



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**Palestine has full right to become UN full member**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Turkiye signals ground attack against terrorists**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Shaheen out of Pakistan squad vs England**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**Imran will come to pindi himself**

DNA

LAHORE: PTI's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi Monday said the long march peacefully ended at Rawat and no untoward incident took place anywhere in Punjab. "We were attacked in Wazirabad and the plan to kill [PTI Chairman] Imran Khan was exposed. He will now come to Rawalpindi on Nov 26 himself," Qureshi said addressing a press conference flanked by Asad Umar. He also shared the party's dissatisfaction with the first information report (FIR) against the attempted assassination attack on Khan.

**Imran Khan blackmailing government**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SUKKUR: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chairman and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam - Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Monday that former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan is blackmailing the government and institutions to appoint army chief of his choice but those who have the authority to appoint new army chief should be trusted. Addressing a press conference in Sukkur on Monday, he said that all parties in the country are working as a team at present.

**China to boost coop with Pakistan**

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have made notable progress in bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors including health and information technology. Speaking at a regular briefing in Beijing on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said CPEC is the flagship project for China-Pakistan cooperation which made tangible contributions to the social economic development in Pakistan and regional interconnectivity.

## Dar 'takes serious notice' of COAS' assets leak

Analysts term timing of this event intriguing; say all is not well between Islamabad and Rawalpindi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday took "serious notice" of the "illegal and unwarranted" tax leak of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his kin. The leak, the finance ministry said in a tweet, constituted a flagrant violation of complete tax confidentiality guaranteed by law. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, the ministry, had been directed to submit a report on the lapse in 24 hours. "Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has taken serious notice of the illegal and unwarranted leakage of tax information of the family members of General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). This is clearly violative of the complete confidentiality of tax information that the Law provides. In view of this serious lapse on the part of to-date unknown functionaries in the Finance minister has directed the SAPM on Revenue.

Continued on Page 06

## Process begins to appoint new Army Chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif announced on Monday that the process of appointing the army chief and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee (JCSC) had begun. "The process of appointing [officials] to Pakistan Army's highest positions has started today. God willing, the appointments will be made soon as per the constitutional requirements," the minister said in a tweet. Speaking to the media in Islamabad separately after a meeting with

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## Imran discusses next plans with party leaders

ALI HAMZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday chaired a party meeting to discuss numerous issues. The meeting was held at the residence of former premier Imran Khan, discussing the contemporary political situation of the country - the long march and other important matters. The PTI's top brass was present in the meeting included - Former federal foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, former federal finance minister Asad Umar, former federal information minister Fawad Chaudhary, former minister of state Farrukh Habib, Dr Shireen Mazari, Asad Qaiser, Ali Zaidi, Zulfi Bukhari,

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## Trial court sends notice to PTI Chairman

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As per the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) order, a trial court in Islamabad sent a notice to PTI Chairman Imran Khan for tomorrow in the trial opened against him in the Toshakhana reference. The notice was sent after the court received a copy of the reference ordering

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## Pakistan rejects Indian leadership's propaganda

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly rejected all references and insinuations by the Indian leadership directed against it at the so-called 'No Money for Terror' ministerial meeting held in New Delhi. The Foreign Office in a statement said that guided by its incorrigible and incurable desire to malign Pakistan at every available forum, India continued to mislead the world about Pakistan's counter-terrorism credentials by repeatedly leveling false accusations of the country's alleged involvement in the financing of proscribed terrorist organiza-

tions. "India's hollow rhetoric has fallen flat in the face of Pakistan's successful counter-terrorism measures, which have been accorded due recognition and acknowledgment from the premier international body on counter-terrorism, anti-money laundering, and terror financing, i.e. the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," it said. It said, "Our robust and credible AML/CFT actions and satisfactory implementation of FATF Action Plans duly secured Pakistan's successful removal off the Grey List, this October." The FO regretted that India was continuing its relentless terror

Continued on Page 06

## Deadly earthquake kills dozens in Indonesia

162 feared dead; more casualties feared; condolences pour in from across the globe

NEWS DESK

JAVA: A shallow 5.6-magnitude earthquake killed at least 162 people, with hundreds injured and others missing, when it toppled buildings and triggered landslides on Indonesia's main island of Java on Monday, officials said. Doctors treated patients outdoors after the quake, which was felt as far away as the capital Jakarta, left hospitals in the West Java town of Cianjur without power for several hours. "I regret to inform that 162 are dead and 326 are injured with most of them sustained fractures from being crushed in ruins," Ridwan Kamil, governor of worst-hit province West Java, told a press conference in a video seen by AFP. He said most of the victims were children. Adam, spokesman for the local administration in Cianjur town, who like many

Continued on Page 06

## President, PM, FM condole with Indonesia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday expressed grief over the deaths caused by the earthquake on a main island of Indonesia. According to the media reports, a 5.6 magnitude earthquake struck Cianjur town in West Java that killed at least 162 people and injured hundreds. The president expressed solidarity with the government and people of Indonesia and said, "Pakistan and its people stand by

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**PM Shehbaz felicitates Kazakh President**

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday telephoned President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and conveyed his congratulations on his re-election with an overwhelming majority in the elections. During the conversation, the prime minister reiterated that the president's victory was a manifestation of the confidence that the people of Kazakhstan had exhibited in him on account of his visionary and astute leadership. He hoped that Kazakhstan would scale new heights of prosperity and development, a PM Office press release said. The prime minister further expressed his satisfaction with the mutual cooperation and cordial relations between both countries. He also reiterated his desire to work together with Kazakhstan's president on continued endeavors to strengthen the bilateral cooperation to forge a strong economic partnership.

## COAS pays farewell visits to Naval and Air Headquarters

Visits Rawalpindi Corps HQ and lays a floral wreath at Martyrs' Monument



ISLAMABAD: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in a meeting with Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. - DNA

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief Of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday visited the Naval and Air Headquarters, here, as part of his farewell visits. On arrival at Naval Headquarters, the COAS was presented the guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS met with the Principal staff officers at Naval Headquarters. During his meeting with Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, the COAS admired the role of the

Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the maritime frontiers of Pakistan. On arrival at Air Headquarters, the COAS was presented with a guard of honour by a contingent of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) followed by interaction with Principal Staff Officers of Air Headquarters. Later the COAS met the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and appreciated the thorough professionalism of PAF defending the aerial frontiers of Pakistan and highlighted the critical role played by PAF during war against terrorism.

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# PM's aide reviews progress of heritage departments

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Political and Public Affairs Engr Amir Muqam here Monday presided over a meeting to review the progress of various projects of National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached departments. The meeting held here at Prime Minister's Office was attended by Secretary National Heritage and Culture Division Fareena Mazhar, Senior Joint Secretary Abdul Sattar Khokhar, Joint Secretary Shahzad Durrani, heads of all attached departments including Pakistan National Council of the Arts, National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage- Lok Virsa, Department of Archeology and Museum (DOAM), Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), Aiwan Iqbal Complex, Iqbal Academy Lahore, Quaid-i-Azam Management Board, National Language Promotion Department, National Library of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Management Board and Quaid-i-Azam Academy. The departments' heads briefed the adviser about matters pertaining to promotions, policy decisions, vacancies,

new initiatives and current affairs. The meeting reviewed the progress of the directions of Adviser to PM given during his various visits to different departments /Organizations of the National Heritage and Culture Division. The meeting was informed that the work on the renovation of Science Board building is completed and ready to be inaugurated. Engr Amir Muqam directed the officials of Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Management Board to arrange special program on Quaid-i-Azam Day. Adviser to Prime Minister underscored that history reveals that successful nations are those which remained connected to their cultural heritage and also tried to promote it. He emphasized on rejuvenation of fine arts and participation of the youth as it not only demonstrates keen interest shown by new generation towards its cultural heritage but also reflects that it will also be a source for revival and strengthening of culture and national development. He said that promotion of national heritage and culture among the people can only prevent the society from social

evils, hatred, intolerance and bring peace and stability. Resident Engineer Quaid-i-Azam Mazar Management Board Abdul Aleem briefed the meeting regarding overall performance of the department. Director General Department of Archeology and Museum briefed the meeting regarding on-going projects of the department. Director General Department of Archeology and Museum briefed the Adviser to PM regarding the overall performance and development activities at the Department. Adviser to Prime Minister also presided over a meeting of National Language Promotion Department. Director General NLPD Abdul Rauf Parekh briefed the Adviser to PM about overall progress of the ongoing projects of NLPD. Adviser to Prime Minister for National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam also presided over a meeting of the National Library of Pakistan, Aiwan-i-Iqbal Complex, Iqbal Academy and National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) to discuss various ongoing schemes and future projects.—APP



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi inaugurating the "Life is Not Still" exhibition of art works on the subject of Still Life Painting, at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA).—DNA

## PAJCCI welcome Motiwala appointment as TDAP CEO

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Prominent businessman and Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi has welcomed appointment of Zubair Motiwala as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP). In a press statement issued here on Monday, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi who is also Chairman Frontier Custom Clearing Agents termed appointment of Zubair Motiwala as good omen for promotion of country's export. It merits a mention here that, Federal cabinet has approved appointment of renowned businessman, Zubair Motiwala as CEO TDAP. Zia said Zubair Motiwala services as Chairman PAJCCI are also very effective and have helped a lot in promotion of trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. "After the take over of Taliban in Afghanistan, there were a lot of problems in continuation of business, but due to dynamic leadership and dedicated efforts of Motiwala, majority of hurdles were removed and commerce continued in the region benefiting thousands of people on both sides of the border," Zia added. He appreciated federal government's decision and expressed the hope that soon the benefits will be observed in shape of promotion of export of Pakistan in international market.

He appreciated federal government's decision and expressed the hope that soon the benefits will be observed in shape of promotion of export of Pakistan in international market.

## FPCCI, UoP join hands for exchange of research work

PESHAWAR FPCCI and Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar (UoP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for exchange of research oriented and other matters. The MoU signing ceremony was held in the Area Study Centre wherein both parties signed the agreement. Besides, Coordinator FPCCI, Sartaj Ahmad Khan, Regional Secretary Engineer Khalid Haider, Chairman, APCEA, Minhajuddin, Fazal Elahi, Adnan Jalil, Director Area Study Centre, Shabir Ahmad, professors and teachers a large number of students and businessmen also attended the ceremony.—APP

## First lady emphasizes promotion of Islamic, Pakistani art

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Samina Alvi on Monday said that along with still life paintings, the promotion of Islamic and Pakistani art at the international level was equally essential. The first lady, addressing a photo exhibition held here at Pakistan National Council of Arts, urged the youth and emerging artists to benefit from the exhibition which marked the display of artists' works from across the country. She said painting, calligraphy, statue and sculpture making, drawing, dance and music were the modes of expression opted by the artists to express

their emotions. She said the fine arts allowed humans to better express their emotions and likened the importance of the fine arts to life itself. The first lady, who earlier inaugurated the exhibition, said that fine arts helped establish linkages with human history and evolution as it was also a method of promoting nation's cultural traditions. She said the Islamic culture and art were rich with great traditions as the Islamic artifacts had got prominence across the world. She said in the current era of science and technology, the importance of fine arts could not be

overlooked as technology also led to the emergence of modern forms of art. Many universities, colleges and institutions are playing their role to promote art education, though it needed to be improved further, she added. Citing the national talent, the first lady said Pakistan's artists were bringing fame to Pakistan. However, collective efforts were a must to promote the artifacts as the artists were rich with talent but lacked resources to promote their works. The exhibitions helped the artists to promote their works at local and international levels.—APP

## Perween Rahman's family to challenge SHC verdict

NAZIR SIYAL



KARACHI: Rights activist Perween Rahman's family Monday decided to challenge the Sindh High Court's verdict acquitting all five men sentenced in her murder case in the Supreme Court. Aqeela Ismail, sister of the slain rights activist, told Geo News that the verdict is "beyond comprehension". "Everything was clear both the joint investigation teams found the suspects guilty [of her murder]; however, every thing was ended today," she highlighted, lamenting that neither were they heard nor given an opportunity in the SHC. She said that the lives of her family members and the employees of the Orangi Pilot Project were in danger after the release of the suspects. Aqeela urged the authorities to arrest the suspects under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance, 1960. She also

requested the Sindh government to file an appeal against the verdict of the SHC in the murder case immediately. The slain journalist's sister also demanded the federal government provide them with justice. Earlier in the day, the SHC nullified the life-imprisonment sentences handed down to five accused persons in the Perween Rahman murder case. In its order, the high court ordered the release of Raheem Swati, Ayaz Swati, Amjad Hussain Khan, Ahmed Khan alias Pappu Kashmiri, and Imran Swati, who had appealed against the verdict of an anti-terrorism court. "... the appellants are entitled to the benefit of the doubt as a matter of right as opposed to concession and in this case, as mentioned above we have found many doubts concerning the appellant's involvement in the murder of the deceased," the order read. In December last year, an ATC court in the metropolis sentenced four of the accused to back-to-back life imprisonment in the murder case of the social activist. The ATC sentenced Ayaz, Raheem, Amjad, and Ahmed to double life imprisonment after they were found guilty of her murder. The fifth accused, Imran, was awarded a sentence of seven years for being an accomplice in the murder of Rahman. Following the passing of the order, the high court asked relevant

authorities to release the five people if they were not wanted in any other case. Meanwhile, Prosecutor General Sindh Faiz Shah's told Geo News that they were reviewing the decision announced by the top provincial court. "An appeal will be filed against Sindh High Court's ruling," the Prosecutor General Sindh said replying to a question. Parveen, who was a renowned urban planner and social activist, was murdered in a drive-by shooting on her car at the Banaras flyover a few minutes after she left her office for home on March 13, 2013. The case was initially registered at the Pirabad police station under Sections 302 (premeditated murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code. However, Supreme Court ordered a judicial inquiry which was conducted by the then-district and session judge Ghulam Mustafa Memon. Thereafter, Section 7 (the punishment of acts of terrorism) of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 was added to the FIR. Investigation into the murder case revealed that Rahman, who was the director of the Orangi Pilot Project, was murdered by hitmen for Rs4 million. A joint investigation team (JIT) was formed to probe the murder of the social worker. Accused Hussain had told the team that Raheem and local ANP leader Ayaz were asking Rahman to hand over a piece of land to them.



