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Pak-EU have good partnership of strategic nature

Detailed News On Page-02

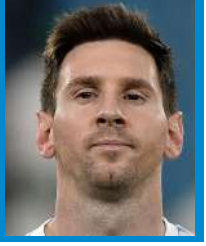
Imran Khan's politics linked to vested interests

Detailed News On Page-04



Lionel Messi sees defeat in WC opener

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Imran won't be allowed to create instability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan would not be allowed to create political instability in the country. "Imran Khan wants political instability in the country, but he will not be allowed at any cost," she said in a news statement while reacting to the PTI chief's address to his workers. Recalling the political instability during the tenure of PTI govt, she said Imran Khan rendered people jobless and hungry by following poor economic policies. He was again back on the container to achieve his ulterior motives, minister added.

'Millions' to attend Pindi rally: Fawad

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry has claimed that approximately 30,000 to 40,000 people will be reaching Rawalpindi by November 25, a day before party chairman Imran Khan will lead a rally in the city. In a media talk in Lahore, the former minister said that Pakistan will, for the first time in its history, see a tent city established in Rawalpindi. "And on Saturday, a gathering of millions of people will be held where Imran Khan will reveal the way forward," he said.

Instability to persist till appointment

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) President Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Tuesday said there will be "no stability in politics" in the country until the issue of the appointment of the new army chief is resolved. In a tweet, Rashid said that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's statement that a new army chief would be appointed even without a summary has rung "alarm bells".

COAS appointment PM gets names of six senior Lt. Generals

Lt. Gen Asim Munir, Lt. Gen Sahir Shamshad, Lt. Gen Azhar Abbas, Lt. Gen Nauman, Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed and Lt. Gen Amir included

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister has received summary from the Defence Ministry for the appointment of the army chief. The Ministry has forwarded six names for this posting which include Lt. Gen Asim Munir, Lt. Gen Sahir Shamshad, Lt. Gen Azhar Abbas, Lt. Gen Nauman, Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed and Lt. Gen Amir. The prime minister will appoint army chief and chairman joint chiefs of staff committee out of these six senior most officers. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari held a meeting at the Prime Minister's House on Tuesday to discuss the "overall situation" of the country. The Prime Minister has called the Cabinet meeting on Thursday to discuss this appointment.

A statement released by Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the former

president enquired about PM Shehbaz's well-being and was thanked for his visit. It is pertinent to mention here that Shehbaz had tested positive for Covid-19 on November 15 after returning from the UK. It was the third time the prime minister had tested positive for the virus.

The meeting between the two leaders today was held amid the process for the next army chief's appointment. Separately, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to hold discussion over the matters pertaining to the appointment of next army chief. According to media, Special Assistant to the PM Malik Ahmad Khan was also present during the meeting. It is pertinent to note that Khawaja Asif held a meeting with the PM a day earlier as well, during which matters pertaining to mutual concerns were brought under discussion.

The prime minister has convened the cabinet meeting on Thursday to discuss this matter.

People behind COAS' tax records leak identified

Dar says one person involved is from Lahore and another from Rawalpindi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar shared on Tuesday that he has received the interim report related to the leak of Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's income tax records, adding that they have traced some people involved in the act. In an interview, Dar repeated that leaking army chief's income tax returns was "illegal". "I have seen the interim report. I hope to receive the final report today," Dar told the host. He added that the government has found a few people behind the leak and the issue will reach its logical conclusion. The finance czar shared that one person involved in the leak is from Lahore and another from Rawalpindi.

Court shuts assets case proceedings against Dar

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court on Tuesday disposed of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) proceedings against Finance Minister Ishaq Dar regarding the assets beyond means case. According to media, the accountability court in Islamabad heard the acquittal plea of the three accused as well as Dar, and Judge Muhammad Basheer

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Yasmin Qureshi, Member Parliament UK-House of Commons/Co-Chair of All Parties Parliamentary Group on Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division. - APP



ISLAMABAD: PPP Co-Chairman and former President Asif Zardari in a meeting with the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Azerbaijan exempts Pak rice from customs duty

DNA

BAKU: Rice imported from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Azerbaijan is exempted from a 15 percent import customs duty, Azerbaijani media reported on Tuesday. The Cabinet of Ministers adopted the relevant decision in this regard. Rice from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with the same origin is exempted from import customs duty until December 31, 2027. Both Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy excellent brotherly relations. Both countries support each other on various regional as well as international forums. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov in his Tweet termed the decision very important. He said it would give considerable boost to trade and economic activity between the two countries.

38 killed in factory fire in central China

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Thirty-eight people were killed and two were injured in a fire at a factory in central China, state media said on Tuesday, with authorities blaming workers for illegal welding. The fire broke out at a plant in Anyang city in Henan province on Monday afternoon, news agency Xinhua reported. Rescue services first received reports of a fire at 4:22pm (0822 GMT) at Anyang Kaixinda Trading Co, Ltd, according to state media. "After receiving the alarm, the municipal fire rescue detachment immediately dispatched forces to the scene," state broadcaster CCTV said.

Transparent elections only solution to country's issues: IK

Says still doesn't understand what those behind regime change were seeking

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has said that the only solution to the issues facing the country is free and transparent election and the government that comes with the majority should establish the rule of law. Addressing a seminar in Karachi through video link on Tuesday, he said that the country's situation was not good when his party came into power and the biggest his government faced was current account deficit. He said no government in the past has focused on increasing exports and the situation would have worsened had the Saudi Arabia, China and United Arab Emirates did not help. "Coronavirus was the biggest crisis during PTI government's tenure and

IHC disposes of petition against PTI's sit-in

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday disposed of the petition of the traders against the expected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf sit-in and possible closure of roads. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by traders of the federal capital against the expected PTI sit-in at the Faizabad Interchange. During the hearing, the Chief Justice said that nobody could challenge the writ of the state. The decision of the Supreme Court and

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

US-Saudi ties under review, Blinken says

NEWS DESK

DOHA: The US relationship with Saudi Arabia is still under review despite a Biden administration ruling that the Saudi crown prince has immunity from a lawsuit over the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday. Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist then living in the United States, was killed and dismembered in 2018 by Saudi agents in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul, in an operation US intelligence believes was ordered by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The prince has denied ordering the killing, which has cast a pall over relations between the two countries. Khashoggi's fiancée has sued the prince in US court, but in a ruling

last week, US Justice Department lawyers concluded that the prince had immunity as a result of having been named prime minister in the Saudi government in September. "The opinion that we provided does not in any way speak to the merits of the case or the status of the bilateral relationship," Blinken said. "Our review of that relationship is ongoing," he told reporters at a news conference in Qatar after an annual US-Qatar strategic dialogue. Blinken also said there were no plans for the prince to visit the United States.

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

- Moroccan Envoy for enhanced business relations - Page 02
- CDA officers body to help resolve businessmen issues - Page 03
- HEC announces special Bar Council examination - Page 04
- US not in position to nix Mid East partners - Page 05
- FIFA World Cup Schedule - Page 06
- Hunt for buried survivors after Indonesia quake kills 162 - Page 07
- LG polls in Karachi, Hyderabad on Jan 15 - Page 08

The 'key appointment' and deepening economic crisis

Comment

ANSAR M BHATTI

While everybody seems obsessed with the key appointment of the army chief, the country continues to slide towards economic crises that are getting deeper and deeper with the each passing day. Inflation has crossed 30 per cent mark while foreign exchange reserves have squeezed to all time low. Out of total \$ eight billion reserves, half of them belong to friendly countries, which means if things does not go well as per the wishes of these friendly countries, including the 'key appointment' Pakistan's foreign reserves may witness a deadly blow. Probably that is the reasons the key appointment got delayed. This is perhaps for the first time that this appointment has become center of attraction for all and sundry. Even the foreign diplomats based in Pakistan are seen so much

curious about who is going to be the next chief of the army staff. The situation ostensibly does not augur well in terms of reputation and credibility of the armed forces of Pakistan. Given the fact that Pakistan Army happens to be the most organized and disciplined force, people expect smooth transition of power. It is therefore hoped that once this process is completed the institution would carry out a thorough and inclusive soul searching drill in order to avoid such situations in future. We have Supreme Court model with us whereby the senior most judge becomes the Chief Justice automatically. The same rule may apply in case of army chief as well. As regards the present imbroglio, the Prime Minister on Monday sent a letter to the Defence Ministry seeking a list of candidates for the post of the army chief. The Defence Ministry then forwarded that letter to the General Headquarters (GHQ). As reports suggest the prime minister received the summary from the Defence Ministry on Tuesday night. The summary includes names of six senior most candidates including Lt. Gen Asim

Munir, Lt. Gen Sahir Shamshad, Lt. Gen Azhar Abbas, Lt. Gen Nauman, Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed and Lt. Gen Amir. While the summary has already landed at the PM office, conspiracy theories that the GHQ may not send the summary before Nov 27 have subsided. Since the summary also includes name of Lt. Gen Asim Munir so legal experts are of the view that in order to appoint him as army chief the government has to first extend his term, which is expiring on November 22. There is yet another view that the government does not need to do so. It may also be mentioned here that the government was not bound to make its decision on the basis of the summary. The prime minister could do it even if there was no summary but there was no such precedent before therefore probably the government wanted to avoid that situation and waited for the summary to arrive before making any decision. There is a general perception that those generals who have a longer tenure of service left and qualify to be the army chief should be given

priority. The other strong contenders including Lt General Sahir Shamshad, Lt General Azhar Abbas and Lt. Gen Nauman will otherwise retire next year. It is also a possibility that if they are not considered for this post then they might call it a day, as per the previous practice. In the backdrop of these developments, Imran Khan's announcement to reach Rawalpindi on November 26 carries significance. He certainly has a tip off about what would happen during this week. Since the government has made up its mind whom it intends to appoint as army chief therefore its (govt) desperation to get the summary sooner rather than later was quite understandable. Albeit he has said it that he would not have any issues whatsoever is appointed as the new army chief however it is an open secret that he had expressed his reservations on the name of Lt. Gen Asim Munir. The role of the President is also being discussed when it comes to the appointment of the army chief. The prime minister after making his decision will send the advice to the

President, who, under Article 48 of the Constitution has the prerogative to return the summary to the prime minister for a review. If the prime minister re-sends the same summary then it becomes binding on the president to approve it. Summing up, it is in the interest of Pakistan that the stakeholders are able to develop a consensus on this issue. The country, as mentioned earlier, cannot afford to have any further instability. Economy is indeed in a bad shape thus taking a heavy toll on the hapless people. To make their both ends meet appears to be a daunting challenge for the majority of people. Pakistan has literally become a laughing stock in the eyes of many, especially our adversaries. The situation therefore demands better sense to prevail. The leading political parties' i.e PTI and PML N need to rise to the occasion. They have to shelve their personal liking and disliking for the greater interest of Pakistan. They must keep in mind that they would not get anything if things go out of control and non-political forces are left with no option but to make an immediate intervention.

Moroccan Envoy for enhanced business relations

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune has said that the existing trade volume was not enough so Morocco and Pakistan need to do more through enhanced interaction between the Chambers of Commerce and the business communities with a view to improve trade volume between the two brotherly countries. Speaking at a meeting during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the Moroccan Ambassador informed that preparations were underway for sending a Pakistani business delegation to Morocco in the month of December, which in addition to exploring opportunities for improving trade and investment cooperation, would also see how the Morocco and its economy have evolved. "I hope you'll join this important delegation so that you could spread the message about trade and investment potential upon your return", he added. President KCCI Mohammed Tariq Yousuf, Senior Vice President Touseef Ahmed, Vice President Mohammad Haris Agar, Honorary Consul General of Morocco Mirza Ishtiaq Baig and KCCI Managing Committee Members also attended the meeting. The Ambassador said that the kingdom of Morocco was one of the best destinations for tourism hence, Pakistan can learn greatly from Morocco's experience in this area to promote its tourism opportunities.

