



# Islamabad POST

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**"We vote for our bright future", says President Kassym-Jomart**

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**More must be done after the COP27 deal**

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**Smith sees Australia to series win**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**'Loss & Damage Fund' major win: FM**

**SAIFULLAH**  
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund and financial arrangements to address the issue of climate justice is a major win for Pakistan and all of the developing world. In a series of tweets on Sunday, he said, the monumental achievement for climate justice and G77 led by Pakistan, the COP27 has successfully concluded with loss and damage as part of the agenda including a fund and financial arrangements to address this issue.

**March gains to be revealed in few days**

**DNA**  
LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Pervez Elahi said that whatever PTI chief Imran Khan has achieved during his long march would be revealed in the coming days. Speaking to the journalists, CM Punjab said: "We will give complete protection to Imran Khan." CM Elahi talked about the progress being done under the PTI-led coalition government in the province and said that hospitals are being built, projects are being inaugurated and more hospitals are being added to the Sehat Card.

**Rumours of default risk rubbish**

**DNA**  
JEDDAH: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday categorically dismissed rumours related to Pakistan's default risks, terming them the "PTI's propaganda" for mere politicking. His remarks come after former premier Imran Khan and his party members raised alarms about the economic situation and alleged that govt is not able to control it. In an address at Pakistani Consulate in Jeddah, Iqbal said the government had adopted a path of stability and saved the country from going towards a default.



AL KHOR: Performers doing the act during the opening ceremony of FIFA World Cup 2022. – DNA

## Qatar World Cup starts with stakes high for hosts

Saudi Arabia's crown prince and the presidents of Egypt, Turkey and Algeria attended the opening ceremony

**NEWS DESK**  
AL KHOR: The World Cup kicked off in Qatar on Sunday with the Muslim nation, which faced a barrage of criticism over its treatment of foreign workers, LGBT rights and social restrictions, staking its reputation on delivering a smooth tournament. In a show of solidarity, Saudi Arabia's crown prince and the presidents of Egypt, Turkey and Algeria, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General, are among the leaders at the opening ceremony in a tent-shaped stadium ahead of the first match between the hosts and Ecuador. Qatar, which has denied accusations of abuse of workers and discrimination, and FIFA hope the spotlight will now turn to act on the pitch. Organisers have also denied allegations of bribery for hosting rights. Inside Al Bayt Stadium many seats were still vacant with gridlock on the expressway leading to the arena, where cheers went up as Qatar's team appeared for their opening match. Onstage, singer Jungkook of K-pop boy band BTS will perform a new tournament song, alongside Qatari singer Fahad Al-Kubaisi. The football tournament, the first held in the Middle East and the most expensive in its history, is a culmination of Qatar's soft power push, after a 3-1/2 year boycott by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain which ended in 2021. The UAE, whose rapprochement with Doha has been slower than that of Riyadh and Cairo, sent its vice president who is also the ruler of Dubai, where many World Cup fans have opted to stay. For the first time, a direct commercial flight from Tel Aviv to Doha landed in Qatar on Sunday despite the absence of formal bilateral ties, in a deal brokered by FIFA to carry both Palestinians and Israelis to the tournament. The Gulf state's Deputy Prime Minister Khalid Al-Attiyah, in remarks on state media, said Qatar was reaping the benefits of years of "hard work and sound planning".

## Kurram: 7 injured after firing from Afghan side

**DNA**  
KURRAM: Seven people, including two children, were injured following firing from across the Afghan border in Kharlachi and Borki near Kurram border on Sunday, according to officials. Parachinar District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr Qaiser Abbas Bangash told media that the children were seriously injured while several livestock were also killed due to shelling from Afghanistan on the local community. He said the injured, which also include three security officials, were under treatment at the hospital.

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## Army Chief reviews flood relief activities

**DNA**  
RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Lasbella, Balochistan where he inaugurated pre-fabricated village in Lal Gul Goth constructed for flood affected people of the area who lost their homes. Village Laal Gul Goth was

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## PTI to stage dharna at Faizabad

Imran Khan urges people to reach Faizabad on November 26

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
LAHORE: Fomer Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan setting aside all the intelligence reports relating to fears of another attack on his life, expressed resolve to reach Rawalpindi at all costs. He announced that the PTI will stage a dharna at Faizabad. The local PTI leaders have sought approval of the administration in this regard. Responding to a question about their next plan, the Fomer Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan said that they would reveal their future strategy soon. The army chief should be appointed on merit, he reiterated. Imran Khan said that the ruling parties have lost public support, hence, they want to run away from elections. He said that he has no issue with whoever is appointed as the next army chief, and there will be a surprise for everyone on November 26. The former premier said that "I know their [incumbent government] plans, but I am planning ahead." He added that efforts are being made to conduct clean and transparent elections as soon as possible; there is no solution to the country's problems except for snap polls. The PTI chief said that messages have been sent to

Continued on Page 06

## Whole nation will welcome Imran: Sheikh

**STAFF REPORT**  
LAHORE: Awami Muslim League (AML) President Sheikh Rasheed has said that a sea of people will welcome PTI Chairman Imran Khan in Rawalpindi on November 26. Talking to media persons, Rasheed said, "Entire Pakistan will be the host of Imran Khan on November 26." He maintained that Imran Khan is likely to deliver his address before the Maghrib prayers. Berating the incumbent coalition government, he said that the country's economy has been ruined. He slammed Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for "threatening" the president. Meanwhile, the Islamabad police has said that entry from Rawalpindi to Islamabad may be blocked on November 26 – the day PTI chairman Imran Khan plans to rejoin his party's long march.

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## Ukraine, Russia trade blame over nuclear plant shelling

Ukrainian nuclear energy agency Energoatom said shortly after that Russia was behind explosions

**MOSCOW:** Kyiv and Moscow on Sunday traded accusations of shelling on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant that Russia controls in southern Ukraine. The UN atomic watchdog that has a team of experts at the plant – the biggest nuclear facility in Europe – said "powerful explosions" had occurred on Saturday and Sunday. Kyiv "does not stop its provocations aiming at creating the threat of a man-made catastrophe at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant", the Russian army said in a statement on Sunday. Despite the shelling, radiation levels "remain normal", the army added. It said missiles exploded around a power line that feeds the plant, the fourth and fifth power units and "special building number 2". Renat Karchaa, an advisor to the Russian nuclear agency Rosatom, told state-run agency TASS that the "special building" contained nuclear fuel. Ukrainian nuclear energy agency Energoatom said shortly after that Russia was behind the explosions. "This morning on November 20, 2022, as a result of numerous Russian shelling, at least 12 hits were recorded on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant," Energoatom said. It accused Russia of "once again... putting the whole world at risk". "The news... is extremely disturbing. Explosions occurred at the site of this major nuclear power plant, which is completely unacceptable," UN atomic watchdog chief Rafael Grossi said in a statement. He added that the damage to buildings, systems and equipment recorded so far was not "critical". The explosions were "abruptly ending a period of relative calm at the facility and further underlining the urgent need for measures to help prevent a nuclear accident there", the statement read. Moscow and Kyiv have traded blame for months over shelling near the Russian-held facility, sparking fears of a nuclear disaster and spurring calls to de-militarise areas around atomic facilities in Ukraine. – APP

# Alvi urges world to focus on Pak flood-hit children's needs

ISLAMABAD: As the international community observed World Children's Day on Sunday, President Dr Arif Alvi called upon the government, privileged persons, NGO's and international organizations to especially focus on the needs of a large number of children worst affected by the super floods in Pakistan.

"On this day, I call upon the government, privileged persons, NGO's and international organizations to specially focus on the needs of large number of children who are worst affected by the recent climate-induced super floods in Pakistan and to provide them education, nutrition and shelter and protect them from disease and hunger," the president said in a message on the day. He said the day was observed every year to promote and protect the rights of children around the world.

It was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and on this date

in 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. The president said this year, the theme for World Children's Day 2022 was very apt which states 'Inclusion for every child'. "From climate change, education and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination, children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better future," he remarked. He said on this day, Pakistan like the rest of the world, pledged to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and actions that would build a better world for children. He said Pakistan commemorated Children's Day to reiterate its renewed commitment to safeguard the rights of children as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (ICRC). It is also observed to reaffirm the commitment to make

sincere efforts at all national, regional and international fora to protect the children and provide them access to development and participation opportunities without any discrimination of status, caste, creed or religion.

He said the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to protect its children from all types of exploitation, prevent exclusion and marginalisation and provide them better education and health care, clean and green environment, opportunities to realise their full potential and an enabling environment to excel in every sphere of life. "On this day, we also commit ourselves to bring approximately 25 million out-of-school children and street children into the school system, vaccinate our children against polio and other diseases, eliminate stunting and cater to their needs for balanced nutritious food and better lives," the president added.—APP

## CCS holds Bilingual Declaration Contest

SANGHAR: 4th All-Pakistan Bilingual Declaration Contest was held, at Cadet College Sanghar (CCS). Participants from 29 renowned institutions across the country took part in the contest. Madam Tanzila-Umi-Habiba, the Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Information, Science and Technology Department attended the mega event as the Chief Guest. The Panel of Judges belong to reputable institutions of Pakistan, evaluated declaration. The First Position in English Speech was awarded to Ms. Tahreem Fatima from Hayat Higher Secondary School and College (Main Campus) Hyderabad. While first position in Urdu Speech was won by Mr. Abdul Rehman from Divisional Public School and College Faisalabad. The coveted Trophy of the 4th All-Pakistan Bilingual Declaration Contest - 2022 was clinched by the team of Jamia Suffah Karachi. The Runners-up Trophy was won by the team of Cadet College Petaro (CCP). In the end, Worthy Chief Guest addressed audience and congratulated Prize Winner Students and Institutes. She appreciated CCS efforts for organizing such an impressive co-curricular competition for the promotion of youth of Pakistan. During the various sessions, CCS cadets performed cultural show which was cherished and enjoyed by the audience. —DNA

## UK announces 7 projects for climate finance initiative

ISLAMABAD: Chairman UK-Pakistan Joint Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said the United Kingdom has announced seven innovative low-carbon projects as a part of the first cohort for the climate finance accelerator (CFA), Pakistan. Talking to President Pak-British Friendship Council (North) Muhammad Arbab Khan through zoom he said selected projects from the energy, transportation, AFOLU (agriculture, forestry, and other land uses), waste, e-mobility, and industrial and manufacturing sectors will receive tailored support ahead of an event in Febru-

ary 2023. He said these projects have the potential to benefit communities across Pakistan through pollution abatement, employment opportunities, access to energy, effective waste management e-mobility, and by supporting gender equality and social inclusive efforts. Muhammad Arbab Khan said the CFA is part of the UK government's efforts to help Pakistan in accessing climate finance and meeting the priorities set out in its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. He said this work comes alongside the provision of UK humanitarian support to Pakistan

following flood devastation. He said CFA support will enable these projects to make scalable and ground-breaking projects for a collective greener future for Pakistan. He said 7 selected projects out of a total of 50 included ACT Engineering Services, Digital Dera by Agriculture Republic, Concept Loop, Daewoo Pakistan Express Bus Service Ltd, DISIDE, Ouborobos Waste Management, and Shamas Power Ltd. Mian Kashif said greenfield solar projects will help industrial and commercial enterprises to the transaction to solar energy through affordable financing instruments of 150 MW on multiple sites in Pakistan.—APP

## Attitude change termed imperative

ABBOTTABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education Mohtasim Ballah Shah said we have to change our attitudes to compete with the West. Children are the asset of our country and the nation and sports are indispensable for their physical development. He expressed these

views while speaking at the prize distribution ceremony of the annual competitions of middle schools here Sunday. The Secretary further said that the emotional reaction of the youth was increasing as a result of the limited sports activities. Pakistan is facing challenges in providing quality education and if it is not improved, it will not be possible to compete with the world, he expressed. Mohtasim Ballah Shah said that currently, children were being engaged in a race of higher numbers, but we need to prepare them for a life in which the sense

of humanity, the spirit of sacrifice is seen and the personality development of the child is seen. Man has been given the status of "Ashraf al-Mukhlouqat" by Allah and bound them to the welfare of all other creatures, he added. Earlier, the students of the schools presented recitations, Naats, speeches and tableaux and received applause from the audience. Among the 88 middle schools of the district Abbottabad, Merajulah of Nardaba School in Shotput got first position. Khaista Gul of Banda Qazi remained second.—APP



HYDERABAD: Province minister Sindh for Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon talking to the media during the inauguration ceremony of the new Public Bus service.—DNA