FAISALABAD: Students performing tableau at the Universal Children Day at Faisalabad Arts Council.—APP

## Ashrafi urges political and religious forces to unite for 'charter of Pakistan'

LAHORE: Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Affairs Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has urged all political parties and religious forces to unite for a 'charter of Pakistan' (misaq-e-Pakistan). Addressing a conference at Jamia Manzoorul Islamia here on Monday, he said all political and religious forces should sit together for economic and political stability of the country. "In the current political situation, we should struggle for stability and security of the country, as country's stability is linked with internal stability," he added. He said that the world leaders and businessmen were ready to invest in Pakistan if internal stability improves, adding that with

an improved stability, Pakistan could get 25 to 30 billion dollars investment. He said that religious forces of Pakistan had sent a message to the world by adopting the 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' (Message of Pakistan) and other countries were also taking guidance from it. "It is said that the religious community of Pakistan used to be in conflict with each other, but it is the religious community of Pakistan that has taken lead in sending the Paigham-e-Pakistan to the world," he added. Ashrafi said that brotherhood, tolerance and love had been shown by the religious community through Paigham-e-Pakistan, adding that Al-Azhar University also published its Arabic translation. He said that the country needed the 'charter

of Pakistan' and all political and religious parties should join hands for the purpose. He said economic, judicial and electoral reforms would be brought about under the proposed charter. He emphasised that all political parties must play their part in eliminating the growing violence and intolerance in the country. He lamented the propaganda against Pakistan's forces and security agencies, adding that it was unprecedented in the 75 years history of the country. He stressed that no one was dearer in the country than the Pakistani Army. He stressed devising a code of conduct for the social media because propaganda and fake news was damaging the unity of society. He said that religion, country and security forces were

the red line of the nation. He said: "We witnessed a wave of terrorism in the country after 9/11 incident", adding that "our markets were deserted and our mosques, imambargahs and churches were targeted with suicide attacks". He questioned how the situation came to an end, adding that it ended with unity among the nation and the army. He also appreciated the services of General Qamar Javed Bajwa for playing an important role in eliminating extremism in the country. He said that Pakistan could not prosper due to political and economic instability. He appealed to all political parties to sacrifice their personal egos for prosperity of the country. Ashrafi said he did not receive any gift during the tenure of former

prime minister Imran Khan and the gifts received during the present government had been deposited in the Toshakhana, adding that overseas Pakistanis faced embarrassment due to Toshakhana case. To a question he said that the date of election should be decided through negotiations, adding that the country could not run through long marches and rallies. To another question, he said that we condemn the attack on Imran Khan, Azam Swati incident and murder of Arshad Sharif. It is a collective responsibility to find out Arshad's killers, but blaming someone without any proof was also not appropriate, he added. He appealed to the Chief Justice of Pakistan to form a commission to investigate these incidents.—APP

## World Television Day marked

ISLAMABAD: World Television Day was marked across the globe including Pakistan on Monday through highlighting the importance of television as an important scientific invention which has impacted the decision making process in every sphere of life and raised awareness about significant issues globally. The day was marked by various organizations, especially educational institutions, through a number of events to project the significance of this important scientific invention in our daily lives. Television continues to be the single largest source of video consumption. Despite the screen sizes have changed, and people create,

post, stream and consume content on different platforms, still the number of households with television sets around the world continues to rise. The interaction between emerging and traditional forms of broadcast creates a great opportunity to raise awareness about the important issues facing our communities and our planet. In recognition of the increasing impact television has on decision-making by bringing world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and security and its potential role in sharpening the focus on other major issues, including economic and social issues, the United Nations General Assembly

proclaimed November 21 as World Television Day (through resolution 51/205 of 17 December 1996). World Television Day is not so much a celebration of the tool, but rather the philosophy which it represents. Television represents a symbol for communication and globalization in the contemporary world. On November 21 and 22, 1996 the United Nations held the first World Television Forum, where leading media figures met under the auspices of the United Nations to discuss the growing significance of television in today's changing world and to consider how they might enhance their mutual cooperation.—APP

## AJK President visits thanksgiving festival

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry attended a "Thanksgiving festival" hosted in the federal metropolis on Monday. Besides the AJK President, the festival was also attended by American Political Consul Bradley Parker, Japanese Ambassador Wada Matsuhiro, Madame Noko and several others. Speaking on the occasion, the president said that according to American tradition, the day is celebrated to express gratitude to God for His blessings. Referring to Baisakhi Mela, he said the Thanksgiving festival was also being celebrated in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir with traditional fervor and enthusiasm. "Baisakhi festival is celebrated with enthusiasm every year in Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir and on this occasion, people express their gratitude to Allah Almighty for his blessings", he said adding that there were plenty of other traditional and social events held in the country. "Today we are celebrating the Thanksgiving festival of America here in a free atmosphere and we hope that the day isn't far when people of Occupied Kashmir will also celebrate such events freely in an atmosphere free from oppression and suppression", the president said.—APP

### CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (Works Division-II) \*\*\*\*\*

#### CORRIGENDUM

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

With reference to Invitation for bids notice as mentioned in Daily National News Papers and CDA websites and further corrigendum published in leading newspapers and uploaded in CDA/PPRA Website. The further corrigendum for the Invitation for bids IFB is hereby issued again with new date and time for issuance and opening of subject tilted project along with change of

Category are as under:-

#### For:-

Last date for issuance of tender on 18.11.2022 and opening on 21.11.2022 at 12:00 Noon (Category C-2 and above).  
Work:- "CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND BRIDGES / CUVERTS AT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE II, ISLAMABAD."

#### Read:-

Last date for issuance of tender on 25.11.2022 and opening on 28.11.2022 at 12:00 Noon (Category C-2 and above).  
Work:- "CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD/STREE 40,47, & 50-C AND ALLIED WORK AT DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE-II, (EXTENSION), ISLAMABAD."

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

PID (I) No. 3185/22

Deputy Director  
Works Division-II, CDA.



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### November

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

## Hotels & Restaurants

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

## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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

## Enquiry

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



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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# ICCI, ICSTSI for promoting ease of doing business

Sajjad Sarwar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries said that close liaison and cooperation between ICCI and ICSTSI will be very helpful in serving the cause of the business community

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation visited Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries to congratulate President Sajjad Sarwar and his team. Both Chambers discussed matters of mutual interest and called upon the government to focus on promoting ease of doing business in order to revive the economy.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the small businesses are playing important role in promoting the economic activities and stressed that the government should allot plots to Chambers of Small Traders and Small Industries so that these institutions can play more effective role in promoting small businesses that will facilitate the growth of new start-ups,



enhance exports, generate jobs and help revive the economy. He said that due to the high transaction costs and tough collateral requirements, small businesses are

facing great problems in getting loans from banks and emphasized that the government should address this issue to increase their share in the total private

sector credit so that these businesses can play an enhanced role in the economic development of the country. He assured that ICCI will cooperate with ICSTSI in

resolving the key issues of small traders and small industries to facilitate their better growth. Sajjad Sarwar, President, Islamabad Chamber of

Small Traders and Small Industries said that close liaison and cooperation between ICCI and ICSTSI will be very helpful in serving the cause of the business community. He said that the economy of Pakistan is passing through a difficult time and stressed that promoting the ease of doing business should be the top priority of the government to improve the economy. He emphasized that CDA should construct parking plazas in markets to address the long standing issues of traders and focus on better development of markets. He said that small traders and small industries are making useful contributions towards the economy and urged that the government should focus on resolving their key issues to facilitate their better growth. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Ajmal Baloch, Khalid Chaudhry and others were in the delegation.

## Oil import bill falls by 2.3% to \$6.054 bln in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall petroleum group declined by 2.31 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the petroleum group during July-October (2022-23) stood at \$ 6,054.093 million, as against the imports of \$6,197.285 million last year, according to PBS data. Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 1.75 percent, from \$2,894.733 million last year to \$2,844.098 million during the period under review. Likewise, the imports of liquefied natural gas declined by 15.55 going down to \$1,266.662 million this year against the imports of \$1,499.912 million recorded during the corresponding period of last year. On the other hand, the products that witnessed positive growth included petroleum crude, the imports of which grew by 6.61, from \$1,620.191 million last year to \$1,727.345 million whereas imports of liquefied petroleum gas increased by 18.39 percent, from \$ 182.343 million to \$ 215.883 million. The imports of all other petroleum products declined by 1.61 percent, from \$ 0.106 million to \$0.104 million.—APP

# USAID-ERDA, agri dept to provide seed farmers

ISLAMABAD: USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity (USAID-ERDA) and Agriculture, Livestock, and Cooperative Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will provide 743 tons of certified wheat seed and 1,485 tons of fertilizer to 14,850 flood affected farmers from Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan, and Khyber Districts to ensure food security during current cropping season. USAID-ERDA provided 1,900 bags (50 Kg each bag) of certified wheat seed and 3,800 bags (50 Kg each bag) of fertilizer to flood-affected farmers of Mathra, Shah Alam, and Chamkani, in Peshawar, said a press release. The USAID-ERDA

assistance enables 19,000 flood affected farmers' families to cultivate wheat crops on their 1,900 acres of land during this Rabi season which will ultimately ensure food security through availability of sufficient wheat in the next harvesting season. USAID-ERDA will provide certified wheat seed and fertilizer to 12,100 farmers from District Dera Ismail Khan and 850 farmers from District Khyber Districts during the month of November 2022. This year intense rainfall in monsoon spells and flood-flood caused severe flooding across Pakistan. It has impacted the whole fabric of life, involving remarkable human losses, and tremen-

dous damage to agriculture, livestock, shelters, and infrastructure. It forced the government to announce a flood emergency and call an appeal for humanitarian assistance. At the request of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the USAID-ERDA decided to extend critical support to ensure food security in flood-affected Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, and Khyber districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. We are thankful to USAID for their support and assistance in a time of need. The flood devastation is beyond government's approach. "The farmers are the most affected segment and they need our assistance to cov-

er their losses and get back on track. USAID has been very kind in providing their assistance and we expect them that they will continue their support in rehabilitation of our farmers", said Mohammad Israr Khan, Secretary of Agriculture. USAID-ERDA in coordination with the Agriculture and Livestock Department earlier conducted a quick assessment of 1,900 affected farmers' from three areas namely Mathra, Shah Alam, and Chamkani of District Peshawar, which were provided with certified wheat seed and fertilizer. This support will ensure food security for affected population of Peshawar.—APP

## Railways expedites work to improve services in passenger trains

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Railways is going to expedite work to improve services in the passenger trains as well as at the major railway stations by involving the private sector which would help address growing issues, especially related to cleanliness. "The department was of the view that the cleanliness-related services in trains and at major stations, including Lahore, Faisalabad, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Peshawar, Khanewal, Sukkur, Sialkot, Multan and Bahawalpur were not satisfactory," an official in the Ministry told APP. He said that if services of the private sector were hired under a fast-track policy, the hygiene conditions at stations and in trains could be improved which would also restore the confidence of passengers in the department. The official said Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique also asked the officials to accelerate efforts to bring uniformity in the design and signboards of stalls at the major railway stations under a policy. He said that Saad Rafique was also curious to quickly devise a policy in a bid to bring uniformity in the design of all the stalls. It is pertinent to mention here that in August Pakistan Railways had decided to engage the private sector in an effort to increase profit by improving services at major stations. "The services required to be improved included renovation and construction of washrooms and their maintenance and other janitorial services at platforms, waiting areas and yards," he added. Terming the Thar Coal transportation project as a big challenge, he asked the officers concerned to speed up arrangements of wagons and engines etc on priority. To a question, he said that Pakistan Railways was planning to upgrade its five major railway stations across the country on modern lines to facilitate the passengers and help the department to generate more revenues. He said the purpose to upgrade the railway stations is to make them commercial hubs for business activities and facilitate the passengers and the railway stations included Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Quetta. The official said that the government was taking several steps to improve the performance of Pakistan Railways and would provide maximum facilities to the masses.—APP

## Tobacco Health Levy on tobacco products

ISLAMABAD :Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) celebrated Universal Children's Day by highlighting the need of imposing a Health Levy on tobacco products to safeguard the health of Pakistani children. Shedding light on this year's theme of the day titled "Inclusion, For Every Child", speakers said that the right to health, education, a clean environment, and survival and development are for all children and therefore they must be ensured. The speakers suggested the immediate implementation of the Tobacco Health Levy Bill to generate 60 Billion Rupee revenue to save children from the harms of tobacco. Dr. Ziauddin Islam - Country Lead - Vital Strategies; Former Technical Head/Director, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of NHR&C; Former Technical focal Person of Government of Pakistan for WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC); appreciated the participation of children on the occasion. He mentioned that children are most vulnerable to tobacco exposure as these products are inexpensive and easily available to them. According to statistics, 10.7 percent of Pakistani youth, including 6.6 percent of girls and 13.3 percent of boys, consume tobacco products due to the cheap prices of tobacco.—APP

# Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority held public hearing

## DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority conducted a public hearing in Karachi to seek comments/point of view of consumers, general public and stakeholders on the review petition filed by Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) under Section 8(2) of the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2002 read with Rule 4(3) of Natural Gas Tariff Rules, 2002 for Review of its Estimated Revenue Requirement / Prescribed Prices for F.Y. 2022-23.

In the instant petition, SSGCL has projected a shortfall in revenue requirement at Rs.184,881 million, including Rs. 33,787 million on account of un-recouped shortfall for F.Y. 2021-22 seeking an increase in its average prescribed price by Rs. 667.44 per MMBTU in its prescribed prices for F.Y.2022-23. Besides above, the petitioner has estimated RLNG cost of service at Rs. 26.23/MMBTU for 2022-23. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority conducted the public hearing to provide fair opportunity

to all stakeholders, consumers and general public including the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry and All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association to provide their point of concerns and comments on the petition filed by the SSGCL. The meeting was conducted in Karachi at Move n Pick Hotel, the authority members including Chairman chaired the meeting and heard the comments of all stakeholders and reserved their decision to be issued within due course of time.

