium on Sino-Pak Bio-health Agriculture Demonstration held

DNA

BEIJING: The 4th International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health Agriculture and the Development of Sino-Pak Biohealth Agriculture Oversea Sci-tech Demonstration Park was held at Northwest A&F University (NWAFU), China and online, China Economic Net (CEN) reported it on Friday.

the symposium, 22 keynote reports were delivered on bio-immunity and bio-protein technology, healthy seed industry. bio-information technology, smart agriculture technology and healthy animal hus-The latest developments of

riculture Oversea Sci-tech Demonstration Park were introduced.

According to Mr. Bao Dai, Vice General Manager, Pakistan Subsidiary Co., Ltd, China, Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), joint demonstration park will be constructed in three phases.

In the first phase, a demonstration area will be established to plant crops with low input and high value addition. In the second phase, more will be invested in high-tech agricultural products.

Joint efforts will also be made in talent training and agricultural laboratory establishment. The third cultural macro monitoring management and big data. "Biohealth Agriculture" (BHA) was put forward by NWAFU Professor Zhang Lixin in 2017 at the first International Symposium on the Belt and Road Biohealth. It refers to the use of biological means for safe and quality agricultural production, involving the sustainability of the health of soil, plants, animals, humans, and ecosystems by lessening or excluding external agricultural inputs, especially pesticides and synthetic chemical fertilizers or other hazardous/ toxic chemicals. At the University of Lahore, field trials are underway and

the Sino-Pak Bio-health Ag- phase will focus on agri- the application of nano biochar has proved effective in improving the yield of Okra, gourd, and eggplant. Youth are being trained in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan under the Kamyab Jawan Project. Research is also carried out on promoting vegetable production through bio-healthy agriculture, physiological perspectives of salt tolerance in wheat, impacts of biofertilizers on salt stress tolerance and maize, biohealth nano fertilizers adoption and applications for sustainable and climate-resilient farming in Pakistan, production of bioactive oligosaccharides from cress seed mucilage through microbial bioprocessing, etc.

US always abandons its friends: Medvedev

MOSCOW: The US has a history of abandoning its friends and Ukraine will suffer the same fate, according to former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. After the midterm elections, the Republicans are set to take control of the US House of Representatives, marking the "the beginning of the end" of America's support to Ukraine, Medvedev said in a Telegram post on Friday. He said the Republicans have pledged "more scrutiny" of US financial support to Ukraine. "The topic of money for Ukraine is becoming toxic in the US. Congressmen demand total checks on where the massive amount of money has gone," he said. This will also be the case for the "new tens of billions requested" by President Joe Biden, added Medvedev, who now serves as the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council. There is no doubt that Washington will continue to allocate funds for military support to Ukraine as this "part of the Russophobic consensus of American elites," said the former Russian president. However, this will become more and more difficult, he said, adding that ordinary Americans will gradually see the "reality." "They were cheated once again. Huge funds were pumped out of the US budget despite the economic downturn and the fact that prices for everything are rising," said Medvedev. Discontent will be keep growing until Congress halts US support to Ukraine, he said, emphasizing that this is inevitable because "America has always abandoned its friends." - Agencies

Japan's inflation hits 40-year high amid weakening yen TOKYO: Japan's inflation

surged by 3.6 percent in October from the previous year, marking a 40-year high, amid weakening yen and soaring energy prices, the government said in a report on Friday. The government data showed the nationwide core consumer price index (CPI), which excludes volatile fresh food prices but includes energy, rose for the 14th straight month, beating a 3.5 percent increase forecast by economists. The Asian country last saw the same level in February 1982, according to Refinitiv data.

The soaring inflation also crossed the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) two percent inflation target for a seventh straight month, as the Japanese currency saw a historic fall in 32 years, hitting 151 yen to the US dollar.

