



Islamabad POST

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Noam Chomsky says US sanctions on Iran deepen suffering

Detailed News On Page-07

UK foreign secy brings more aid for Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-08



NATO vows to continue aiding Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Zardari can't come out of Sindh

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhary has said that PPP president Asif Zardari cannot come out of Sindh and he is no status in Punjab. In a tweet on Friday, he said that the PPP will be wiped out from the rural areas of Sindh. "People of Sindh will get the political rights. Dacoits will be eliminated and the mafia will meet its logical end," he added. Meanwhile, Fawad Chaudhary held a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi. They discussed security arrangements for the third phase of the Haqeeqi Azadi March. Fawad Chaudhary said that the participants of the Haqeeqi Azadi March had been peaceful and would remain peaceful.

SC revokes Vawda's lifetime ban

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Friday revoked the lifetime ban that barred former PTI leader Faisal Vawda from contesting elections after he tendered an unconditional apology before the court. A three-member apex court bench - headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ayesha Malik - heard the plea against Vawda's lifelong disqualification ruling of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The election commission had on February 9 imposed a lifetime ban on Vawda as he had concealed his dual nationality at the time of contesting the National Assembly election in the 2018 general polls. The chief justice had summoned Vawda to court today for giving him a chance to apologise and accept his mistake as he had been lying to the courts for three-long years.

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

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Rana Sana to Imran Establishment won't give you election date

Urges PTI to return to mainstream parliamentary politics; greets new military leadership

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah on Friday asked the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to postpone Saturday's gathering as former prime minister Imran Khan's life under threat. Addressing a press conference in the federal capital, the interior minister said that there are the reports from the agencies that Imran Khan's life is under threat, adding that there is still time for Imran Khan to postpone his march. He claimed the march is being staged to create the situation of the political stability and economic catastrophe. Rana claimed that Imran will not get the date of elections from Rawalpindi, adding that the day - November 26 - was fixed for a specific reason for long march. He added that the establishment will not play its role to give him [Imran] date for the elections as now - the matter gets old. Claiming that Imran Khan cannot be successful by any means, Rana advised Imran to come and sit with the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leadership - Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Akhtar Mengal, Khalid Magsi - Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz Sharif. Rana further said, "If you [Imran] wants to meet with Nawaz and PM Shehbaz, hopefully they would not refuse to meet you. If you need any sort of help in this regard, I will be there for you to help as I am your - political - opponent, not enemy."

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PTI to continue protests until fresh elections

ALI HAMZA

LAHORE: Advisor on Internal Affairs and Information to Punjab Chief Minister Omer Sarfraz Cheema on Friday said that the PTI will continue protests until fresh elections are announced. Ahead of the PTI's gathering on November 26, Omer Sarfraz Cheema said that the Punjab administration and the police would not interfere, adding that the arrangements have made for PTI's rally in Rawalpindi. Slamming the incumbent government, Cheema said that the imported government should respect people's choice. The advisor further said that the news regarding administration's halting of the preparation of stage for the procession is false. Punjab Police have ensured complete arrangements for the rally in Rawalpindi and security of rallies across the province.

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Imran says nation will come out for him today Says no Army Chief can go against his own institutions' interests

ALI HAMZA

LAHORE: PTI chief Imran Khan says he is going to Rawalpindi for the nation and he believes the nation will come out for him. In an interview from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore, he said free nations have justice in it. He described Pakistan in a decisive place. He says if there were any problems with institutions, it was with "two or three black sheep" in them "who violated the Constitution and law". "They violated the fundamental rights of people," he said, listing Arshad Sharif, Shahbaz Gill and Azam Swati and journalists as those whose rights were violated. "So because we are against these people we're against the entire institution. What sort of logic is that? Institutions have good and bad people in them and good institutions get rid of such people. "Within my party - are we all angels? But a mechanism should be

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Faisal calls on SC to take notice of govt's 'tactics'

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: PTI Senator Faisal Javed has called on the Supreme Court to take notice of the federal government's "cheap tactics" aimed to "disrupt" the party's long march in Rawalpindi. In a tweet, he claimed that roads were being blocked in Rawalpindi. "The administration is just overwhelmed by the large number of people attending the sit-in." Javed also said that the government had further put Imran's life in danger by not granting permission for the landing of his helicopter at Parade Ground.