## 3-day Capital signature Food Festival to begin on 9 Dec

ISLAMABAD :A three-day Capital Signature Food Festival will begin at F-9 Park on 9 December, having stalls of delicious homemade food, traditional meals and tasty food items from renowned restaurants.

Talking to APP, the organizer of the event Maham Naeem said that event was scheduled to be held from 2 December to 4 December but due to the long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the new dates of the events have been issued. She said the dazzling event will have around eighty food stalls among which sixty per cent of stalls would have homemade delicious food items. "After tasting the home-cooked food consumers place the orders online and that is a promotion for the new businesses", she added. Maham Naeem said a preference has been given to those who are new to the business and offering home-cooked food. She said the event is an opportunity for young entrepreneurs and an attempt to empower women.

She said that for the promotion of young talent the organizers hosted talent hunt programs in various universities and the selected vocalists, bands, and performers will showcase their talent in the event and represent their educational institution. She informed that RTP, Mustafa Zahid, Abdul Hanan will perform in the event while organizers are coordinating with Ali Zafar, Sahr Ali Bagga, and the Bayaan Band in the meanwhile. She further said that the organizing team manages the stalls, electricity and sitting facility and for all these services.—APP

## Trend of online delivery of 'winter delicacy' on rise

Another online seller added that the premium packaging of halwa is beautifully telling the stories of our rich tradition

ISLAMABAD The traditional 'winter delicacies' online delivery through mobile phones and the internet have become very popular all over the country including the federal capital as leaving the house to buy food from shops becomes even harder for lazy youngsters in winter. According to a private news channel, the freezing cold has given rise to the trend of online delivery orders of 'winter delicacy' and many young entrepreneurs are taking online orders from customers and delivering 'winter delights' at their doorsteps. "Due to smartphones and other internet platforms, people prefer to order online", said a citizen while giving order of dry fruits displayed on the internet.

The young generation mostly prefers home delivery and it helps them to enjoy the winter delicacy with their family," said another customer while attracted to Halwa displayed on the facebook page. A young entrepreneur while selling an online variety of 'Halwas' claimed that the customers are happy and satisfied with his online delivery services during this snowy weather at hilly areas. With a lot of changes being brought in by smart technology in the past decade, the growth in number of people ordering food online in the country has seen an increase with more and more people opting to order food online especially visitors in areas where the weather is snowy and freezing, said another tourist while enjoying online food. An online seller of 'Sohan halwa' also said that customers are enjoying the best of winter traditional halwa which was made with pure desi ghee. Another online seller added that the premium packaging of halwa is beautifully telling the stories of our rich tradition and makes a thoughtful gifts for your loved ones in winter. Most of our friends and families members living abroad and during the winter they want season's specialties at their doorsteps so through these platforms they can easily contact these retailers and can order it online, said a youngster.—APP

## ECP appoints four additional sessions judges

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday appointed four additional sessions judges, Islamabad as appellate authorities for 101 union councils for impending Local Government (LG) elections in Islamabad capital territory (ICT). The candidates contesting LG elections from the federal capital can file appeals against the rejection or acceptance of their nomination papers in the offices of additional sessions judges from Monday to Wednesday (Nov 21-23). Three appellate authorities have been tasked to hear appeals of 25 union councils. While one appellate authority has been assigned to decide the appeals of the candidates contesting in 26 union councils from Nov 24 to 28. The lists of candidates will be displayed on Nov 29, while candidates can withdraw their nomination papers by Nov 30.—APP

## India working on 'Militant Killed in Crossfire' plan

ISLAMABAD :In Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Hurriyat leaders and organizations had said that under a well-hatched conspiracy Indian army and police arrested innocent Kashmiri youth and martyred them in custody before issuing a fabricated narrative that "the militant killed in a crossfire" an already written statement. All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) spokesman, Hurriyat leader Dr Musaib, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League in their statements in Srinagar said, Sajjad Ahmad is the fresh victim of such target killing by the Indian troops in Islamabad (Anantnag) district.—APP

## Pak earns \$633 million from IT services' export in Q1

ISLAMABAD :Pakistan earned US\$ 633.130 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2022-23.

According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), during July-September (2022-23), the export of computer services grew by 5.21 percent as it surged from US\$ 490.850 million last fiscal year to US\$ 516.410 million this year. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 5.73 percent, from US\$ 176.506 million to US\$ 186.622 million while the exports of hardware consultancy services also surge by 10.27 percent from US\$ 0.837 million to US\$ 0.923 million. The export and import of computer software-related services surged by 14.51 percent, from US\$ 124.702 million to US\$ 142.793 million whereas the exports of repair and maintenance services decreased to US\$ 0.218 million from US\$ 0.345 million.

In addition, the exports of other computer services witnessed an increase of 1.38 percent going down from US\$ 188.460 million to US\$ 185.854 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the period under review declined by 23.13 percent by going down from US\$ 1.340 million to US\$ 1.030 million. Among the information services, the exports of news agency services decreased by 22.66 percent, from US\$ 0.962 million to US\$ 0.744 million whereas the exports of other information services also decreased by 24.34 percent, from US\$ 0.378 million to US\$ 0.286 million.

The export of telecommunication services also witnessed a decrease of 18.94 percent as these went down from US\$ 142.720 million to US\$ 115.690 million during the months under review, the data revealed.—APP



## Briefs

## Rule of law is the need of hour: Rana Maqbool

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed Monday stressed that rule of law is the need of hour as no country and political party can become strong without following the rule of law and strict implementation of constitution. Talking to PTV news channel, he asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan to follow law and obey rules during his party's long march towards Rawalpindi.

He said that those who played havoc with the constitution and the law would be fully exposed before the nation, adding, PML-N always faced the challenges bravely and would continue to serve the masses. Senator said that PTI leaders should ensure democratic norms and morality within their party to flourish democratic culture and thinking across the country. Replying a question, he said that Imran Khan was dramatizing Pakistan Army Chief appointment process, adding, Khan wants to stop institutions to play their democratic role. Imran Khan only wants to play undemocratic games but we will stop him as the appointment of the army chief is the prerogative of the prime minister, he added.—APP

## IRSA releases 83,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 83,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 55,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1516.04 feet and was 118.04 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 26,000 cusecs while outflow as 42,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1143.20 feet, which was 93.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 10,700 cusecs and 23,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 50,000, 33,200, 33,200 and 13,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 12,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

## Agreement signed to ensure Int'l education for Pak students

ISLAMABAD: An agreement was signed yesterday as part of the initiative to make students in Pakistan potentially capable for joining the world's higher education institutions of excellence. The agreement was signed between two educational institutions i.e. Pearson Education Limited and Cornerstone School & College Global Campus, Lahore, (CSCG) to offer Pearson Edexcel complete suits of qualifications to students from early years till A level at the CSCG campus.

The agreement was signed during a ceremony held in Lahore on Monday. The agreement was signed by Ms. Kathryn Booth, Director of Pearson Schools Qualifications, Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan & Turkey, and Ms. Wajeaha Raouf, Director Cornerstone Schools. Senior officials of both the organizations, academicians and guest students were also present on the occasion. As per details, the scope of this collaboration will allow Pearson and the Cornerstone Schools to continue collaborating for Pearson Edexcel exams, supporting resources and professional development courses at the Global Campus, Lahore. The agreement envisages that Pearson will provide at the CSCG campus unmatched data analysis and exam support tools, PD teachers training and resources support. On the other hand, the CSCG campus will offer to students all suits of Pearson qualifications including Early Years, Int. GCSE and A level exams, support Pearson's qualifications monitoring process.—APP

## PSW is helping women break trade barriers

In recent years there has been a renewed focus in Pakistan on increasing women's participation in commerce, trade including cross-border trade by several govt and non-governmental organizations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In Pakistan, women constitute around 50% of the country's population and contribute towards national development in multiple ways in both the formal and informal sectors.

However, despite considerable advancement in female education and career opportunities, women traders, service providers (brokers, freight forwarders, transporters) and women-led businesses are conspicuous by their absence in Pakistan's cross-border trade ecosystem. As the leading public sector entity responsible for the digital transformation of cross-border trade and the notified operator of the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) system, PSW is cognizant of the need for and the importance of enhancing women's participation in cross-border trade through gender-responsive trade facilitation measures and is working on various initiatives aimed at maximizing the benefits for women involved in cross-border trade.

Pakistan Single Window (PSW)

launched a dedicated women's helpline 021-111-111-779 to pro-



vide guidance and customer support to women traders and entrepreneurs using the PSW system and its allied components for imports, exports, and trade regulatory requirements. In recent years

there has been a renewed focus in Pakistan on increasing wom-

en's participation in commerce and trade including cross-border trade by several government and non-governmental organizations. As a socially aware and responsible entity, PSW is committed to

servicing the community and society through inclusive and equitable

A statement released from the office of the CEO of PSW, Mr. Syed Aftab Haider, stated "The initiative is part of PSW's effort to increase its outreach to women entrepreneurs and women-led businesses who face challenges in connecting to the global economy due to gender-related barriers. Digitization of customs and trade-related procedures offer special opportunities for women-owned businesses to overcome these barriers, get better access to information and business opportunities, and leverage technology for enhancing export competitiveness." Due to its unique organizational and business model that promotes deep engagement, collaboration, coordination, and cooperation amongst the different public and private sector entities connected with international trade, PSW is well-placed to leverage its extensive network, resources, and goodwill for the training and capacity building of women entrepreneurs, traders, and women-led businesses to promote and facilitate their integration with Pakistan's international supply chain and cross-border trade.

## NUMS faculty member highlights ravages of flood

RAWALPINDI: Dr Hina Shan, Assistant Professor Department of Public Health National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) highlighted the ravages of August deluge on health facilities in the aftermath of the worst floods in Pakistan during her participation in a podcast series broadcasted by COLUMBIA, Mailman School of Public Health, Global Consortium on Climate And Health Education (GCCHE) in its Climate Clinic here on Monday. She said women and children were especially afflicted with multiple diseases in absence of health-care facilities in some areas due to widespread devastation across Pakistan. Dr Hina pleaded to world professionals to understand the link between public health

and Nature for mustering a collective response to deal with climate change. An in-depth discussion regarding catastrophic flooding, climate crisis and the impediments from a Public Health perspective in Pakistan was broadcasted by Columbia University. NUMS joined the GCCHE in October 2022 which is a platform to organize, empower, and amplify the voice of health professionals to convey how climate change is harming our health and how climate solutions will improve it. GCCHE is a global network of health professional institutions and associations to train health professionals in climate and planetary health. Dr Hina said around 33 million people were affected in more than 80 districts of Pakistan but the

destruction in Sindh and Balochistan provinces was unprecedented. The river Indus wrought havoc alongside its banks destroying homes, crops and livestock. Quoting National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), she said, more than 7.6 million homes were destroyed while over 5.7 million people were forced to take shelter in the relief camps. "So the situation is very grim and it is a tragic reality" she added. The flood destroyed at least 1500 health facilities, thousands of kms of roads, bridges and railway tracks suspending links between the cities which made it difficult to access the affected areas. Dr Hina said there was "definitely" a link between the extreme weather and climate change and

Pakistan though contributing less than 1 per cent to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, it was the 8th worst-hit country as a result of climate change. She said U.N Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during his visit to Pakistan said that "it is a question of justice, Pakistan is paying the price of something that was created by others." She said as per the meteorological department statement, August was the wettest month in Pakistan since 1951, adding South Asia was being labelled as the "climate hotspot" owing to rising temperatures across the globe. She said it was the biggest challenge for Pakistan to restore the healthcare system as the devastating flood had created different issues.—APP

## Govt making efforts to promote Iqbal's philosophy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Member National Assembly Dr. Nisar Ahmed Cheema on Monday said that the government was committed to promoting the messages of national poet Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal among youth and making efforts to include them in the national curriculum. Talking in an interview with PTV news, he stressed that the young generation should seek guidance from Allama Iqbal's philosophy and set their line of action to mold Pakistan into a bright and prosperous country. He also stressed upon the media to play an active role in promoting harmony and brotherhood in society and by starting special programs relating to Iqbal's life and philosophy for the awareness of youth.

He said Pakistan's youth could compete with the youth of any country in creativity, productivity, and skills learning with the thoughts of Iqbal. He said Allama Iqbal had not only awakened the Muslims of the subcontinent for launching a struggle for a separate country but had also led a creative role as a leader of Muslim nation. Iqbal's poetry had deeply influenced the Islamic world and the nation is proud of it, he said, adding, Allama Iqbal gave a lesson of consistent struggle in the face of challenges of life. "We as a nation can achieve a respectable place among the comity of nations by understanding the concept of "Shahen" and philosophy of "Khudi (self)" enunciated in the works of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and adopting the same in practical life, he stressed. He urged the youth to re-align their lives according to the philosophy of the great poet-philosopher to achieve the objectives of an educated, civilized and developed nation. Replying to a question, he said that the government was doing its sincere efforts to promote the philosophy of Iqbal among youth and PM Shabbaz Sharif had constituted a special committee for the promotion of Iqbal's message for youth.—APP

## Current account deficit shrinks 46pc to \$2.8 billion in Jul-Oct

ISLAMABAD: The Current Account Deficit shrank by 46 percent to US\$2.82 billion during four months (Jul-Oct) of current fiscal year as against the deficit of \$5.3 billion recorded during same period of last year.

Continuous decline in imports helped improve the CAD during first four months of FY23, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said in its official twitter handle.

In October, after posting decline for three consecutive months, the current account deficit edged up to \$0.56 billion as compared to \$0.3 billion in September this year, according to a data issued by the SBP on Monday.