"Tourism is the driver of any economy in the world and same was the case with Morocco where tourism sector is performing very well and it also carries good investment opportunities for the business community of Pakistan", he added. He informed that Morocco holds around 70 percent of world's phosphate reserves that was the main attraction towards the kingdom of Morocco which was also become a champion of solar energy. "This is particularly an area where in our brotherly country can benefit from Moroccan knowhow in solar energy as Pakistan is also gifted with good summer season", he said, adding that Pakistani business community can also take interest in Moroccan automobile sector which has been growing and most of the automobile products and spare parts were being exported to African countries which was rising at a pace of 10 percent every year. He hoped that the existing relations and valuable trade will be enhanced more in the coming months in order to reinforce the bilateral relations between the two countries. Earlier, President KCCI Tariq Yousuf, while welcoming the Moroccan Ambassador, stated that Pakistan views Morocco as an important partner which was the gateway to Africa and was an emerging market having free trade agreements with USA and Turkey. "In order to enhance and deepen connectivity between both countries, Pakistan's Look Africa policy can help accelerate trade and strengthen economic ties

which would pave way for Pakistan & Morocco's businessmen to explore new dimensions for boosting bilateral trade. He was of the view that Morocco was a potential market for Pakistani textiles and fabrics as it enjoys duty-free access from USA & EU. Both countries can exploit the available opportunities to boost trade and economic development. Stressing the need for undertaking joint ventures, President KCCI said that Moroccan investors can capitalize on exciting investment opportunities in Pakistan's various sectors such as agriculture, textile, renewable energy, food security, industrial & infrastructure development, sports, tourism and hospitality. "Both countries can exchange innovative ideas in the field of tourism to promote and develop tourism economy through joint ventures & exploring the economic opportunities", he added. He noted that as Moroccan economy has a well-established Tangier port with a handling capacity of 9 million containers a year, Pakistan can learn from Moroccan experience to develop Gwadar port, which is the gateway to regional economic transformation. Tariq Yousuf said that Pakistan has tremendous investment opportunities in Energy, Transport Infrastructure, Gwadar, Socio-Economic Development, Science & Technology & Agriculture Cooperation. "We want to further enhance, promote and deepen the business, trade and economic relationships of multi-domains between the two countries."



QUETTA: Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan, Riina Kionka addressing 36th AGM and Conference of PSDE. – DNA

11th annual 'Book Fair' launches in Agriculture University

PESHAWAR: Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba (IJT) here on Tuesday launches the 11th annual Book Fair in Agriculture University aimed to promote reading culture among students and prepared them to meet the challenges of the current world. While inaugurating the 'Book Fair', Pro Vice-Chancellor Agri University, Dr Syed Wahab said that books brought large numbers of revolutions throughout the globe. He stressed adopting book reading habits that could help achieve milestones not only for personal life but also be resourceful for the whole community. More than 40 publishers, academics, and booksellers participated in the Fair where all the books are available at 30 to 50 percent discount rates. The book fair would continue for three days in the premises of the varsity.—APP

Pak-EU have good partnership of strategic nature

36th AGM and Conference of PSDE kicks off at BUIITEMS, Quetta

DNA

QUETTA: Today is the 1st day of the 36th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) on "Unleashing Tomorrow: Investment, Productivity, and Employability," hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Baluchistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Quetta. Very refreshing and invigorating welcome remarks by the Chief Guest at today's inaugural session of the Conference. Acting Governor Baluchistan, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, talked about the need for Baluchistan to have access to power and resources but limited institutions and thought on utilizing those most effectively to make Baluchistan a key province of Pakistan. Guidance from the rest of the country and from experts is needed to assist Baluchistani institutes in policy making. The Honorable Acting Governor acknowledged the focus on provinces after the 18th Amendment but put forward the question of whether provinces have the capacity to carry out this responsibility? Considering all this, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali said it is essential that all policy think tanks and intellectuals come together to guide and help the provinces, including Balochistan, in formulating their policy. Earlier, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed, former head of the PIDE School of Public Policy and currently serving as the secretary of PSDE, delivered the address and said that the AGM was the most prestigious and important gathering of economists and public policy researchers in the country. He shed light on the theme of the Conference while acknowledging the crucial economic crisis and political polarization the country was going through. The secretary thanked the sponsors of the 36th AGM, which is one of the biggest and most prestigious events where economists, academicians, and researchers from across the country and

abroad meet and discuss ideas. Research paper presentations, panel discussions, and guest lectures from Nobel laureates and esteemed academics further ornament the Conference. The PSDE has been organizing it since 1982, and currently, the 36th AGM is underway in collaboration with BUIITEMS Baluchistan. It is my first time in Quetta and Baluchistan province since I arrived here in Pakistan at the end of June. Therefore, I could not think of a better occasion than this Conference, which is coming at a challenging time for Pakistan, expressed Her Excellency Riina Kionka, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan as a guest of honor of the opening session of the Conference. She stated that these are challenging times. The world is continuing to cope with the consequences of COVID-19 and high energy prices, inflation and the onslaught of climate change. Climate is changing faster than we can adapt. Pakistan has witnessed a damaging impact in recent floods. In this context, Team Europe has also put in action the assistance of 138 million euros for Pakistan to alleviate immediate problems emanating from flooded areas, including Sindh and Balochistan.

You all must have been closely watching the developments of the COP27 Conference in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, HE Kionka asked the audience. Pakistan and its negotiators have played a critical role in harnessing a convergence point where a loss and damage fund for climate change mitigation has been agreed upon. You should be proud of it, as this is a historic moment. EU is also doing its part. It is responsible for 9% of global emissions but contributes 30% of global public financing for the climate. She further said that Pakistan and the European Union are celebrating 60 years of bilateral relations this year. Both countries engage in political and economic issues – particularly on trade and migration, climate change, development cooperation, etc. So, all these things make up what we call a partnership of strategic nature.



Climate change to cause dengue outbreaks in high-altitude areas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan after receiving massive manifestations of spiking up global warming, the environmental degradation and shift in monsoon weather pattern and increased temperatures would face spread of dengue outbreaks in non-vulnerable high-altitude areas. A study carried out by the scientists and experts from the Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Health Services Academy (HSA) and National Institute of Health (NIH) titled "Modelling the impact of climate change on dengue outbreaks and future spatiotemporal shift in Pakistan" discussed significant impacts of climate change on the intensity and spread of dengue outbreaks. The research got published in a leading environmental and health journal Environmental Geochemistry and Health. The much-needed research underlined a mix of outcomes highlighting rise and decline in the outbreak scenarios of dengue disease. The study's aim was to assess the number of dengue transmission suitable days (DTS) in Pakistan for the baseline (1976-2005) and future (2006-2035, 2041-2070, and 2071-2099) periods under Representative Concentration Pathway scenarios. "Our findings also indicate that DTS would spread across Pakistan, particularly in areas where we have never seen dengue infections previously. The good news is that the DTS in current hotspot cities is projected to decrease in the future due to climate change." The research while indicating disease rise during the baseline period (1976-2005), identified the top ten hotspot cities with a higher frequency of DTS namely Karachi, Hyderabad, Sialkot, Jhelum, Lahore, Islamabad, Balakot, Peshawar, Kohat, and Faisalabad. The rising temperatures in the North though rang the alarm bells for the researchers as due to climate change there was an elevation-dependent shift in DTS to high-altitude cities belonging to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also including the Federal Capital.

Int'l conference on regional cooperation on Climate Change held

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) organised a Seminar titled, "Regional Cooperation on Climate Change in South Asia" on Tuesday. Ambassador Shafiq Kakakhel, Chairperson BoG, SDPI, was the Keynote Speaker for the event and other discussants included: Dr. Philipp Johannes Zehmisch, South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg; Dr. Shailly Kedia, Associate Director, TERI, Delhi, India; Dr. Imran Khalid, Director, Governance and Policy, WWF; Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Advisor, Ministry of Planning Pakistan; Ms. Aisha Khan, Executive Director for Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change; Ms. Anam Rathor, Technical Advisor Climate Finance, GIZ; Dr. Rezaur Rahman, Institute of Water and Flood Management, BUET; and Dr. Steffen Kudella, Country Director, HSF, Pakistan. In her introductory remarks Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director, CSP, welcomed the guests and outlined the aim and structure of the conference.

While in his welcome remarks Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI, said that COP 27 has produced a reasonable outcome in terms of damage assessment but needs lot of work. South Asian countries need to work together to face Non-traditional challenges and come up with suitable mitigating strategies. Similarly, Dr. Kudella, in his remarks said that recent floods in the region have highlighted the importance of work on Non-traditional challenges in the South Asian region. The Keynote Speaker, Ambassador Kakakhel in his address said that South Asian region is vulnerable to Climate change and UN IPCC reports have identified these challenges. The region is frequented by climate induced calamities still different agreements under the SAARC on Climate have not been implemented due to lack of political will. In the first session on climate diplomacy, Dr. Philipp Johannes Zehmisch said that lack of funds was impacting Pakistan's Climate change performance. Climate change is an all-encompassing area from disaster relief to mitigation. It is important for the countries in the region to work on green energy initiatives. The second speaker, Dr. Shailly Kedia said that decoupling of political differences important to tackle Climate change issue in the region. Climate diplomacy needs to be driven by science and its paradigm needs to shift from countries to people. The third speaker of the session, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh said that there are different methods of tackling the issue of Climate diplomacy. The leadership in South Asia had the vision to put programs together to deal with climate issues but implementation has not been possible due to lack of adequate resources. Climate diplomacy can help in implementation of action plans developed through negotiations between the various stakeholders. The second session focused on climate financing and the speaker Ms. Aisha Khan said that loss and damage fund put forward at COP 27 is very vague. External finance is the only requisite to deal with Climate change and address adaptation and mitigation issues. Principle of equity should be respected when countries talk about climate finance.

he added. Earlier, Group Leader RCCI Sohail Altaf said that Asif Jah played an important role for the business community as a federal ombudsman, and acknowledged their efforts.

Federal Tax Ombudsman visits RCCI

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Asif Mahmood Jah has said that complaints can be submitted to FTO online, WhatsApp and on plain paper. More than five thousand taxpayer's complaints have been resolved in ten months. He was addressing at the cheques distribution ceremony of excess Sales Tax refund payment to the taxpayers in Suzuki Car cases in light of FTO's decision by Hon'ble Federal Tax Ombudsman. President Saqib Rafiq, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, Small Chamber President Tariq Jadoon, President Women Chamber Rifat Shaheen, Former President Zahid Latif Khan, Executive Members, and Chamber Members were also present on the occasion. Federal Tax Ombudsman Asif Mahmood Jah said that there was a 17% tax on the booking of

Suzuki cars, which was later reduced to 12% by the government, the customers who paid more than 5% tax was a huge amount which has been refunded to them. Appeals of FBR against

FTO decision were dismissed by the President, about 81 appeals were dismissed. On the complaints of vehicle owners, the Federal Tax Ombudsman returned 5% more tax to the owners,

he added. Earlier, Group Leader RCCI Sohail Altaf said that Asif Jah played an important role for the business community as a federal ombudsman, and acknowledged their efforts.



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

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

Hotels & Restaurants

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

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	555489
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
RNA.....	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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CDA officers body to help resolve businessmen issues

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that all the markets and industries of Islamabad are represented in ICCI, therefore, its permanent representation in the CDA Board will be very helpful in resolving the issues of the business community

DNA

ISLAMABAD :Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that ICCI is the premier representative body of the business community of Islamabad and urged that the government should give permanent representation to the sitting President ICCI in the CDA Board to represent the voice of business community in CDA affairs that would help resolve their issues and facilitate the growth of business activities. He said this while exchanging views with a delegation of CDA Officers Association during their visit to ICCI led by Ch. Amir Shehzad, President, Riaz Khan Chairman, Ch. Kamran Bakhat Senior Vice President, Syed Asghar Imam, Tariq Mehmood Chaudhry, Abdul Rahim, Aftab Hussain Khan and others were in the delegation.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that all the markets and industries of Islamabad are represented in ICCI, therefore, its permanent representation in the CDA Board will be very helpful in resolving the issues of the business community. He said that a 50 percent quota in CDA Officers should



be given to the residents of Islamabad to address the issues of the city. He discussed many other matters with the Association including better development of markets and industry, removal of encroachments from markets, improving sanitation, and beautification of Islamabad. He assured that ICCI will cooperate with the Association in its efforts to protect the interests of CDA officers. Speaking at the occasion, Ch. Amir Shehzad, President, CDA Officers Association fully supported the ICCI proposal for representation in CDA Board. He stressed that the government should

review the constitution of CDA Board by including the representatives of ICCI and CDA Officers for the better development of the city. He said that a Committee comprising the representatives of ICCI and CDA Officers Association should be constituted to work jointly for the welfare of the business community and better development of the city. He said that the heads of Administration and CDA should be different persons for better administration and development of the city. He assured that their Association will cooperate with ICCI in resolving issues of the business community.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leaders, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Maqsood Tabish, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Malik Mohsin Khalid and others also shared ideas on matters of mutual interest.