## Pak, UNESCO agree to establish joint excellence centre in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and UNESCO have agreed to work out for establishment of PAK-UNESCO Joint Centre of Excellence in Teachers Training and STEAM Learning at Islamabad. It has been decided during a bilateral meeting held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan between the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain, with Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director General for Education UNESCO. The meeting was held on the sidelines of II World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, said a press release yesterday. Ms. Giannini was previously Senator and Minister for Education, Universities and Research, Italy. Rana Tanveer Hussain informed about Pakistan's resolute commitment to overcome the major challenges in education sector and mainly in the areas of Out of School Children, Girls Education, urgent actions required to mitigate

learning losses, Quality of Education referring to (pedagogy skills, faculty development & governance issues), introducing & embedding Skills learning in mainstream Education as well as use of technology & STEM to assist the conventional mode of education. He also emphasized on the damage caused by the recent unprecedented floods with recovery cost in education sector around USD918 million. Mr. Tanveer urged that various interventions were made in partnership with UNESCO, however, the focus shall be on major challenges with one or two high impact targeted interventions instead of low impact scattered collaborations in different areas. The minister ensured that Pakistan will make all out efforts to ensure inclusive and equitable and quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities as in light of SDG-4 as well as commitments made in Bang-

kok declaration and recently held Transforming Education Summit at UN HQs. While considering the importance of teachers' training and STEAM education, he proposed for Pak-UNESCO Joint Centre of Excellence (CoE) in teachers training and STEAM learning at Islamabad, which will be established with the support of UNESCO. The said Centre will mainly focus of early childhood & primary education. Ms. Stefania Giannini informed that UNESCO has been doing its best to support Pakistan's education sector along with its other partners (UNICEF, WFP, WHO etc) in emergencies. She appreciated Pakistan's commitment to address the educational challenges faced by the country. She also assured for mobilizing the global partners to provide all possible assistance to Pakistan's education sector. Ms. Stefania Giannini welcomed the proposal of Pakistan's Education Minister for establishment

of Pak-UNESCO CoE. The Director of UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education informed that the said proposal/project will be covered under the component of learning recovery and education for all of the Bangkok declaration, for which Pakistan will submit its formal proposal. Both sides decided to further engage on the level of technical teams for working out the modalities regarding the principally agreed establishment of Pak-UNESCO Joint Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Teachers Training and STEAM learning at Islamabad. It was also agreed that UNESCO will enhance its efforts for capacity building of the officials of Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU), whereas Pakistan's Education Ministry will ensure adequate workforce at PNCU. Both sides also agreed to engage on possibility of holding an International Conference in Pakistan in a mutually agreed area in line with SDG-4. —APP



LAHORE: Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed called on Chairman PTI Imran Khan. —DNA

## 13-year old boy's 'Statesmen' now in stores

KARACHI: A nation seeks to find some boosters when they are in a state of despair. When the media is pre-occupied with sensation and mass hysteria, confusion, and disinformation, there to find such news that a 13-year-old boy, Syed Muhammad Saleh, hailing from Karachi, has compiled a book, which is about 196 countries across the world and their relevant key features, is a moment for a respite in this politically-charged environment. Before getting into the distinctive features of the book, let us take a minute to realize how important and commendable step Saleh has taken, at a time when book reading is regarded as a herculean task, leave alone authoring it.—APP

## Kashmiri children worst victims of Indian terrorism

Report said that killing of civilians by troops rendered 107,887 children orphaned in territory during the period

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism have martyred 915 children during the last thirty-four years in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of World Children's Day, today, said the children are the worst victims of India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. It revealed that 915 children are among the 96,154 people martyred by the troops since Janu-

ary 01, 1989, till date. The report said that the killing of civilians by the troops rendered 107,887 children orphaned in the territory during the period. It said that thousands of people, including young school boys and girls, were also injured by the pellets fired by Indian troops on peaceful protesters. It added that over a hundred of persons including 19-month-old Hiba Jan, 4-year-old Zuhra Majeed, 8-year-old Asif Rashid, 8-year-old Owais Ahmad, 10-year-old Asif Ahmad Sheikh and 13-year-old Mir Arafat have lost their eye-

sight totally and partially due to pellet bullets of Indian forces in the territory during last 12 years. The report said a large number of school boys are among thousands of Kashmiris arrested since the military and police siege when India scrapped the special status of IIOJK in August 2019. It maintained that conscientious people must raise their voices for the rights of the Kashmiri children, adding that on World Children's Day, the global community must not forget the plight of the children of IIOJK.—APP

## Pakistani, Chinese universities sign agreement to promote coop

Vice Chancellor UoS Professor Dr Qaisar Abbas said, "This partnership will connect Sargodha University with top Chinese Universities and Vocational Institutes

ISLAMABAD: Tang Chinese Education & Technology Ltd and University of Sargodha has inked an agreement to promote cooperation in academic, educational and cultural spheres, Gwadar reported on Sunday. According to UoS, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed at University of Sargodha. The agreement was duly signed by Additional Director Office of the Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) of Sargodha Dr. Anjum Murtaza, and Director & Executive President of Tang Pakistan

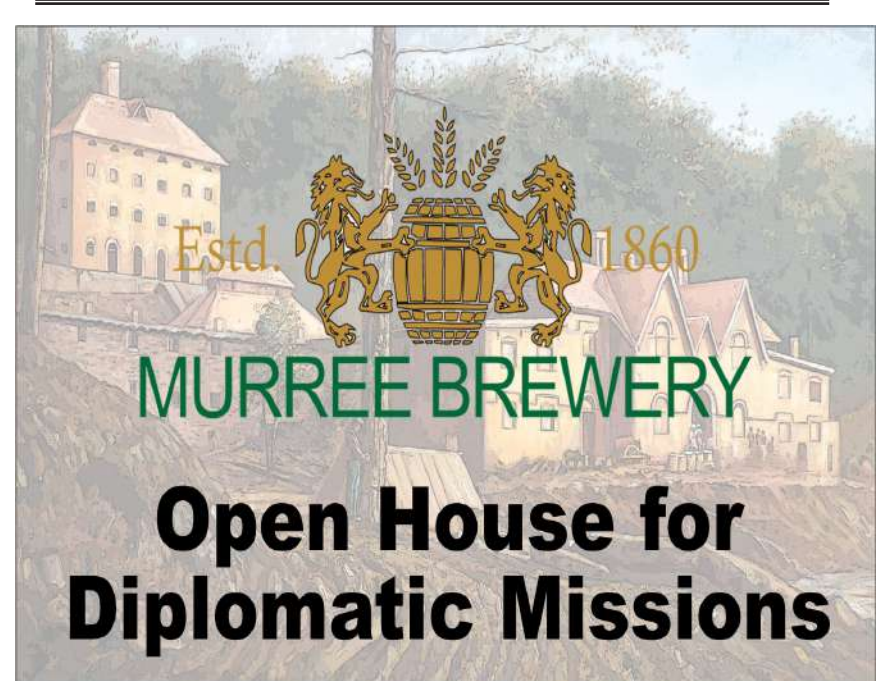
Max Ma. The agreement is aimed at imparting effective training, quality assessment, certification to the manpower for local economic zones and CPEC Industries & Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by launching CCTE Model Sino-Pak Dual Diploma Vocational & Technical Joint Education Program. Vice Chancellor UoS Professor Dr Qaisar Abbas said, "This partnership will connect Sargodha University with top Chinese Universities and Vocational Institutes. It will also bring forward opportunities of joint degree programs, and

vocational & faculty training, and Chinese Language programs as well." Director and Executive President of Tang Pakistan Max Ma maintained that there were several hi-end technologies through CCTE Model Modern China-Pakistan dual Diploma Joint Technical Education Program in which the university could start three-year Associate Degree Programs. "Under this program, students will acquire theoretical knowledge at Sargodha University and a year-long practical training from Chinese universities while a dual degree will be awarded

after completion," he added. According to the agreement, the two sides will also carry out in-depth cooperation in the development of information-based vocational, technical courses and the introduction and certification of China's vocational education standards. Max Ma mentioned that both parties also agreed to make efforts to establish a Model Industrial Unit for value addition to the citrus export in a tripartite framework, including Tang, UoS and Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

## SRSO celebrates World Children Day

KARACHI: Various colorful programmes were organized in various government schools in Sukkur, Khairpur and Shikarpur districts to mark the World Children Day on Saturday. Children of various educational institutions demonstrated their talent by creating digital heroes. The main components of the event were robotic science and science projects. The events were organized by the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) with collaboration by Sindh Government.—APP



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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### November

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

## Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051-2826121
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## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949
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## Emergency

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

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



## Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480
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# ICAPP elects Mushahid Hussain as Co-Chairman

## Mushahid says 'Asian hands to shape Asian Century', 70 political parties from 33 countries participate

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), Asia's oldest and largest organisation of political parties, unanimously elected Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as the ICAPP Co-Chairman at its biennial conference here in the historic Turkish city, with 200 representatives and leaders of 70 political parties from 33 countries participating. Mushahid's name for Co-Chairman was proposed by Thailand and Iran, and supported by China, Cambodia, Russia, Lebanon, Turkiye and Indonesia, before being put to a vote. Former Foreign Minister of South Korea, Chung Euiyong, was re-elected Chairman of ICAPP. The ICAPP Conference, held once every two years, also issued the 'Istanbul Declaration' which expressed solidarity with victims of the 'recent devastating floods in Pakistan of epic proportions' and urged 'alleviating hardships of people through climate finance and climate justice'.

Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the participants for reposing confidence in him and termed his election as a 'humbling experience for me personally and a great honour for Pakistan' to be so recognised at an important global forum, which represents public opinion and political parties of the world's largest continent, Asia. Mushahid Hussain termed the current epoch as historic transformation for Asia as the 'balance of economic and political power is shifting from West to East' marking the 'dawn of the 'Asian Century', which he noted



the great visionary Poet of the East, Dr Allama Iqbal, had predicted 90 years back, when he wrote: 'see, the Sun rising in the East!' He said 'ICAPP is continuation of the Bandung Spirit, which started in 1955 with the first Afro-Asian Summit hosted by the great Indonesian leader, Dr Soekarno, at the Indonesian city of Bandung'. Senator Mushahid Hussain said the 'time has come that Asian hands must shape Asian destiny and the future of Asia'. He recounted his own early exposure to Asia, when he was a student studying at a school in Jakarta while

his father served as Pakistan's first Defence Attaché to Indonesia, and later his travels to China, Vietnam, Korea and Cambodia and other Asian countries. Mushahid also referred to Pakistan's close connections to Asia, when Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah supported the cause of Indonesian Independence in 1945, the Palestine issue in 1940 and admired the leadership of Turkey's Mustafa Kamal Ataturk. He said formation of Indian National Army (INA) in Singapore in 1942 served as a catalyst for the freedom struggle in the

South Asian subcontinent. Pakistanis also joined in solidarity with the Vietnamese people, while refusing to join the Korean War, although Pakistan participated in the 1955 Bandung Conference. Senator Mushahid Hussain also quoted from three different world leaders to underline that the 'current global scenario is unpredictable, volatile and unstable', noting that President Biden calls it 'the decisive decade', President Putin says 'this is the most dangerous decade after World War II', while President Xi Jinping talks of 'once in a century transformative change in the world'. In this context, Mushahid urged Asians to 'avoid Bloc politics and reject any New Cold War'. He also praised Turkish President Erdogan's role as a 'bold voice for Asian rights'. A Media Forum, Business Council and a Tourism Conference were also held on the sidelines of the main ICAPP conference. Earlier, ICAPP leaders, Chairman Chung Euiyong and Co-Chairman Senator Mushahid Hussain, accompanied by former Interior Minister and Deputy Chairman of Turkey ruling Justice & Development Party, Efkan Ala, visited the site in Istanbul's Istaqlal Street where a terrorist bomb had killed and injured Turkish children, women and men, and they laid a floral wreath at the site, expressing solidarity with the victims families and condolences with the Turkish nation on this heinous crime against humanity. Mushahid also offered Pateha for the victims. The next ICAPP Conference will convene in Cambodia in 2024.

# PM lauds establishment of Loss & Damage Fund

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday while appreciating the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at the UN climate summit, said it was the "first pivotal step" towards the goal of climate justice. According to the media reports, at COP27 held at Sharm el-Sheikh, the countries adopted a hard-fought final agreement at the COP27 climate summit early

Sunday that sets up a fund to help poor countries being battered by climate disasters. What is being dubbed as a victory for the poorer nations that have pushed for the move for years, the Fund would earmark money for loss and damage caused by climate change-induced disasters. "It is up to the transitional committee to build on the historic development. I appreciate (Minister for

Climate Change) Sherry Rehman and her team for their contribution and hard work," the prime minister remarked. Following the agreement on the establishment of the Fund, Sherry Rehman said, "It has been a long 30-year journey from demand to formation of the Loss & Damage Fund for 134 countries" and called it an important first step in reaffirming the core principles of climate justice. "This is not about accepting charity," she said. "This is a down payment on investment in our futures, and in climate justice," she remarked. The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also welcomed the decision and said, "Clearly, this will not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust."—APP

# RDA operation against illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa has accelerated its ongoing operation against illegal housing schemes. According to RDA spokesman, three booking offices of illegal housing schemes namely Capital Floora Valle at 'Thathia Gorakhpur Road and two illegal sub-division offices at 'Tarahia Gorakhpur road had been demolished. The authority's operations against illegal housing schemes and unauthorized constructions were in full swing to control the illegal development of housing projects. On the directives of the DG, the Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE), Directorate RDA's staff with the help of Rawalpindi district police demolished the booking offices of three illegal private housing schemes here the other day. He said the owners of the illegal housing schemes were running bookings without the approval of the schemes in violation of the Punjab Private Housing Scheme Rules 2021. The spokesman said that on the directives of the DG, the planning wing of RDA was also taking legal action against illegal advertising and marketing of illegal housing schemes. The authority had also issued notices to the owners of the illegal housing schemes, he added. First Information Reports had also been lodged against these three illegal housing schemes, he said adding, the owners and sponsors of the illegal housing schemes were misleading the public through advertisements. He said that in this regard, the planning wing of RDA had also requested the Cyber Crime Wing of FIA to take legal action against illegal and misleading advertisements of illegal housing schemes. The citizens had also been advised not to invest in unapproved residential projects, he added. The spokesman said that the DG had requested the general public to check the status of the housing schemes on RDA's official website RDA.gop.pk before any investment. — APP