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ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan jointly launch PNS Khyber, third of four MILGEM Corvette ships for Pakistan Navy. - DNA

SBP hikes interest rate to 16%

DNA

KARACHI: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Friday raised the key policy rate by 100 basis points to 16% - the highest since 1999. The central bank, in a statement, issued after the meeting said that the decision reflects the MPC's view that inflationary pressures have proven to be stronger and more persistent than expected. "This decision is aimed at ensuring that elevated inflation does not become entrenched and that risks to financial stability are contained, thus paving the way for higher growth on a more sustainable basis," the MPC said. The SBP noted that amid the ongoing economic slowdown, inflation is increasingly being driven by persistent global and domestic supply shocks that are raising costs. "In turn, these shocks are spilling over into broader prices and wages, which could de-anchor inflation expectations and undermine medium-term growth," the statement read, adding that consequently the rise in cost-push inflation cannot be overlooked and necessitates a monetary policy response. The MPC further noted that the short-term costs of bringing inflation down are lower than the long-term costs of allowing it to become entrenched. Meanwhile, curbing food inflation through administrative measures to resolve supply-chain bottlenecks and any necessary imports remains a high priority.

PM Shehbaz Sharif Taysip Erdogan launch PNS Khaibar PM invites Turkey to 'join hands' on renewable energy production

NEWS DESK/DNA

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited Turkey to join hands in investing in renewable energy production and reduce dependence on traditional energy sources. The prime minister was speaking at an inauguration ceremony for the third of four Milgem Corvette ships for the Pakistan Navy at the Istanbul Shipyard during a two-day official visit to Turkey at the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Bemoaning Pakistan's import bill due to petroleum products, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan wanted to shift to renewable sources of energy - solar, hydel and wind - and Turkish investors had great potential for financing these fields. "I want to propose ... that let's join hands together and get rid of high-car-

bon emissions, cut our import bills and let's really promote investment in these fields." PM Shehbaz said solar, hydel and wind energy would make "great sense" for promoting investments between the two countries. "I think it's high time we transform our relations into something because the world is envious of our relation and our brotherhood but they also say that while 'these two countries are great and their hearts beat together' ... but they also say that our trade and investment relations are not commensurate with our historical relations and brotherhood." The prime minister said the two countries under Erdogan's leadership had a "great chance" to move forward in this field. Regarding the ship's launch, PM Shehbaz said Turkey and Pakistan were

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China's widening curbs trigger public pushback

AGENCIES

BEIJING: Frustration simmered on Friday among residents and business groups in China navigating stricter COVID-19 control curbs as the country reported another record high of daily infections just weeks after hopes had been raised of easing measures. The resurgence of COVID cases in China, with 32,695 new local infections recorded for Thursday as numerous cities report outbreaks, has prompted widespread lockdowns and other curbs on movement and business, as well as pushback. China's COVID response is taking a mounting toll on the world's second-largest economy, and on Friday its central bank made a widely-anticipated move of support, cutting the amount of cash that banks must hold

as reserves. This releases 500 billion yuan (\$69.8 billion) in long-term liquidity. The French Chamber of Commerce in China urged authorities to properly implement COVID "optimisation" measures announced two weeks ago, in a statement shared extensively on social media after the French embassy posted it on its Twitter-like Weibo account on Thursday. The 20 measures, which include shortened quarantines and other more targeted steps, had "given hope" to French companies for more bilateral trade and economic exchanges, but "good policies also need to be implemented in a uniform manner and without adding layers of other contradicting policies", the chamber's statement said.