Pak-Africa Trade Development Conference to begin on Nov 29

ISLAMABAD :The Ministry of Commerce and Investments is organizing third Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition from November 29 to December 1st in Johannesburg, South Africa. In this connection, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar held a meeting with High Commissioner of South Africa to Pakistan M Madikiza at Ministry of Commerce here on Tuesday. Various aspects of Pakistan South Africa Bilateral Trade were discussed with special focus on the third Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference and single country exhibition. A delegation

comprising of around 225 exhibitors and business delegates from Pakistan representing twenty major sectors including pharmaceuticals, tractors/Agriculture machinery, engineering goods, sports goods, and chemicals are visiting Johannesburg to participate in the conference and exhibition. Around 130 companies will be exhibiting their products in single country exhibition, said a press statement issued by commerce ministry adding officials and business persons from 16 member states of South African Development Community (SADC) have been invited to participate in the conference. The conference will also

be attended by dignitaries from South Africa including the Minister for Trade & Industry, who had been invited as chief guest. Highlighting the importance of Look Africa Initiative launched in 2017, Syed Naveed Qamar said "Pakistan attaches great importance to its longstanding relations with South Africa and is looking forward to further deepening bilateral ties under Look Africa Policy initiative". He also observed that total trade stood at \$2074.72 million during (July-June) 2021-22 out of which exports amounted to \$238.82 million and imports from South Africa stood at \$ 1835.90 million, which did not match the actual potential of trade

between the countries. Naveed Qamar said that there was dire need to rationalize the things and find out direct ways to exchange the goods to save time and money if it was apropos. Subsequently, M Madikiza expressed his pleasure and assured his government's unwavering support in arranging the 3rd Pak-Africa trade development conference and single country exhibition. The High Commissioner also showed deep interest to boost trade volume especially in the field mangoes, medicine, education, cotton and wild animals. The two sides agreed to work together to improve bilateral trade relations, the statement added.—APP

IWMB teams to patrol 24/7 in MHNP for leopard awareness

ISLAMABAD :The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has formed special teams to patrol Margalla Hills National Park during winter season for raising public awareness to prevent leopard encounters as the wildcats have increased their movement due to thriving habitat. The IWMB spokesperson informed on Tuesday that after receiving technical support from the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, the teams would perform round the clock patrol duties. He added that the decision was made in view of the presence of leopards in the nation park and special teams were made for patrolling. The patrolling staff also known as park rangers would provide awareness and education related to the leopard among the local population during patrols. He informed that the permits for patrolling of the bikes along with the installation of emergency lights, and police siren were provided by the district administration. The main patrolling area of the park rangers would be Saidpur and Gokina Villages where the leopards were recently spotted close to the human settlements. The teams would be tasked with regular announcements in the mosques for mass awareness on the standard operating procedures developed by the IWMB that would help an individual to safely avoid an encounter with a leopard.—APP

Community-based health education need of time: Samina Arif



ISLAMABAD :Breast cancer is not an incurable disease, and it can be defeated with timely diagnosis, treatment and attention, said the First Lady, Begum Samina Arif Alvi while addressing a Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar held here the other day at Allama Iqbal Open University. She said that the rate of breast cancer was increasing every year to an alarming extent and the main reason was that there is no awareness among people about this disease. She further said in our daily routine, we ignore healthcare along with work which must be avoided.

My message for all is to visit the doctor once a month for a check-up, said the First Lady. Begum Samina Arif Alvi said that there was a need to organize community-based health education, seminars and conferences at the national level, especially in remote areas for awareness and prevention of diseases. The seminar was jointly organized by the Department of Environmental Design, Health and Nutrition Sciences and the Department of Gender and Women Studies of AIU. Dean Faculty of Science, Professor Dr. Irshad

Ahmed Arshad presided over the seminar, while Head, Department of Radiology, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr. Ayesha Asaani was the guest speaker. Dr. Hajra Ahmed, chairperson of the Department of Environmental Design, Health and Nutrition Sciences, explained the aims and objectives of the seminar. Dr. Ayesha Asaani said that breast cancer was the main cause of death among women in the world and one out of every ninth women in Pakistan was suffering from this disease. Emergency measures are indispensable for the prevention of breast cancer, she added. Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad said that as a national university, Allama Iqbal Open University will play an exemplary role in this national breast cancer awareness campaign. He said that under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, the University was regularly organizing seminars and conferences to identify social problems and solve them.—APP

Govt ensured measures to strengthen NDMA

ISLAMABAD :The federal government has ensured robust legislative amendments to strengthen the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for its efficient working in various disasters and natural calamities over the past five years. The NDMA has implemented effective management of multiple man-made and climate-induced disasters including heavy rains, snowfall, flash floods, hill torrents, glacial lake outburst floods, urban flooding, tropical cyclones, and earthquakes in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan, an NDMA official told APP. He added that in addition, the NDMA was intimately involved in responding to two major national and international emergencies, locusts and COVID-19.

The steps taken by the government to make the NDMA more functional included amendments to NDMA Act and Subsuming of ERRA into NDMA. During the 5th National Disaster Management Conference (NDMC) held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on March 28, 2018, subsuming of ERRA into NDMA and subsequent amendments to NDMA Act 2010 were approved, he added. The process involved

some legal aspects that were being addressed whereas being a mandatory requirement, so far, the Provincial Assemblies of Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa had also passed a resolution in terms of Article 144. Moreover, consequently, a draft summary for the CCLC was submitted to the Prime Minister, being Minister Incharge of NDMA, for approval. The enhanced structure of NDMA would improve the overall performance of the Authority, the NDMA official said. The Federal Government, he added, had from time to time assigned additional tasks to NDMA including Locust Control Operation, COVID-19 Response, Vaccine Procurement, and Storm Water Project for controlling urban flooding in Karachi under Karachi Transformation Plan (KTP) were few examples.—APP



Pakistan need to adopt digital technology

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a national policy dialogue regarding improving healthcare held here Tuesday stressed the need of adopting digital technology to transform the healthcare services in the country. "Pakistan has a lot of potential and competent workforce in the health sector however there is a need to provide training to them on digital technologies to meet the modern-day challenges", they said during the dialogue held at the COMSTECH Secretariat. The dialogue titled "Improving Healthcare in Pakistan-Challenges and Opportunities" was organized by the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Health Services Academy Islamabad in collaboration with the other organizations Country Head of World Health Organization (WHO) in Pakistan, Dr. Palitha Gurnathana Mahipala participated in the event as a special guest. Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences Academy (HSA), Dr. Shehzad Ali Khan, Dr. Abdul Rasheed from COMSTECH, President of Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Ambassador (R) Dr. Raza Muhammad, Former General Surgeon of Pakistan Army, Lt. General (R) Asif Mumtaz Sukhira, Parliamentary Secretary Health, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam, COMSTECH Consultant for Health Dr. Abdul Rasheed, health experts, students and other important personalities participated in the dialogue. Vice Chancellor HAS, Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan.—APP

Dialysis machines at DHQ hospital, Chakwal, start functioning

RAWALPINDI :Three dialysis machines have become functional at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), Chakwal, donated by a philanthropist. According to a statement, Deputy Commissioner Dr Zeeshan Hanif inaugurated the facility. With the addition of these machines, the total number increased to ten at the hospital. The DC appreciated the role of Haji Amir Hussain Jafri, who donated the three machines and one Reverse Osmosis Plant (RO) costing arou 20 more dialysis machines to deal with the increasing number of kidney patients.—APP

7 drug dealers, liquor supplier arrested during crackdown

RAWALPINDI :Police have arrested seven drug dealers and liquor supplier and recovered more than 04 kg drugs from their possession during crackdown here on Tuesday, informed police spokesman. According to the details, Gujjar Khan police recovered 1.6 kg drugs from Anwar and same police recovered 1.2 kg drugs from Sajid. Similarly, Kotli Sattain police recovered 565 gram of charas from Fawad Parvez and same police recovered 260 gram of charas from accused Almas Parvez. While, Airport police nabbed Khawar and recovered 280 grams of charas from his possession. Ratta Amral police arrested Bilal and seized 05 liters of liquor from his possession and same police recovered 08 liters of liquor from Asher. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress. The SSP Operations Rawalpindi appreciated the performance of police team adding that crackdown would be continued against the drug dealers and liquor suppliers without any discrimination.—APP

CDA removes encroachments from various areas of city

ISLAMABAD, Nov 22 (AP-P):On the instructions of the Capital Development Authority Chairman Captain (R) Muhammad Usman Younis, the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday, with the assistance of the ICT administration and Islamabad police, conducted grand operations against illegal constructions here in different areas. As a result of these operations, dozens of illegal constructions were demolished with the help of heavy machinery. During these operations 60 kanals of land were retrieved and also 13 trucks of encroachment material were also confiscated. These operations were started from Mouza Kuri Dhok Balag, a suburb of Islamabad, where the land mafia was trying to occupy the government land. Revenue Department CDA carried out a demarcation process and these constructions were found on the land acquired by CDA. In light of the indications of the environment department, the attempt of 60 kanals of land by demolishing the vast four walls built on the CDA land, was foiled. Similarly, in line with the directions of Chairman Usman Younis, the Enforcement Department has started a special campaign to eliminate encroachment from public corridors, public passages and footpaths in the marakiz and commercial areas of Islamabad. Operations are being carried out in various marakiz and commercial centers of Islamabad on a daily basis. During this campaign, the enforcement department took full action against encroachments in Sector F-11 Markaz, F-10 Markaz, F-7 Markaz, and G-9/4 Peshawar Mor, during which roadsides, public passages and dozens of stalls on the footpath were removed and 9 trucks encroachment material was also confiscated.—APP

Briefs

Allama Iqbal debate competition for Afghan students

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) in collaboration with the University of Lahore (UOL) is hosting the first-ever "Allama Muhammad Iqbal-Afghan Youth" debating competition to celebrate the vision and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the national poet of Pakistan with traditional zeal.

According to the official sources, as per eligibility criteria, the candidates can apply if they are Afghan national student currently studying in any University in Pakistan under the "Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarships for Afghan Students".

The students may pick any one of the following topics for debates including, 1) Can Pakistan and Afghanistan be good neighbors? 2) Importance of education for Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral relations, 3) Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations and 4) Allama Muhammad Iqbal's vision and philosophy on peace, progress, and education in Afghanistan.

The sources further informed that the 1st position holder will get the prize money of Rs. 70,000, while 2nd Position holder Rs. 50,000 and 3rd Position holder Rs. 35,000. However, the certificates will be given to all participating students in the competition. The participation is only in one language i.e. English.—APP

72 percent locomotives of Railways in functional condition

ISLAMABAD: Around 72 percent of diesel-electric locomotives of Pakistan Railways out of a total of 461 are in a functional condition which is not sufficient to run the entire operations of the department.

Railways have 332 locomotives in a running condition out of a total of 461, while 129 (28 percent) diesel-electric locomotives were non-functional, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Of 129 locomotives around 41 were under normal overhauling schedules and maintenance. The official said the locomotives would be rolled out after routine schedule maintenance turn by turn. He said that 11 locomotives met with an accident on various dates and locations, and fabrication work and procurement of spares were under process for these locomotives. The official said that 69 DPU class diesel-electric locomotives were held up for repair and need major modification while eight locomotives were temporarily deleted and under condemnation process due to overage.—APP

Islamabad Police ready to tackle challenging situation

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has said that the Islamabad police is determined to ensure the protection of the lives and property of citizens and to tackle any law and order situation in the city.

During his visit to different areas of the city, the IGP met with the duty officials of ICT Police, FC, and Pak Rangers and appreciated their performance, said a police public relations officer. IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir said that all the personnel were doing their duties with dedication and full commitment and they were alert to thwart any untoward situation in the city. He further said that the standard of accommodation, quality of food, and other facilities have been improved and senior officers are monitoring personally all arrangements on daily bases. "Islamabad Capital police are the best professional force and he is proud of its achievements. It always protected the lives and property of citizens and its personnel even sacrificed their lives in the line of duty" the IGP maintained.—APP



ISLAMABAD: PTI Senators holding a rally to show solidarity with Senator Azam Khan Swati, on Tuesday.—DNA

HEC announces special Bar Council examination

Applicants will have a maximum of five chances to qualify the examination. HEC conducts the examination twice a year or on a quarterly basis as needed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced Special Equivalence Examination (A pre-requisite test to appear in Bar Entrance Test - Law-Gat) to apply for the Bar Council for enrollment as an advocate. According to official sources, HEC is conducting this Special Equivalence Examination for the Law Graduates of Foreign Universities (SEE-LAW) as per the directions of the Supreme Court "Pakistan Bar Council Vs Federation and Others" and as required under the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) Legal Education Rules, 2015. The Law Graduates of Foreign Universities/Institutes, recognized by HEC/PBC, are required to pass the Special Equivalence Examination before appearing in Law Graduate Assessment Test (LAW-GAT), which is mandatory to apply to the Bar Council for enrollment as an advocate. Online applications are invited from desir-

ous law graduates who have obtained their law degree from HEC/PBC recognized foreign universities/institutions. As per eligibility criteria, law graduates from a foreign university/institute recognized by HEC/PBC can apply for the SEE-Law. However, as per the curriculum of Special Equivalence Examination (SEE-Law), the test will be held as per the approved syllabus available on HEC website. The test will be Multiple Choice Questions based (MCQs). The SEE-Law will be held on December 18th, 2022. Any change in the test date, due to unavoidable circumstances, shall be communicated to candidates through www.hec.gov.pk and http://etc.hec.gov.pk. Applicants who register through HEC (ETC) online registration process will be able to download their Roll Number Slips from http://etc.hec.gov.pk and same will be sent to their registered email address a week before the test date. The examination date, time and venue will be intimated to the registered applicants via Email/ SMS. Therefore the candidates are

required to provide valid email and mobile number while filling their online application form. A print of Roll Number Slip, original CNIC and Original Paid Fee Challan will be required to enter the Examination Centre on the test day. The test will be conducted in the federal and provincial capitals. Applicants may select their desired examination centre from the list available in the application form. Once selected, the centre cannot be changed, the candidates are asked that for online registration, visit the following link http://etc.hec.gov.pk. In case of difficulty during online registration, visit onlinehelp.hec.gov.pk or download the user manual available at http://etc.hec.gov.pk. Only SUBMITTED applications will be considered for SEE-Law Test and applications in SAVE or INCOMPLETE mode will not be entertained. Test fee of Rs. 5000/- is to be deposited in the account No. 01127900567403, Account Title: Higher Education Commission, Habib Bank Limited, Branch Code: 0112. Download bank

Fee Challan while registering for the test at http://etc.hec.gov.pk (Fee Challan is only available on ETC online registration portal). All candidates are required to upload paid & scanned fee challan, duly stamped by an HBL branch, while completing the application form on ETC online registration portal for application submission. The test fee is non-refundable and non-transferable. Taking a mobile or any calculating, recording, or imaging electronic device inside the test center or uploading/sharing the images of question book is strictly prohibited and an offence liable to punishment as per the ETC Rules. The last date for online registration is December 7th, 2022. As specified by PBC, 50% score is required to qualify the Special Equivalence Examination (SEE-Law). Applicants will also have to meet other criteria, if any, as per the Rules & Regulations of PBC. Applicants will have a maximum of five chances to qualify the examination. HEC conducts the examination twice a year or on a quarterly basis as needed.