# Admin foils 14 bids to smuggle wheat, flour; confiscates 8,580 bags

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police while foiling 14 bids to smuggle wheat and flour seized 8,580 bags during the last seven days. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 14 drivers who were trying to illegally ship wheat and flour out of the Rawalpindi division. He said the Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi were strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. The administration succeeded to intercept 14 vehicles besides seizing 8580 wheat and flour bags. The authorities had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said adding, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi had instructed the authorities to monitor the movement of wheat around the clock and take strict action by the law against the rules violators. The spokesman said that all the exit points of the Rawalpindi division were being monitored 24/7 to control wheat smuggling as the administration had set up 14 check posts at exit points of the four districts of the division to check wheat smuggling.—APP

# ANF seizes 191 kg drugs, 2881 liters prohibited chemical

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan on Sunday seized nearly 191 kg of drugs, and 2991 prohibited chemicals, and arrested three accused while conducting five counter-narcotics operations throughout the country. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF North in an operation near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza managed to recover 2.6 kg heroin, 2.4 kg marijuana, and 988 grams Ice drug from secret cavities of a loader vehicle and arrested two accused residents of Bajaur. In an operation at Faisalabad Airport, ANF and ASF recovered 954 grams of marijuana concealed in a laptop and arrested an accused resident of Peshawar going to Dubai. ANF Sindh in an operation at Karachi International Container Terminal recovered 90 kg of heroin from a container being sent to Kuwait. ANF Balochistan in two operations recovered 94 kg of marijuana from the Turbat Kech area and 2881 liters of prohibited chemicals from Chaman.—APP

# Kashmiri children worst victims of Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism have martyred 915 children during the last thirty-four years in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

A report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of World Children's Day, today, said the children are the worst victims of India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. It revealed that 915 children are among the 96,154 people martyred by the troops since January 01, 1989, till date. The report said that the killing of civilians by the troops rendered 107,887 children orphaned in the territory during the period. It said that thousands of people, including young school boys and girls, were also injured by the pellets fired by Indian troops on peaceful protesters. It added that over a hundred of persons including 19-month-old Hiba Jan, 4-year-old Zuhra Majeed, 8-year-old Asif Rashid, 8-year-old Owais Ahmad, 10-year-old Asif Ahmad Sheikh and 13-year-old Mir Arafat have lost their eyesight totally and partially due to pellet bullets of Indian forces in the territory during last 12 years. The report said a large number of school boys are among thousands of Kashmiris arrested since the military and police siege when India scrapped the special status of IIOJK in August 2019. It maintained that conscientious people must raise their voices for the rights of the Kashmiri children, adding that on World Children's Day, the global community must not forget the plight of the children of IIOJK.—APP

# World Television Day to be marked today

ISLAMABAD: World Television Day will be marked on November 21 (Monday) across the globe including Pakistan to recognize television's major role in presenting different issues of different societies that affect people. World Television Day is a day to renew the commitments of governments, organizations, and individuals to support the development of television media in providing unbiased information about important issues and events that affect society. News about World Television Day may be shared via print, online, and broadcast media.

"World Television Day" helps people in remembering the beneficial purposes of television. Television and radio bloggers may write comments, editors may write in the editors' columns, and writers, academics, and journalists may write feature articles about the meaning behind this event. Educational institutions may mark World Television Day on their calendars and educators may use this day as an opportunity to invite guest speakers to discuss media and communication issues relating to tele-

vision. Discussion topics may include: how television promotes cultural diversity and a common understanding; the links between democracy and television; and the role of television in social, political, and economic developments. The UN acknowledges that television can be used to educate many people about the world, its issues, and real stories that happen on the planet. Television is one of the most influential forms of media for communication and information dissemination. It is used to broadcast freedom of expression and to increase cultural diversity. The UN realized that television played a major role in presenting global issues affecting people and this needed to be addressed. On December 17, 1996, UN General Assembly proclaimed November 21 as World Television Day to commemorate the date on which the first World Television Forum was held earlier that year. The UN invited all member states to observe the day by encouraging global exchanges of television programs focusing, among other things, on issues such as peace, security, economic and social development, and cultural change enhancements.—APP

# BISP supports children education

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson BISP Shazia Marri in her message on the occasion of International Children's Day (20 Nov.) said that the Benazir Income Support Program helps thousands of poor through Benazir Nashouma and Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program by providing scholarships to deserving families for children's education and health. Shazia Marri said that today on November 20, on the occasion of International Children's Day, we should remember millions of those children who have been displaced by the recent floods and who are waiting for our



help. We all should come standing together to help those suffering children. "Today is the day to work together for the welfare of children", she added. The Federal Minister mentioned about the Benazir Nashouma Program and said that through this program, sachets of vitamins and minerals

are provided to the mothers and the children, which make them healthy. Highlighting the importance of education, Chairperson BISP, Shazia Marri said that through Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, children of deserving families are provided with services to get basic education.

# IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Sunday issued a power suspension programme for Monday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Shakirullah, Satara Market, Wahidabad, Charrah, Khanna Fast, F-10/2, G-9/3, I-8/4, F.H.S, I -10/4, G-11/3, F-11 Center, Shahpur, Company Bagh, Kohala, Kotli Sattian, Buri Imam, T&T, Treat, Bhara Kahu, 2, Golf City, Bhara Kahu, NIH, Angori, NCP, Mangyal, Shahdara, Shahpur, Desto, Athal, Rawalpindi Circle, Raja Sultan, A Block, Muzamal Town, Nora Road, Jinnah Camp, Service Road, City, Fowara Chowk, Jinnah Road, Dhok Hasu, Khayaban Sir Syed, Abu Bakar, Tench Bhatta, NRC, Captain Amir, Bajnyal, I-14/3, Bibi Shaheed, Golra Shams Colony.—APP

## Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution

190/1/B, Block-2, PECHS, Karachi.  
Tel: +92 21 99225397  
Website: www.eobi.gov.pk

### Tender Notice

For Procurement of Actuarial Firm for Actuarial Valuation of EOBI Assets & Liabilities as on 30-06-2022.

Employees' Old-Age Benefit Institution (EOBI) is a body established under EOB Act, 1976. This institution provides social security Pension benefits like Old-age Pension, Survivor Pension, Invalidity Pension, and Old-age Grant. EOBI has 39 Regional and 39 field office throughout Pakistan. EOBI has 94,609 number of registered employer and 5,050,000 number of insured persons approximately.

Employees' Old-Age Benefit Institution (EOBI), a body corporate was established in 1976. Last Actuarial Assessment of EOBI Assets & Liabilities was made as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019. EOBI wants to engage an Actuarial Firm in order to conduct an Actuarial Assessment of EOBI Assets & Liabilities as on 30 June 2022 and also to recommend a suitable Strategy regarding EOBI contribution & its pension.

EOBI invites sealed bids from interested firms containing technical and financial bids sealed in two separate sealed envelopes as per rule 36(b) of PPR Rules 2004. Technical and Financial Bids should be completed in all respects and in line with RFP that may be obtained from the address given below or downloaded from [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) or [eobi.gov.pk](http://eobi.gov.pk).

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2% of the quoted bid price in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft on the name of Employees Old-Age Benefit Institution. Bids/proposals shall be submitted on or before 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 by 11:00 hours. Bids/proposals shall be opened on the date and time mentioned above. EOBI reserves the right to reject all the bids/proposals at any time as per rule 33 of PPR Rules 2004.

Director

General Administration

PID:K 1319

(EOBI) 021-99225397

## Briefs

## Critics express concern over misquoting Allama Iqbal

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

## Parliament determined to ensure quality education

ISLAMABAD :Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Sunday said that the Parliament is determined to protect the rights of children by providing them opportunities for quality education and training. In his message on World Children's Day, the Speaker said that children are the future of the nation and the Parliament has constituted Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights. He said the Parliamentary Caucus will be an important milestone in protecting children's rights and making child-related laws more effective and enforceable. He said that the Parliament would do legislation to control forced labour of children, trafficking and harassment of children. He said every member of society must play a role to protect children from all types of harassment. He said that on the Parliament's Diamond Jubilee, a special children's convention was organized at National Assembly where children belonging to all classes were invited to express themselves. He said the children participating in the convention showcased their talents. —APP

## Despite cold weather, tawa ice cream rolls still have popularity

ISLAMABAD :Despite the fall of mercury in the twin cities, ice cream lovers are enjoying tasty and colorful tawa ice cream rolls stating that ice cream mania can't be put aside due to cold weather. Talking to APP, stall owner Muhammad Shahzad said that tawa ice cream is prepared on a locally manufactured machine that works on installing a metal sheet over a cooling compressor. He said the compressor of the refrigerator and air conditioner is used for preparing the ice cream and the price of the machine also depends on the type of compressor. He said the best-selling item of tawa ice cream is 'roll meets soft serve' which costs Rs 450 while all-time favourite items are vanilla, caramel and peanut butter which cost Rs 200. —APP

## Turkiye keen to boost trade ties with Pakistan

Ahsan Zafar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that both countries should promote strong business linkages between their private sectors to improve trade

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye and Pakistan enjoy heart-to-heart relations and Turkiye is keen to boost bilateral trade with Pakistan at least up to US\$ 5 billion in the next 2-3 years as the current volume of trade is not reflective of the actual potential of both countries. This was said by H.E. Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye was also present at the occasion. The envoy said that he was assigned by his government to increase Turkiye-Pakistan bilateral trade to US\$ 5 billion in 3 years as a first step and added that both countries have the potential to go beyond this target. He said that Turkiye wants to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in trade, industry, investment, education, health and other fields. He said that the entrepreneurs of both countries should know each other more and work hard to expand trade



and economic relations while he assured that his Embassy would fully cooperate in such efforts. Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye gave a detailed presentation at the occasion about investment opportunities in Turkiye. Speaking at

the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that despite enjoying exemplary cordial relations, Pak-Turkiye bilateral trade is just around US\$ 1.2 billion and stressed that both countries should promote strong

business linkages between their private sectors to improve trade volume. He said that Turkiye can invest in a number of sectors in Pakistan including engineering, chemicals, housing & construction, electrical appliances, machinery, defence, irrigation, food processing,

halaal meat, agricultural productivity and solar energy. He said that ICCI is organizing in partnership with the Ministry of Housing & Works the first International Housing Expo on Dec: 8 to 11, 2022 and invited the investors of Turkiye to actively participate in this

mega event and introduce their projects in Pakistan. He said that both countries are part of ECO and D8 Economies and they should take advantage of these platforms to further strengthen their trade ties. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader said that Turkiye is a strong economy of the Muslim world with a GDP of around US\$ 800 billion and it should focus on promoting trade and economic relations with Pakistan that would be more beneficial for both countries. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI said that Turkish airlines have flights to over 129 countries and it should connect Pakistan with Central Asia and D8 countries. Road and railway links with Turkiye should be upgraded and PTA should be converted into FTA to improve bilateral trade. He further said that Pakistan-Turkiye-Azerbaijan free trade market should be established. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Maqsood Tabish, Raja Intiaz, Muhammad Shabbir and others were also present at the occasion.

## Pakistan to provide 4500 scholarships to Afghan students

ISLAMABAD :The Government of Pakistan would provide more 4500 scholarships to the students of Afghanistan next year and already around 6000 Afghan students getting education from the top universities of Pakistan in different fields including medical, engineering and social sciences. This was stated by Ambassador (R) Muhammad Sadiq Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) and Special Representative for Afghanistan Affairs here on

Saturday in the meeting of Afghanistan Inter-ministerial Coordination Cell (AICC). A high level delegation led by Health Minister of Afghanistan Dr Ibad met with Pakistani officials and discussed the Pak-Afghan relationship and Pakistan's assistance for Afghan citizen in the sector of education and health. He said that Pakistan being provide Rs 1 billion financial assistance to Afghanistan in the health sector and up-grading three major

hospitals in Afghanistan with addition next six department including Hemodialysis, urology, endoscopy, operation rooms, critical care centers and radiology. The government of Pakistan would provide the salaries to the three hospital staff and up-gradation of these hospitals would be included in this financial package including Jinnah Hospital in Kabul, Naib Amin Hospital in Logar and Nishter Hospital in Jalalabad.

Afghan health minister Dr Ibad hailed and thanked to the government of Pakistan efforts and support in this hardship time. He said that Pakistan have its vital role for the peace and development in Afghanistan. Dr Ibad said that Afghanistan is best place for Pakistanis investors and all unnecessary hardships would be removed very soon for smooth bilateral relationships in the education and health sectors. —APP

## Facility to promote artisans' works, empower women

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Samina Alvi on Saturday inaugurated a facility here aimed at preserving and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage and supporting the women artisans from various parts of the country. The first lady inaugurated the new office of Indus Heritage Trust - a non-profit organisation engaged in preserving and promoting the country's heritage of arts and crafts while empowering the communities. The facility marked the display of various women-created products including shirts, jackets, shawls, jewellery and bags besides homewares including embroidered cushions, mats and tea cozies. The first lady took a round of the new office and appreciated the skills of the artisans which she believed would also help financially empower the women, particularly those living in the



backward communities. Supporting a network of around 5,000 women in Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the IHT is working to enhance and strengthen the skills of artisans to help them create high-quality handcrafted products and to create a sustainable future for rural communities.