"It is getting harder for the BOJ to keep saying that the current cost-push inflation is temporary," Mari Iwashita, chief market economist at Daiwa Securities, was quoted as saying. "If the yen remains weak, more companies will try to pass on costs to consumers."—Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Senator Walid Iqbal, Chairman Senate standing committee on human rights exchanging views with Australian High Commissioner, Neil Hawkins.-DNA

Pak for increase in non-permanent UNSC seat

Foreign Desk

UNITED NATIONS :Pakistan has made a strong case against creating new permanent seats on the UN Security Council, saying an increase in the number of non-permanent members would make the 15-member body more representative, democratic and effective. "The only criteria for Security Council membership set out in the UN Charter is for the election of non-permanent members," Ambassador Munir Akram told delegates when the deadlocked Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) aimed at restructuring the Council resumed on Thursday. The Pakistani envoy also underscored the need for flexibility to achieve the required consensus among all UN member states to overcome the stalemate in the reform ne-

"Unfortunately, consensus on Securi-

ty Council reform has been impeded, from the outset, by the demand of four countries that they be selected as new permanent members in an expanded Security Council," he said, referring to the relentless campaign by India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, known as the Group of Four, for elevated status. "Their demand violates the principle of sovereign equality of States; it ignores the reality that permanent membership and the veto are often the cause of the Council's inaction," Ambassador Akram said. Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas - the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly. Progress towards restructuring the Security Council remains blocked as G4 countries continue pushing for

permanent seats in the Council, while the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group firmly opposes any additional permanent members. As a compromise, UfC has proposed a new category of members - not permanent members - with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected. The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States - and 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year terms. In his remarks, Ambassador Akram drew attention to UfC proposal for a 26-seat Council, with the additional seats being distributed proportionally among the five regions. Each region could be allocated some longer-term seats with possible re-election, whereas small island developing States should be allocated one floating seat Pointing out that the European Union (EU) speaks on behalf of its member States during major negotiations, he suggested that the bloc's representative take the place of the two European permanent members to better reflect the continent's regional interests and contemporary global realities. As regards the criteria for Security Council membership, as set out in the UN Charter, is the members' contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security as well as the other purposes of the Organization," it was pointed out. "The four seeking permanent membership have not really distinguished themselves by their contributions to peace and security in the 'contemporary world'," Ambassador Akram said. "In the current war in Ukraine, apart from the parties directly involved, the State which has contributed the most to promoting a peaceful solution is Turkey, he said, adding, "In the Afghanistan conflict, apart from the parties directly concerned, the

country which made the most significant contributions to peace and dialogue, and in addressing the humanitarian fallout, is Pakistan. On Myanmar, it is the ASEAN countries; on the Rohingyas' plight, it is Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, the OIC and the EU; in the Sahara, the brunt of the responsibility rests now with the regional African States and the UN." The four - India, Brazil-Germany and Japan - were largely "missing in action," the Pakistani envoy remarked. Besides equitable regional representation and capacity to contribute to peace and security, one additional criteria requires UN members to accept and carry out the decisions, he said. "One of the four States seeking permanent membership has repeatedly refused to declare that it is committed to implement the resolutions of the Security Council," Ambassador Akram said, referring to India.

US home sales drop for record 9th month

WASHINGTON: US existing home sales slid for a record ninth straight month in October, industry data showed Friday, as rising mortgage rates squeeze affordability. Inflation in the United States has soared to the highest levels in recent decades, leading the Federal Reserve to embark on an aggressive campaign to cool the world's biggest economy. Those rapid interest rate hikes have boosted borrowing costs, with immediate impacts on the key housing market, which has exploded in recent years amid the pandemic. Sales of all types of homes and condos slid 5.9 percent last month compared to September, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) said in its latest report. This marks the ninth straight month of declines, the longest string in figures dating back to 1999. The sales pace slowed to an annual rate of 4.4 million, seasonally adjusted, 28.4 percent below October 2021. "More potential homebuyers were squeezed out from qualifying for a mortgage in October as mortgage rates climbed," NAR chief economist Lawrence Yun said. - APP



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Briefs

Flood again pushed country towards default: FM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto has said that Pakistan had narrowly avoided default, but the flood again pushed it in that direction. Addressing a press conference on Friday, he said that the country was facing default when they assumed the government.