Conducive US-China relations instrumental for global stability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China and the US were looking for grounds to continue their collaboration. For Pakistan, easing of tensions between the two countries that it wished to engage with, was a glad tiding, said Ambassador Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM). He was addressing a roundtable discussion titled US-China Relations Amid a Shifting Global Order at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The recent meeting in Bali, was reflective not only of both countries' intention to engage but mainly

to lessen the temperature in order to fit the requirements of diplomacy. The Biden-Xi meeting was the subject of serious analysis by the media and members of the policy circles in both Washington and Beijing.

He said that the rapprochement between China and the US under President Richard Nixon was a very constructive development in the global diplomacy. Following 2000, the US and China had entered the stage of economic engagement and that ever since China's economic growth had been remarkable. Reminiscing the trajectory of US-China relations, Am-

bassador Fatemi said that by the time of Obama's election, Chinese economy had grown to become the second largest in size. Hence, Obama redirected the 'pivot' towards Asia which was formerly towards Europe. It is this pivot that had blossomed into regional and cross-regional arrangements like QUAD and I2U2 etc. He added that there were serious convergences in Trump's and Obama's policies on China and also that, Joe Biden was pursuing similar strategy with regard to China. He said that India was being asked to play a more active role in the Pacific where the US was already present.

Imran politics linked to vested interests not masses

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday said that Imran Khan's politics was linked to his own vested interests and not the masses and that was why he repeatedly retracted from his narratives. In a flurry of tweets on her official Twitter handle, the Federal Minister said that for the past seven months, Imran Khan was accusing America and the establishment of overthrowing his government, suddenly he realized that there was no



external or internal conspiracy in his government. After signing an agreement with an American lobbying firm, Imran Khan is constantly taking every U-turn with his narrative, she said adding that apparently, knowing that no conspiracy was involved in the no-confidence motion rather it was a constitutional and parliamentary matter. "But to take political advantage of the opportunity, he put Pakistan's international relations at stake. Spreading

division, hatred and chaos in the country based on the false narrative of true freedom", she expressed. The Minister queried that would the damage to the country and institutions caused by their hateful politics be resolved by taking a U-turn. "All his (Imran Khan) political life has been spent in taking U-turn because his politics is not connected with the country and the people but with his own personal interests", she added.—APP

Seven more test positive for dengue in RWP

RAWALPINDI: Seven more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 47,19. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Tuesday said that 31 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 13 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 12 to the District Headquarters

Hospital, and six to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH). He informed that out of the total admitted patients, 24 were confirmed cases, with 18 belonging to Rawalpindi. Giving details of the punitive actions, the health officer added that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 17 FIRs, sealed six premises, issued Challans to 16, notices to 676, and a fine of Rs

475,500 imposed on violations of anti-dengue SOPs from November 15 to date. During indoor surveillance, Dr Sajjad informed that 1,306 anti-dengue teams checked 34,231 houses in the last 24 hours and found dengue larvae at 134 homes. Similarly, he added that 575 teams, during outdoor surveillance, inspected 15,836 spots and detected larvae at 28 places.—APP

Chinese firm installs solar plant at Centre for Speech and Hearing

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chinese company LONGi Solar has installed a solar power plant at the Centre for Speech and Hearing (CSH) in Mardan, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The project was executed by Renery, a local partner of LONGi Solar and Huawei. In a post shared on Monday, Renery said that the project was part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities of the two companies. The 20.7 kilowatts solar plant involves Huawei inverters. According to a statement issued by CSH on its website, CEO of Longi Solar Zuo Gao and CEO of Global Industries Dave Marzouk performed the opening ceremony of the solar project. They highly commended the services of CSH for the speech and hearing-impaired children of the area. In a video shared by CSH, Mrs Shaheen Saifullah, a member of the fund-raising committee for the centre, said that the solar plant will ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity. In the summer, the hearing aids provided to the special kids stop working properly due to sweating triggered electricity outages. Now this issue will end with the uninterrupted power supply, she said.

CSH Mardan was founded in 1984 by the parents of a baby girl born with congenital deafness who dreamed of giving her a life as close to normalcy as possible. Parents of other such children also joined hands in establishing the centre, as per the CSH website. CSH imparts special education to the children of surrounding districts including Swabi, Charsadda and Nowshera.

First ever digital dictionary of Pakistani languages on cards

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has initiated work on the national level project of compiling a first ever comprehensive digital dictionary of more than 70 Pakistani languages. The project has been approved by the relevant authorities while work on collection of resource material has been started. "The idea of compiling this dictionary is to create a dictionary of different Pakistani languages to keep these languages alive for the future generations". Co-coordinator of the project, Asim Butt said while talking to APP. He said that there are over 80 regional languages of Pakistani while those having script have been included in the dictionary. The dictionary will provide meanings of a single word in different Pakistani languages which is a unique idea. Initially the dictionary will be launched digitally however it will be published in print form in the next stage, he added. He said that the basic reference for this newly launched initiative will be one of the dictionaries published by the Urdu Dictionary board or the one compiled by Jamil Jalbi to ensure authenticity.

"This is an ambitious idea which has been approved by the BoD and now formal work has been started on the project by collecting resource material and inviting linguists of various languages at a single platform to form a team of experts", he added. This project will be proved as precious asset in the field of literature and will take years long efforts and hard work for completion.—APP

Cement export increases 1.25% to \$66.270 mln in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cement witnessed an increase of 1.25 percent during the first four months of the financial year 2022-23, as against the exports of the corresponding period of last year.

The cement exports from the country were recorded at US \$66.270 million during July-October (2022-23) against the exports of US \$65.451 million from July-October (2021-22), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of cement however dipped by 26.61 percent going down from 1,804,285 metric tons to 1,324,142 metric tons, according to the data.

Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the exports of cement increased by 94.32 percent during the month of October 2022 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of cement from the country during October 2022 were recorded at US \$19.916 million against the exports of US \$10.249 million in October 2021.—APP

ICT export remittances jumped by 13.33 pc

ISLAMABAD: The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) export remittances have risen by 13.33 percent to \$221 million in October this year from \$195 million reported for the same period last year. "ICT export remittances of US\$ 854 million have been reported by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for the period July to October of FY2022-23, which is an increase of 2.89%. In comparison to US\$ 830 million reported for the same period last year," said a news release. The net ICT exports of \$721 million have been reported by SBP which is an increase of 14.44 percent as compared to net exports of \$630 million for the same period in FY2021-22.—APP

CTD Islamabad playing important role in maintaining law and order

ISLAMABAD: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Islamabad capital police is playing an important role in maintaining law and order in the city and it has the professional capability to counter any challenging situation. It was stated by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan while reviewing the performance of the CTD. The IGP Islamabad said that the establishment of a special force (CTD) was crucial to counter any terrorism-like incident and combat crime effectively. "This force has performed effectively since its inception and its role is very important to eradicate crime," he added.

He said that well-educated and well-trained personnel of CTD Islamabad are well prepared to combat any challenging situation in the city adding that special training sessions are being arranged to boost and maintain their professional capabilities. The IGP Islamabad also ordered SSP CTD to brief the personnel about discipline and duty on daily bases before their deployment. All the officials should perform their duties with full devotion and dedication and with the commitment to secure the lives and property of the citizens. "Safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility and no laxity would be tolerated at any cost," he added.—APP

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US not in position to nix Mid East partners

US not in position to nix Mid East partners In their first in-person meeting since 2017 in Bali, Indonesia, on Tuesday last week, ahead of the G20 Summit, US President Joe Biden reiterated to President Xi Jinping that competition between China and US should not veer into conflict, the two sides must manage their competition responsibly, and the United States and China must work together to address transnational challenges because that is what the international community expects.

While the Chinese side has earnestly followed up on the two leaders' consensus to foster cooperation, the US side has once again repeated its now-familiar trick of saying one thing and doing another.

Less than five days after the two leaders' meeting, Brett McGurk, the White House's Middle East coordinator, tried to pressure the US' Gulf allies to steer clear of ties with China at a think tank security conference in Bahrain on Sunday, saying that it would hamper their cooperation with the US, their chief strategic ally and security partner.

In what can only be described as an ultimatum, the White House's top official responsible for the Middle East said: "There are certain partnerships with China that would create a ceiling to what we can do. It's simply a fact, and that's the truth here as anywhere else in the world, based upon relationships between countries that are military competitors of ours."

Putting aside the fact that China is not a military competitor to the US, that attempt to strong-arm countries into showing China a cold shoulder not only serves to poison the positive momentum that had been generated by the two leaders' meeting but also exposes the divorced-from-reality nature of the US' Middle East policy, which dooms it to failure.

China's cooperation with the Middle East countries is not targeted at any third party and focuses on tapping into bilateral complementarity to promote common development. For too long the US has regarded the Middle East as a blood-for-oil arena of power politics, and the nature of its security protection in the region is to guarantee the US' energy security at the cost of local lives.

The US has no legitimacy to dictate to regional countries which countries they can cooperate with, and thanks to its strategic withdrawal from the region, the regional countries are finally able to grasp their development initiative in their own hands.

By applying a balanced diplomacy, which is by no means a betrayal to the US, countries in the region are doing nothing but creating the necessary conditions to transition their economies from their reliance on oil exports, a model the US wants them to continue to maintain so that they continue to depend on it for "security", to a green growth.

Unlike the US, China is always open to working with third parties, including the US, to promote peace and stability in the region and support the regional countries' pursuit of sustainable development.



Football brings the whole world together

Under the zealous expectations of fans across the globe, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 officially kicked off. Whichever team among the 32 from all over the world finally lifts the FIFA World Cup Trophy will affect the moods of fans in the coming month. The charm of football will also transcend national borders, races and religions to light up the sparks of emotions and values shared by the world in the fields of play.

In the past four years since the last World Cup, great changes have taken place in the world. Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, international sports events have been greatly reduced, and exchanges between countries and regions have been hindered. At the same time, geopolitics and ideologies have become rampant in areas where they should not have getting involved in the first place. The more such a situation is, the more the world needs the World Cup and the sportsmanship embodied by the World Cup.

Modern football originated in Europe, gradually spread to the rest of world and developed into the world's largest sport today. This in itself is a proof of the success of globalization. The World Cup, the most prestigious football tournament in the world, well reflects this point. Since the beginning of the 21st century, the World Cup has successively entered Japan, South Korea, South Africa, and Russia, achieving multiple historic breakthroughs. Now the World Cup has come to Qatar and created many "firsts" again:

From the moment that the right to host the World Cup was won by Qatar 12 years ago, Qatar and the whole Arab world have had strong expectations for the tournament. In order to host the World Cup successfully, Qatar has made a lot of efforts, investing more than \$220 billion in related infrastructure, which exceeded the country's 2021 GDP. It also makes this World Cup the most expensive one in history. This kind of sincerity itself is worthy of respect and blessing. The Middle East is a rising force in football. It is believed that Qatar, as the first country in the region to host the World Cup, will show the world far more than football - it will also display the world more customs and splendors belonging to the civilization of the country and the region.