The first lady also cut a cake to mark the occasion and wished the organisation to achieve more milestones by enhancing its outreach to more women. Women from different walks of life including business and diplomatic corps attended the event and took a keen interest in the handcrafted products. —APP

## Politics of marches not in country's interest

RAWALPINDI :The trader's bodies of the city have announced not to be part of any political protest march, saying that it would adversely affect business activities and the national economy. President Markazi Anjuman Tajran Punjab Sharjeel Mir, in a statement, said that some political elements were creating anarchy-like situations for self-interests. He said the politics of long marches would be destructive for traders and the country's economy. Mir added that the country has been facing different challenges and cannot afford such activities that would cause political instability and adversely affect the economy. President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafique, while talking to APP, urged all political parties to sit together and find a solution to pull the country out of the political crises so that trade activities could be restored. He said that country's current political and economic uncertainty was "problematic. —APP

## BISP completes 97% cash relief disbursement

## DNA



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi has said that over ninety-seven percent of the flood-affected population has so far been provided with financial assistance. Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said that an amount of Rs 25,000 per family is being

provided to the flood-affected families in a transparent way, and out of 2,759,601 families 2,687,926 have received financial assistance. He reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to fully rehabilitate the flood-affected people. He said Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is planning to launch a dynamic survey from 15 December to register more deserving families affected recently by devastating floods. He said an MOU in this regard has been signed with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). He said beneficiaries of BISP are 8.2 million which would rise to around nine million after this survey. He said world leaders have acknowledged the positive role of Pakistan during Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Change Conference.

## PHMA for continuation of DLTL Scheme

## DNA

Islamabad: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association has expressed its serious concern over declining trend in textile exports, which has dropped by 1.34 percent to \$5.941 billion during the first four months of July-Oct in current fiscal year against \$6.021 billion of the same period of last year. PHMA North Zone Chairman Naseer But, expressing the need for solid steps and consistency in policies, observed that value added textile exports should be increased to get rid of external debts, dictation of IMF and other international financial institutions. He called for continuation of Duty Drawback of Local Taxes & Levies (DLTL) Scheme to ensure growth in country's exports, besides releasing the stuck up claims of 2019-20 under this scheme. The PHMA leader said that the knitwear exports had registered a high growth during the previous fiscal year, as the DLTL scheme had proved to be a lifeline for value-added textile industry and a halt to it would result in closure of it, leading to export of raw material from the country without value addition. "The previous government had committed to continue the DLTL Scheme but could not fulfill its promise with this present regime also failing to re-launch this fruitful scheme," he added. He said that the knitwear industry is highly labour-intensive and the emerging textile economies like Bangladesh and Vietnam had registered stellar growth simply by supporting this industry. Referring to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), he said that the country's textile group exports witnessed a decline of 15.23 percent in October 2022 on a year-on-year basis and remained at \$1.36 billion when compared to \$1.6 billion during the same month of last year.

## 'Child abuse a grave violation of children's rights'

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) Afshan Tehseen Bajwa said that child abuse is a grave violation of children's rights and one of the greatest threats to children's lives, survival, development, and participation rights. In her statement on the World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, she said that ensuring children's rights was particularly important because Pakistan had a unique window of opportunity where the "youth" could truly determine Pakistan's future. But the rising number of child abuse cases is a matter of serious concern. The time to act is now - by strengthening child rights protection mechanisms and legislation, as well as through massive public awareness campaigns. The commission has established a complaint mechanism that has effectively addressed the problem of child abuse in Pakistan. In addition, she added that the NCRC has analyzed various child rights violations in Pakistan and issued pol-

icy briefs on street children, child marriages, forced conversion, child domestic labor, juvenile justice system, etc. to identify gaps and recommend remedial measures to key stakeholders to address problems of child abuse in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has taken a number of initiatives to protect and promote the rights of children, but given the scale of the problems in Pakistan, these are not enough and urgent action should be taken. The enactment of laws and implementation mechanisms vary from province to province, but overall enforcement remains a challenge. There is a need to establish separate Ministry/Departments for children at the federal and provincial levels. In addition, advisers for children should be appointed in the federal and provincial cabinets who can advocate for the concerns of almost half of the children in Pakistan. The world also celebrates Universal Children's Day on 20 November. Children are the most valuable resource of any society;

the future engine of prosperity, harmony, and creativity. On the occasion of Universal Children's Day, the NCRC Chairperson shared that the Commission is committed to strengthening laws that govern children's rights, and will continue its work with the federal and provincial governments to advocate for the implementation of child protection laws and lobby with the relevant authorities to build a sustainable child protection system in Pakistan. Tehseen Bajwa called on all government agencies and civil society organizations to work towards developing synergies to create a Pakistan where all children grow up in an environment free from violence and abuse and where they can develop their full potential. Every year on 19 November, the world celebrates "World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse". In Pakistan, children are at risk of various forms and types of abuse, including child labour, corporal punishment, child sexual abuse, harmful traditions including child marriages, etc.

While child marriage affects both boys and girls, girls are significantly more likely to be affected in Pakistan. The Demographic Health Survey 2017-2018 found that 29 percent of women were married before the age of 18, compared to 5% of men. In Pakistan, more than 12.5 million children or nearly 16 percent of the child population are involved in child labour in Pakistan, with 13 percent to 14 percent of these children being between 5 and 15 years old. Although the number of child marriages in Pakistan has decreased significantly over the last three decades, this practice remains a major problem throughout the country. Violent discipline continues to be a widespread problem across the country. According to the 2017-2018 MICS Survey on Violent Discipline in Punjab, 81 percent of children aged up to 14 years have experienced some form of physical violence and 74% have experienced some form of psychological violence in the past few months. —APP

## 184 GB schools being solarized

ISLAMABAD :Around 184 educational institutions are being solarized in Gilgit-Baltistan as part of the efforts to materialize the vision of bringing about a technological revolution in the region, said GB Chief Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani. Talking to APP on Sunday, the Chief Secretary said that as the GB had made a great stride towards digitization of educational institutions, the provision of uninterrupted power supply was inevitable to achieve the objective. "While we have made a great stride towards digitization of our educational institutions, all it will be futile if there is no electricity to power the digital skeleton in these schools. We do realize it and for the very purpose, we are solarizing 184 educational hubs around the region," he informed. Wani said that the solarized schools would not only be provided with solar back-up but also have an additional battery backup to cope with even the worst power outages. The Chief Secretary, who is putting in unprecedented efforts to bring about a change in the mountainous region by uplifting the people's living standard and equipping the youth with modern technological tools, has led to the establishment of a software technology park in Skardu, after Gilgit. "Every generation needs a new revolution and here in Gilgit-Baltistan, we believe in the technology revolution. In this regard, an IT Park in Skardu after Gilgit has been established by the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan with the help of the Special Communication Organisation," the Chief Secretary said. —APP

## 1,014 children screened at health camps

RAWALPINDI :As many as 1,014 special children with disabilities have been screened for various diseases enrolled at 12 special education centres in the district. District Focal person for the screening of special children drives, Fehmida Malik told APP that the district health Authority in collaboration with Special Education Department and UNICEF, had launched the first phase of the screening drive for special children on October 18. She informed that around 1,014 children had been screened out of the total 1783 children so far, while the screening of remaining children enrolled at the special education centres at Doltala, Gujjar Khan, Taxila, and Tehsil Rawalpindi was underway, which would be covered in the next few days. Fehmida added that free-of-cost vision, hearing, HIV, nutrition, hygiene, physical, and psychological tests were being carried out at the special camps, adding medical consultation, examination, vaccination, and treatment were also being ensured. She added that officials of the district health authority, including medical officers, dispensers and computer operators, were performing duties at the camps. —APP

## IGP reviews security arrangements

ISLAMABAD, Nov 20 (APP):Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan on Sunday reviewed security arrangements for the upcoming visit of the England cricket team. According to the police spokesman, overall security arrangements were discussed and reviewed in the meeting presided over by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad which was also attended by the CPO (Security), SSP (Security), AIG (Operations), AIG (Investigation), all SPs, DSPs and Inspectors from security division. It was decided in the meeting that the Islamabad Capital police would maintain complete coordination with Rawalpindi police to ensure foolproof security while the routes of the team would be monitored through digital technology and drone cameras. More than 1,200 personnel would be deployed on security while CPO (Security) would monitor all affairs pertaining to team security and to ensure the foolproof security of the guests. —APP

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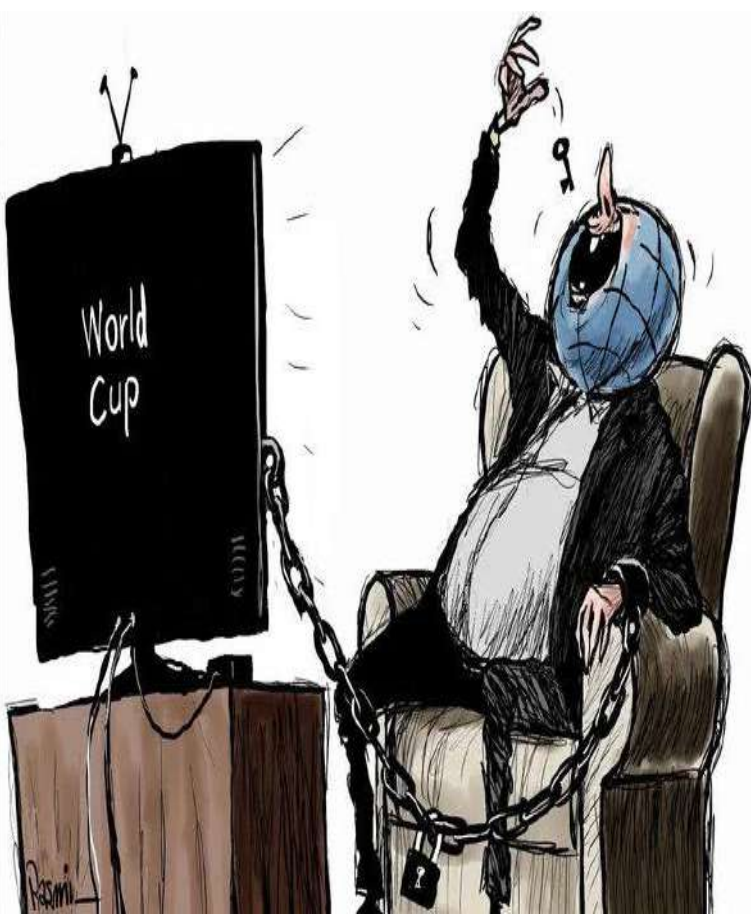
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## West not playing fair smearing Qatar

UNLIKE the carnivals it has kindled previously, the raising of the curtain for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 on Sunday has failed to generate the usual passion and excitement. The tournament, the first to be held in the Middle East and the first in the northern Hemisphere in winter, is the World Cup's return to Asia after a 20-year hiatus. And it is also the most expensive ever staged, as the host country has already spent \$229 billion on it, according to the Western media. A total of \$55.9 billion was spent from the 1994 World Cup in the United States to the 2018 tournament in Russia. But that huge input has not been transformed into greater attention. The cold shoulders the tournament in Qatar is meeting can partly be attributed to it interrupting the domestic leagues in European countries, with club loyalties taking precedence for many fans, but also to some Western media's biased report on it, which is in itself an attempt to politicize the event.

Ranging from UK media reports of Qatar planting spies in FIFA and the United States to ensure it can win the bidding, which the host country has denied as smears, to the warning of some European countries' security departments that at least two apps of the event developed by Qatar can leap privacy protections, and the reports claiming that large numbers of immigrant workers died during the preparation of the venues for the matches, some Western media have left no stone unturned to take advantage of the game to pour dirty water on Qatar. With such a deluge of negative reporting, it is natural that enthusiasm has been dampened. Whenever a major tournament is hosted by a non-Western country, some Western media will inevitably find all kinds of ways to attack it. The Beijing Winter Olympics also encountered a barrage of smears. Qatar embraces balanced diplomacy, with China, Russia and Iran among its diplomatic priorities, which of course does not sit well with the US and its allies, which once relied on the country as an exclusive source of oil and gas. However, despite the Western media's painstaking efforts to pull the rug from under the tournament's feet, between 1.2 and 1.5 million fans will travel to Qatar, with a large number of them coming from Europe. The non-biased media covering the event can also help present a more objective and complete picture of the host country. The smearing of the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and the Winter Olympics in 2022 by some Western media did not prevent these events from becoming huge successes. Qatar can also stage a successful World Cup. The appeal of the world's most popular sport is particularly important in bringing people together in such trying times. The World Cup provides a stage to help unite the region and the world.