On year-on-year basis, the

current account deficit posted a record decline of 68 percent as it went down to \$0.567 billion in October 2022 from \$1.78 billion in the same month of the year 2021. According to the data, the exports of goods increased from \$9.56 billion in Jul-October 2021-22 to \$9.8 billion in same period of current fiscal year. On the other hand, the imports of goods decreased from \$23.32 billion to \$20.6 billion in the period under review. The overall trade deficit also shrank to \$10.8 billion in the first four months of FY23 as compared to the deficit of \$13.75 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal year.—APP



RAWALPINDI: President RCCI Saqib Rafiq chairing RCCI Standing Committee Meeting on Consumer Distribution Products held at Chamber house.—DNA

## HEC announces post graduate scholarships

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Monday announced Postgraduate Scholarships for students of Balochistan and erstwhile FATA to study in HEC recognised Pakistani Universities. According to official sources, applications are invited from outstanding students from Balochistan and erstwhile FATA who intend to pursue postgraduate studies (MS/MPHil Programme) from HEC recognised local universities/degree awarding institutions (DAIs). The scholarships are being offered for the academic year 2022-23 in all areas of studies/disciplines under "Provision of Higher Education Opportunities for the

Students of Balochistan and FATA (Phase-II)" Batch-V. As per eligibility criteria, applicants must possess a Local/Domicile Certificate from Balochistan province/erstwhile FATA. The candidates must have completed 16 years of education with at least 60% marks. While the maximum age is 35 years as on Closing Date. The candidates must have acquired the requisite academic qualifications on or before the closing date. The candidates who are already availing of any other HEC/Government scholarship are not eligible to apply. The candidates will have to meet HEC and university criteria for admission in MS/MPHil programmes. The sources further said

that scholarships will cover Tuition fees and other charges (including Hostel Fee) - maximum Rs. 60,000 per semester/year. Meanwhile, living allowance of Rs. 10,000 per month with an annual increment of Rs. 500 for 2nd year. However, book allowance of Rs. 6,000 per annum, a traveling allowance of Rs. 5,000 per annum and an initial settlement allowance of Rs. 10,000, once will be given to successful candidates. HEC scholarships will be awarded on merit and District/Agency Quota. The candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of Aptitude Test (conducted by HEC) and academic credentials. Candidates

have to secure at least 50% marks in the test. The scholarship distribution ratio for the students of Balochistan and FATA is 50:50, the sources said adding that the students already enrolled in any MS/MPHil programme may also apply. Please visit <http://hec.gov.pk/site/phobf> for further details and IN/OUT category explanation before filling out the application form. The merit list of scholarships will be prepared on the basis of online information/data provided by the applicants, and in case of any misrepresentation/error/omission, the scholarship shall be canceled at any stage. The applicants are

required to submit their application online through the HEC website <http://hec.gov.pk/site/phobf>. Hard copies of applications and any other documents are not required at this stage. Applicants have to Deposit/Bank Challan/Bank Draft/Pay Order of Rs. 1000/- (Non-refundable), as application processing fee in Habib Bank Limited, Account Number 1742 7900 1334 01, Title of Account: Higher Education Commission, Branch Code: 1742. The original bank payment record/slip must be uploaded with online application and it should be kept safe by the applicant to present it at the test center (No one

will be allowed to sit in the test without producing original bank deposit slip). The applicant must submit the online application after completing the application form. Saved and Incomplete applications in any respect will not be considered. HEC reserves the right to postpone or cancel the scholarship process at any stage without assigning any reason. The last date for submission of the online application form is December 19, 2022. The applicants are advised to check their emails and the HEC website regularly for any updates and are required to apply well before the closing date to get assistance in case of any inconvenience.—APP

## Quilts business witnesses booms

ISLAMABAD: As the cold wave persists across the country owing to the recent rains, the business of hand-made, machine-made quilts and blankets have gained a momentum in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The shopkeepers have displayed attractive varieties of quilts and blankets in different price ranges to attract the inhabitants as winter is the best business season for the quilt and blanket sellers.

Talking to APP, Saeed Khan, a quilt seller at Karachi Company said that winter season is always a blessing for the quilt and blanket sellers as it gives us the opportunity to earn handsome amount through selling these items.

He said that every year the demand of quilts and blankets increases after the first rain spell of the season. Keeping in view the situation we have already kept enough stock to meet the demand of the customers. "In winter, we work hard to earn breads for the rest of the year," he said.

Sadia Bibi, a buyer while talking to APP said that few years back we used to make traditional cotton filled quilts at home for winter but now we are purchasing polyester quilts and imported blankets due to their affordability and light weight.

She said that although these polyester quilts and imported blankets are not long lasting and comfortable but they are easy to handle and occupy less space to store which is a big attraction for us.

Khalid Hussain, a seller at Aabpara Market, told that the prices of quilts and blankets have significantly increased during the last few years due to the overall inflation but still there is a great demand of these items and we are hoping to earn handsome money in the season.

## IESCO spends over Rs 1.42 bln on securing dangerous points

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has spent over Rs1.472 billion from its own resources on securing 8,408 dangerous points in various circles of the company. IESCO Chief Dr Muhammad Amjad said that various IESCO field formations have identified some 9,330 dangerous points which could cause accidents. Out of the total identified such points, 8,408 have been secured so far, he added. He said human life is a priceless gift of Allah and in order to protect consumers from electrocution accidents, electricity wires passing close to houses or other places were being moved to safe places. The CEO requested the consumers that if there were power lines passing near their houses, they should immediately report it to the concerned SDO office so that timely action could be taken to remove these dangerous wires. He further asked the consumers to avoid construction near electrical installations or under power lines as this practice could lead to a major accident and it was also an illegal act.—APP

## ANF seizes over 96 kg drugs in two operations

RAWALPINDI Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan on Monday seized over 96 kg of drugs in two operations and arrested two accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF in an operation in Karachi Orangi Town area recovered 2.4 kg charas from the possession of an accused, resident of Karachi. In another operation, a raid was conducted in the Kuchlak Quetta area and ANF seized 94 kg charras from the possession of a drug smuggler, a resident of Kandahar, Afghanistan. Separate cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.—APP



## Cop27's outcome: A real achievement

THE Cop process often seems to encapsulate the broader global reaction to climate breakdown. Leaders make grand but vague pledges of action; fossil fuel lobbyists (600 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, this year) schmooze and press governments into maintaining the status quo; and scientists, civil society groups and those most affected by the climate emergency have to scream to be heard at all. The results are predictable: indecision, evasion, obstruction and buck-passing followed by desperately needed – but desperately inadequate – last-minute action. Given the utter disarray evident as late as Saturday evening, the final outcome of Cop27 is a relief, and in one regard even a cause for celebration. The agreement to establish a loss and damage fund is a historic breakthrough, demanded for three decades by developing countries. The devil will as usual lie in the detail: who will fund it? But it should help to provide the financial assistance poorer nations need for rescuing and rebuilding as extreme weather pummels their populations and infrastructure. And it comes despite the sustained opposition of the US and (until the eleventh hour) the EU. The language on reforming international financial institutions is a real achievement too and could, for example, help developing countries invest in renewables. Again, detail is critical – what changes will be delivered, and how quickly? – but fundamental reform is overdue. Yet these gains come alongside grave disappointments. As Alok Sharma, president of last year's Cop26, noted, it was a battle to maintain the commitments made in Glasgow, never mind build on them. Sameh Shoukry, the Egyptian foreign minister and president of Cop27, says that the 1.5C temperature limit remains within reach. Technically, that is right. But politically, it is not. Global emissions would have to fall by 50% by 2030; they are currently setting new records. Since next year's meeting will be hosted by a petrostate – the United Arab Emirates – few are optimistic about the prospects for progress there. Yet if the fossil fuel giants bear much of the responsibility, others too have failed to offer leadership. Over three decades, the international political system has repeatedly demonstrated its frustrating, heartbreaking and almost bizarre inability to act on a problem that has, at its heart, a simple solution: ending our dependence on fossil fuels. The most powerful nations have failed to show the way. This year's milestone achievement – the new fund – is essentially a victory for civil society and collective action among developing countries. If, as one climate envoy suggested, it shows that “we can do the impossible”, it is these actors that must take the credit and that are providing true global leadership. Cop27 shows that they will have to continue to fight for every modest step forward, and for every fraction of a degree that can be shaved off temperature rises.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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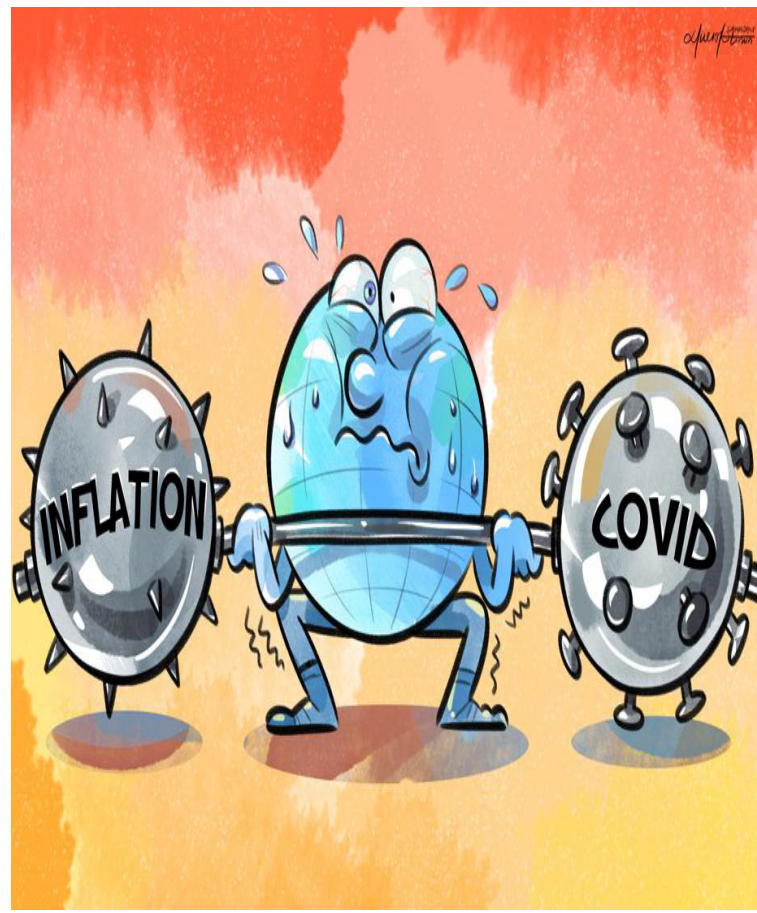
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## Pakistan's digital banking future

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE global trends need to be adopted by Pakistan to remain at par with changing demands. The area of digital banking is a system that connects people and banks online that can efficiently conduct business and trade. The need of the hour is to create a user-friendly, easy-to-understand online banking system that the 220 million population can operate. Opening a bank account, and physically conducting transactions is not what people want anymore. Western countries have been following banking transactions without the need to visit the bank. All of their transactions are done online. The Fintech companies in Pakistan need to translate the problems and needs of the population and bring effective digital models. A case in point was EasyPaisa which changed how the common man transferred money from consumer to consumer. However, constructive steps need to be taken for the Fintech companies in collaboration with the banking sector of Pakistan to ease the hassle that consumers have to face while conducting their banking transactions. Pakistan has an untouched potential when it comes to digital banking transformation. According to [www.tabadlab.com](http://www.tabadlab.com) “In Pakistan, where 55% of unbanked Pakistanis aged 15+ have a mobile phone, mobile-based digital payments have the potential to unlock the broader digital economy.” It was also reported that the rate of Pakistan's financial inclusion was between 21% from 2017 to 2021. Indeed, the efforts of the State Bank of Pakistan in this regard cannot be ignored. It publicized the Branchless Banking Regulatory Framework in 2008 which was later revised in 2011 and 2016. Financial inclusion in Pakistan will bring a wider population into the domain of digital banking. Freelancers and home-based women entrepreneurs will greatly benefit from it along with shop owners. Women living in remote areas of Pakistan can use digital banking services to receive payments for the products or services they offer. Indeed, social media will play a pivotal role in helping them reach out to their prospective clients.

## Hindu nationalist government

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The campaigns orchestrated by the BJP mass organizations have had a far more debilitating impact on India's religious minorities, particularly Muslims. Love Jihad was launched in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the and captured the national imagination as a fight against sexually rapacious Muslim youth who convert Hindu women to Islam through false declarations of love. Orchestrated by Yogi Adityanath, who later became the state's Chief Minister in 2017 in a sweeping victory in the state's elections, the campaign demonized interfaith marriages, framing it as an affront to traditional notions of patriarchy, family and community

THE Hindu nationalist project, as conceived by its founders in the 1920s, aims to create a Hindu state in which there is congruence between the main cultural force in Indian society and political power. Since the 1980s, this goal has been sublimated into policies to build a Ram temple in place of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, repealing article 370 of the constitution, which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and creating a uniform civilian body code that would abrogate Muslim personal law.

While previous BJP-led NDA governments have preferred to put these policies on the back burner, rather than promote cultural nationalism, the valorization of Hindu majority religion, language and history in everyday practices, under Modi there has been a clear shift in the valorization of Hindu majority religion, language and history in everyday practices, a redefinition of the sphere public, the secular space between state and society, in the language of Hindu nationalism. In contrast to Nehru secularism, the post-independence India ideology associated with Jawaharlal Nehru, and the socialist outlook of the Congress, the icon of the contemporary BJP is Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose Unity Charter was inaugurated by Modi in October 2018.

These norms have been taken further by the Modi government in trying to control dissent. Feminists, radicals, writers, intellectuals, social activists and human rights defenders who have opposed government policies have been marginalized or physically attacked. Directly or indirectly, the government has used its influence in the media, particularly the burgeoning digital media, to unleash a tidal wave of sectarian Hindu nationalism as the official state ideology in which opponents are regularly labeled as anti-national. Sedition laws have been used against women, students, and political activists. Sangh parivar street activists: the family of Hindutva organizations that includes the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bajrang Dal (BD), Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS). ), and a wide variety of vigilante groups, have been regularly employed to discipline opponents, often resulting in physical confrontations or death.

There have also been intensive efforts to redefine citizenship by restricting the right of Indian citizenship to immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh to non-Muslims only. A bill

proposing this change failed only because the BJP was unable to secure a majority in the Upper House State institutions have also been used to foster crude jingoism. In 2014, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's annual speech was broadcast live on the national television network, Doordarshan; and in October 2016, the College Scholarship Committee, in an official circular, called on affiliated universities and colleges to make a security pledge on Patel's birth anniversary to commit to “preserving the unity, integrity, and security of the nation” in the presence of a freedom fighter who would speak of nationalism.