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UAE establishes cardiology institute in Quetta

Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan Army, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, inaugurated Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute; UAE ambassador accompanies army chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Upon the directives of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE, and the support and follow-up of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, and within the framework of the continuous support of leadership of UAE to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for implementation of the number of humanitarian and development projects, the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan Army, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, inaugurated Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology, which was established in Quetta city of Baluchistan province, on a construction area of 121,406 square meters, and at the cost of 27.30 million US dollars, financed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development. The opening ceremony of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology attended by Mir Jan Jamali, Governor of Baluchistan, Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi the Ambassador of UAE in Islamabad and Abdullah Al Ghaffi Director of UAE-PAK Assistance Programme UAEPAP and number of senior civil and military officials. At the end of ceremony, the UAE Ambassador, accompanied by the Director of UAE-PAK Assistance Programme,



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Legendary comedian Ismail Tara laid to rest

DNA

KARACHI: Legendary Pakistani actor and Ismail Tara who passed away on Thursday was laid in to rest in Karachi on Friday. Ismail Tara had been under kidney treatment at a private Karachi hospital for three days but breather his last on Thursday. He was 73. A large number of people including Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani, actors and other people attended the Namaz-e-Janaza of Ismail Tara which was offered at Memon Mosque on Shaheed Millat Road. He was laid to rest at Sakhi Sarwar graveyard. The famous actor of Pakistan was born in 1949 in Lahore and started his artistic journey in 1963. Comedy was Ismail Tara's hallmark. As a comedian, he kept the audience enthralled for many years. He had also acted in several stage plays, films and television dramas. The veteran actor had debuted in the country's very famous comedy show Fifty-50.—APP

ICCI urges Africa to establish direct air links with Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of foreign diplomats led by Irfan Shaukat, Director (Program), Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) for an interaction with the business community. The foreign diplomats, undergoing 28th Junior Diplomatic Course at Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan (FSAP) were representing various countries including Kazakhstan, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Nicaragua, Samoa, Solomon Island, South Sudan, Tanzania, Gambia, Togo, Uganda and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Addressing the foreign diplomats, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Africa was a huge market and urged that African countries should establish direct links with



Pakistan that would help trade and exports. He informed the foreign diplomats that Pakistan is exporting many products including textiles, IT & software, pharmaceuticals, sports goods, leather products, surgical instruments, marble & granite,

rice and others, which can find good markets in Africa, Central Asia and other regions. He briefed them about the business and investment opportunities in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. Irfan Shaukat, Director (Program), Foreign Ser-

vice Academy of Pakistan said that the purpose of bringing foreign diplomats to ICCI is to provide them an opportunity to interact with the business community and understand the business dynamics so that they can play an effective role for economic diplomacy.

He said that FSA has trained over 1500 diplomats from 49 countries. He thanked ICCI for giving warm welcome and hospitality to the foreign diplomats. The diplomats showed interest in promoting trade of their respective countries with Pakistan. They asked many questions and got detailed

answers from the members of the business community. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Mian Shaukat Masud, Zafar Bakhtawari, Arshad Janjua and others also spoke at the occasion and shared ideas with diplomats for promoting trade diplomacy.

Jamad-ul-Awwal crescent sighted

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Friday announced that the crescent of Jamad-ul-Awwal, 1444 AH has been sighted. In pursuance of the decision of Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, the first Jamad-ul-Awwal shall commence from Saturday, November, 26. The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee's Chairman Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad chaired the Zonal Ruet-e-Hilal Committee's meeting along with other members in Lahore. Announcing the crescent of Jamad-ul-Awwal, he said the weather condition was clear in most of the areas of the country. He said due to clear weather condition, the committee received a number of testimonies of crescent sighting from Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Sargodha, Sahiwal, Jhang, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Karak, Quetta, Peshawar and Azad Kashmir's Kotli and Rawalakot and other areas of the country. In the end, Maulana Azad prayed for the prosperity and stability of the country besides the liberation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine.—APP

Ministry launches campaign against gender violence

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives has launched a 16-day campaign against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and established a Gender Unit in the ministry amid the socio-economic empowerment of women to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Friday. This is an annual international campaign that begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and runs until Human Rights Day (Dec 10). The campaign was formally launched by the Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal during a ceremony held here at the ministry. The launching-ceremony was attended by the Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Nilofar Bakhtiar, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission HEC, Dr Shaiista Sohail, Assistant Superintendent



of Police ASP, Amna Baig, students and civil society activities. "The development process of any country remains slow if the women are not given equal opportunities," said the Minister, while highlighting the significance of the women's participation in the development of the country. The minister further said that unfortunately, the women's participation in the development process is weak and this campaign

and Gender Unit will help to get the desired results. The campaign will be run in educational institutes of Rawalpindi and Islamabad from November 25 to till December 10 in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA). The Young Development Fellows (YDF) attached with the ministry will start visiting educational institutes to organize the event to create awareness among the masses. The represent-