## UK police's failure to end violence against women

THE police are charged with keeping citizens safe from violent assault. Yet for too many women and children facing abuse and brutality at the hands of men, failed by police officers who do not take male violence against partners and children seriously, this is a theoretical protection. Last week, the Independent Office for Police Conduct published its investigation into a truly awful case of police failure to intervene in a case of domestic abuse. They found that West Midlands police "materially contributed" to the murders of Raneem Oudeh and her mother, Khaola Saleem, in 2018, through their repeated failures to address the threat that Oudeh's violent former partner posed to their lives. Oudeh repeatedly called the police about the violent behaviour of her estranged husband, Janbaz Tarin. On the night of the murders, Oudeh called them four times to report that Tarin had breached his non-molestation order and had assaulted Saleem in public. She was on the phone to the police at the moment Tarin attacked and murdered them. The police effectively left them to be killed. According to Oudeh's aunt, Tarin felt empowered by the failure of the police to act over time. This is not an isolated incident. Police failings on domestic abuse and male violence against women are all too common. Too many women and children die avoidable deaths because, in some police forces, there remains a culture of seeing domestic abuse as less of a risk and a priority than other forms of violent crime. This is undoubtedly fuelled by police cultures of misogyny, where male violence against women is perceived by some officers as a joking matter rather than a serious crime, and in which complaints about police officers themselves accused of domestic abuse go unaddressed. Thanks to campaigners against male violence such as Karen Ingala Smith, who started the Counting Dead Women project, we know the death toll involved; as highlighted by the Observer's End Femicide campaign, a woman is killed by a man in the UK every three days. This adds up to many more deaths over the past 30 years than the number of people who have lost their lives to terrorism. So much of this cruelty is preventable, if only greater resources and focus were devoted to tackling it. Men do not kill women out of the blue: there are clear red flags and patterns of behaviour that escalate from less serious offending to life-threatening violence. Reducing the number of women who die each year at the hands of men is eminently achievable. But it requires the police and the criminal justice system to prioritise male violence against women in the same way they do other forms of male violence, including terrorism. Otherwise, women will continue to die as those responsible for keeping them safe look the other way.

# Capitalism can't kill football — World Cup passion proves it

Belén Fernández

Of course, that alliance is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of global capitalism's efforts to suck the soul out of football and eradicate any remnants of primordial joy by monetising and commodifying everything on and off the field. Given the deluge of corporate propaganda that we call "sponsorship", the uninitiated football spectator would be forgiven for thinking Adidas was a football team – or that matches are waged between Emirates and Etihad airlines. And there's nothing like sponsoring football's biggest competition to improve one's international branding. Chinese firms have also caught on – they're leading in spending for the Qatar World Cup. In his book, *El Fútbol a sol y sombra* (Football in sun and shadow), first published in 1995...

A WEEK or so before the kickoff of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, I was walking in the coastal city of Zihuatanejo in Mexico's southern Guerrero state when I passed a group of children playing football with a plastic Coca-Cola bottle. They were as gleefully animated as any group of children playing football anywhere, while the Coke bottle was, I thought, regrettably appropriate in a world governed by corporate toxicity. It was particularly appropriate, perhaps, given that Coca-Cola and football go way back. The company, which has been an official World Cup sponsor since 1978, entered into a formal association with FIFA in 1974 – although its logo has saturated World Cup events since 1950. The partnership was initially ostensibly meant to promote youth development programmes, since there is clearly nothing better for youth development than ingesting sticky brown liquid that is bad for human health. Of course, that alliance is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of global capitalism's efforts to suck the soul out of football and eradicate any remnants of primordial joy by monetising and commodifying everything on and off the field. Given the deluge of corporate propaganda that we call "sponsorship", the uninitiated football spectator would be forgiven for thinking Adidas was a football team – or that matches are waged between Emirates and Etihad airlines. And there's nothing like sponsoring football's biggest competition to improve one's international branding. Chinese firms have also caught on – they're leading in spending for the Qatar World Cup. In his book, *El Fútbol a sol y sombra* (Football in sun and shadow), first published in 1995, the renowned Uruguayan writer and die-hard football fan Eduardo Galeano remarked how every footballer had become an "advertisement in motion" – though not everyone was happy with that arrangement. In the mid-1950s, he recalled, when the prominent Montevideo club Peñarol had endeavoured to impose company advertising on its shirts, 10 members of the team had obediently taken to the field with the updated jerseys while Black player Obdulio Varela had declined: "They used to drag us Blacks around with rings in our noses. Those days are gone." To be sure, it's never just fun and games when obscene quantities of money are involved. Take

the case of Horst Dassler – the son of Adidas founder Adi Dassler, himself charmingly a former member of the Nazi Party – who in 1982 started a company called International Sports and Leisure, which promptly acquired exclusive marketing and TV rights to FIFA operations, including the World Cup. This was done by paying bribes to then-FIFA President João Havelange – the same Havelange who had graciously appeared alongside Argentine dictator Jorge Videla during the 1978 World Cup in Buenos Aires. That dictatorship was ultimately responsible for murdering or disappearing some 30,000 suspected leftists in a seven-year dirty war that was green-lit by – who else? – the United States, which was always eager to have more maleficent right-wing regimes on board in its quest to make the world safe for capitalism. In 1998, Havelange was replaced by Sepp Blatter, who has also been accused of rampant vote-buying and manipulation of financial data and who, according to Galeano, made Havelange look like "a Sister of Charity". Galeano died in April 2015, a month before the US Department of Justice sensationally busted fourteen FIFA officials and corporate executives on corruption charges, with US Attorney General Loretta Lynch lamenting that the individuals had "corrupted the business of worldwide soccer to serve their interests and enrich themselves". But as the US well knows, corrupt self-enrichment and corporate impunity are business as usual in capitalism – which has also produced a "gentrification" of the sport itself, as researchers have shown. A study published by the Royal Society in December 2021 found that the "excessive monetisation of football" had led to increasing inequality between teams in major European leagues and a growing predictability of match outcomes. Even as those responsible for the sport's governance claim to be globalising football, in reality, the process replicates the inequality endemic to corporate globalisation. Indeed, the very spirit of professional football has been corrupted by the conversion of the sport into an industry – resulting in a regimented and technocratic game that aims to turn players into robots. As Galeano put it, this approach to football "forbids all fun"; in the interest of maximised productivity

and increased profit, it "negates joy, kills fantasy, and outlaws daring". Magic, after all, is not profitable. Mercifully, however, there have always been folks who refuse to get with the programme. In Galeano's view, Brazilian footballer Mané Garrincha, born into poverty in Rio de Janeiro in 1933, was hands-down the player who brought the most happiness to audiences in the entire history of football, turning the game into an "invitation to a party". So much for the doctors who pooch-pooched the prospect of any athletic future for "this misshapen survivor of hunger and polio... with the brain of an infant, a spinal column like an S and both legs bowed to the same side". (Capitalism won in the end, and Garrincha died, poor and alone, in 1983.) Argentina's football virtuoso Diego Maradona, also from the wrong side of the tracks, defied boundaries, too – including by denouncing the tyranny of television in sport, advocating for labour rights in football, demanding financial transparency from football clubs, supporting the Palestinian cause, and generally driving the powers that be up the wall. On the field, he continued injecting old-school magic into modern mediocrity until he was expelled from the 1994 World Cup. Meanwhile, more recent resistance to football's descent into soulless, money-driven depths was seen last year, when furious fans in the United Kingdom helped force the collapse of a Super League scheme designed to further line the pockets of elite club owners. Sure, capitalism has certainly scored a major goal with professional football. But the sport remains a source of popular passion and an affirmation of collective identity for countless people, on sports courts, grass pitches and dirt patches from Mexico to Mozambique – far from the billions of dollars swirling through the football industrial complex. As the 22nd World Cup kicks off in Qatar today, Galeano would no doubt have criticised the whole televised spectacle. And yet he would have no doubt watched it on his TV, beer in hand, hoping for a glimpse of forbidden fun – a moment of unadulterated brilliance and beauty. Because as with the kids kicking the Coca-Cola bottle around Zihuatanejo, there's something about football that capitalism just can't kill.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Europe ponders the future of its policy on Ukraine

Andrew Hammond

Many consider such provocations are unlikely to happen but they cannot be ruled out, such is the volatility of the situation. The scope for it to happen through miscalculation, rather than design, was illustrated by the misdirected missile that landed in Poland in recent days. Hungary has been the most outspoken outlier so far in voicing concerns about sanctions against Russia. Yet behind the wider European public statements of support for Ukraine there lie significant differences of opinion between major Western European states...

THIS year has been an unexpectedly consequential one for the EU as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but next year could prove to be an even bigger, tougher test for the bloc. The 27-member club surprised many in recent months with the unity it showed as it worked closely with other Western allies to implement major sanctions against Russia. The latest phase of this is expected to kick in on Dec. 5 in the form of an oil price cap that was agreed with the G7. In recent days, Europe has also thrown its diplomatic weight behind the 120-day renewal of the Black Sea Grain Initiative brokered, primarily, between Türkiye, Russia, the UN and Ukraine. The agreement, initially reached in July, created a protected transit corridor for shipping to help alleviate global food shortages by allowing exports to resume from three ports in Ukraine, which is a major producer of grains and oilseeds. Despite this backdrop of relative success, 2023 could prove to be a very difficult year for Europe if the war in Ukraine continues, and this will be, perhaps, the key topic of discussion at next month's summit of 27 prime ministers and presidents from EU member states. On Thursday, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell set the stage for this upcoming discussion by stating his view that "Russia is not ready to withdraw (from Ukraine) and as far as it doesn't withdraw, peace will not be possible. It is Russia who has to make peace possible; the aggressor has to withdraw if he wants a sustainable peace." Nine months after the invasion began, Russia's economy has finally fallen into a recession, according to official data from Moscow released on Wednesday. Its gross domestic product fell by 4 percent in the third quarter of the year compared with a year ago, according to Rosstat, Russia's sta-

tistics agency. This followed a 4.1 percent year-on-year decline in its second-quarter GDP. With no obvious end to the conflict in sight, the EU's resolve is likely to be tested further in coming weeks, not least because its collective economy is heading into what the European Commission has warned is likely to be a recession, too, with high inflation and rising interest rates. The economic fallout could yet grow worse. Russian gas supplies to Europe might become more sporadic over the winter and some have speculated that Moscow might also try to impose a time-limited oil embargo on Europe that could cause prices to skyrocket even further. As long as US support for Ukraine remains intact, which is more likely for the foreseeable future following the results of last week's midterm elections in America, internal divisions within the EU might be significantly easier to manage. But the significant differences of opinion between members of the bloc that unquestionably exist will affect how far and how fast they, and by extension the EU itself, will go in 2023 in terms of taking further action against Moscow. This might be felt most keenly in the debate over sanctions. Despite Poland, the Baltics and the Nordic EU states pushing Western Europe for swifter and tougher energy sanctions against Moscow, new measures will be more incremental during the next phase of war in the absence of significant new provocations from Moscow. Many consider such provocations are unlikely to happen but they cannot be ruled out, such is the volatility of the situation. The scope for it to happen through miscalculation, rather than design, was illustrated by the misdirected missile that landed in Poland in recent days.

Hungary has been the most outspoken outlier so far in voicing concerns about sanctions against Russia. Yet behind the wider European public statements of support for Ukraine there lie significant differences of opinion between major Western European states, such as Germany and France, and the nations on the eastern side of the continent that want an even tougher response. The schisms within Europe were showcased over the summer in a European Council on Foreign Relations poll that found that while Europeans felt great solidarity with Ukraine and supported sanctions on Russia, they were split in terms of the longer-term goals. They were divided between a "peace" camp (which then stood at 35 percent of those polled and was potentially growing) that wants the war to end quickly by any means necessary, and a "justice" camp (22 percent) that believed the more pressing goal was to punish Russia for its actions. In all of the bigger EU member states, apart from Poland, the peace camp was larger than the justice camp. The preference for peace was strongest in Italy and Germany, where citizens worry, increasingly, about the cost of sanctions and the threat of military escalation. There was also a significant group among those polled that declined to choose between peace or justice but still largely supported the EU's actions in response to war in Ukraine. Members of this swing group shared the anti-Russian feelings of the justice camp but also worried about escalation, like those in the peace camp. In the coming months, greater numbers of this third group might move more toward the peace or justice camps and their views could prove crucial in determining the scope and pace of Europe's next steps.

– Courtesy: Arab News

## Briefs

## Army Chief reviews flood relief activities

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badly devastated in recent floods with live stock, personal belongings of people and basic infrastructure completely lost. The new pre-fabricated village includes a primary school, is lit by off grid solar power and also provided with a tube well. Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) completed this project in record time as this was promised to the villagers by Pakistan Army. COAS was briefed by Major General Kamal Azfar, Director General FWO about the progress of rehabilitation work for flood affectees. COAS met teachers & students of newly renovated primary school at Lal Gul Goth and local villagers. COAS said that Pakistan Army will continue all out efforts to expedite the rehabilitation process being undertaken with the support of Federal and provincial governments. High ranking Civil and Military Officials were also present on the occasion. Later, COAS interacted with the troops of Quetta Corps, FWO, Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan and Pakistan Coast Guards and appreciated their efforts during rescue, relief and rehabilitation process in recent flooding. Lieutenant General Inam Haider, Chairman NDMA and Lieutenant General Kashif Nazir, Engineer in Chief, accompanied COAS during the visit. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Lieutenant General Asif Ghafoor, Commander Quetta Corps.