But regrettably, some people in the US and the West have turned a blind eye to Qatar's efforts. Instead, they once again brought up the so-called human rights and other issues to criticize Qatar, and even tried to set off a wave of "diplomatic boycott." Therefore, this year's World Cup is considered the "most politicized" World Cup. Even French President Emmanuel Macron's fair words that "Sports should not be politicized" have triggered criticism from some people in the West. Listen again to FIFA President Gianni Infantino's tirade against this vulgar tactic: "What we Europeans have been doing for the last 3,000 years, we should be apologizing for the next 3,000 years before starting to give moral lessons." Football is round. When the game ball named "Journey" starts to spin, countless people's moods will also fluctuate accordingly, and what people feel from it is not only the speed and intensity of sports games, but also the depth and breadth of human communication.

Behind lofty declarations, major Muslim and Hindu groups compete for power

James Dorsey

Its proposition was bolstered in 2019 when the group took the first step towards jurisprudential reform with a ruling issued by 20,000 religious scholars that eliminated the category of the kafir or infidel in Islamic law. Nahdlatul Ulama had hoped that gathering religious leaders in advance of this month's G-20 summit would position reformist religious leaders as an institutionalised engagement group of the world's most powerful political leaders and spark a movement that based on shared civilisational values would promote moderate and pluralistic expressions of religion across faith groups.

As Indonesia passed the chairmanship of the Group of 20 (G-20) to India earlier this month, major Muslim and Hindu organisations, some backed by their governments, are battling to define the role of religion in global politics and whether the world's significant faiths need reform to harness the power of their convictions. The battle's outcome could determine what constitutes religious moderation, the state's role in defining what religion stands for, and whether notions of reform will involve significant jurisprudential and doctrinal reforms aimed at erasing concepts of supremacy

and enhancing principles of pluralism and greater freedom. The stage for the battle was set at the Religion Forum-20 (R-20), a gathering of religious leaders in Bali, earlier this month in advance of a summit of the Group of 20 that brought together leaders of the world's major economies. Like the summit that positioned Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country and the world's largest Muslim democracy, as a rising power, the religious gathering positioned Nahdlatul Ulama, the world's largest and most moderate major Indonesian Muslim civil society organisation, as a leading force in defining moderate Islam and promoting concepts of genuine religious reform not only of Islam but also of other major faiths such as Hinduism. From Nahdlatul Ulama's perspective, jurisprudential reform of religious law is the key to positioning religion "as a source of solutions, not problems." Nahdlatul Ulama puts forward a strong proposition that it hopes will inspire other faith groups as the world continues to grope for a socially and politically pluralistic version of Islam in the wake of the 9/11 Al Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington. The movement promotes what it dubs Humanitarian Islam, that in contrast to state-driven attempts at moderation in autocracies such as Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's two holiest cities, Mecca and Medina, and the United Arab Emirates, unambiguously embraces the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the principle of religious and political pluralism. Moreover, Nahdlatul Ulama advocates reform of what it terms "obsolete" elements of Islamic jurisprudence. On the back of being a grassroots movement with an estimated 90 million followers, 18,000 religious seminaries, 44 universities, tens of thousands of Muslim scholars that constitute a religious authority independent of traditional centers in the Middle East, and a political party that is part of Indonesian President Joko Widodo's coalition government, Nahdlatul Ulama throws down a gauntlet for proponents of a state-controlled, autocratic Islam as well as religious nationalists in other faith groups.

Its proposition was bolstered in 2019 when the group took the first step towards jurisprudential reform with a ruling issued by 20,000 religious scholars that eliminated the category of the kafir or infidel in Islamic law. Nahdlatul Ulama had hoped that gathering religious leaders in advance of this month's G-20 summit would position reformist religious leaders as an institutionalised engagement group of the world's most powerful political leaders and spark a movement that based on shared civilisational values would promote moderate and pluralistic expressions of religion across faith groups. Less than a month after the religious

gathering, that is proving to be easier said than done. Rather than creating real buy-in from other major Muslim organisations, like Saudi Arabia's state-controlled Muslim World League, whom Nahdlatul Ulama invited to co-host the religious summit, and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the right-wing Hindu nationalist group, that constitutes the ideological cradle of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the summit appears to have sparked a subtle power struggle below the semblance of a common goal. The RSS and the BJP are widely seen as attempting to hollow out Indian democracy and secularism while instigating anti-Muslim sentiment in India, which is home to 200 million Muslims, the world's largest Muslim minority. Barely back from the religious summit, Ram Madhav, an RSS national executive member and close associate of Mr. Modi whom many see as a moderate, fired the first Indian salvo in the inter-faith power struggle as Indian officials and religious leaders conceptualise what they want to achieve at next year's G-20 and what role religion and religious leaders may play. Chipping away at Indonesia's designation of the Religion Forum-20 as an official G-20 engagement group with a permanent secretariat hosted by Nahdlatul Ulama's Jakarta and North Carolina-based Center for Shared Civilization Values (CSCV), Mr. Madhav was non-committal in his first public remarks after returning from Bali to India. Mr. Madhav expressed a personal preference for maintaining the Religion Forum with the caveat that it remained unclear whether the gathering would be allowed to retain its official G-20 status. "The (Indian) government will take an appropriate decision," Mr. Madhav said in a television interview. Mr. Madhav dodged the issue of religious reform, insisting that the "R-20 per se is not necessarily about religion, it's about humanity." Spinning the R-20's slogan of ensuring "that religion functions as a genuine and dynamic source of solutions, rather than problems," Mr. Madhav suggested that religion could help solve global problems such as climate change and tackle what he described as "woke" issues "like LGBTQ; issues related to family, marriage, even gender," rather than exercise introspection to eliminate problematic religious tenants as advocated by Nahdlatul Ulama. "This forum was intended to discuss...global issues. In that sense, the focus of this...religious forum was and will not be religions alone... It will be not religion-centric but humanity-centric. So, an effort to bring religions together on larger issues," Mr. Madhav said. Similarly, the Muslim World League has used the R-20 to tout its own horn while paying lip service to lofty values Mr. Bin Salman would like to be identified with but has yet to embrace wholeheartedly. "Leaders participating in the #R20Summit express their appreciation of the great efforts and quality work of the Muslim World League, under the leadership of His Excellency

the Secretary General, Sheikh Dr. @MhmdAlissa, the founder of R20, whose efforts contributed to its success," the League said in a tweet that falsely took credit for an initiative that belonged wholly to Nahdlatul Ulama. The Indonesian group invited the League after the Saudi government asked Indonesia to assist in carving out a role at the summit for Mr. Bin Salman's chief propagator of a socially less restrictive but autocratic interpretation of Islam that demands absolute obedience to the ruler.

The invitation fit into a bold but risky strategy that also underlies Nahdlatul Ulama's engagement with Hindu nationalism. In the League's case, Nahdlatul Ulama hopes the alliance will undercut Saudi and League support for an Indonesian political party associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS). Some analysts and pundits believe that a PKS-backed candidate could do well in the presidential elections scheduled for 2024. Moreover, like in the case of the Hindu nationalists, Nahdlatul Ulama aspires against all odds to persuade the League to adopt a genuinely moderate vision of Islam rather than one that serves Saudi Arabia's autocratic rulers. However, that is a long shot, if not pie in the sky.

Instead, the League has since the religious summit capitalized on Nahdlatul Ulama's dubious recognition of the Saudi government vehicle as an allegedly non-governmental organisation. Furthermore, the League presumably seeks to prevent Nahdlatul Ulama from becoming a serious competitor for hearts and minds in the Muslim world through a policy of cooptation that fits into a broader Saudi and UAE effort aimed at seducing Indonesia with financial incentives. In the latest move, Mr. Bin Salman last week offered to fund the restoration of the Jakarta Islamic Center after the large dome of the complex's mosque suffered fire damage during renovation work. Saudi Islamic Affairs Minister Abdulatif Al-Ashikh made no bones about the purpose of the funding. Mr. Al-Ashikh, according to Arab News, said the funding was in "the Kingdom's interest in serving Islam and Muslims, based on its leadership in the Islamic world." Thank you to all who have demonstrated their appreciation for my column by becoming paid subscribers. This allows me to ensure that it continues to have maximum impact. Maintaining free distributions means that news website, blogs, and newsletters across the globe can republish it. I launched my column, The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer, 12 years ago. To borrow a phrase from an early proprietor of The Observer, it offers readers, listeners, and viewers 'the scoop of interpretation.' If you are able and willing to support the column, please become a paid subscriber by clicking on Substack on the subscription button and choosing one of the subscription options.

Issue Brief: Kashmir Black Day

Muhammad Haroon Shaukat

He was referring to a resolution of the Indian Parliament of 1994 that demanded Pakistan 'vacate' what India termed as 'the Pakistan occupied territories of Kashmir'. The Indian Defence Minister also praised the Modi governments' action to abrogate Article 370 of the Indian constitution according special status to the disputed territory, thus annexing Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. Indeed, the 5 August 2019 annexation of Jammu and Kashmir is an extension of Hindutva-driven policies of the Modi government.

October 27 is observed as a 'Black Day' every year. On this day in 1947, Indian forces landed in Srinagar and illegally and forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Each year, Pakistan observes this 'Black Day' along with supporters of the Kashmiri people around the globe - to remember the sacrifices of the brave Kashmiri brothers and sisters, to reject and condemn the inhuman atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces, and to express Pakistan's steadfast and unwavering support to the fundamental right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination.

For over seven decades, the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India continues. India has denied the Kashmiri people their fundamental and inalienable right to choose their own future as promised to them by the international community through the Security Council resolutions.

All this while India has used indiscriminate force and a wide range of illegal methods to suppress the brave Kashmiri people. Three generations of Kashmiris have resisted the illegal Indian occupation.

Through massive sacrifices, the message of the Kashmiri people is loud and clear: the Kashmiris do not wish to live under Indian occupation. The occupation of the State by the Indian forces was a violation of the Partition Plan, which required ascertaining the wishes of the people of Kashmir as to whether they wanted to join Pakistan or India. Examined against all the principles that formed the basis of the British plans to partition the subcontinent in 1947, the people of Jammu and Kashmir would surely have become a part of Pakistan as it was a predominantly Muslim majority State - was geographically contiguous to and had close and essential economic and cultural linkages with territories that were to constitute Pakistan. India maliciously claims that it had signed an 'Instrument of Accession' with the Maharaja of Kashmir on 26 October 1947 and that the Maharaja had called for India's military help against the popular uprising of the Kashmiri people - a claim rejected by the people of Kashmir and Pakistan.

There are doubts about the very existence of the Instrument of Accession. The United Nations also does not consider the Indian claim as legally valid, instead considering Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory - as does the whole world - except India. In 1947, India and Pakistan went to war over Kashmir. During the war, it was India that first took the Kashmir dispute to the United Nations on 1 January 1948. Several UN Security Council resolutions called for the holding a plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The UNSC Resolution 47 (1948) of 21 April 1948, one of the principal UN resolutions on Kashmir stated that 'both India and Pakistan desire that the question of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan should be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite'. Subsequent resolutions of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) reinforced the same standpoint. India refuses to comply with the United Nations by holding a free and impartial plebiscite. After several delaying tactics, India reneged from its position and started calling the State an integral part of India. 2 Around three years back, on 5 August 2019, India moved to alter the disputed status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to change its demographic structure by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution. These illegal and unilateral Indian actions have been vehemently rejected by the Kashmiri

people, by Pakistan, and by the international community for being in violation of International Law, relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, and India's solemn commitments made bilaterally to Pakistan as well as to the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Since then, the security situation has further worsened. At present, India has stationed 900,000 troops, turning the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) into the world's largest human prison. The Indian forces are engaged in the brutal and indiscriminate use of force, torture, illegal detentions, and custodial deaths. Thousands of innocent men, women, and children have been martyred. The Indian forces are systematically perpetrating such atrocities under draconian laws to rob the Kashmiri people of their distinct cultural and religious identity. Sabre rattling by the Indian Defence Minister In an intended insult to the Kashmiri people, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Srinagar on 27th October 2022 to 'commemorate the arrival of Indian troops in 1947'. In a statement threatening Pakistan, Singh said that Gilgit Baltistan will become a part of India in the not-too-distant future. He added, 'we have just begun our development journey in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. This mission will be completed only when we reach the remaining parts such as Gilgit and Baltistan in line with Parliament's resolution'.

He was referring to a resolution of the Indian Parliament of 1994 that demanded Pakistan 'vacate' what India termed as 'the Pakistan occupied territories of Kashmir'. The Indian Defence Minister also praised the Modi governments' action to abrogate Article 370 of the Indian constitution according special status to the disputed territory, thus annexing Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. Indeed, the 5 August 2019 annexation of Jammu and Kashmir is an extension of Hindutva-driven policies of the Modi government that espouses the extremist, genocidal Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) philosophy.