"We saved the country from default after establishing relations with all countries. So far as the US conspiracy narrative is concerned, Imran Khan himself has taken a U-turn over it," he added. The minister said that Pakistan needs relations with the United States on the basis of equality. "We want good relations with all neighbouring countries, including India. Our focus is to advance the interest of Pakistan," he maintained. Bilawal Bhutto appealed to the world to help the flood victims. "China helped Pakistan in difficult economic conditions. The work on the CPEC has expedited. Cooperation with the US against terrorism has also increased," he added.

India launches first privately made rocket

DNA

NEW DELHI: India successfully launched its first privately developed rocket, the Vikram-S, on Friday, a milestone in the country's effort to create a commercial space industry and to compete on cost. The 545kg rocket, developed by space startup Skyroot, took off from the Indian space agency's launch site near Chennai and hit a peak altitude of 89.5 kilometres.

The rocket has the capability of reaching Mach 5 - five times the speed of sound and carrying a payload of 83kg to an altitude of

100km, the company said. The Skyroot team had set a target of 80km for its first launch, a benchmark some agencies define as the frontier of space. The Karman line - set by an international aeronautics body as defining the boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and space - is at 100km altitude. Video footage showed the rocket taking off from the space centre, leaving a plume of smoke and fire in its trail. It splashed down in the Bay of Bengal about 5 minutes after launch, officials said. "I'm happy to announce the successful completion of Mission Prarambh, the beginning," said Pawan Goenka, who chairs Indian government agency that coordinates private-sector space activities. Skyroot, which was started by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Daka, has set a target of cutting development costs by up to 90 per cent versus existing platforms to launch small satellites

MBS has immunity in Khashoggi lawsuit: US

"Jamal died again today," Khashoggi's ex-fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, said on Twitter minutes after the news became public. She added later: "We thought maybe there would be a light to justice from #USA But again, money came first. This is a world that Jamal doesn't know about and me..!"

ciples of customary international law," a "determined that defendant bin Salman, as

DNA

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration ruled on Thursday that Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has immunity from a lawsuit over the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, drawing immediate condemnation from the slain journalist's former fiancee. Khashoggi was killed and dismembered in October 2018 at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. an operation which US intelligence believed was ordered by Prince Mohammed, who has been the kingdom's de facto ruler for several years.

"Jamal died again today," Khashoggi's ex-fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, said on Twitter minutes after the news became public. She added later: "We thought maybe there would be a light to justice from #USA But again, money came first. This is a world that Jamal doesn't know about and me..!"

A spokesperson for the Saudi consulate in Washington could not be reached for comment on Thursday evening, after business hours. "This is a legal determination made by the State Department under longstanding and well-established prin-

Pakistan committed

to universal values

of tolerance: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to

the United States Masood Khan said that

Pakistan was committed to the universal

values of tolerance, inclusivity and respect

He highlighted this in his interaction with

the leadership of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Los Angeles,

said a press release issued by Pakistan Em-

During the conversation, Ambassador

Masood Khan briefed them on the posi-

tive momentum in the hilateral relations

and noted that while both countries coor-

dinate on strategic issues, it was the close

people-to-people ties that form the foun-

He appreciated the philanthropic work

dation of this strong partnership.

bassy in Washington on Friday.

for people of all faiths.

tional law." Justice Department lawyers said that the executive branch of US government referring Administra tion, had

spokesperson for the White House Na-

tional Security Council said in a written

statement. "It has nothing to do will

The spokesperson referred further

questions to the State and Justice

Departments. In a document

filed in US District Court for the

District of Columbia, Justice

Department attorneys wrote

that "the doctrine of head of

state immunity is well estab-

lished in customary interna-

merits of the case.

pecially in healthcare by the Church of Latter-Day Saints and thanked them for donating US\$ 2 million to support relief and recovery efforts in the flood affected areas.

The Ambassador also noted that the Church's outreach to the diplomatic community in the U.S. was an effective way of creating understanding between the peoples of different faiths.

Mathew Ball, Director Public and International Affairs of the Church briefed the Ambassador on the humanitarian initiatives taken by the Church in Pakistan. He said that since 1995, the Church had implemented 107 humanitarian projects in Pakistan.