## Kurram: 7 injured after firing from Afghan side

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Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi, while confirming the incident, condemned the firing. In a statement shared on Twitter, he said: "Afghanistan's violation of Pakistan's Kurram border at Kharlachi and Borki and targeting the civilian population is condemnable." He called for an immediate ceasefire and said the people of Kurram and the Pakistan Army knew well how to "protect their land and befittingly respond to any aggression". Turi stressed that aggression and war were not a solution to any problem, adding that Pakistan wanted to solve all problems with Afghanistan and other neighbouring countries through dialogue. The federal minister also stated that Afghanistan was a brotherly country and Pakistan wanted all "outstanding issues to be resolved through diplomatic channels and dialogue". Turi said that land disputes between the people living on both sides of the border should be resolved through bilateral jirga and diplomatic channels so that no such incident takes place in the future as it will damage the fraternal and friendly relations between the two countries. "He said that we have already held jirgas and negotiations with the Afghan government on the land dispute and more negotiations are needed, and the people across the border should not try to unsuccessfully occupy the Pakistani lands of Kharlachi and Borki," the statement shared on Twitter reads.

## Chaman border remains closed

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activities, and hundreds of vehicles carrying commercial goods remained stranded in long queues on both sides of the border. Traders were afraid of the losses of millions of rupees. On the other hand, the customs officials were of the view that politics and trade should be separated at borders. "This week, the revenue collected by the customs is zero. The economy of the country has been damaged," they added. According to Deputy Commissioner Hameed Zahri, the Pak-Afghan border will be opened for all kinds of commercial activities on March 21.

## Steely Smith sees Australia to series win against England



The crucial wicket of Billings fell shortly after, bowled through the gate after dancing down the track to Zampa (4-45), with a weakened England side – who lifted the T20 World Cup less than a week ago – eventually slumping to 208 all out

DNA

CANBERRA: A battling 94 from Steve Smith saw Australia to a series win against England with a game to spare after a 72-run victory in the second one-day international in Sydney. Both sides rested their captains, with Moeen Ali deputising for Joss Butler, while Josh Hazlewood was the surprise pick to lead Australia with Pat Cummins sitting out. After Hazlewood won the toss and elected to bat, two early wickets brought Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (58) to the crease. The pair put on 101 before Labuschagne departed with a top edge to mid-off trying to sweep Adil Rashid. Smith was the slower starter of the two, with his 50 coming off 70 balls and containing only two boundaries. But he upped the pace soon after, especially through his favoured leg side, and was assisted by Mitchell Marsh (50). A six off Sam Curran over square-leg took him into the

90s, but he fell metres short of his century, holing out at long-off on 94 to Rashid, the pick of England's bowlers with 3-57. Chasing 280, a decent total on a dry, bowler-friendly pitch, England got off to the worst possible start, losing two wickets without scoring a run. Mitchell Starc (4-47) had Jason Roy strangled down the leg side off the second ball of the innings. Three deliveries later, he bowled Dawid Malan with a beautiful out-swinger. Josh Vince (60) and Sam Billings (71) steadied the tourists in the middle overs, their fourth-wicket partnership worth 122, until Hazlewood trapped Vince leg before swinging for the fence. The crucial wicket of Billings fell shortly after, bowled through the gate after dancing down the track to Zampa (4-45), with a weakened England side – who lifted the T20 World Cup less than a week ago – eventually slumping to 208 all out. The two sides meet for a third and final match in Melbourne on Tuesday.

## New Zealand succumb to Suryakumar's ton

DNA

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Batting dynamo Suryakumar Yadav says his "special" century against New Zealand was forged on enjoyment and hard work as he steered India to a 65-run in the second Twenty20 International on Sunday. Suryakumar struck an imperious 111 not out off just 51 balls as the tourists posted 191-6 at Mount Maunganui's Bay Oval. New Zealand were skittled for 126 in the 19th over, handing India a 1-0 lead in the three-match series after the opening fixture was washed out in Wellington on Friday. To win the final

game in Napier on Tuesday, the Black Caps will need to find an answer to Suryakumar, who illustrated why he is ranked the world's best T20 batter. The 32-year-old struck 11 fours and cleared the ropes seven times as he compiled his second century in the format, having posted 117 against England at Nottingham four months ago. He had already become the first Indian to score 1,000 T20 runs in a calendar year before Sunday's knock and has passed 50 in seven of his last 11 innings. "Of course in T20 cricket, 100 is always special," Suryakumar told Spark Sport. "Obviously I'm enjoying

batting this way. I'm doing the same things in the nets, in all practice sessions." Opener Ishan Kishan provided the next-highest Indian score with 36 off 31. Suryakumar ensured the run rate accelerated as the innings progressed and he raised three figures while taking 22 runs off the penultimate over bowled by Lockie Ferguson. "It was really important for me to bat to the end, that's what Hardik (Pandya) was telling me from the other end," said Suryakumar, whose career strike rate has climbed to an extraordinary 181.64. "We really wanted to maximise the last four overs and I'm really happy with

the way things went." The final over provided the home side's best moment, when seamer Tim Southee claimed his second career hat-trick, dismissing Indian captain Pandya before removing Deepak Hooda and Washington Sundar for golden ducks. New Zealand's run chase struggled from the moment opener Finn Allen holed out on the second delivery. Captain Kane Williamson top-scored with 61 off 52 but his struggle for timing was mirrored by his teammates against an Indian attack boasting variety and discipline. Spinner Hooda took 4-10 off 2.5 overs, claiming the last three scalps in the space of four balls.

## Benzema out of World Cup with injury

PARIS: France striker Karim Benzema has been ruled out of the World Cup because of a thigh injury suffered in training. Benzema, 34, won the 2022 Ballon d'Or - awarded to the world's best player - after helping Real Madrid win the Champions League and La Liga. "I am extremely sad for Karim, who made this World Cup a major goal," said head coach Didier Deschamps. "In my life I never give up but tonight I have to think about the team like I always do," Benzema said. "So the reason tells me to leave my place to someone who can help our team to make a great World Cup." The French Football Federation said: "The whole team shares Karim's sadness and wishes him a speedy recovery." It said an MRI scan confirmed the injury, which requires "a three-week recovery period". Deschamps told French television network TF1 on Sunday that he would not be naming a replacement for Benzema. France play Australia on 22 November, Denmark on 26 November and Tunisia on 30 November in Group D. The 2018 World Cup winners have lost several key players through injury. Midfielders Paul Pogba and N'Golo Kante were not included in the original 26-man squad. Defender Presnel Kimpembe withdrew on Monday after failing to recover from a hamstring problem - he was replaced by Axel Disasi - and on Wednesday forward Christopher Nkunku was ruled out after limping out of training. Randal Kolo Muani was called up as a replacement. Defender Raphael Varane is aiming to be fit after missing Manchester United's past five matches. - DNA

## Lukaku out of first two World Cup games

DNA

DOHA: Romelu Lukaku will not play for Belgium at the World Cup until at least their final Group F match against Croatia, a team source told AFP on Sunday. The forward did not take part in the Red Devils' first proper training session since they arrived in Qatar on Friday as he continues his recovery from a hamstring injury. Lukaku is Belgium's all-time top scorer with 68 goals in 102 appearances and was called up to their World Cup squad despite coach Roberto Martinez admitting he was not fully fit. "It would be better for us if he was there for the first game (against Canada on Wednesday), but I cannot tell you when he will be back," Atletico Madrid midfielder Axel Witsel told reporters. "The most important thing is how he feels. I was in his place in the last European Championship when I came back from an injury and I'm sure we'll have Romelu back very soon." Lukaku has endured a difficult past 18 months, moving back to Inter Milan on loan after a dismal season

with Chelsea. However, the 29-year-old has played just twice for Inter since August after first picking up the injury in a 3-1 defeat at Lazio. He returned to action in style last month, scoring in a 4-0 win against Viktoria Plzen that ensured Inter's passage to the last 16 of the Champions League but he then injured his hamstring again a few days later. Martinez has to decide who will replace Lukaku up front for the clash with Canada. Fenerbahce forward Michy Batshuayi started in Belgium's one warm-up match before the tournament, a 2-1 defeat to Egypt on Friday. Batshuayi was replaced by Lens forward Lois Openda, who pulled a goal back in 76th minute of the clash in Kuwait City. Belgium also take on Morocco before meeting 2018 World Cup finalists Croatia at the start of next month as they try to improve on their run to the semi-finals four years ago. Martinez's team have long been dubbed the country's "Golden Generation" but with several among the Spaniard's core group either in or nearing their 30s Qatar could be their last chance to be crowned world champions.

## FIFA World Cup final to play at stadium built by China Railway Construction Corp



BEIJING: The main stadium for the Qatar 2022 World Cup final, located in the coastal city of Lusail, was built by China Railway Construction Corp (CRCC). According to China Economic Net (CEN), Muhammad Saif Ijaz, a Pakistani Contract Manager with CRCC who worked on this project, praised his coworkers' efforts despite the heat. "This was my first experience participating in such a huge construction project and I'm lucky to get this opportunity. This project is an iconic project not only for Qatar but for the entire world. It would help my career in the future," Saif Ijaz added. When asked about how it felt

to be a part of the construction, he said it helped him understand Qatar's traditions and culture, and that he spent almost 5 years there where everyone was treated the same according to local law, regardless of whether "you are a foreigner or a local citizen." "Everything was difficult. FIFA was involved in this project, and we had to manage over 300 subcontractors, but we did it successfully. The most important thing is that our seniors were very kind, nice, and helpful, particularly the Chinese fellows who assisted me greatly. I am delighted to be working with my Chinese colleagues. They instilled a sense of responsibility

and trust in me," he explained. He stated that it is an honor for him and his company to be a part of the construction of Lusail Stadium, which will host World Cup final. He went on to say that Chinese contractors are not only financially sound, but also skilled and hardworking. "We completed this project on time, and I believe that if it had been built by another foreign company, it would have been difficult for them not only financially, but also technically. Chinese steel contractors performed admirably because steel building part of this project was the most difficult, and I appreciated Qatar government's decision to award this contract to China Railway Construction Corp company," he explained. Saif, 42, who has spent 10 years working for the China Railway Construction Corp (CRCC), said that Chinese workers are very professional and hardworking, language was the only obstacle they encountered while working. He added that all of workers there were able to overcome this obstacle thanks to Chinese engineers who assisted them with translation. Information in this article comes from third party providers. This website does not provide explicit or implied warranty for such information and is not liable for any losses directly or indirectly caused by using such information. - DNA

## Djokovic downs Fritz to face Ruud for ATP Finals title

Djokovic brushed off his bruising encounter with Daniil Medvedev day before to boss the semi-final against the ninth seeded American

TURIN: Novak Djokovic remained on course for a record-equalling sixth ATP Tour Finals title after a 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (8/6) win over Taylor Fritz in Turin on Saturday. Djokovic brushed off his bruising encounter with Daniil Medvedev the day before to boss the semi-final against the ninth-seeded American. The 35-year-old set up a meeting with Norway's Casper Ruud who at 23 years of age will bid for his first major title after sweeping past Russian Andrey Rublev 6-2, 6-4 in the second semi-final in northern Italy. The Serb has beaten world number four Ruud in all three of their previous meetings including this year in the semi-finals in Rome. Djokovic will aim for his second major title of the year, after Wimbledon,

having missed a significant part of the season, including the Australian Open and the US Open, for his refusal to take the covid vaccine. "Of course, the last match of the season, I'm going to give it all. I'm going to obviously try my best," said the Serb. "I'm very happy to be able to compete for another big trophy, one of the biggest ones that we have in our sport." Victory in Sunday's final will also see him equal Roger Federer's haul of six wins in the tournament comprising the top eight players in the world this season. "I had to fight to survive," said Djokovic, who has now reached the final of the season-ending event eight times and last won in 2015. "I didn't feel very reactive or very comfortable. I knew

coming into today's match from yesterday's gruelling battle against Medvedev, it would take me some time to adjust and find the dynamic movement I need against Fritz, who is one of the best servers on the Tour." Fritz was playing his first ATP Final, having replaced injured world number one Carlos Alcaraz. But the American was punished for his errors and fell to his sixth defeat in as many ties against Djokovic. The Serb held on largely thanks to the efficiency of his serve and his ability to deliver the fatal blow at

the right time, with a stunning forehand winner sealing the first set in a tie-break. In the second set, Fritz was serving at 5-4 to tie the game one set all, but a wayward backhand into the net handed Djokovic a break point chance which he jumped on sealing victory after another tie-break.

"I think my take-aways are that when Novak has played, he's been the best player," said Fritz. "There's no doubt about that. When he hasn't played, which is a lot of the year, we've seen a lot of different results because when you take him out of the equation, I think everybody else playing is extremely close in level." Ruud played in two Grand Slam finals this year at Roland Garros and the US Open, and is participating in the season-ending elite eight-player tournament for the second time, hav-

ing being eliminated in the semi-finals last year. Ruud took advantage of a below-par Rublev who had seen off Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas. The Russian began strongly, winning his first service game to love and only dropped a point on his second. But as Ruud dug deep to make it 2-2, Rublev imploded conceding eight games in a row to the point of crying into his towel at the change of sides at 3-0 in the second set and sending his coach signs of helplessness. Behind 6-2, 4-0, he finally managed to hold serve but paid for 23 unforced errors in total against eight for Ruud whose only glitch was dropping serve while serving for the match before sealing victory in 69 minutes.