This initiative came simultaneously with the government's attempt to make it compulsory to play the national anthem in all cinemas before a film screening; and although this decision was overturned by the Supreme Court, it created an atmosphere of collective vigilantism against movie-goers who did not follow up the ruling with a reported case in Tamil Nadu. In seeking to re-define the public sphere as a non-secular space of majoritarian nationalism, the BJP and its ideologues argue that they are acting within the spirit of the constitution. So far, the initiatives taken by the government to water down Article 370, Muslim Personal Law, and to build a Ram temple on the site of the Babri Masjid, within the framework of the constitution, but the political results are sought out in line of the Hindutva agenda. Even the most key feature of the constitution, its state secularism, in the logic of Hindu nationalism, is being redefined from being “pseudo-secular” to “genuine secularism”.

Gradually but inevitably, a new Hindutva republic is emerging in which there are no profound constitutional changes but where the “political processes” have already “begin to change”. The main antagonistic “other” of Hindu nationalism has been the religious minorities Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs and Zoroastrians against whom the ideology of an ethnicized nation has been built. Traditionally, by making a distinction between religious minorities for whom India is a ‘holy land’ and ‘homeland’, and others, Hindu nationalists have tried to ‘assimilate the former within the broader pantheon of Hinduism and politically and socially exclude the latter as alien to India. This strategy has been applied vigorously in the BJP government's policies towards minorities since 2014.

Funding for minority development programs

has been significantly reduced; policy initiatives undertaken by the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government to improve equality and equity, especially for Muslims, in service delivery have been abandoned; Socioeconomically disadvantaged Christian and Muslim communities have been deliberately excluded from affirmative action, while that provision has been expanded to include the “poor” upper castes; and steps have been taken to restore legislative protections for scheduled castes and tribes against violence, in contrast to the denial of any equivalent protection to religious minorities, especially Muslims. These policies have also been carried out in an atmosphere of hostility, often emanating from the government itself. The Minister for Minority Affairs openly stated that “Muslims are not a minority and that the community's concerns about security stemmed largely from a “psychosis of fear” that had taken hold of the Muslims of India. Similarly, the BJP's Scheduled Caste Cell Secretary has urged poor Christians and Muslims to “convert back to Hinduism” if they wanted the benefits of the reserves.

The campaigns orchestrated by the BJP mass organizations have had a far more debilitating impact on India's religious minorities, particularly Muslims. Love Jihad was launched in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the and captured the national imagination as a fight against sexually rapacious Muslim youth who convert Hindu women to Islam through false declarations of love. Orchestrated by Yogi Adityanath, who later became the state's Chief Minister in 2017 in a sweeping victory in the state's elections, the campaign demonized interfaith marriages, framing it as an affront to traditional notions of patriarchy, family and community. Ghar wapsi emerged shortly after the election of the BJP government to convert Christians and Muslims to Hinduism, often with incentives such as ration cards to access state assets.

It quickly turned into a debate about the need for national anti-conversion legislation to reinforce the highly restrictive freedom of religion legislation passed by many BJP state governments. Now it is time for the countries of the region to raise the issues arising from the Hindutva-driven policy in international and regional forums. The world community should not turn a blind eye to the continuing violations of human rights in India and Jammu and Kashmir.

## World shakers shaking hands in Bali

Syed Nasir Hassan

The recent Xi-Biden meet-up might have sparked hope for collaboration among great powers for the world, but not to forget that relations among nations are steered by both centrifugal and centripetal forces. Both have over time construed a narrative against the other in order to forge alliances and public support which will be considerable factor in mending bridges between the two nations.

The question isn't that whether US and China will mend the bridges, it will be mended to the extent where both suffices their national interest, but for how long...

ITCE may not be melting at the poles of world only, but on political equators it has also smelted, as supremos of two global powers shook hands on the sidelines of G-20 at Bali. President Xi and President Biden met for the first time that too after both yielded firm grip on their respective thrones, Xi being reelected in CCP's 20th national conference and Biden under Democrats victory in mid-term elections. None expected the diplomatic détente between the two countries amid growing tensions over range of issues including Taiwan and Russia-Ukraine crisis. But the leaders conventionally held for around three hours discussing various concerning issues over “candid” interaction.

The official statements issued gave a glimpse that both the countries are firmly standing on their diplomatic grounds over concerning issues specially Taiwan and this meeting was more of an effort to maintain US-China relations for further deterioration rather improving them. The U.S. also, in a statement, emphasized that its one-China policy had not changed and that it opposed any unilateral changes to the status quo. President Biden's pressed upon on US policy over Taiwan and at the same time stated that he doesn't think China has ‘imminent’ plans to invade Taiwan. Whereas policy influencers in Washington hold contrary view that opining that China might aggressively push for Taiwan in 2023-24. However, it is unclear if this inference by strategic thinkers in US is more of a strategic wish or a concluded study.

On the other hand, Chinese statement mentioned that Taiwan is core to the Chinese interests and it is the first red line that must not be crossed

in China-U.S. relations, ironically it seems that it was not crossed but steeped on in August of this year. Moreover, China also stated that “China-U.S. relations should not be a zero-sum game where one side out-competes or thrives at the expense of the other and China has no intention to challenge or displace the United States status” but the question remains, is competition ever about win-win situation?

The statements by both the leaders are understandable as they have to show at home and abroad to their allies that why they are perfect fit for the job of world leader. But not to forget that seeing is not believing in diplomacy.

While this diplomatic intimacy between Washington and Beijing caught the limelight in hope of extinguishing the fire among two countries let's not forget the “Realpolitik” and Thucydides mantra of realism “The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must” in this case no one wants to look weak and be patronized by other. Both countries might have shown consensus on continued dialogue but at the same time expressed firmness on their national objectives. Irrespective of how much both say about co-existence and harmony, both are currently a threat for the other which is evident from the fact China is silently seeping into the international order and is altering its dynamics and Washington had a decades long focus on Asia; militarily and economically challenging the Beijing at home to contain it. These are some of underlying realities which would remain unchanged. The US has its global hegemonic image to safeguard with military superiority and Beijing does not want any nuisances in its peaceful alteration of global order.

The good thing about the meeting was that both leaders agreed on not to further aggravate the tensions between them and put an end to cold war between the two countries. Both countries will further indulge in diplomatic rapprochement which will be followed by US secretary of State Antony Blinken to China expected in coming year.

The current détente is more of a marriage of convenience both need each other for their own international existence, China cannot afford any economic or trade embargos, at least till the time it makes world economics fully dependent on it, due to its huge population which compels China to keep the trade and economic cogs moving to feed its population. Whereas US needs China to keep its military-industrial complex in world politics.

The recent Xi-Biden meet-up might have sparked hope for collaboration among great powers for the world, but not to forget that relations among nations are steered by both centrifugal and centripetal forces. Both have over time construed a narrative against the other in order to forge alliances and public support which will be considerable factor in mending bridges between the two nations. The question isn't that whether US and China will mend the bridges, it will be mended to the extent where both suffices their national interest, but for how long as great power competition is not about win-win both zero-sum.

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## Briefs

## Dar 'takes serious...'

FROM PAGE 01  
Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha to personally lead an immediate investigation into the violation of tax law and breach of FBR data, affix responsibility and submit a report within twenty four hours." Investigative journalism site Fact Focus earlier revealed eye-watering details of assets owned by the COAS and his family. The portal is unavailable in Pakistan. Micro-blogging site Twitter, however, where nuggets were shared was readily available. Analysts believe all was not well between Rawalpindi and Islamabad and the timing of this does event was quite intriguing. The finance minister was supposed to dispel these allegations but instead he said an inquiry has been ordered which implies as if the government wants that this issues is discussed everywhere.

## Process begins to...

FROM PAGE 01  
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Asif ruled out reports of a deadlock over the name of the new army chief. The defence minister said the PML-N was consulting its allies over the appointment to the coveted post, and there was no pressure on the government regarding the army chief's appointment. The senior minister also said the process of appointing the army chief would be completed by November 25, and the summary would be moved within a day or two. "Once we receive the summary, we will discuss the names, which will probably be five or six senior-most officers," Asif added. He added that the summary had not yet reached the PM's Office.

## COAS pays farewell...

FROM PAGE 01  
The COAS also visited Headquarters Rawalpindi Corps and laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Monument. While addressing the officers and troops, the COAS applauded the Rawalpindi Corps in befittingly defending the country's borders including Siachen and Line Of Control. The COAS also interacted with troops. Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Rawalpindi Corps, Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza.

## Deadly earthquake..

FROM PAGE 01  
Indonesians goes by one name, confirmed the toll to AFP. Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency, BNPB, still lists the toll at 62. Due to miscounting, officials offered wildly fluctuating death tolls after an Indonesian stadium disaster last month. The BNPB said 25 people remained trapped under the rubble as the rescue mission stretched into the night. The agency said more than 2,000 houses were damaged and Kamil said more than 13,000 people were taken to evacuation centres. "You can see it yourself, some got their heads, feet sewn outdoors. Some got stressed and started crying," Kamil said. Kamil said power had been partially restored by the evening, without specifying if that meant by generators or connection to a power grid. The afternoon quake was centred in the Cianjur region and local authorities earlier said as many as 700 had been wounded, warning the death toll could rise further. "Because there are still a lot of people trapped on the scene, we assume injuries and fatalities will increase over time," Kamil said as ambulance sirens blared in the background. Agus Azhari, 19, was with his elderly mother in the family home when their living room was destroyed within seconds, parts of the walls and roof collapsing around them. "I pulled my mother's hand, and we ran outside," he said. "I heard people screaming for help from all around me," Azhari told AFP. The majority of deaths were counted in one hospital, the head of Cianjur's local administration Herman Suherman said, with most of the victims killed in the ruins of collapsed buildings.

## Saka, Bellingham sparkle as England crush Iran

DNA

DOHA: England made a scintillating start to their World Cup campaign as Bukayo Saka and Jude Bellingham inspired a 6-2 rout of outclassed Iran in Monday's Group B opener in Doha. Saka and Bellingham were England's driving forces with dynamic displays that underlined their emergence as two of the game's brightest young stars. Bellingham, 19, shattered Iran's hopes of frustrating England when he rose to head his maiden senior international goal in the first half. Gareth Southgate's side were in sparkling form at the Khalifa International Stadium and goals from Saka and Raheem Sterling put them in complete control before half-time. Saka, 21, netted again after the interval and, although Mehdi Taremi struck twice for Iran, Marcus Rashford and Jack Grealish completed the demolition. There will be far sterner tests to come for England as they bid to win their first major trophy since the 1966 World Cup. But this was a welcome step in the right direction for Southgate, whose team arrived in Qatar on a six-match winless run that trig-

gered scathing criticism of the Three Lions boss and his perceived negative tactics. The only concern for Southgate was the sight of Harry Maguire being replaced in the

second half after being checked for a potential head injury. England play their second match against the United States on Friday and conclude their Group B fixtures

against Wales on November 29. The match also took place against the background of turmoil in Iran after months of female-led demonstrations sparked by the death in

custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman of Kurdish origin who was arrested by the morality police in Tehran. Iran's players refused to sing their national anthem in apparent support for anti-government protesters. Having reached the World Cup semi-finals in 2018 before losing to Italy in the Euro 2020 final, England are desperate to take the last step to silverware in Doha. Southgate had urged his team "play on the front foot" and they responded in style, after initially finding their rhythm disrupted by a long delay when Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand smashed into team-mate Majid Hosseini. Despite being in no state to continue amid fears of a concussion, the bloodied Beiranvand played on before finally being substituted. England eventually penned Iran deep inside their own half and Bellingham delivered in the 35th minute. Sterling found Luke Shaw on the left flank and his cross was perfectly weighted for Bellingham, who looped a fine header into the far corner. Playing for Birmingham in the Championship just two years ago, the Borussia Dortmund star's goal made him England's second youngest scorer at a World Cup behind Michael Owen.