atives of FIA will give presentations on cybercrime laws and policies. According to a latest research report by digital rights foundation, 40% of women in Pakistan have been victims of cyberbullying in the form of sexual harassment, blackmailing, hate speech, stalking, identity theft and physical threats. While highlighting the women rights protected by the Islam and constitution, the Minister said that Islam em-

powered then women with the most progressive rights since the 7th century but unfortunately, their rights are misinterpreted. When Islam granted inheritance rights to women at that time the west had no idea of women inheritance rights, said the Minister. All the development projects would be planned according to principles of gender responsiveness in the Gender Unit, and the projects will not be approved without ensuring the interests of the women. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Planning Commission, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, said that the campaign will help to create awareness among the masses to eliminate the cases of violence against the women. "The government is committed to empower the country's women and the Gender Unit is one of the examples to empower the women," he added. The participants appreciated the minister's efforts for launching the campaign and Gender Unit and assured their full support to empower the women.

KP Governor congratulates new Chairman JCSC, Army Chief

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Friday congratulated Lt. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and Lt. General Asim Munir on their appointment as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) as Chief of Army Staff respectively.—APP

All set for first phase of LG polls in AJK on Sunday

MUZAFFARABAD, Nov 25 (APP): All arrangements have been finalized to conduct the first phase of local government elections in Muzaffarabad division of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Sunday. This was said by Commissioner Masood ur Rehman and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) police Irfan Masood Kashfi during a joint presser here on Friday. The

election commission had decided a week earlier to conduct LG polls in three phases due to the unavailability of additional security personnel from the federal government. Polling in Muzaffarabad division is going to be held on November 27 (Sunday) while in Poonch division on December 03 and in Mirpur division on December 08. The commissioner said the polling staff had been trained and assigned the duties at their respective polling stations in three districts of the division while peace and co-ordination committees had been constituted at each

polling station comprising local people and government officials to maintain harmony during the polling. He said 7,785 polling staff had been deputed on 1,323 polling stations in all three districts and polling material had been transported safely at the offices of returning and assistant returning officers from where will be handed over to staff on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. He said the presiding officers had been empowered with magisterial powers to peacefully conduct the polling and implement the code of conduct issued by election

commission under election laws and criminal procedure code (Cr.PC) and authorized for a summary trail. He said any violation of code of conduct by any candidate or supporter of candidate could disqualify a candidate even after the election and called the administration and polling staff to strictly implement the code of conduct. The DIG said all security arrangement had been made final with scheme of deployment according to category of the polling stations, besides quick response force at each sector and routine patrolling and policing by the police force.—APP

No society can grow without tolerance

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The kind of socio-political polarization, toxicity and utter lack of tolerance being witnessed in the society today - where we have stopped listening, rather listen to attack - is increasingly and alarmingly becoming a political and social culture. This deadly mix also takes a devastating toll on the social capital, and has repercussions for the economic output of the country. These remarks were made by Dr. Huma Baqai, Rector, Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE), Karachi, during the Sindh Chapter of Paving Pathways to Social Cohesion - Faculty Members Workshop Series, organized by the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) at and in collaboration with MITE. She further said that unfortunately, Pakistan today has become a country which is suffering from brain drain, much more than it has ever experienced in the past due to disillusionment among youth so much so that they don't see a future for themselves in the country. In this entire scenario, there is a huge onus on faculty

members - given their youth outreach potential - as nurturers and mentors to sow seeds of peace in the minds of the young people who will become the leaders of tomorrow. In a country like Pakistan where around 65 percent of the overall population is under the age of 30, such an intervention becomes ever more important. While we are teaching skills and technology - as market needs, let us not forget teaching the lubricants as dire needs of the society for cohesion, where the lubricants are tolerance, inclusion, rule of law, equality and equity, and no society can grow without these

lubricants. Diversity is an asset the society needs the most. Only by equally accessible justice - to everyone regardless of individual identities/ backgrounds, can rule of law be upheld. In the endeavor to bolster women empowerment, it is extremely important to onboard and sensitize male members of the society. Paving Pathways to Social Cohesion is a great initiative, in fact, couldn't be timelier as this is the kind of lubricant that our society needs at this moment in time to peacefully and respectfully coexist and pursue shared goals of development and prosperity. The workshop