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022  
Fixtures  
England vs Iran  
06:00 PM  
Senegal vs Netherlands  
09:00 PM

## Khan vows to reach Pindi on 26 Nov

FROM PAGE 01  
me through President Arif Alvi, adding that talks will take place only after the date given for early elections. "The whole world is aware of their [incumbent rulers] corruption stories. Even after using the entire state machinery against me, they could not find anything except the watch, and I am going to court over the watch issue," He said.

## Whole nation will welcome Imran...

FROM PAGE 01  
In a series of tweets today, the capital police said any political activity in Islamabad would have to be in accordance with the law. "Police, FC and Rangers will be deployed to ensure the security of the Red Zone." It added that search operations will be conducted in the city in view of the threats of terrorism.

## Verstappen wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

ABU DHABI: Max Verstappen won the season-closing Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday to register a record-extending 15th win of a memorable year for the double world champion and his Red Bull team. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc came in second to finish runner-up in the drivers' standings at the expense of Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez. Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel took 10th to collect a point on his 299th and final race. "I wish it would have been a couple more points," said the retiring Aston Martin driver. "A big day, thank you for all the support and the smiling faces. I'm sure I'm going to miss more than I can imagine," added Vettel who heads into retirement with four drivers' world titles, 53 race wins, 57 pole positions and a chorus of tributes ringing in his ears. Verstappen's engineer meanwhile came over the team radio telling the Dutch driver his twilight drive at the Yas Marina circuit had been "sublime". Lewis Hamilton, who lost out on an eighth world title in last year's controversial climax on this track, had to retire late on to end a season for the first time without a win. - APP

## Penaud takes France to win over Japan

TOULOUSE: France captain Charles Ollivon said Sunday's 35-17 Autumn Nations Series victory over Japan helps "grow confidence" as they continued their winning run before next year's Rugby World Cup on home soil. Winger Damian Penaud crossed twice as Les Bleus claimed a 13th straight success less than 10 months out from the tournament. Along with the only side above them in the world rankings, Ireland, Ollivon's outfit are leading contenders for the competition with the two countries meeting in the Six Nations in February. "Not everything was perfect," Ollivon told France Television. "We keep the series going and growing in confidence. "It's a great way to prepare for the Six Nations," he added. With the hosts of the next World Cup meeting the home country of the last edition, head coach Fabien Galthie was forced into three changes including handing scrum-half Maxime Lucu his 11th Test appearance. Galthie's counterpart Jamie Joseph brought in a fresh half-back combination after last weekend's heavy loss to England. - APP

## Briefs

Tunisia,  
France sign  
\$206-mn  
deal

TUNIS: Tunisia and France have signed a 200-million-euro (about \$206.9 million) deal to support the North African country's budget. The agreement was signed by Tunisian Economy Minister Samer Saied and French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna on Saturday on the sidelines of the 18th Francophonie summit held in Tunisia.

A statement by the Ministry of Economy quoted Saied as saying that the agreement aims to help Tunisia redress its financial balance and to implement reform plans. Colonna, for her part, underlined the importance of the reform program to help Tunisia overcome its economic and social difficulties gradually. Tunisia has started a reform program stipulated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to receive financial support. Earlier this month, the North African country reached a preliminary agreement with the IMF for a \$1.9 billion rescue package that could be finalized in December. Tunisia has been in the throes of a deep political crisis that aggravated the country's economic conditions since last year, when Tunisian President Kais Saied ousted the government and dissolved parliament.—APP

Biden  
granddaughter  
weds in WH  
ceremony

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden welcomed guests to the White House Saturday for the wedding of his granddaughter Naomi — an unprecedented ceremony that was closed to the press.

The 28-year-old Washington-based lawyer married Peter Neal, 25, a law graduate, on the mansion's South Lawn in an 11:00 am ceremony witnessed by about 250 guests, according to the White House. The grounds were suitably decorated with white flowers, as invitees in rows looked on, according to photos taken from far away by AFP. Naomi Biden is the daughter of the president's son Hunter. "It has been a joy to watch Naomi grow, discover who she is, and carve out such an incredible life for herself," the president and First Lady Jill Biden said in statement. "Now, we are filled with pride to see her choose Peter as her husband and we're honored to welcome him to our family," they added. "We wish them days full of laughter and a love that grows deeper with every passing year." It is not unheard of for the presidential mansion with America's most stately address — 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue — to be decked out for nuptials.—APP

UNGA panel  
approves 4 Pakistan  
piloted resolutions

UNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly's Third Committee has adopted four resolutions submitted by Pakistan, on behalf of Group of 77 (developing countries) and China, including texts addressing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, social development, International Year of the Family as well as aging. Three of the four drafts, introduced by Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, were approved by consensus in the Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters. But a vote was taken on the draft seeking the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance following objections on some of its parts that Israel, U.S. and U.K. found anti-semitic. The text garnered 126 votes in favour to 17 against, with 36 abstentions.

Under the terms of the draft, the 193-member Assembly would regret the evils inflicted on millions as a result of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies. It would also call on States that have not already done so to dispense reparatory justice. Introducing the draft on behalf of the G77/China, Ambassador Aamir Khan underpinned the group's concerns over the resur-

Pakistani traders keen to  
buy tea, coffee from Ethiopia

He said current govt had developed green economy by establishing agro-processing Centers and utilizing technology to enhance agriculture productivity in his country

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistani traders have expressed keen interest in buying tea and coffee from Ethiopia at affordable rates. "There is a huge demand of tea and coffee in Pakistan, but connectivity, quality control mechanism and institutional linkages between the two countries are need of the hour," said the members of a joint delegation of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Pakistan Tea Association in a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula. The ambassador said work on establishing connectivity and institutional linkages between the two countries for social, economic, and political cooperation was underway intensively. The quality control was rigorous in Ethiopia and rest assured that there would be no compromise on export quality of tea and coffee from Ethiopia. He said confidence building measures would also be taken for Pakistani traders so that the bilateral trade between the two countries could go to the

next level. The envoy said Ethiopia has surplus tea and coffee which could be exported to Pakistan at affordable rates. "Currently, Ethiopian tea is coming from other channels, but we are working on different agreements in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan to enable Pakistan and Ethiopia to boost their trade in diverse areas", he remarked. He said his government was



opening up Ethiopia by taking legal, institutional and economic reforms that ensure security, ease of doing business and support environment for FDI. "The Ethiopian Airlines will start its operations in Karachi by the beginning of next year," the ambassador announced in the meeting. He said he had already announced visit of an inclusive business delegation of Pakistan to Ethiopia so they

could understand business dynamics there and establish business-to-business ties. "There will be no loss for Pakistan businessmen on visiting Ethiopia as this Ethiopia is a land of origin and going back to your ancestral land will give them at least a spiritual satisfaction, and reconnection." H.E. Jemal Beker underscored that the main focus of Ethiopia's embassy is economic diplomacy, investment, trade,

tourism promotion, technological transfer and establishment of the institutional linkages between the two countries. Both governments have so far working on many agreements which will be instrumental in increasing political cooperation, economic engagement and people-to-people contacts through tourism promotion. The bilateral trade between the two countries is minimal

and amounts to 78 million US dollars, however, my target is to take it to 300 million US dollars by the end of 2023, said the ambassador. We have identified the products which will be exported to my country from Pakistan. Pakistani business community can contribute to the Pakistan's economic development by exporting rice, pharmaceutical products, medical equipment, sports items and construction material to my country. Moreover, the Government of Pakistan can import agricultural products such as coffee, tea, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables from Ethiopia at affordable prices which will eventually help it mitigate the growing demand of the edible.

Above all, Ethiopia is closely working with the government of Pakistan on climate change issues which has recently brought one third of the country underwater and caused massive loss of life and economy. He said the current government had developed green economy by establishing agro-processing Centers and utilizing technology to enhance agriculture productivity in his country.

Pakistan  
culture day  
celebrated in  
Beijing

DNA

BEIJING: The annual International Culture Day of the Pakistan Embassy College (PECB) was celebrated here on Saturday with colorful Pakistani styles, according to China Economic Net (CEN). The event was dedicated to the celebrations of the 75-year of independence of Pakistan. A part of the proceeds collected during the event would also be donated to the flood victims of Pakistan. Ambassadors and senior diplomats, officials, media representatives and students along with their families participated in this cultural gala. Around 27 countries had set up their national stalls to exhibit their cultural handicrafts, products and traditional cuisine. Cultural performances of various countries were also presented which were enjoyed by the guests. In his address at the event, the Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin ul Haque appreciated the school management and the students for the successful organization of the event which had become PECB's signature and popular event for the diplomatic and international community in China. He noted that PECB was the first and the oldest international school in Beijing dedicated to imparting high-quality education to children of the expatriate community.—APP

## Kazakhstan Presidential polls

We vote for bright future:  
President Kassym-Jomart

NEWS DESK

ASTANA: The year 2022 was not easy for Kazakhstan and by voting today in the presidential elections, people are voting for a bright future for the country, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev told journalists after casting his vote at a polling station located at the Palace of Schoolchildren in Astana. Tokayev addresses questions from journalists after casting his vote at a polling station located at the Palace of Schoolchildren in Astana. Photo credit: Akorda press service Tokayev is among the six candidates running for the country's highest office. "Today is a very important, historic day. We vote for a bright future for our country. This year was not easy, but our people came together and overcame all the difficulties. Now we are

facing very ambitious goals and tasks. There is a lot of work to be done. Political reforms are underway," said Tokayev.

If he is elected, Tokayev said, "the government will remain in office, but point-by-point changes in the composition of the government and other agencies will of course take place." "We talked about new parties getting registration. This process is going on. We cannot register parties artificially, violating the law, if they themselves violate the law. Of course, we create favorable conditions [if elected]. I believe that before the parliamentary elections, still, a few parties will be able to meet the proper conditions and receive registration. I believe that this is in our interests," Tokayev said, noting that if elected, he would announce the date of parliamentary elections



at the end of the year. "I expect that as a result of the elections, interesting people, including those representing opposition views, will get into the legislative body of our country," Tokayev added.

Speaking about foreign policy, Tokayev highlighted its multi-vector nature outlining several factors that necessitate it. "Given its geostrategic position, the fact that we have more than \$300 billion in foreign direct investments attracted to our economy, given that the world's largest multinational companies operate in our market, Kazakhstan must conduct a multi-vector foreign policy. I have said many times that Kazakhstan should be committed to the United Nations Charter and pursue a peaceful foreign policy," said Tokayev.

The voting will continue until 8 p.m. local Astana time. As of 10 a.m., voter turnout reached 23.37 percent, with the highest turnout in the Karagandy Region, 32.27 percent, and the lowest in the city of Almaty, 8.42 percent.

Foreign observers  
satisfied over  
Kazakh election

ASTANA: Foreign observers noted the outstanding level of organization of the Kazakh presidential election and praised the country's reforms during a press briefing at the Center for Assistance to International Observers on Nov. 20. Secretary-General - Head of Secretariat of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Dmitry Kobitskiy expressed hope that the country would elect a president who would contribute to the country's growth not only in the next seven years but also lay the foundation for progress in the future. Kobitskiy stated that the methodology for observing the election process changes in response to changes in the law and life in general and commended the level at which digitalization was progressing in the country. According to him, each member of the commonwealth should learn from Kazakhstan's progress in this area. The foreign observer from Poland, member of the Polish People's Party, and Chairman of the Polish-Asian Chamber of Commerce Janusz Piechocinski said that the presidential election should present Kazakhstan with a vibrant and prosperous future. He stated that the European Union (EU) should expand its collaboration with the country on a political and economic level. "Our world should devote all of its resources to issues such as climate change, global hunger, and improving the quality of life for future generations. And this is Kazakhstan's message to the rest of the world: modernization and democratization. This is critical not only for the Central Asian region but also for Europe and the rest of the world," Piechocinski said. Vagharshak Hakobyan and Sergei Pospelov from Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on Nov. 20 at the Center for Assistance to International Observers. Photo credit: Astana Times He praised the high quality of election organization, as well as the new reforms being implemented in the country.—DNA

## Halal Cosmetics sector has huge potential

DNA

FAISALABAD: Indonesia and Pakistan must accelerate bilateral cooperation and research efforts to gain benefits from the flourishing Halal cosmetics market, which is rapidly increasing its share every year and creating number of investment opportunities with healthy

future growth prospects. This was said by the Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Mr. Adam M. Tugio while addressing the International Conference on Islamic Economy and Halal Cosmetics organized by the University of Faisalabad (TUF). Ambassador Adam pointed out that the popularity of Halal products is not confined to Muslim countries alone

but also attracting a wide range of non-Muslim consumers with its high quality standard and certification methods supported by high consumer awareness of healthy and green products. He said that the global halal cosmetics market is projected to grow from \$33.3 billion in 2021 to \$77.34 billion by 2028 with a growth rate of 12.75%

between 2021-2028 while Indonesia's \$4.19 bn halal cosmetics industry is expected to grow by nearly 8% a year until 2025 with a target to become the halal industry center in 2024. The envoy said that the global halal cosmetics market size is projected to reach USD 83.76 billion by 2030 with growth rate of 12% from 2022 to 2030 and market size of beauty and

personal care in Indonesia alone will reach about US \$7 billion in 2023. Considering the positive market trends, the Ambassador stressed that Indonesia-Pakistan must expand cooperation in this exclusive Halal industry since both countries are located in Asia-Pacific region, which is home to about 62.1% of the world's Muslim population.