## Malaysia: Rival political leaders race to form a new government

KUALA LUMPUR: Muhyiddin Yassin, a former prime minister, and rival opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim are scrambling for support from potential coalition partners to meet a deadline set by the king after an election delivered Malaysia's first hung parliament. On Sunday, King Al-Sultan Abdullah gave the political parties until 0600 GMT on Monday to present the name of a lawmaker that they think has majority. That deadline has been extended until Tuesday, according to a spokesman of the king. Investors reacted negatively to the outcome of Saturday's vote as the ringgit currency weakened and the Kuala Lumpur stock market slid over 1 percent in early trade on Monday. Anwar's multi-ethnic coalition Pakatan Harapan won the most number of seats in the Saturday election with 82. Muhyiddin's conservative Malay Muslim alliance took 73 seats, but then secured support from two smaller political blocs on Sunday, giving it control of 101 - still short of the 112 needed for a majority. Muhyiddin's bloc includes a party that has called for Islamic law

and that secured the largest number of seats of any single party. The incumbent Barisan Nasional alliance, led by the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party - which had long been the dominant force in Malaysia - suffered its worst ever electoral performance, but could still end up playing a crucial role by throwing its support behind either of the leading candidates. Media reported that Anwar's coalition was meeting with Barisan on Monday morning, though Muhyiddin had been a junior partner in the outgoing government and had been a senior UMNO leader until a few years ago. The monarch, whose largely ceremonial role includes the power to appoint as prime minister a lawmaker he believes will command a majority, could play a decisive role. In a social media post, parliament member and supporter of the opposition coalition wrote that as leader of the largest bloc, Anwar should be given the first chance to form the new government "or Malaysia will not be practising parliamentary democracy." The decline of the graft-tainted UMNO

party, which had led every government since independence from British colonial rule in 1957 up until its first defeat in the 2018 election, has ushered in a new uncertain phase in Malaysia. Massive corruption, mostly related to the looting of billions of dollars from sovereign fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (IMDB), for which former prime minister Najib Razak was jailed earlier this year, seriously wounded UMNO's image. But up until recently, the country has a record of being one of the most politically stable in a region that has suffered its share of military coups, violent political upheavals, and insurgencies. It would be a remarkable turnaround if UMNO were to back Anwar, who launched an anti-corruption reform movement when he acrimoniously left the party in the late-1990s. During his time in the opposition, Anwar spent a decade in jail on convictions for sodomy and corruption, which he says were politically motivated. His multi-ethnic coalition opposed the affirmative action programme for ethnic Malays that was championed by UMNO. - Agencies

## Shaheen out as Pakistan name squad for England

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chief Selector Muhammad Wasim has announced the squad for the upcoming three-match Test series against England. Star pacer Shaheen Afridi has been left out of the 18-member squad due to knee injury, which he suffered during the T20 World Cup 2022 final against England on November 13. The lanky pacer also underwent appendectomy, which is a surgery to remove the appendix when it is infected, on Sunday. Shaheen will require three-four weeks' rest after the surgery, following which he will resume his two-week rehabilitation on his right knee. Shaheen, Pakistan's strike bowler in all formats of the game, has 99 Test, 62 ODI and 58 T20I wickets from a career that started in 2018. Middle-order batter Fawad Alam, along with pacer Hasan Ali and leg-spinner Yasir Shah, have also been dropped from the squad ahead of the three-match series. Alam could only score 33 runs in four innings of three Tests against Australia earlier this year, while he scored 25 runs in his only Test in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, Hasan took five wickets in his last four Tests against Australia and Sri Lanka, while Yasir Shah bagged nine wickets in Sri Lanka but has managed only 14 wickets in seven Quaid-e-Azam Trophy matches to date. Mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed and fast bowler Mohammad Ali have been rewarded for their strong first-class performances with maiden Test call-ups. "Twenty-four-year-old Abrar is in red-hot form in the ongoing Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. Before the start of the last round on Sunday, Abrar had claimed 43 wickets at an average of 21.95. He has recorded five five-wicket hauls in six matches and has played an integral role in turning his side into serious contenders to secure a berth in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final," the PCB said in a press release. - DNA

## Developed countries biggest users of child labor in supply chains

BERLIN: Child labor has increased in the supply chains of developed countries and blocs such as the European Union, the US, Canada, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, especially due to cruel and illegal business models of corporations, an expert said on the occasion of World Children's Day. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, human rights activist, journalist, political consultant and social entrepreneur Fernando Morales-de la Cruz noted that it was the 74th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and said there are more than 300 million working children around the world despite children's rights being considered within the scope of human rights. Pointing out that child labor harms the physical, psychological or emotional development of children, Morales-de la Cruz said: "And so these 300 million children suffer a lot." He said the increase of child labor in the supply chains was due to an increase in the types and volumes of products produced by countries in the Global South, but especially due to cruel and illegal business models of corporations. He said the COVID-19 pandemic also led to an increase in child labor. "During the COVID-19 epidemic, we also saw a significant increase in poverty. Child work rises as poverty rises because child labor is the outcome of extreme poverty," he added. - Rights of weakest children in supply chains not respected Morales-de la Cruz argued that developed economies and their companies are the biggest financial beneficiaries of child labor. "We can talk about tens of millions of children working in the supply chains of the European Union and the United States, and the same goes for Norway and Switzerland. This is a very serious problem, because these countries are supposed to have a system based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. - APP

## Djokovic finishes troubled year with 'satisfying' ATP Finals title

LONDON: Novak Djokovic has said winning a record-equaling sixth ATP Tour Finals title was a "deeply satisfying" ending to his troubled and truncated year. The Serb beat Norwegian Casper Ruud 7-5, 6-3 in Turin on Sunday to match Roger Federer's record of six titles in the year-ending tournament for the top-ranked players. The 35-year-old Serb, the oldest player to win the Finals, ended in style after a season in which he missed two majors because of his vaccine status. "It feels deeply satisfying and, at the same time, a huge relief because of the circumstances that I have been through this year, situations earlier this year, of course, with Australia," he said. "We don't need to go back. We know what happened." In January, Djokovic was detained and deported from Australia over his Covid non-vaccinated status and missed the Australian Open. "That had an effect obviously on my start of the year. For the first several months, I was trying to find that balance game-wise but also mentally in order to be able to come back to the court and find that tennis level that I need." Djokovic was initially barred from returning to Australia before 2025 but earlier in the week the new government in Canberra said the nine-time Australian Open champion would be free to compete in January's tournament. "I don't know what the future holds but I know that what I hold in my mind is a huge hunger still to win trophies," said Djokovic. The win in Turin, which also brings a cheque for \$4.7 million, came seven years after his last ATP Finals



victory and will lift him from eighth to fifth in Monday's new rankings at the end of a season in which he also won Wimbledon. Carlos Alcaraz, who missed the finals due to injury, is number one. For the 23-year-old Ruud it was a third near-miss of the year. He also lost the finals of the French and US Opens. "In the end it's been disappointing to end up losing these big finals," he said. "Overall if you gave me an offer to end the year at No 3, play the finals that I've played, at the first of January this year, I would probably sign the contract right away." "I've overachieved compared to my own mind, so I'm very happy about that." Ruud has never taken a set from either Djokovic or his French Open final conqueror Rafael Nadal. "They have this sort of ability in them to step up when they really have to that I don't have," Ruud said. "They always seem to win the close points, the close sets." The American Rajeev Ram and Britain's Joe Salisbury took the doubles title with a 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 win over the Croatian pair of Nikola Pietrangeli and Mate Pavic. - DNA

## No backsliding on Brexit, says UK PM

"The government has got to focus on what it needs to do, rather than trying to reopen a settled debate about Europe," former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith told The Sun

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday denied that his government was seeking to row back on the UK's EU withdrawal deal, despite an apparent growing backlash against Brexit. Brexit-supporter Sunak told business leaders that life outside the European Union was "already delivering enormous benefits and opportunities". He touted greater curbs on immigration - a key plank of the Brexit deal - and closer trade ties with Asia. But he added: "Let me be unequivocal about this: under my leadership, the United Kingdom will not pursue any relationship with Europe that relies on alignment with EU laws." The UK left the EU in full in

January 2021, after years of political wrangling since the divisive referendum in 2016 to split from the bloc. Brexit saw the UK withdraw from the European single market and customs union, while free movement between member states and the jurisdiction of European courts ended. But a deal between London and Brussels maintained largely tariff-free trade with its remaining 27 members. Sunak's comments follow a Sunday Times report that "senior government figures" were planning to "put Britain on the path towards a Swiss-style relationship" with the EU. Switzerland has far closer ties with the bloc through bilateral agreements allowing access to the single market, a high de-

gree of free movement and by paying into EU coffers. The report, and comments last week by finance minister Jeremy Hunt, who voted to remain in the EU, that he was eager to remove the "vast majority" of trade barriers with the EU. That has sparked unease among eurosceptic members of the ruling Conservative party. "The government has got to focus on what it needs to do, rather than trying to reopen a settled debate about Europe," former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith told The Sun. The backlash stirred memories of the febrile aftermath of the referendum about how best to deliver Brexit. Former prime minister Boris Johnson, a staunch critic of his predecessor Theresa

May's plan for Swiss-style ties, eventually won the argument with his harder version of Brexit. He won a landslide election victory in December 2019 on a vow to "get Brexit done", having negotiated his own 2019 divorce deal. However, three years on, the UK is in a deep economic crisis and criticism of both Johnson's agreement and the whole Brexit project is increasing. Amid decades-high inflation and forecasts of its longest ever recession, a new YouGov poll last week suggested 56 percent of people now think it was wrong to leave the EU. Some 32 percent were still in favour. The Office for Budget Responsibility watchdog assessed that Brexit had had a "significant adverse

impact" on UK trade, in comments backed by the Bank of England. The OBR blamed Brexit for reducing overall trade volumes and denting trading relationships with the bloc. The gloomy economic news was compounded by London losing its prized status as the biggest European stock market to Paris. Brexiters promised to strike trade deals around the world, including with the potentially lucrative United States market. But an agreement with Washington is unlikely anytime soon. Accords London has struck with other countries - negotiated by Sunak's short-lived predecessor Liz Truss as trade minister - are also being lambasted. Former environ-

ment minister George Eustice said last week that the agreement he helped finalise with Australia almost a year ago was "not actually a very good deal for the UK". "Overall, the truth of the matter is that the UK gave away far too much, for far too little in return," he told MPs in parliament, citing liberalisation of beef and sheep markets. In Brussels, the European Commission said: "Our relationship with the United Kingdom is based on the Withdrawal Agreement and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement." A temporary deal for food and agricultural products was "the only Swiss-style deal or offer on the table as far as we're concerned", a spokesman told reporters. - APP

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022  
Fixtures  
Argentina vs KSA  
03:00 PM  
Denmark vs Tunisia  
06:00 PM  
Mwico vs Poland  
09:00 PM  
France vs Australia  
12:00 AM (23 Nov)

## President, PM, FM...

FROM PAGE 01  
Indonesia in this distressing moment." He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace to the departed souls and early recovery of those injured in the calamity. Meanwhile, Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday expressed his condolences with Indonesian President Joko Widodo over the loss of lives caused by an earthquake in the country's Java region. "Saddened by the tragic loss of precious lives in an earthquake that struck Java region of Indonesia," the prime minister said in a tweet posted on his social media account. "We, in Pakistan, offer our heartfelt condolences and most sincere sympathies to H.E. President Joko Widodo, the bereaved families and the brotherly people of Indonesia," he added. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also expressed his grief and condolences over the loss of lives caused by the earthquake in Indonesia.

## Pakistan rejects...

FROM PAGE 01  
campaign in the Indian illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). "There is no justification for India's state-sponsored terrorism in IIOJK, where its security forces terrorize, torment and torture innocent Kashmiris with impunity, every day," it said. The FO recalled that India in 2019 acquitted Swami Aseemanand, the main character of the 2007 Samjhauta Express blast that killed 43 Pakistani citizens on Indian soil. Earlier this year, the Indian courts released 11 convicts of the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case during the 2002 Godhra riots in Gujarat. Similarly, during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks trial, India deliberately withheld witnesses and credible evidence from Pakistani courts, despite repeated requests over the last fourteen years, only to drag and perpetuate the case to serve its sinister political agenda.

## Imran discusses...

FROM PAGE 01  
Pervez Khattak, Ali Amin Gandapur, Murad Saeed, Amir Kayani, Babar Awan, Shaqaf Mehmood, Ejaz Chaudhary, Azam Swati, Shah Farman, Ali Awan, Shibli Faraz, Aslam Khan, Ifthikhar Durrani and Col. (R) Asim participated. Besides reviewing the Rawalpindi touchdown - constitutes of the long march - different matters were also taken into account, including the economic crisis.

## Trial court sends...

FROM PAGE 01  
criminal proceedings against Khan. Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal will hear the reference tomorrow (Tuesday) filed against Khan for being involved in corrupt practices. In reference, Khan can be sentenced to three-year imprisonment and fine can also be imposed on him. Last month, ECP, in a consensus verdict in Toshakana reference, disqualified the former prime minister and ruled that the PTI chief was no more a member of the National Assembly. The ECP stated that the PTI chief had submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices under Article 63(1)(p). "As a sequel to our above-mentioned findings, facts available on record and keeping in view the argument of learned counsel for parties herein, we are of the considered opinion that the Respondent has become disqualified under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution read with Section 137, 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, consequently he ceases to be a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and his seat has become vacant accordingly," the ECP order stated.



## Briefs

## China reports 2 more COVID-19 deaths

CHINA: Amid the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country, China announced two more deaths due to the virus on Monday. Two fresh deaths due to the coronavirus were reported in the capital Beijing, the Chinese daily Global Times reported. China reported the first death, of an 87-year-old man who died of sepsis triggered by a serious lung infection, in the past six months on Saturday. However, the health authorities released the information on Sunday. This was the country's first recorded fatality from the virus since May 26. National Health Commission said on Monday that a woman, 91, and a man, 88, "who were diagnosed with mild COVID-19 symptoms but with severe underlying diseases," died at Beijing Ditan Hospital on Sunday. Since the first cases were reported in December 2019, China has reported 286,197 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 5,229 deaths.—DNA

## New Zealand mulls lowering voting age to 16

AUCKLAND: New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Monday said legislation will be drafted for making the voting age 16 in the country. Addressing a news conference, the premier said: "Whether it passes (parliament vote) is a matter for the whole parliament."

Her statement came after New Zealand Supreme Court early on Monday declared the "voting age of 18 inconsistent with the Bill of Rights Act" of the country. Later, the Ardern-led Cabinet discussed the top court's observation and decided to draft legislation. Any change in lowering the voting age in New Zealand would require the backing of at least three-quarters of current lawmakers, or a majority vote in a referendum. New Zealand has 120 members in the parliament where Ardern's ruling center-left Labor Party has 64 seats.—APP

## Oil prices drop to near 2-month lows

WASHINGTON: Oil prices dropped to near two-month lows on Monday, sliding by around \$1 a barrel, as supply fears receded while concerns over fuel demand from China and US dollar strength weighed on prices. Brent crude futures for January had slipped 87 cents, or 1%, to \$86.75 a barrel by 04:36 GMT.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures for December were at \$79.21 a barrel, down 87 cents or 1.1%, ahead of the contract's expiry later on Monday. The more active January contract last fell 69 cents or 0.9% to \$79.42 a barrel.

Both benchmarks closed Friday at their lowest since Sept. 27, extending losses for a second week, with Brent down 9% and WTI 10% lower. "Apart from the weakened demand outlook due to China's Covid-19 curbs, a rebound in the US dollar today is also a bearish factor for oil prices," said Tina Teng, a CMC Markets analyst. "Risk sentiment becomes fragile as all the recent major countries' economic data point to a recessionary scenario, especially in the U.K. and euro zone," she said, adding that hawkish comments from the US Federal Reserve last week also sparked concerns over the US economic outlook.

New Covid-19 case numbers in China remained close to April peaks as the country battles outbreaks nationwide and in major cities. Schools in Beijing districts bucked down for on-line classes on Monday after officials asked residents to stay home amid rising cases.