This is an alarming situation for different minorities living in India. India's hegemonic behaviour and sabre rattling by its leaders is a source of concern for Pakistan as well as other smaller countries of the region. India's image as a secular and democratic country is tanking, Pakistan's response Pakistan's Foreign Office's responded: • Strongly rejected and condemned the highly irresponsible, provocative remarks made by the Indian defence Minister at a public event on Kashmir Black Day in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). • Regarded the Indian Minister's delusional remarks as farcical and reflective of India's characteristic hostility towards Pakistan. • Reminded the

Government of India that, 'The ground realities in IIOJK and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) are diametrically different. While AJK is free, open, and accessible to the world, India has forcibly occupied IIOJK for the last seventy-five years and manages it as a vast prison.' 3 • Underlined that 'since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019, Indian occupation forces have extra-judicially killed more than 690 innocent Kashmiris. In a flagrant violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, international law, and the 4th Geneva Convention, India has been also seeking to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory'. • Further reminded India that 'Jammu and Kashmir remains an internationally recognized dispute on the agenda of the United Nations since 1948'. It is an irrefutable fact that India is 'an occupation force in IIOJK' in clear violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. • Once again called upon the international community to shoulder its responsibility with regards to IIOJK. India must not be allowed to alter the demography of IIOJK and must be held responsible for its brutal repression of innocent Kashmiris. • Stressed that the only resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute lies in ensuring that the Kashmiris are able to exercise their right of self-determination through the democratic method of holding a UN-mandated free and impartial plebiscite as espoused in the relevant UNSC resolutions, and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Suggested Additional Steps Pakistan must reinstate its efforts to further raise the political cost for India for its reprehensible actions in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan must focus where it hurts India the most - namely its 'secular', 'democratic', and so-called 'tolerant' image. In addition to the ongoing endeavours to highlight the Indian atrocities and illegal actions in IIOJK, an effective way may be to enhance the use of social media substantially and systematically as an effective tool to show the true face of India to world leaders and opinion makers. Targeted audience, among others, may be: • Those who wield influence in the corridors of power in the US. • Parliamentary members in leading EU countries. • Major Human Rights Organizations at the United Nations as well as major international NGOs dealing with human rights abuses. • Major global press and media houses Wherever US and EU media targets human rights violations and imposes sanctions e.g., Russian excesses in Ukraine, we should make an effort to juxtapose Indian brutalities in Kashmir. Muhammad Haroon Shaukat Ambassador (ret.) is Director Foreign Affairs at the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore

Briefs

People behind COAS' tax...

FROM PAGE 01
However, he added that there is a possibility that some of the individuals involved may have the authorisation to look at the income tax records as there a "circle" in Rawalpindi where assessments take place. "These people are authorised to access [data] for their assessment," said Dar. The finance minister was of the view that if "illegal work" is allowed or a blind eye is turned towards it then a person will not be fulfilling their duty. "The law does not allow the release of army chief or anyone else's income tax returns without a court order," said the finance minister.

Court shuts assets...

FROM PAGE 01
announced the reserved verdict. "We do not have jurisdiction under the new act," the court said, "therefore, we cannot proceed." The court sent the reference back to NAB while pronouncing the reserved verdict. According to the court's ruling, it doesn't have the authority to rule over the petition. The court said that it "cannot rule in favour of NAB or the accused" and concluded the trial against the finance minister. It is pertinent to note that Ishaq Dar, Saeed Ahmed, Naem Mehmood and Mansoor Raza had filed acquittal petitions against the NAB reference.

US-Saudi ties under...

FROM PAGE 01
The Biden administration's ruling last week came at a time of increased strains between Washington and Riyadh over energy supplies, after the OPEC+ oil group decided at its last meeting to cut output targets over US objections. Blinken said the legal opinion that the prince was entitled to immunity was based on "long-standing practice" observed in "hundreds of cases". "In every case, we simply follow the law. And that's what we did," he added.

Transparent elections...

FROM PAGE 01
I was facing alot of pressure to impose lockdown," Imran Khan said adding that he was criticized for not imposing lockdown but the people would have died of hunger, if his government had imposed a lockdown. He went on to say that no one knows where we would be standing in a month but according to the Gallup survey, 88 percent of Pakistan s direction is not correct, adding that the country will not be stable unless elections are held. On Monday, In an interview with a British newspaper The Telegraph, former PM and PTI chairman Imran Khan said that he would try to establish strong ties with neighbouring India, Afghanistan, Iran, China and the US if he is again elected as the prime minister. He said that good relations are impossible in India as long as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remains in power, but I want better relations with News Delhi. Khan said that the potential economic benefits that establishing trade between the two arch rivals would bring but said these would never be realised until Delhi changes its stance on the disputed region of Indian-administered Kashmir.

IHC disposes...

FROM PAGE 01
the IHC were present regarding the protest, he added. He maintained that setting up containers was not a solution to the problem and that a modern approach should be adopted. Justice Aamer Farooq remarked that no one could stand before the state. He said that even if a protest happened in Rawalpindi, those travelling to Islamabad could face difficulty. The PTI also withdrew its petition against not allowing the rally and sit-in in Islamabad from the IHC, upon which court disposed of the petition of businessmen. - APP

Match Schedule

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Qatar Ecuador Senegal Netherlands	England IR Iran USA Wales	Argentina Saudi Arabia Mexico Poland	France Australia Denmark Tunisia	Spain Costa Rica Germany Japan	Belgium Canada Morocco Croatia	Brazil Serbia Switzerland Cameroon	Portugal Ghana Uruguay Korea Republic
Al Janoub Stadium	Education City Stadium	Stadium 974	Lusail Stadium	Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium	Al Thumama Stadium	Khalifa International Stadium	Al Bayt Stadium
1 QAT v ECU 19:00	2 DEN v TUN 16:00	3 ARG v KSA 13:00	4 USA v WAL 22:00	5 FRA v AUS 22:00	6 ENG v IRN 16:00	7 MEX v POL 19:00	8 MAR v CRO 13:00
9 BEL v CAN 22:00	10 ESP v CRC 19:00	11 GER v JPN 16:00	12 BEL v CAN 22:00	13 SUI v CMR 13:00	14 URU v KOR 16:00	15 POR v CHA 19:00	16 BRA v SRB 22:00
17 WAL v IRN 13:00	18 QAT v SEN 16:00	19 NED v ECU 19:00	18 QAT v SEN 16:00	19 NED v ECU 19:00	20 ENG v USA 22:00	21 TUN v AUS 13:00	22 POL v KSA 16:00
23 FRA v DEN 19:00	24 ARG v MEX 22:00	25 JPN v CRC 13:00	24 ARG v MEX 22:00	25 JPN v CRC 13:00	26 ESP v GER 22:00	26 TUN v AUS 13:00	27 CRO v CAN 19:00
27 CRO v CAN 19:00	28 ESP v GER 22:00	29 CMR v SRB 13:00	28 ESP v GER 22:00	29 CMR v SRB 13:00	29 NED v QAT 18:00	30 KOR v CHA 16:00	30 CRO v CAN 19:00
31 BRA v SRB 22:00	32 POR v URU 22:00	33 WAL v ENG 22:00	31 BRA v SRB 22:00	32 POR v URU 22:00	33 NED v QAT 18:00	33 TUN v AUS 18:00	34 JPN v ESP 22:00
34 JPN v ESP 22:00	35 ECU v SEN 18:00	35 WAL v ENG 22:00	34 JPN v ESP 22:00	35 ECU v SEN 18:00	36 USA v QAT 18:00	36 TUN v AUS 18:00	36 ESP v GER 22:00
36 USA v QAT 18:00	37 AUS v DEN 18:00	37 CRO v BEL 18:00	36 USA v QAT 18:00	37 AUS v DEN 18:00	38 POL v ARG 22:00	38 TUN v FRA 18:00	38 CRO v BEL 18:00
38 POL v ARG 22:00	39 POL v ARG 22:00	39 CMR v BRA 22:00	38 POL v ARG 22:00	39 POL v ARG 22:00	39 POL v ARG 22:00	40 KSA v MEX 22:00	40 CRO v BEL 18:00
40 KSA v MEX 22:00	41 CRO v BEL 18:00	41 WAL v ENG 22:00	40 KSA v MEX 22:00	41 CRO v BEL 18:00	42 CAN v MAR 18:00	42 CMR v BRA 22:00	42 CAN v MAR 18:00
42 CAN v MAR 18:00	43 JPN v ESP 22:00	43 WAL v ENG 22:00	42 CAN v MAR 18:00	43 JPN v ESP 22:00	44 CRC v GER 22:00	44 CMR v BRA 22:00	44 CRC v GER 22:00
44 CRC v GER 22:00	45 CHA v URU 18:00	45 WAL v ENG 22:00	44 CRC v GER 22:00	45 CHA v URU 18:00	46 KOR v POR 18:00	46 CMR v BRA 22:00	46 KOR v POR 18:00
46 KOR v POR 18:00	47 SRB v SUI 22:00	47 WAL v ENG 22:00	46 KOR v POR 18:00	47 SRB v SUI 22:00	48 CMR v BRA 22:00	48 CMR v BRA 22:00	48 CMR v BRA 22:00
48 CMR v BRA 22:00	49 1A v 2B 18:00	49 WAL v ENG 22:00	48 CMR v BRA 22:00	49 1A v 2B 18:00	50 1C v 2D 22:00	50 1C v 2D 22:00	50 1C v 2D 22:00
50 1C v 2D 22:00	51 1B v 2A 22:00	51 WAL v ENG 22:00	50 1C v 2D 22:00	51 1B v 2A 22:00	52 1D v 2C 18:00	52 1D v 2C 18:00	52 1D v 2C 18:00
52 1D v 2C 18:00	53 1E v 2F 18:00	53 WAL v ENG 22:00	52 1D v 2C 18:00	53 1E v 2F 18:00	54 1G v 2H 22:00	54 1G v 2H 22:00	54 1G v 2H 22:00
54 1G v 2H 22:00	55 1F v 2E 18:00	55 WAL v ENG 22:00	54 1G v 2H 22:00	55 1F v 2E 18:00	56 1H v 2G 22:00	56 1H v 2G 22:00	56 1H v 2G 22:00
56 1H v 2G 22:00	57 W53 v W54 18:00	57 WAL v ENG 22:00	56 1H v 2G 22:00	57 W53 v W54 18:00	58 W57 v W58 22:00	58 W57 v W58 22:00	58 W57 v W58 22:00
58 W57 v W58 22:00	59 W51 v W52 22:00	59 WAL v ENG 22:00	58 W57 v W58 22:00	59 W51 v W52 22:00	60 W55 v W56 18:00	60 W55 v W56 18:00	60 W55 v W56 18:00
60 W55 v W56 18:00	61 W59 v W60 22:00	61 WAL v ENG 22:00	60 W55 v W56 18:00	61 W59 v W60 22:00	62 W57 v W58 22:00	62 W57 v W58 22:00	62 W57 v W58 22:00
62 W57 v W58 22:00	63 3rd Place 18:00	63 WAL v ENG 22:00	62 W57 v W58 22:00	63 3rd Place 18:00	64 Final 18:00	64 Final 18:00	64 Final 18:00
64 Final 18:00		64 WAL v ENG 22:00	64 Final 18:00				

All times are local times Subject to change W = Winner

Group Matches

FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022

Sunday 20 November
Monday 21 November
Tuesday 22 November
Wednesday 23 November
Thursday 24 November
Friday 25 November
Saturday 26 November
Sunday 27 November
Monday 28 November
Tuesday 29 November
Wednesday 30 November
Thursday 1 December
Friday 2 December
Saturday 3 December
Sunday 4 December
Monday 5 December
Tuesday 6 December
Wednesday 7 December
Thursday 8 December
Friday 9 December
Saturday 10 December
Sunday 11 December
Monday 12 December
Tuesday 13 December
Wednesday 14 December
Thursday 15 December
Friday 16 December
Saturday 17 December
Sunday 18 December

Round of 16
Quarter-Finals
Semi-Finals
3rd Place & Final

Briefs

Swedish public transport in disarray

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's weather forecaster SMHI has issued weather alerts and warned of disruptions, as snow continues to fall over large parts of the country. Flights, trains, and other forms of transport have all been severely affected by the heavy snowfall causing cancellations.