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**Briefs**

**Trump snubs Twitter after Musk announces reactivation**

**AGENCIES**

CALIFORNIA: Donald Trump on Saturday said he had no interest in returning to Twitter even as a slim majority voted in favor of reinstating the former U.S. president, who was banned from the social media service for inciting violence, in a poll organized by new owner Elon Musk. Slightly over 15 million Twitter users voted in the poll with 51.8% voting in favor of reinstatement. "The people have spoken. Trump will be reinstated," Musk tweeted. Trump's Twitter account, which had over 88 million followers before he was banned on Jan. 8, 2021, began accumulating followers and had nearly 100,000 followers by 10pm ET Saturday. Some users initially reported being unable to follow the reinstated account on Saturday evening. Trump had appeared less than keen earlier in the day. "I don't see any reason for it," the former president said via video when asked whether he planned to return to Twitter by a panel at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual leadership meeting. He said he would stick with his new platform Truth Social, the app developed by his Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG) startup, which he said had better user engagement than Twitter and was doing "phenomenally well".

**Government to decide on PTI resignations in December**

ISLAMABAD: The final decision regarding resignations tendered by 123 PTI members of the National Assembly will be taken in early December as the ruling alliance has not taken any decision about the rejection or acceptance of their request for quitting the house. Highly-placed sources in the National Assembly Secretariat told The News on Saturday some PTI circles had recently given the impression that the ruling coalition had decided to not accept the resignations — which were tendered on April 10 just before the ouster of PTI Chairman Imran Khan as the prime minister. "No such decision has been taken since NA Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf had already accepted the resignation of eleven of the legislators," the sources said. The formula applied to the 11 PTI members would apply to all other resignations as well. It's the question of timing, the sources said, adding that about three dozen NA members belonging to the PTI have approached the speaker's office to express their intention for returning to the house. They urged the speaker to explicitly reject all the resignations instead of making piecemeal decisions. — APP

# COP27: Historic deal to fund climate damages

"We have struggled for 30 years on this path, and today in Sharm-el-Sheikh this journey has achieved its first positive milestone," she said

## Pak welcomes Loss and Damage Fund

SHARM EL SHEIKH: A fraught UN COP27 summit wrapped up Sunday with a landmark deal on funding to help vulnerable countries cope with devastating climate impacts — and deep disappointment over a failure to push further ambition on cutting emissions. The two-week talks, which at times appeared to teeter on the brink of collapse, delivered a breakthrough on a fund for climate "loss and damage". Pakistani climate minister Sherry Rehman said COP27 "responded to the voices of the vulnerable, the damaged, and the lost of the whole world". "We have struggled for 30 years on this path, and today in Sharm-el-Sheikh this journey has achieved its first positive milestone," she said. Tired delegates applauded when the loss and damage fund was adopted as the sun came up Sunday following days of marathon negotiations over the proposal. But jubilation over that achievement was countered by stern warnings. UN chief Antonio Guterres said the UN climate talks had "taken an important step towards justice"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday welcomed the establishment of a fund to address loss and damage caused by climate-induced disasters and called for its early operationalization to bridge a major gap in the climate finance architecture. The foreign office spokesperson, in a statement, said that the consensus decision taken by the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt) was a momentous achievement, especially for the Group of 77 and China, as the developing countries have been demanding such a fund for the past 30 years. The spokesperson said the catastrophic climate change-induced floods in Pakistan early this year that resulted in losses and damages of over US\$ 30 billion refocused global attention on this critical issue. "Pakistan, as Chair of the Group of 77 and China, galvanized support for the establishment of Fund in COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, first by having it placed on the Agenda of the Conference, and then pushing for a consensus agreement." The dedicated "Fund for Loss and Damage" will address losses and damages in developing countries, such as Pakistan, which were particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of Climate Change. "Pakistan congratulates the developing countries for their exemplary solidarity and steadfastness in pushing their case for a Fund for Loss and Damage. We also appreciate the understanding and cooperation of the developed countries in recognizing the urgency to act on loss and damage," the spokesperson added. Pakistan also appreciated the Egyptian Presidency of COP27, especially Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, as well as UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, for historic breakthrough. — APP

with the loss and damage fund, but fallen short in pushing for the urgent carbon-cutting needed to tackle global warming. "Our planet is still in the emergency room. We need to drastically reduce emissions now and this is an issue this COP did not address," Guterres said. A final COP27 statement covering the broad array of the world's efforts to grapple with a warming planet held line on the aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels. It also included language on renewable energy for the first time, while reiterating previous calls to accelerate "efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies". But that failed to go much further than a similar decision from last year's meeting in Glasgow on key issues around cutting planet-heating pollution. In a scolding intervention as the talks went into Sunday morning, European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans said the EU was "disappointed" with a lack of ambition on reducing emissions. — APP

## Nepal votes in poll coloured by discontent

**WEB DESK**

KATHMANDU: Nepali voters cast their ballots for a new parliament Sunday in a contest dominated by public frustrations over the Himalayan republic's elderly political elite and anxiety over its teetering economy. A revolving door of prime ministers — most serving less than a year — and a culture of horse-trading have fuelled perceptions the government is out of touch with Nepal's pressing problems. Several younger faces are contesting for first time, up against established parties whose leaders have strode the corridors of power for decades. Though analysts expect Nepal's entrenched political veterans to again dominate the next assembly, many voters have lost faith in status quo and a mood for change is palpable.

## Not written anywhere CJP must appoint judges: Isa

KARACHI: Senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court Justice Qazi Faez Isa said Saturday "it is not written anywhere that the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) has the authority to appoint judges". The remark came during Sindh High Court Bar Association's annual dinner as Justice Isa expressed astonishment over the conduct of the then-federal law minister, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Attorney-General of Pakistan Ashtar Ali Ausaf for deviating from their previous stance. The justice, who was also a member of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), said that the vote of a commission member is a trust that should be used without any fear or favour. He said that he was astonished over the conduct of the former law minister and AGP for deviating from their previous stance. — DNA

## Imran Khan making fruitless efforts: Zubair

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Muhammad Zubair on Sunday accused Imran Khan of using below-the-par tactics in a bid to pressurize civil and military leadership to book his seat again in the power corridors. However, he said while talking to a private news channel, Imran Khan's every effort to exert pressure on the government was in vain. "That is why, he has turned his guns towards 'Rawalpindi'." Zubair said no matter what Imran Khan could do, long march or sit-ins, it was sure that he would not succeed in his ulterior motives.

When the PTI chief drained out his energies while trying to make the Army Chief's appointment controversial, he took a U-turn yet again by saying that "we have withdrawn from the matter". "I ask Imran Khan that when you have publicly announced setting yourself aside from the COAS appointment, you must stick to your words, and refrain from talking about the matter anymore," Zubair said. The federal government would not bow down to any unconstitutional demand of Imran Khan, especially related to holding early elections, the PML-N stalwart added. — APP

## Rabbani calls for joint session on Chaman border attack

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: PPP Senator Raza Rabbani Sunday called for a joint parliament session to hold a briefing on last week's terrorist attack at the Pak-Afghan border crossing in Chaman that martyred a Frontier Corps (FC) soldier and injured another two. The trade activities and other cross-border movements were halted under the border closure after unidentified armed men opened fire on the Pakistani security troops from inside Afghanistan, martyring an FC soldier and injuring two others on November 13. "Armed men from Afghanistan opened fire on the Pakistan security forces personnel at the Friendship Gate," Rabbani said while sharing the details about a flag meeting between the authorities from the two sides. He said that Saturday's flag meeting remained futile. The senator further stated that a rise in ter-

rorist activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan has been observed, while the progress in parleys with the banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) remains unclear. Calling for a joint parliament session, Rabbani said that a special briefing should be given on the terrorist attack at the Friendship Gate and progress on talks with TTP should be shared. He also called for a briefing on the increase in terrorist activities in the two provinces and said that amendments in the rules for the appointment of the chairman and the reformation of the parliamentary committee of national security should be notified. Rabbani said that the Pak-Afghan border crossing at Chaman will remain closed for an indefinite period. Hundreds of trucks containing goods were stuck waiting on both sides of the border, which Chaman Deputy Commissioner Abdul Hameed Zehri said was closed after prolonged firing between security forces from both sides.

## UK PM says 'more must be done' after COP27 deal

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Sunday welcomed the agreement reached at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, but warned "more must be done". "I welcome the progress made at COP27, but there can be no time for complacency. More must be done," the leader said in a statement issued on Twitter.

"Keeping the 1.5 degrees commitment alive is vital to the future of our planet," he added. The UN climate summit agreed on the creation of a "loss and damage" fund to help vulnerable countries. But it failed to push ahead on further cutting emissions in order to keep alive the aspirational goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Sunak attended the summit, but only after U-turning having provoked anger by initially refusing to attend the global event. Sunak had argued that "pressing domestic commitments" would keep him away from COP27 in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh — after inheriting an economic crisis from predecessor Liz Truss. — APP

## Macron accuses Russia of 'predatory' influence

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron accused Russia of feeding anti-French propaganda in Africa to serve "predatory" ambitions in troubled African nations, where France has suffered military setbacks and a wider loss of influence over recent years. Speaking on the sidelines of a summit of French-speaking nations in Tunisia, Macron was asked to respond to critics who say France exploits historic economic and political ties in its former colonies to serve its own interests. "This perception is fed by others, it's a political project," Macron told TV5 Monde in an interview. "I'm no fool, many influencers, sometimes speaking on your programmes, are paid by the Russians. We know them," he said. "A number of powers, who want to spread their influence in Africa, are doing this to hurt France, hurt its language, sow doubts, but above all pursue certain interests," he added. — Agencies

## Colorado: Five killed in club shooting

WASHINGTON: At least five people were killed and 18 wounded, police said Sunday, in a mass shooting at an LGBTQ nightclub in the US city of Colorado Springs. The attack came as partygoers appeared to gather for an event marking the Transgender Day of Remembrance, held annually on November 20 to honor the memory of trans people who were killed in acts of transphobic violence. The shooting is the latest in a long history of attacks on LGBTQ venues in the United States, the deadliest of them in Orlando, Florida, in 2016. "It's with a heavy heart I have to tell you that we had a shooting at a local club this evening," said Colorado Springs Police Department spokesperson Pamela Castro. "We have 18 injured and five deceased. That number is subject to change as the investigation continues," she said. — APP

# Turkish air strikes target Kurdish militants in Syria, Iraq

**NEWS DESK**

ISTANBUL: Turkish warplanes carried out air strikes on Kurdish militant bases in northern Syria and northern Iraq on Sunday, destroying 89 targets, Turkey's defence ministry said, in retaliation for a bomb attack in Istanbul that killed six people one week ago. The strikes targeted bases of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which Turkey says is a wing of the PKK, the ministry added in a statement. Ankara has blamed Kurdish militants for the blast on Istanbul's Istiklal Avenue on Nov. 13 that killed six people and injured more than 80. No group has claimed responsibility for on the busy pedestrian avenue, and the PKK and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have denied involvement. "It is time to give account for Istiklal," Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin wrote on Twitter on Sunday. The strikes were carried out in Qandil, Asos and Hakurk in Iraq and Kobani, Tal Rifat, Cizire and Derik in Syria, the ministry said. The 89 targets destroyed included shelters, tunnels and ammunition depots, it said, adding that "so-called directors of the terrorist organisation were among those neutralised". A spokesman for the SDF said that the Turkish strikes had destroyed infrastructure including grain silos, a power station and a hospital. Eleven civilians, including a journalist, died, said Farhad Shami, head of the SDF media centre on Twitter. The SDF said in a statement they would retaliate for the strikes. "These attacks by the Turkish occupied forces will not go without a response," it said. Advertisement • Scroll to continue One Turkish soldier and two police were

wounded as result of a rocket fired at Turkey's Syrian border province of Kilis, state-owned Anadolu Agency reported hours after the SDF statement. Anadolu said the rocket hit an area near a border gate. It was not clear who had launched it. Separately, a Syrian military source told state media SANA that a number of servicemen had been killed in "Turkish aggression on Syrian land" on Sunday morning, in the countryside near northern Aleppo and Hasaka. Turkey's Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said in a statement Sunday morning that all necessary measures were taken to avoid damage to innocent people and the surroundings, adding that "only and only terrorists and structures belonging to terrorists were targeted." "The claw of our Turkish Armed Forces was once again on top of terrorists," he added, dubbing the operation "Claw Sword." The defence ministry said it was the first time it had launched an air strike on Kobani. A Turkish official said on Tuesday Ankara plans to pursue targets in northern Syria after it completes a cross-border operation against the PKK militants in Iraq. Turkey has conducted three incursions so far into northern Syria against the YPG militia. President Tayyip Erdogan has previously said Turkey could conduct another operation against the YPG. Ankara has also escalated drone strikes in Syria in recent months, killing a number of key SDF officials. Ankara regularly carries out air strikes in northern Iraq and has sent commandos to support its offensives as part of a long-running campaign against the PKK in Iraq. The PKK has led an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984. It is considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. Washington has allied with the YPG in the fight against Islamic State in Syria, causing a rift with NATO ally Turkey.

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