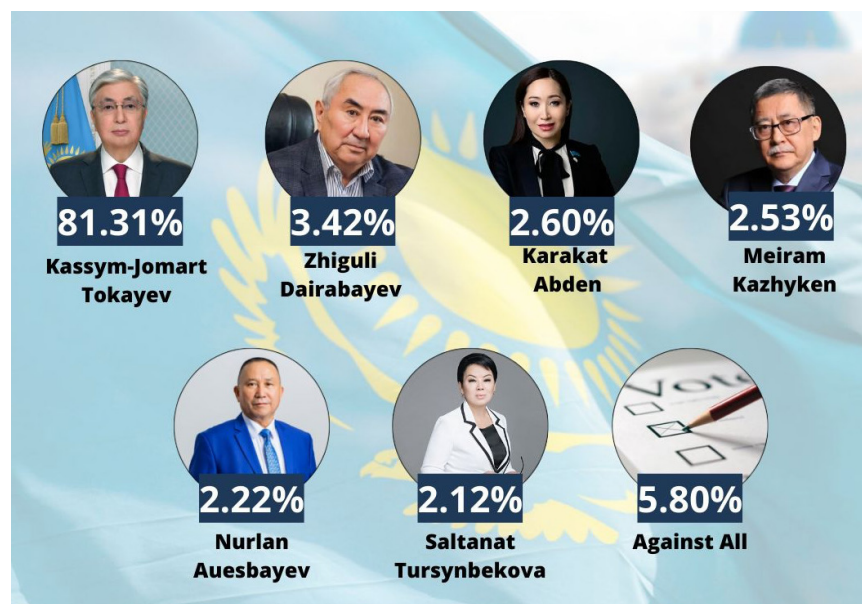
The front-month Brent crude futures spread narrowed sharply last week while WTI flipped into a contango, reflecting dwindling supply concerns. Meanwhile, tight crude supplies in Europe have eased as refiners have piled up stocks ahead of the Dec. 5 European Union embargo on Russian crude, putting pressure on physical crude markets across Europe.—Agencies

## Kazakhstan's Tokayev wins snap presidential election

ISTANBUL :Kazakhstan's incumbent President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has won Sunday's snap presidential election with over 81% of the vote, according to preliminary results on Monday.

Kazakh news agency Kazinform, citing the country's Central Election Commission, said Tokayev won over 6.4 million votes, securing an easy victory against five little-known candidates. Voting ended at 10 p.m. Astana time (1600GMT), with the turnout said to be 69% by the end of the day – nearly 8.3 million of around 12 million eligible voters cast ballots. The call for early elections was made by Tokayev in late September with a decree saying the polls would launch "an electoral cycle that will lead to a radical reset of the entire political system." The announcement came after Tokayev approved a constitutional amendment to increase the presidential term from five years from seven while barring future presidents from serving a second term. Another move was changing the capital's name back to Astana after it was changed to Nur-Sultan in 2019 in a tribute to outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Tokayev took over as president in March 2019, succeeding Nazarbayev, who ruled the oil-rich Central Asian nation for three decades. In less than a year, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev violently suppressed the worst unrest in his country's history, neutralised his all-powerful predecessor and stood up to Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Tokayev was heading for a landslide victory after Sunday's polls in the Central Asian country, with preliminary results published Monday showing that he had received 81.31 percent of the vote. The 69-year-old faced no real opposition candidates in the former Soviet country where critics are sidelined and all five of his competitors were virtually unknown. When he took over in 2019, the veteran diplomat expected to rule in the shadow



and at the behest of his predecessor and mentor: Nursultan Nazarbayev, who had ruled since 1991. Nazarbayev, who presided over Kazakhstan's independence from the Soviet Union, retained the title of "Elbasy" – the "head of the nation" in the Kazakh language. This gave him huge influence over politics and his clan retained control over the energy-rich country's economy. For two and a half years, Tokayev – a steady hand known for lacking charisma – played the role of a loyal successor. That changed in January. Protests broke out across the vast country that turned into violent unrest and centred on Kazakhstan's economic centre, Almaty. Tokayev showed a ruthless side, ordering law enforcement to "shoot to kill" demonstrators. He also cut off communication with the outside world and called on Moscow to send troops to help. The deployment of Moscow-led "peacekeeping" forces suppressed the

uprising, which some observers believed might have brought about Tokayev's fall. The chaos ended with 238 dead in nine days. Determined to cement his authority, Tokayev promptly told Russian President Vladimir Putin that Russian soldiers must leave. And in a surprise move, he broke with his mentor Nazarbayev, purging his clan from positions of authority and promising a "new and just Kazakhstan". The octogenarian ex-leader was deprived of his powers, some relatives were imprisoned and he was forced to publicly swear allegiance to Tokayev. In the process, the new leader announced reforms, a constitutional referendum and introduced single presidential terms of seven years, triggering an early ballot on November 20. In a final nail driven into the coffin of the Nazarbayev era, the capital city – renamed in the dictator's honour in 2019 – regained its name of Astana in September this year. Despite Tokayev purging Naz-

arbayev, the overhaul represents the liberalisation of an authoritarian state. "I am no utopian or a dreamer," Tokayev said in June. A veteran civil servant, he has served as foreign minister, prime minister and senate head. Amirzhan Kozanov, Tokayev's main rival from the 2019 presidential election, said the Kazakh leader remains a pure product of his predecessor's regime.

The shadow of Nazarbayev still hangs over Mr. Tokayev," he told AFP. He did not rule out a repeat of the January 2022 chaos, given how widespread poverty and corruption is in the country. "History has prepared an unenviable fate for him: he must clean the Augean stables," he said, borrowing from Greek mythology to describe a necessary clean-up of graft and the economy. The veteran diplomat – fluent in Chinese and English – has not only neutralised his political mentor. He has also had to keep Kazakhstan's old master, the Kremlin, at a distance. Putin's invasion of Ukraine has reawakened Kazakh concerns that Moscow may have ambitions on the north of the country, home to around three million ethnic Russians. Kazakhstan and Russia share a 7,500-kilometre-long (about 4,660-mile) border. Tokayev publicly clashed with Putin on a visit to Saint Petersburg in June, criticising Moscow's move to recognise Ukrainian separatist regions that it has since claimed to have annexed. Sitting next to the Kremlin chief, Tokayev said that recognising separatist authorities around the world would "lead to chaos." Four months later, when Putin announced the mobilisation of tens of thousands of reservists, Tokayev opened the borders and welcomed a flood of Russians fleeing the army. He called on Kazakhs to "take care of them and ensure their security". Despite the January unrest, Tokayev is far from internationally isolated and has received a string of visitors this year – from EU chief Charles Michel to Pope Francis.—APP

## Putin congratulates Tokayev on 'convincing mandate' in Kazakh poll

MOSCOW :Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday congratulated Kazakhstan's incumbent president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on his landslide victory in a snap presidential poll held months after deadly unrest in the oil-rich Central Asian country. "You have received a convincing mandate of trust from fellow citizens, which opens up new opportunities for the implementation of the course of national development that you are advancing," Putin said in a statement released by the Kremlin.

Historically close ties between Russia and Kazakhstan have been strained since the launch of Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine, with the ex-Soviet country seeking to balance ties with the West and Moscow. Tokayev publicly clashed with Putin on a visit to Saint Petersburg in June, criticising Moscow's move to recognise Ukrainian separatist regions that the Kremlin has since claimed to have annexed. Putin in his message Monday praised the "strategic partnership" and "alliance" between Russia and Kazakhstan, which he said were grounded in "friendship, neighbourliness and mutual respect". "We will continue to work together to improve them," Putin added, according to preliminary results released on Monday, 69-year-old Tokayev was leading the election with over 81 percent of the vote. The results were expected and none of his five little-known opponents scored double digits in the vote. Rich in natural resources and located at the crossroads of important trade routes, Kazakhstan sank into chaos during protests over high living costs in January, which left 238 dead.—APP

## Ukraine marks Freedom Day under shadow of war

KIEV: The Ukrainian people are united in order to protect their freedom, independence and nation, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday as the country marks its Freedom Day under the shadow of Russia's war. "Today we celebrate the Day of Dignity and Freedom. A holiday that shows that for us dignity and freedom is a holiday. The answer to the question of who Ukrainians are and what is most important to them," he said in a statement published by the Ukrainian presidency.

"Everyone saw what kind of people we have! Willing to give the last. Willing to stand to the last. They did not lose dignity. Bravery. Faith in themselves. And they united. In order not to lose freedom. Not to lose independence. Not to lose Ukraine," Zelenskyy said. Stating that Ukraine has paid and continues to pay "a very high price for freedom," Zelenskyy said his country will not forget those who gave their lives for Ukraine and "those who took away their lives and wanted to take away our freedom."—APP

## Deadly rebel clashes kill 18 in Colombia

BOGOTA: At least 18 people were killed in Colombia in clashes between holdouts from the former rebel group FARC and another armed group linked to drug trafficking, the government has said. The government ombudsman's office said on Sunday that the fighting occurred a day earlier in southwest Colombia, near the border with Ecuador. The clashes involved rebels who have rejected a 2016 peace agreement that Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed with the government and a criminal band that calls itself Comandos de la Frontera, or Border Commandos. The latter is composed of other fighters that used to be with FARC and remnants of a right-wing paramilitary group active in trafficking cocaine to Ecuador and Brazil. The two groups have fought for control of smuggling routes in parts of the Putumayo border area for at least three years.—APP

## Halal cosmetics sector offers bright prospects for Indonesia &amp; Pakistan

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. He also highlighted the Indonesian traditional herbal medicine known as Jamu and other natural remedy methods which are considered as authentic natural ways to cure ailments and maintain beauty. "Basic natural ingredients for health care are in abundance in Indonesia due to its rich biodiversity and need to be explored further for more benefits, and I observe that Pakistan also has many potential to develop traditional herbal medicines as we can see the popularity of Unani medicines here", the envoy added.

## Two Pakistani teams win Huawei's annual ICT competition

BEIJING: The Huawei ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Competition is an international annual competition that provides students with a platform to compete healthily and exchange ideas. Two teams from Pakistan participated in the Network Category of the Practice Competition and won prizes. "I graduated from the Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), where Huawei has started Huawei Authorized Information and Network Academy. As I have had a great inclination toward ICT from the beginning, I decided to study in the academy and get the certifications from Huawei," said Sateesh Kumar from the winning team. Sateesh is not the only person who gets benefits from the projects. To enhance the ICT knowledge and practical skills of students as well as increase their ability to innovate by using new technologies and platforms, Huawei established academics in a lot of IT universities in Pakistan, where expert-level training is provided to benefit students in the competitions as well as in their careers ahead, CEN reported. "I did my graduation in telecommunications from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. Huawei team visited us in 2019 to inform us about the ICT competition. I consulted different professors and trainers about which courses were available and which certifications I should do. Then, I did certification of the database from University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore in 2020," said Syeda Iqra Fatima, the only female member of the winning team. "The competition is very complex. If you look at different subfields of ICT, for example, 5G, AI, big data and cloud computing, etc.—APP

## Qatar signs world's 'longest' gas supply deal with China

DOHA: QatarEnergy has signed a 27-year deal to supply China's Sinopec with liquefied natural gas (LNG), the longest such LNG agreement so far, as volatile markets drive buyers to seek long-term deals.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, competition for LNG has become intense, with Europe, in particular, needing vast amounts to help replace Russian pipeline gas that used to make up almost 40% of the continent's imports. "Today is an important milestone for the first sales and purchase agreement (SPA) for North Field East (NFE) project, it is 4 million tonnes for 27 years to Sinopec of China," QatarEnergy chief Saad Al Kaabi told Reuters in Doha, shortly before the deal signing.

"It signifies long-term deals are here and important for both seller and buyer," he said. The North Field is part of the world's biggest gas field that Qatar shares with Iran, which calls its share South Pars. QatarEnergy earlier this year signed five deals for North Field East, the first and larger of the two-phase North Field expansion plan, which includes six LNG trains that will ramp up Qatar's liquefaction capacity to 126 million tonnes per year by 2027 from 77 million. It later signed contracts with three partners for North Field South (NFS), the second phase of the expansion.—Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman addressing the 33rd annual general meeting of ISE Towers REIT Management Company. - DNA

## Erdoğan signals ground operation against terrorists

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Monday signaled a ground operation in northern Iraq and northern Syria to eliminate the terrorist threat, adding that Türkiye will not remain silent against terrorism. "First of all, this operation in northern Iraq and northern Syria is not an operation that was carried out with random thoughts by saying 'who would say what?' or 'how would that happen?'" "As we've said before if someone disturbs our country and lands, we will make them pay the price. So, there are terrorist organizations in our south that are planning many attacks or that carry out such attacks and pose a threat (to Türkiye)," Erdoğan told reporters on the presidential plane returning from his Qatar trip. Erdoğan's remarks came after Türkiye launched early Sunday Operation Claw-Sword, a cross-border aerial campaign against the terror-

ist group PKK and its Syrian branch YPG, which has illegal hideouts across the Iraqi and Syrian borders where they plan attacks on Turkish soil. "This is not limited to just an air operation," Erdoğan stressed, adding that the relevant units will do their consultations and take steps accordingly. Türkiye's air operation followed last Sunday's terrorist attack on Istanbul's crowded Istiklal Street that killed at least six people and left 81 injured. The Defense Ministry said the operation was carried out in line with the right of self-defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Erdoğan said nearly 70 aircraft, including armed drones, took part in the operation and added that a total of 89 terror targets, including shelters, bunkers, caves, tunnels and ammunition depots were destroyed. "At this point, 45 terrorist targets at a depth of ap-

proximately 140 kilometers (87 miles) in northern Iraq, and 44 targets at a depth of about 20 kilometers in Syria were hit," he added. Asked if Türkiye discussed this operation with Russia and the United States, Erdoğan said: "We have not had any conversations with (U.S. President Joe) Biden or (Russian President Vladimir) Putin regarding this operation. However, both Biden and Putin already know that we can do such things in this region at any time."