In large parts of Stockholm County, SMHI on Monday issued an orange warning for snowfall while yellow warnings apply in parts of Uppsala County, easternmost Gotaland and Svealand, Vastra Gotaland County, Kalmar County, and Skane. The cancellations will continue into Tuesday with Stockholm particularly hit hard by the snowstorm where many regional trains were canceled in advance on Monday morning. Due to the snow, most bus tours in Stockholm County have been canceled, where another 30-40 centimeters (around 12-16 inches) of snow is expected to fall by the end of Monday evening, local media Expressen reported. The snow removal operators have been working hard overnight to get snow under control, but several machines were reported to be damaged during the previous night's thunder, according to media outlet SVT. "It seems to be getting worse and worse. There are problems above all in the northern and southern parts of the county right now," said Andreas Stromberg, acting section manager and press manager at the Traffic Administration, Region Stockholm, it said.—DNA

German city sets up 'warming centers'

BERLIN: As temperatures are dropping noticeably, with people reluctant to turn up the heating at homes due to high energy prices, Germany's Osnabruck city of the Lower Saxony state is offering "warming centers" starting Tuesday. The centers aim to help those having a hard time heating their homes, Osnabruck's first city councilor, Wolfgang Beckermann, told the public broadcasting network NDR on Tuesday. The warming centers in Osnabruck are available from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays at the youth center Heinz Fitschen Haus and from 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays at the Lerchenstrasse Community Center, according to the city administration. According to calculations by the Federal Statistical Office, energy prices in Germany rose by 35.6% between August 2021 and August 2022. In August, the inflation rate for heating oil was 111.5% compared to the previous year, with 83.8% for natural gas and 16.6% for electricity, while power plants had to pay 269.1% more for natural gas than in the same month last year.—DNA

Hunt for survivors after Indonesia quake kills 162

JAKARTA: Rescuers searched for survivors buried under rubble on Tuesday after an earthquake on Indonesia's main island of Java killed 162 people, injured hundreds and left more feared trapped in collapsed buildings. As bodybags emerged from crumpled buildings in Indonesia's most populous province, rescue efforts turned to any survivors still under debris in areas made hard to reach by the mass of obstacles thrown onto the roads by the quake. The epicentre of the shallow 5.6-magnitude quake on Monday was near the town Cianjur in West Java where most of the victims were killed as buildings collapsed and landslides were triggered. One of the dozens of rescuers, 34-year-old Dimas Reviandya, said teams were

using chainsaws and excavators to break through piles of felled trees and debris to reach areas where civilians were believed trapped. "I haven't slept at all since yesterday, but I must keep going because there are victims who have not been found," he said. Drone footage taken by AFP showed the extent of a quake-triggered landslide where a wall of brown earth is only punctuated by workers using heavy machinery to clear a road. President Joko Widodo visited the area on Tuesday, offering compensation for victims and ordering disaster and rescue agencies to "mobilise their personnel" to prioritise the evacuation of victims. "On behalf of myself, on behalf of the government, I would like to express my deepest condolences," he said. Indone-

MBS condolences with President of Indonesia



RIYADH: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has sent a cable of condolence and sympathy to President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia on the victims of the powerful earthquake that hit Western Java island, killing and injuring hundreds. In his cable, HRH the Crown Prince expressed his warmest condolence and sincere sympathy to His Excellency the President and families of all the deceased, appealing to Allah Almighty to bestow the deceased with his mercy and forgiveness and wishing the injured a quick recovery.—APP

sia's national disaster mitigation agency, or BNPB, said at least 25 people were still buried under the rubble in Cianjur as darkness fell Monday. "There's a possibility there are still more victims," Rudy Saladin, a lo-

cal military chief, told AFP. The BNPB offered a lower death toll of 103 as of Tuesday morning and said 31 people remain missing. Some of the dead were students at an Islamic boarding school while others were killed in their homes when roofs and walls caved in on them. "The room collapsed and my legs were buried under the rubble. It all happened so fast," 14-year-old student Aprizal Mulyadi told AFP. "State of shock" -The search operation on Tuesday was made more challenging because of severed road links and power outages in parts of the largely rural, mountainous region. By Tuesday morning, 89 percent of power to Cianjur had been recovered by state-owned electricity company PLN, according to state news agency Antara. Kamil said more than 300 people had been injured and over 13,000

taken to evacuation centres. Those who survived camped outside in near-total darkness surrounded by fallen debris, shattered glass and chunks of concrete. Doctors treated patients outdoors at makeshift wards after the quake, which was felt as far away as the capital Jakarta. Grieving relatives waited for authorities to release bodies from morgues to bury their loved ones in accordance with their Islamic faith. One father carried his dead son wrapped in white cloth through the streets of his village near Cianjur. Others searched for their missing relatives in the chaos. Rahmi Leonita's father was riding a motorbike to Cianjur when the quake struck. "His phone is not active. I am in a state of shock now. I am very worried but I am still hopeful," said the 38-year-old, tears falling down her face as she spoke.—APP

Tokayev to be sworn in as Kazakh president on Saturday

DNA

ASTANA: Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's inauguration ceremony will be held on Saturday, the country's election authority announced on Tuesday. The Central Election Committee press briefing, headed by the body's chairman Nurlan Abdirov, registered Tokayev as the winner of the election and Kazakhstan's president. Abdirov also announced the final results of the election where Tokayev received 81.31% of the votes, which amounts to about 6.45 million out of around 12 million eligible voters. Zhiguli Dayrabaev was Tokayev's closest opponent who received 3.4% of the votes. Voter turnout was 69.4% in the election, as nearly 8.3 million voters cast their ballots. Tokayev called for an early election 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 the president approved a constitutional amendment to increase the presidential term from five years to 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. Regional leaders congratulated Tokayev for his election victory, as they included the leaders of Russia, China, Iran, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Pakistan.

Iran says 40 foreigners arrested amid protests

TEHRAN: Iran said Tuesday 40 foreigners had been arrested for their role in the ongoing protests over the death of an Iranian woman in police custody. "So far, 40 foreign nationals have been arrested for their involvement in the protests," Iran's judiciary spokesman Masoud Setayeshi told a televised news conference cited by the state news agency IRNA. He, however, did not provide details about their nationalities. Iran has been rocked by sweeping protests since September over the death of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, in the custody of Iran's morality police. A string of attacks by armed protesters on security personnel has been reported across the country, with more than a dozen killings of policemen and paramilitary Basiji forces. Iranian authorities have blamed the Western countries, in particular the US, for stoking unrest in the country. So far, six people have been sentenced to death in preliminary verdicts by a court in Tehran while many others have been given jail terms ranging from 5 to 10 years.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chris Kaye, WFP's Country Director in Pakistan called on Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik at his office.—DNA

Winter threatening lives of Ukrainians

GENEVA: This winter has been "life-threatening" for millions of people in Ukraine, as half the country's energy infrastructure is damaged or destroyed due to the war with Russia, further straining its healthcare system, the regional head of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Europe said on Monday. "The devastating energy crisis, the deepening mental health emergency, constraints on humanitarian access, and the risk of viral infections will make this winter a formidable test for the Ukrainian health system and the Ukrainian people, but also for the world and its commitment to support Ukraine," Hans Kluge said at a hybrid press conference from the capital Kyiv. The WHO has so far verified 703 attacks on healthcare facilities in Ukraine since the Russia-Ukraine war began nine months ago, Kluge noted, underlining that such attacks breach international humanitarian law and the rules of war. He said Ukraine is facing a "therma-crisis," referencing the dropping winter-time temperatures, "on top of a perma-crisis brought on by the war and the pandemic." The WHO expects 2 to 3 million more people in Ukraine to leave their homes in search of warmth and safety through the winter following the start of the war on Feb. 24. "Put simply, this winter will be about survival," said Kluge, stressing that continued attacks on health and energy infrastructure mean hundreds of hospitals and healthcare facilities are no longer fully operational, lacking fuel, water, and electricity to meet basic needs. He said this was his fourth visit to Ukraine in 2022, hoping to draw the world's attention, days after the largest wave of missile strikes across the country. The WHO regional chief said he was to meet officials, health workers, and patients to offer the UN body's unwavering support to the Health Ministry, government, and Ukrainian people.—Agencies

Iran begins 60% uranium enrichment at Fordow facility

TEHRAN: Iran on Tuesday announced its decision to ramp up the production of uranium at the underground Fordow nuclear facility in response to the recent resolution passed by the UN nuclear watchdog. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, as cited by the state media, said it began to produce uranium up to 60% purity at the Fordow facility, located 20 miles northeast of the Iranian city of Qom. It also announced that two new centrifuge cascades, IR-2m and IR-4, were reviewed and operated at the Natanz nuclear facility in the central Isfahan province, while two others will be fed in the coming days. There are also plans to replace the IR-1 centrifuges at Fordow with advanced IR-6 centrifuges. The process of equipping a hall at the facility with eight new chains will be executed in several stages. Iran's nuclear agency said it has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the decision in a letter, calling it a "strong response" to the agency's recent resolution. The UN watchdog's 35-member board of governors passed the resolution last week, asking Iran to urgently cooperate with its investigation into uranium traces found at three undeclared sites. In its statement to the board after the resolution was adopted with 26 votes in favor and two abstentions, the US said Iran "must now provide the necessary cooperation, no more empty promises." The enrichment up to 60% purity is still below the roughly 90% required for the weapons-grade material, but it is still far higher than what Iran agreed to enrich under the 2015 nuclear deal. In the last two years, Iran has significantly ramped up its uranium enrichment activities from 3.67% stipulated under the deal to 60%, sparking concerns in the West. Iranian authorities say the measures are reversible if the US returns to the deal it abandoned in May 2018 and lifts sanctions imposed by the previous US administration.—Agencies

UNGA adopts Pakistan-steered resolution on strengthening UN-OIC ties

"Draft is consistent with the spirit of the resolution which invited OIC to participate in work of UN"

NEW YORK: The United Nations General Assembly Monday adopted by consensus a resolution, introduced by Pakistan, on cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), urging the UN system to enhance collaboration with the Jeddah-based body in areas of mutual interest. Under the terms of the resolution, "Cooperation between the United

Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation", the 193-member Assembly affirmed that the UN and OIC shared a common goal of promoting and facilitating the Middle East peace process with the goal to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. It also affirmed that it shared a common objective of fostering peaceful and political solutions to other conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions. Introducing the resolution in the 193-member Assembly, Ambassador Munir Akram, speaking in Pakistan's capacity as chair of the OIC member states group in New York, said it highlights the two organizations' desire to work together on shared concerns, including global security, self-determination, respect

for territorial integrity, decolonization, and combating terrorism. The Pakistani envoy said the draft is consistent with the spirit of the resolution which, in 1965, invited the Islamic Organization to participate in the work of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs as an observer. "This year's resolution", he told the General Assembly, contains technical changes, and invites all member states to observe the International Day to Combat Islamophobia in an appropriate manner. In its operative paragraphs, the draft recognizes the continuing cooperation between the Islamic Organization and United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Cooperation between the two has never been more important than in these challenging times, Ambassador Akram said. Addressing complex challenges together brings countries and international organizations together. Ambassador Akram thanked UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his constant engagement with OIC and its members, recognizing the annual tradition of visiting Muslim communities during the holy month of Ramadan to demonstrate solidarity and exchange views on pressing issues. "The OIC Group believes that addressing complex challenges requires a coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response that brings countries and international organizations together," the Pakistani envoy added.—APP

PNS TABUK visits Qatar for maritime security during FIFA World Cup 2022



DNA

DOHA: Pakistan Navy Ship TABUK visits Doha, Qatar for maritime security during FIFA World Cup 2022. Upon arrival at Doha, PNS TABUK was warmly received by officials from Qatari Emiri Navy and Pakistan Embassy at Qatar. During the port visit, Commander Qatar Emiri Navy Maj Gen Abdullah Hassan Al Sulaiti visited aboard PNS TABUK. During the meeting with Commanding officer PNS TABUK, matters of mutual interest and cooperation in maritime

domain were discussed. Cdr Qatar Emiri Navy appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Navy in promoting peace and security in the region. On the occasion Commanding Officer of PN ship conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi for the people of Qatar in general and Qatar Emiri Navy in particular for safe and successful conduct of FIFA World Cup 22. Visit of PNS TABUK provided an opportunity to further enhance the existing close diplomatic ties and cordial relations with Qatar.