In response to recent flooding in Pakistan, the Church has worked with local NGOs on 9 humanitarian projects, including the provision of emergency housing, clean water, medical supplies, water purification kits and food.

The projects were implemented flood affected provinces and benefitted an estimated 230,000 individuals. - APP

North Korea fires ICBM, lands near Japan

SEOUL: North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday in one of its most powerful ever tests, with Japan saying the weapon may have had the range to hit the United States mainland.

the sitting head of a foreign government,

enjoys head of state immunity from

the jurisdiction of US courts

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a result of that office." In

ate September, Saudi King

Salman named Prince

Mohammed prime min-

ister in a royal decree

which a Saudi official

said was in line with

responsibilities that

the crown prince

was already exer-

doubt

Royal Or-

leaves no

the Crown

Prince

The missile was believed to have landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said as he blasted the launch as "absolutely unacceptable". The launch is Pyongyang's second in two days and part of a record-breaking blitz in recent weeks, which North Korea - and some allies including Moscow - blame on the US boosting regional security cooperation, including joint military exercises.

The missile flew 1,000 km (621 miles) at an altitude of 6,100 km, South Korea's military said, only slightly less than the ICBM Pyongyang fired on March 24, which appeared to

be the North's most powerful such test yet. US Vice President Kamala Harris convened a meeting on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific summit in Bangkok to discuss the launch with regional leaders. North Korea has fired scores of ballistic missiles this year - far more than any other year on record - and recent launches have been increasingly provocative, including firing a missile over Japan last month, triggering a rare air raid warning. On November 2, Pyongyang fired 23 missiles, including one which crossed the de facto maritime border and landed near the South's territorial waters for the first time since the end of hostilities in the Korean War in 1953. Seoul called it "effectively a territorial invasion". The next day, North Korea fired an ICBM - although Seoul said

tus-based immunity," lawyers for the

prince said in an Oct. 3 petition request-

ing a federal district court in Washington

dismiss the case, citing other cases where

the United States has recognised immu-

nity for a foreign head of state. Biden

was criticized for fist-bumping the crown

prince on a visit to Saudi Arabia in July to

discuss energy and security issues. The

White House said Biden had told Prince

Mohammed that he considered him re-

The prince, known by his initials MbS, has

denied ordering Khashoggi's killing but

acknowledged later that it took place "un-

der my watch." Khashoggi had criticised

the crown prince's policies in Washington

Post columns. He had travelled to the Saudi

consulate in Istanbul to obtain papers he

needed to marry Cengiz, a Turkish citizen.

"It's beyond ironic that President Biden has

single-handedly assured MBS can escape

accountability when it was President Bid-

en who promised the American people he

would do everything to hold him account-

able. Not even the Trump administration

did this," Sarah Lee Whitson, a spokes-

woman for Democracy for the Arab World

Now, said in a written statement.

sponsible for Khashoggi's killing.

After ultimatum, Twitter employees start exiting

it appeared to fail mid-flight. - APP

CALIFORNIA: Hundreds of Twitter Inc employees are estimated to have decided to quit the beleaguered social media company following a Thursday deadline from new owner Elon Musk that staffers sign up for "long hours at high intensity," or leave. The departures highlight the reluctance of some of Twitter's 3,000 or so employees to remain at a company where Musk earlier fired half of the workforce including top management, and is ruthlessly changing the culture to emphasize long hours and an intense pace.

Musk took to Twitter late on Thursday and said that he was not worried about resignations as "the best people are staying." The billionaire owner also added: "We just hit another all time high in Twitter

usage...," without elaborating. Musk met some top employees on Thursday to try to convince them to stay, said one current employee and a recently departed employee who is in touch with Twitter colleagues. The company also notified employees that it will close its offices and cut badge access until Monday, according to two sources. Security officers began kicking some employees out of one office on Thursday evening, one source said. - APP

Magnitude 6.9 quake strikes off **W. Indonesia**

JAKARTA: A 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck off western Indonesia late Friday, the United States Geological Survey said, but there were no immediate reports of damage. The offshore quake hit just after 8:30 pm (1330 GMT) at a shallow depth about 212 kilometres (132 miles) southwest of the city of Bengkulu, the USGS said.

The Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in India said the quake may be capable of generating a tsunami affecting the Indian Ocean region "based on historical data and tsunami modelling".

"IOTWMS-TSP will monitor the situation to determine if a tsunami was generated and will issue further bulletins as information becomes available," it said in an emailed warning.

But the IOTWMS in Indonesia said on their website there was "no tsunami threat". The epicentre was placed near the small outlying island of Enggano.

Residents in Bengkulu reached by AFP did not feel the quake or said it was felt weakly. "Strangely I did not feel anything at all. I was still outside, talking to my neighbour and we were not aware there was an earthquake at all," Hendri Tasparillo, 34, told AFP.

Indonesia experiences frequent earthquakes due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity where tectonic plates collide that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin. A 6.2-magnitude quake that shook Sulawesi island in January last year killed more than 100 people and left thousands homeless. - APP

Ergogan sends condolences to Palestinians

ISTANBUL: The Turkish president on Friday conveyed his condolences to the "friendly and brotherly Palestinian people" over the death of 21 Palestinians after a fire ripped through a building in the Gaza Strip.

"We are deeply saddened by the death of 21 Palestinian brothers, including children, in the fire disaster in Gaza," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Twitter. Erdogan wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

The fire erupted Thursday at a building in the Jabalia refugee camp where residents were attending a party. Reports said the fatalities included women and children, while many other people were injured.

A statement by Palestinian Presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said President Mahmoud Abbas declared a period of national mourning Friday. Jabalia is one of eight refugee camps in the area, which is home to 2.3 million people and is one of the world's most densely populated locations. - APP



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Defense Production Muhammad Israr Tareen reveals logo of Ideas 2024 at closing ceremony of Ideas 2022. - DNA

Russia wants US prisoner swap for arms trader

News Desk

LONDON: Russia said on Friday it hoped to clinch a prisoner swap with the United States to return convicted Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout, known as the "Merchant of Death", in an exchange that would likely include U.S. basketball star Brittney Griner. Amid the deadliest war in Europe since World War Two, Russia and the United States are exploring a deal that could see imprisoned Americans including Griner return to the United States in exchange for Bout. "I want to hope that the prospect not only remains but is being strengthened, and that the moment will come when we will get a concrete agreement," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying by Interfax. "The Americans are showing some external activity, we are working professionally through a special channel designed for this," Ryabkov said. "Viktor Bout is among those who are being discussed, and we certainly count on a positive result.

For the two former Cold War foes, now grappling with the gravest confrontation since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, the exchange would mark one of the more extraordinary prisoner swaps in their history. The distinctly upbeat remarks from Ryabkov, the foreign ministry's point man for the Americas and arms control, contrast

with previous statements from Moscow which have cautioned Washington against trying to engage in megaphone diplomacy over the prisoner swap. The possible swap includes Griner, facing nine years behind bars in Russia after being convicted on drug charges, and Paul Whelan who is serving a 16-year sentence in Russia after being convicted of espionage charges that he denies. Variously dubbed "the merchant of death" and "the sanctions buster" for his ability to get around arms embargoes, Bout was one of the world's most wanted men prior to his 2008 arrest on multiple charges related to arms trafficking. For almost two decades, Bout was one of the world's most notorious arms dealers, selling weaponry to rogue states, rebel groups and murderous warlords in Africa, Asia and South America. But in 2008, Bout was snared in an elaborate U.S. sting. Bout was caught on camera agreeing to sell undercover U.S. agents posing as representatives of Colombia's leftist FARC guerrillas 100 surface-to-air missiles, which they would use to kill U.S. troops. Shortly afterwards, he was arrested by Thai police. Bout was tried on the charges related to FARC, which he denied, and in 2012 was convicted and sentenced by a court in Manhattan to 25 years in prison, the minimum sentence possible. Ever since, the Russian state has been keen to get him back.

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