Erdoğan recalled the Sochi deal between Türkiye and Russia to remove YPG/PKK terrorists from northeastern Syria bordering Türkiye. "They had the responsibility to clear the terrorists from the area. Unfortunately, even though we reminded them many times over and over, they did not do this. We said that we would not remain silent against this, and that we would take steps against the terrorists



there if they could not do it," he said. Türkiye is with the United States in NATO, Erdoğan also said, noting, however, that Washington has unfortunately sent thousands of equipment, ammunition, and weapons to the terror zones in Syria. During his talks with Biden in Indonesia, Erdoğan said: "I told him: 'We are together with you in NATO, we are two important allies. Since such a threat came to us from the south, you are putting us in

trouble by giving support to the terrorist organizations here. Of course, we cannot live with these problems. When necessary, we will have to give the necessary answer to them.' Of course, they can't say anything. We have done what is necessary at this point, we are doing it, and we will continue to do so." The PKK is a designated terrorist organization in the U.S., Türkiye and the European Union and Washington's support for its Syrian affiliate has been a major strain on bilateral relations with Ankara. The YPG has controlled much of northeastern Syria after the forces of Syrian regime leader Bashar Assad withdrew in 2012. The U.S. primarily partnered with YPG terrorists in northeastern Syria in its fight against the Daesh terrorist group. On the other hand, Türkiye strongly opposed the YPG's presence in northern Syria. Under the pretext of fight-

ing Daesh, the U.S. has provided military training and given truckloads of military support to the YPG, despite its NATO ally's security concerns. Underlining that one cannot support one terrorist group to defeat another, Türkiye conducted its counterterrorism operations, throughout which it has managed to remove a significant number of terrorists from the region. Türkiye is ready to rid northern Syria's Tal Rifaat and Manbij areas, near the Turkish border, of terrorist elements in a bid to eliminate the terror threat from the region, President Erdoğan said earlier this year. "We are taking another step in establishing a 30-kilometer security zone along our southern border. We will clean up Tal Rifaat and Manbij," he stressed adding that the planned military operations will gradually continue in other parts of northern Syria.—APP



**Briefs**

**Pak-Afghan Chaman border reopens**

DNA

CHAMAN: Pakistan-Afghan border crossing at Chaman has been reopened for trade and cross-border movement of people after a hiatus of over a week after successful negotiations. The border was opened after negotiations between the two countries. The Chaman border was closed in protest after the terrorist incident that took place on November 13. According to Deputy Commissioner Chaman, the border was temporarily closed after firing from neighboring country at Pakistani troops, martyring one personnel while injuring two others. Afghan authorities have assured to arrest the person involved in the incident and take legal action. Afghan officials say that no one will be allowed to spoil the brotherhood of the two countries. Earlier, Afghan Taliban Spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid had said that the Taliban constituted a high-level Jirga to bring the criminals behind the Chaman incident to justice. The spokesperson said that the Taliban's government expresses its grief over the incident and to probe the matter further and bring the criminals to justice, a high-level Jirga has been established. Zabihullah further said, "The security institutions of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan are trying their all-out efforts to stop tragic incidents like these."

**Cold, dry weather expected: PMD**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mainly cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country during the next twelve hours. However, foggy conditions likely in plain areas of Punjab and Sindh in morning hours. Temperatures of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad and Murree eight degree centigrade, Lahore fourteen, Karachi twenty, Peshawar ten, Quetta three, Gilgit two and Muzaffarabad six degree centigrade. According to Met Office forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, cold and dry weather is expected in Srinagar, Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Baramulla while cold and dry with shallow fog during morning hours in Jammu. Temperature recorded this morning: Srinagar, Anantnag and Baramulla two degree centigrade, Jammu nine, Leh minus eight, Pulwama four and Shopian one degree centigrade.

**Risk of nuclear accident looms over Ukraine plant**

**"A long-lasting total loss of electrical supply would lead to core melt accident and radioactive releases into the environment," according to French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN)**

VIENNA: Fresh explosions over the weekend at Ukraine's Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant have once again heightened fears of an accident at Europe's biggest atomic plant. Here is a look at the state of the plant in southern Ukraine and the risks associated with renewed shelling and the pressure placed on personnel. Moscow took control of the site on March 4 shortly after the beginning of its invasion. Since early August, the situation at the plant has deteriorated with Moscow and Kyiv blaming each other for shelling around the facility. This weekend, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported around a dozen strikes. "Whoever it is, stop this madness!" IAEA head Rafael Grossi said. Grossi, who has warned of the possibility of a "nuclear catastrophe", has been in talks with Moscow and Kyiv to set up a security zone

around the plant. The Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog has several experts on site. Describing the strikes as "deliberate, targeted", he said the latest shelling came "dangerously close to... key nuclear safety and security systems at the plant... We are talking metres, not kilometres". Among places that were damaged is a radioactive waste and storage building, the IAEA said, adding radiation levels at the site remain normal. "A direct impact on the reactors, on associated facilities in particular the spent fuel areas, where the spent fuel is located, could have very serious consequences," Grossi warned in September. The containment of each of the six Russian-designed reactors is "fairly robust", Tariq Rauf, a former IAEA official, told AFP. He added that after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan "a lot of remedial

measures and back up supply" have been put in place. "But of course, none of these things was designed to survive a war," he warned. The other risk is a prolonged power outage. Normally, the plant's systems are powered by four 750-kilovolt lines. A neighbouring thermal power station can supply power through backup lines. Shelling has repeatedly damaged the lines, necessitating repairs by Ukrainian engineers, and at times forcing the operator, Ukraine's Energoatom, to temporarily resort to generators. The plant has 20 emergency diesel generators, with supplies for around 15 days of operation. Electricity is essential to run the pumps ensuring the circulation of water and the constant cooling of the fuel of the reactor cores, as well as that in the storage pools. "A long-lasting total loss of electrical supply

would lead to core melt accident and radioactive releases into the environment," according to the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN). This would be similar to what happened in Fukushima in 2011, but there a deadly tsunami put the emergency generators out of service, causing a "very quick loss of power", said the IRSN's Karine Herviou. Moreover, "these are not the same models: the volume inside the containment enclosures is greater so that any rise in pressure would be slower", she told AFP. Zaporizhzhia's six reactors are currently all in shut down mode. In the event of an accident, "the consequences will be less serious" the longer a unit has been shut down, Herviou added. Before the start of the war, the plant used to supply 20 percent of Ukraine's electricity.

**Pakistan issues visas to Indian Hindu pilgrims**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on Monday issued 100 visas to Indian Hindu pilgrims for visiting their religious sites in Pakistan. A group of Indian Hindu pilgrims is visiting Pakistan to participate in the 314th birth anniversary celebrations of Shiv Avtari Satguru Sant Shadaram Sahib, at Shadani Darbar Hayat Pitafi, Sindh from November 22 to December 03, 2022, said a press release received here. Shadani Darbar is an over three hundred years old temple and is a sacred place for Hindu devotees from across the globe. The Shadani Darbar was founded in 1786 by Sant Shadaram Sahib, who was born in Lahore in 1708. Under the Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974, thousands of Sikh and Hindu pilgrims from India visit Pakistan to attend various religious festivals/occasions every year. Visas issued by the Pakistan High Commission are in addition to the visas granted to Hindu and Sikh pilgrims participating in these events from other countries. The issuance of pilgrimage visas to Hindu and Sikh pilgrims is in line with the Government of Pakistan's efforts for facilitating visits to religious shrines. It is also reflective of Pakistan's respect for religious places of all faiths and efforts for promoting interfaith harmony. - APP

**China Covid cases rise, Beijing tightens entry rules**

BEIJING: China's capital warned on Monday that it was facing its most severe test of the COVID-19 pandemic, shutting businesses and schools in hard-hit districts and tightening rules for entering the city as infections ticked higher in Beijing and nationally. China is fighting numerous COVID-19 flare ups, from Zhengzhou in central Henan province to Chongqing in the southwest. It reported 26,824 new local cases for Sunday, nearing the country's daily infection peak in April. It also recorded two deaths in Beijing, up from one on Saturday, which was China's first since late May. Guangzhou, a southern city of nearly 19 million people that is battling the largest of China's recent outbreaks, ordered a five-day lockdown for Baiyun, its most populous district. It also suspended dine-in services and shut night clubs and theatres in the city's main business district. The latest wave is testing China's resolve to stick to adjustments it has made to its zero-COVID policy, which calls for cities to be more targeted in their lockdown measures and steer away from widespread lockdowns and testing that have strangled the economy and frustrated residents.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf chairing meeting of the PIPS Board of Governor at PIPS. - DNA

**US VP vows commitment to Philippines**

MANILA: The United States has an "unwavering" commitment to the Philippines, US Vice President Kamala Harris told the country's president Monday during a visit aimed at countering China and rebuilding ties that were fractured over human rights abuses in the Southeast Asian nation. Harris is the highest-ranking US official to visit Manila since President Ferdinand Marcos took power in June, signaling a growing rapport between the long-time allies after years of frosty relations under his Beijing-friendly predecessor Rodrigo Duterte. She also met with her Philippine counterpart Sara Duterte, the daughter of the former leader whose deadly drug war sparked an international investigation into alleged human rights abuses. "We stand with you in defence of international rules and norms as it relates to the South China Sea," Harris told Marcos at start of talks in the presidential palace in Manila. - APP

**Govt refuses to bow down before 'sugar mafia'**

ISLAMABAD: The government has refused to surrender before the powerful sugar millers who are pressing the government to allow the export of one million tonnes of sugar. The federal finance minister Ishaq Dar and the office bearers of the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) held a meeting in Islamabad to consider the availability of sugar stocks in the country, starting of sugarcane crushing season, and the demand of the PSMA for the export of surplus sugar. However, the government and sugar mill owners failed to reach at any consensus over the proposal as the PSMA failed to inform the federal government about the stocks of sugar situation. The National Food Security Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that the Sugar Mills Association did not inform the government about the overall stock situation, adding that there is a fear of 40% reduction in sugarcane production in Sindh due to the floods. He said that exports cannot be allowed until the stock situation is clear. It is feared that by allowing the export to govt, the price of sugar will increase locally. The federal finance minister while rejecting the claims of the sugar mills for having an abundance of sugar had barred the sugar mills from exporting sugar. - DNA

**Recession-hit UK needs more migrant labour**

BIRMINGHAM: Britain needs more migrant labour to boost productivity as it faces a toxic mix of soaring inflation and shrinking growth, the country's main business lobby group warned Monday. The verdict from the Confederation of British Industry came at its annual gathering in Birmingham, Britain's second biggest city. The CBI conference comes after the government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak slashed spending and hiked taxes in a budget, despite admitting that the inflation-wracked

economy had fallen into recession. "We come together, once more in extraordinary times," CBI director-general Tony Danker told delegates in Birmingham, central England. "Britain is in the middle of stagflation - rocketing inflation and negative growth - for the first time that probably most of us can remember. "We know how to fight inflation. We know how to fight recession. But we don't really know how to fight them together." Sunak, who also addressed the CBI on Monday, took office one month ago after predecessor Liz Truss delivered an unfunded tax-slashing mini-budget that tanked the pound and sent UK borrowing costs soaring. UK inflation sits at a 41-year peak of 11.1 percent on rocketing food and energy costs in the wake of the Ukraine war. - APP

**Landmark "loss and damage" fund: A win for Pakistan**

*UN chief also stressed the need for developed countries to honor their long-delayed promise of providing \$100 billion a year in climate change mitigation financing for developing countries*

DNA

BEIJING: A long-awaited "loss and damage" fund to help those countries vulnerable to climate change was approved on Sunday at the end of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The consensus decision made to this effect by COP27 in Sharm-El-Sheikh (Egypt) is a momentous achievement, especially for the developing countries as they have been demanding such a fund for the past 30 years. A report published by CENon Monday stated, the establishment of the

fund is also seen as major diplomatic achievement of Pakistan as the country galvanised international support for not only placing the issue on the agenda of the talks in Egypt, but also pushed for a consensus agreement. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, commenting on the "loss and damage" agreement, said it is a "win for climate justice, a win for the developing world in honor of 33 million victims of Pakistan floods and millions around the world who suffer from a climate catastrophe they did not create and do not have resources to address". In addition to agreeing to set up a dedicated fund, countries attending COP27 also committed to establishing a transitional committee to make recommendations for countries to adopt at COP28 next year, according to a UN news release. While emphasizing that a fund for loss and damage is essential, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that much more needs to be done to prevent the worsening of climate change, such as accelerating the phasing out of coal and the development of renewable energy. The UN chief also stressed the need for developed countries to honor their long-delayed promise of providing \$100 billion a year in climate change mitigation financing for the developing countries.

**'Palestine has full right to become UN full member'**



WEB DESK

NEW YORK CITY: Granting Palestine full state membership status at the UN would be a "practical" step that could preserve the two-state solution and help reinvigorate the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians, according to Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian ambassador to the UN. Mansour initiated consultations this year with members of the UN Security Council to push for a resolution to elevate Palestine from its current status as an observer state at the global organization and recognize it as a full member. In an exclusive interview with Arab News at the UN headquarters in New York, Mansour, whose official title is Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, said his initiative is

anchored in Palestine's "natural and legal right to become a full member in (the) UN system." The quest for statehood is all the more urgent, he said, amid Israeli attempts to unilaterally undermine the prospect of a reasonable solution that can deliver an independent Palestinian state, by "creating not only a one-state reality (but) an apartheid reality." Mansour said he has already gained enough support from members of the Security Council - including votes from Ireland, Albania and Norway - to secure its recommendation that Palestine be granted full state membership in the General Assembly. Paulina Kubiak Greer, a spokesperson for the president of the General Assembly, told Arab News: "Article 4 of the UN Charter states that membership is a decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The General Assembly cannot decide on membership without the recommendation from the Security Council." Although granting full state membership status to Palestine would be consistent with the current US administration's pursuit of "practical measures" to achieve a two-state solution, Mansour said Washington "is not enthusiastic about the idea." He said: "I told Linda (Thomas-Greenfield), the US ambassador to the UN, in more than one meeting, that if you do not like our idea, put on the table your alternative - a practical idea to shield and protect the two-state solution."

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