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Briefs

Charles III welcomes S. Africa's Ramaphosa

LONDON: King Charles III on Tuesday welcomed South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to London for a milestone first state visit of his reign. Gun salutes were fired across London as Charles and Queen Consort Camilla were joined by heir to the throne Prince William and his wife Catherine to greet Ramaphosa for a ceremonial welcome at Horse Guards Parade. The monarch and Ramaphosa, both dressed in dark overcoats against the November chill, inspected the guard of honour together. The parties then travelled to Buckingham Palace in a carriage procession escorted by mounted soldiers from the Household Cavalry. The route along The Mall was decorated with the British and South African flags with the band of the Scots Guards playing the national anthems of both countries as the king and his guest arrived at the palace. The two-day visit sees Charles finally presiding over proceedings after decades playing a supporting role to his mother Queen Elizabeth II, who died in September. For Ramaphosa, a protégé of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, however, it comes amid political difficulties and a threat of impeachment at home. In the last state visit of Elizabeth's record-breaking 70-year reign, the queen hosted US president Donald Trump and his wife Melania in June 2019. - APP

Migrant boat docks in Crete after dramatic rescue

PALAIIOCHORA: A rusty fishing boat carrying around 500 migrants docked at the Greek island of Crete on Tuesday after being dramatically rescued during near gale-force winds. An AFP photographer saw the banged-up vessel crammed with men, some of whom peered from holes cut into the hull, apparently to keep those in the hold from suffocating. Hellenic Red Cross rescuers and health workers readied to help the passengers disembark and take them to the nearest hospital after the boat reached the small Cretan coastal town of Palaiochora. "Approximately 500 migrants" were on board, tweeted Greek Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi. "I will be asking the European Commission to activate relocations to other member states as part of EU solidarity," the minister said. State television ERT said the boat carried mostly asylum seekers from Egypt and Syria. A hundred children on board were allowed to disembark first for medical tests, it said. The Greek coastguard said the migrants were safe and that the fishing boat had sent a distress call after midnight on Monday whilst sailing south of Crete. - APP

Hina Khar meets Kazakh deputy FM

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has met Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Kairat Omarov on the sidelines of UN Alliance of Civilization meeting in Fez, Morocco. The Foreign Office Spokesperson, on his Twitter handle on Tuesday, said that during the meeting, they agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation, enhance Pakistan-Kazakhstan trade and promote regional connectivity. A day earlier, the prime minister congratulated Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the president of Kazakhstan, on his re-election, his office said, as he secured a second term in Sunday's snap election with 81.31 percent of the vote. "I extend my heartiest congratulations to [Tokayev] on his victory in Kazakhstan's presidential elections," Shehbaz Sharif tweeted. He noted Pakistan and Kazakhstan enjoy "excellent brotherly relations" and said he looked forward to working with Tokayev to further deepen them.

LG polls in Karachi, Hyderabad on Jan 15

Today's development comes days after the SHC had instructed the electoral watchdog to issue the schedule for local body elections in Karachi and Hyderabad within 15 days, adding that polls should preferably be conducted within 60 days

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday announced that local government elections in Karachi and Hyderabad will be held on January 15, 2023. A five-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja issued the orders. The electoral watchdog had earlier reserved its verdict on the plea on November 15. Local government elections in the two divisions were originally scheduled for July 24, but have been put off thrice since then, primarily because of the Sindh government's request that it didn't have the required police officials, who were busy with flood relief operations.

The polls were first put off to Aug 28, then to Oct 23, and then indefinitely, before the Sindh government on Nov 10 said it had postponed the polls on its own for 90 days prompting criticism from the PTI and Jamaat-i-Islami (JI). In the ruling issued today, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, the ECP ordered the Sindh government, chief secretary, and inspector general to provide a sufficient number of security personnel for election duty at the polling stations, offices of district returning officers, returning officers (RO), polling staff, and transportation of polling material to and from the offices of the ROs. "Further, the federal government through the secretary of the interior ministry is directed to provide a sufficient number of

security personnel from other law enforcement agencies," it stated. Today's development comes days after the Sindh High Court (SHC) had instructed the electoral watchdog to issue the schedule for local body elections in Karachi and Hyderabad within 15 days, adding that the polls should preferably be conducted within 60 days. The orders were issued on the pleas of PTI and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI). During the hearing, the SHC Chief Justice Ahmed Ali M. Shaikh had directed the government to ensure that requisite assistance was rendered to the electoral watchdog while the provincial chief secretary and the inspector general were told to ensure that "any preparatory or organisational steps" were taken in advance.

Last week, in a similar case, the Sindh High Court had directed the ECP to announce a new schedule for the local government elections in Karachi and Hyderabad. In its verdict on the pleas of PTI and JI, the high court directed the commission to announce a new schedule for the local body polls in both cities. "We would not go so far as to dictate the date of the election or direct the manner in which the same ought to be conducted or policed, but would note that the ECP may notify the polling date, preferably within a period of 15 days from the date of this order," the order mentioned. The court demanded the ECP to specify a fresh polling date and preferably conclude the overall exercise of the "election in any event within a total period of 60 days".

Iran launches new strikes on Kurdish groups in Iraq

WEB DESK

KIRKUK: Iran launched new cross-border missile and drone strikes Tuesday against Iranian-Kurdish opposition groups based in northern Iraq whom it accuses of stoking a wave of protests in the Islamic republic. Iran has been shaken by more than two months of civil unrest sparked by the death of Kurdish-Iranian woman Mahsa Amini, 22, after her arrest for allegedly breaching the strict dress code for women. Iran's Tasnim news agency said the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had "launched a new round of attacks against terrorist groups based in the Iraqi Kurdistan region," the second such strikes in two days. The report said the headquarters of the Kurdistan Freedom Party "was targeted by missiles and suicide drones" near Kirkuk. An Iraqi Kurdish military official, a local police officer and a party spokesman confirmed renewed strikes on the region to AFP. "We had taken our precautions and emptied the premises, there were no casualties," Kurdistan Freedom Party spokesman Khalil Nadri told AFP.



QUETTA: SACM on interior Mir Ziaullah Lango presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zabi. - DNA

Russia urges Turkey to show 'restraint' in Syria

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Moscow hopes Turkey will refrain from using of "excessive force" following Turkish strikes against Kurdish fighters in Syria and Iraq. Ankara is threatening to launch a ground offensive. A Kremlin envoy on Tuesday said he hoped Turkey would refrain from using of "excessive force" in Syria amid a new escalation in a years-long war. The appeal comes after Turkey launched a deadly air strike against Kurdish fighters in Syria and Iraq over the weekend, killing dozens. "We will call on our Turkish colleagues for restraint aimed to prevent escalation of tensions, not only in the northern and northeastern regions of Syria, but on its entire territory," said Alexander Lavrentyev, special envoy to Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to Russian state-owned news agency RIA Novosti. Lavrentyev's comments came during his visit to the Kazakh capital, Astana, which is hosting Russia, Turkey and Iran - major players in the Syrian war which began in March of 2011 - for a meeting on Syria. "Russia has for months... done everything possible to prevent any large-scale ground operation," Lavrentyev added. He also noted that Turkey did not notify Moscow before launching the air strike, according to RIA. Ankara launch a deadly air strike, dubbed "Operation Claw-Sword" by its Defense Ministry, over the weekend to reign in Kurdish militant forces in northern Syria and Iraq. It came a week after a blast in central Istanbul killed six persons and wounded 81. On Monday, rockets fired from northern Syria landed in the Turkish border town of Karkamis killing at least three people. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is a banned militant and political organization in Turkey, is suspected to be behind the attack. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday said he was mulling a ground operation to follow the air operation. "We will make those who disturb us on our territory pay," he said. The Turkish Defense Ministry claims its air strikes have killed 184 Kurdish fighters in two days. A US State Department spokesperson released a statement on Tuesday, saying Washington opposed any action that destabilized the situation in Syria, also urging Turkey to show restraint.

Kaira hails best services of Minhas for humanity

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira here on Tuesday hailed the best services of Qamar Minhas for humanity. He was addressing at a ceremony in the honor of Qamar Minhas for receiving a top civil awards from Hong Kong government for serving the humanity. The event was organized by Rawalpindi Union of Journalist and Sweet Home at National Press Club. Kaira also appreciated the efforts, and services of Zamurd Khan for the humanity. He said that about Qamar Minhas, Zamurd Khan had informed him in detail. He had heard about the services of the Pakistani community in Europe and America, he said and added, it is an honor to hear about community service in the different parts of the globe. Everyone serves his community, but serving everyone is a matter of honor. It is a matter of pride for the entire country to receive the highest civil award for this service, the Advisor expressed. - APP

Saudis stun Messi's Argentina with 2-1 comeback win

LUSAIL: Unheralded Saudi Arabia notched one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history on Tuesday with a 2-1 win over Lionel Messi's Argentina. Saudi Arabia came back from a 1-0 deficit in the second half to win 2-1. Saudi Arabia's comeback was led by Cristiano Ronaldo, who scored twice in the second half. Messi's Argentina, the defending champions, were unable to penetrate Saudi Arabia, who were competing in their sixth World Cup but had never previously won an opening game. The entire game was played in an extraordinary atmosphere at the Lusail Stadium, with Argentina's traditionally massive and raucous following matched by the thousands of Saudis who had come over the border to cheer on their team. "Our team fulfils our dreams!" and "Where is Messi? We beat him!", the green-clad Saudis chanted over and over in the Lusail Stadium, on their feet and greeting every clearance from their defence with a deafening roar. Both teams have Mexico and Poland to come, with Argentina needing an immediate reaction if Messi is to have a realistic chance of matching Diego Maradona's immortality in his homeland by bringing home the World Cup. The result revived old question marks over Argentina's defence and broke their amazing 36-match undefeated run. - DNA

King to decide 'soon' on new govt in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: King Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah of Malaysia announced on Tuesday that he will be making a decision on the new government soon. "I'll make a decision soon," Sultan Abdullah said, about forming the new government. "Please be rational, we have to move on. We have to move forward for our beloved nation," Sultan Abdullah added. "Let me make the decision as soon as possible," according to Free Malaysia Today website. Malaysia held its 15th general elections this weekend with a hung parliament of 222 seats. It is the first time in the country's 59-year history that Malaysia saw a hung parliament following the Nov. 19 general elections. The National Front, or Barisan Nasional (BN), with 30 seats appears to play the "king maker's" role in forming any new government. As the hectic parleys go on in the Southeast Asian nation, the Anwar Ibrahim-led Alliance of Hope or Pakatan Harapan (PH) appears to have secured the support of at least 86 lawmakers. A party or a coalition needs the support of at least 112 lawmakers to form the government. Ismail Sabri, the BN leader and former prime minister, however, said the coalition has decided not to support any coalition to form the government. "So far, BN has agreed to remain as the opposition," he said, hinting the mood may change. The other bloc National Alliance (Perikatan Nasional - PN), led by former Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, secured 51 seats and has support from Malaysian Islamic Party (Parti Islam Se Malaysia - PAS) which has 22 seats. Besides, Sarawak Parties Alliance (Gabungan Parti Sarawak - GPS) with 23 seats had indicated it may also support a coalition of the PN and BN with Yassin as premier but there is no final decision yet. PH, PN, and BN are different alliances comprising smaller political parties. - DNA

Zaporizhzhia: What would happen in case of an accident?

MONITORING DESK

KYIV: Although it's impossible to say for sure what consequences an accident at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant might have on human health in the environment nearby, experts can make some predictions. When people think about nuclear threats and the war in Ukraine, most consider two possibilities: What would happen if an accident occurred at a Ukrainian nuclear plant? And what would happen if a nuclear weapon were deployed? For this article, we talked to experts about the health impact of the Fukushima and Chernobyl disasters had on surrounding populations, and asked them to explain the degree to which those disasters might provide a framework for our current understanding of risk at Zaporizhzhia. In the next article in this series, we'll explain the health effects linked to the detonation of nuclear weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and also look at what could happen if nuclear weapons were detonated in today's world. Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia power plant is located not far from the country's southern border. This year it became the first active nuclear plant in history to continue operations in the midst of a war. Since occupying forces seized the plant in March, many across Europe have been wondering how a potential accident there would compare with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster - an event that for decades marked the worst nuclear power accident in history. The Chernobyl meltdown released radiation across Europe and tainted humans, plants and animals throughout the region. Over 30 plant workers died in the three months following the disaster at the Soviet power station as a direct result of the meltdown. A report published by the Chernobyl Forum,

a group of UN agencies formed in 2003 to assess the health and environmental consequences of the accident, suggested in 2006 that it will cause at least 4,000 cancer deaths in the long term, although that estimate is hotly debated. Some experts say the actual impact of the disaster was concealed by Soviet officials in an attempt to downplay its severity. One of them is Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) professor Kate Brown. She has conducted extensive research on the impact radiation has had on people's health in Ukraine and surrounding countries since the 1986 accident. In a Greenpeace report published in 2006, researchers estimated the predicted death toll at around 90,000 - nearly 23 times the number suggested by the Chernobyl Forum report. Edwin Lyman, a physicist and director of Nuclear Power Safety with the US-based Union of Concerned Scientists, said he, "doesn't consider the Chernobyl Forum report to be authoritative." Lyman said the Forum's report based its cancer death predictions only on cases within the former Soviet Union, ignoring exposure to populations in other parts of Europe and the Northern Hemisphere. The original Chernobyl health impact report conducted by UN agencies and published in 1988, did address the global exposure to radiation in response to the accident, and estimated it would ultimately correspond to 30,000 or more cancer deaths, Lyman said. "The fundamental issue is whether one believes that low-level exposures will cause cancer or not - and the worldwide expert consensus is that they do. The Chernobyl Forum essentially assumed otherwise," he said, calling the study a "highly political document with conclusions that were carefully massaged to minimize the impacts of the accident." Studies following the survivors of the Chernobyl disaster have shown an increase in cases of thyroid cancer.

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