screened four original short films produced by the Center on the core values of social cohesion, where the participating faculty members representing different universities, across Karachi actively and critically participated in the discussions had throughout the workshop. They said that while social mobility is about equal opportunity to every member of the society for growth and development, we should not selfishly pursue our dreams that it reduces space for others to pursue their dreams to avoid the paradox. Our best agency and opportu-

nity to bring a positive social change is at home. We should make no mistakes in attributing subjecting ideas to different social identities as it can have negative consequences. We must take the courage to speak about the issues though hard to speak about but so critical to the long-term peace and stability in the society. The media discourse and content must also be inclusive of the messages that promote harmony and mutual respect. Young generation is highly malleable, and not necessarily resistant to good messages, they just need good guidance.



RCCI resents on increase in SBP interest rate

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Friday expressed reservations over the increase of 100 basis points in the interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) taking it from 15 percent to 16pc. RCCI Acting President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh in a statement urged the government to withdraw this hike as it would increase the credit cost of commercial banks and ultimately having a bad effect on the growth of industrial activities and create more difficulties for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in reviving the economy, he further added. He said that the business community was expecting that the interest rate would be reduced so that the wheel of the economy could flow. He said that economic activities are already at a standstill and demand is low, so there is no logic in increasing the interest rate. Due to high gas, electricity and other tariffs, manufacturers are facing difficulties in meeting external orders, he added. Hamza Sarosh said it will have an adversely effect on the growth of industrial activities and create difficulties for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as they strive towards reviving the economy. Pakistan needs quick revival of business and industrial activities to improve the ailing economy, however a 100 basis point increase in interest rate would make the cost of credit unaffordable for the business community and badly affect their efforts for promoting business activities. RCCI Acting President demanded that SBP should withdraw hike in mark-up rates and bring it to single digit to encourage new investments, for revival of businesses and to give a jumpstart to the economy which is at standstill.—APP

Kundi meets with KFW bank mission

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Faisal Karim Kundi today met a three-member delegation of KFW Development Bank at the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security. Secretary PASS Mr. Fakhar Alam was also present on this occasion. During the meeting, Special Assistant Faisal Karim Kundi told the mission that 69 billion rupees have been distributed to 2.7 million flood-affected families under BISP by the Government of Pakistan. While briefing about the various components of BISP, Special Assistant said that BISP is supporting pregnant women and children under two years of age in flood-affected areas with the support of WFP under the Nashonuma programme. 10000 scholarships have also been provided to deserving students under Scholarship programme. KFW Technical Advisor Dr. Matthias Nachtebel told the Special Assistant that KFW is working to rehabilitate people affected by climate change and natural disasters, and in this regard, the German government has assured financial support of 27 million euros. Special Assistant Faisal Karim Kundi informed KFW Manager Health and Social Protection Ms. Anna Bryzozkaja Ms. Anna Berezovskaja that BISP wants to expand the scope of the BISP Nashonuma programme. He said that cochlear implant surgery is also being done for deaf children through Health Protection Program with the support of Pakistan Bait ul Mal. KFW Mission appreciated the efforts of BISP for the welfare of backward classes and assured to work with BISP in future.—APP



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

National Days and Armed Forces Days

November

Nov 01 / Algeria	National Day
Nov 04 / Italy	Armed Forces Day
Nov 07 / Russian Federation	Socialist Revolution
Nov 09 / Cambodia	National Day
Nov 11 / Poland	Independence Day
Nov 14 / Jordan	Birthday of King Hussein
Nov 15 / Belgium	Kings Day
Nov 15 / Brazil	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
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Monal.....0334-5421812

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Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20
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PIA Cargo.....9280979
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CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Women taking interest in paintings displayed on the occasion of National day of Bosnia and Herzegovina.—DNA

PTI gathering; Faizabad closed for vehicular traffic

According to the traffic police, a diversion has been set up at Faizabad for those traveling from Islamabad to Rawalpindi via Murree Road

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Faizabad crossing was closed for all kinds of vehicular traffic by installing containers, while the citizens have been advised to use alternative routes to reach Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Due to the closure of the Faizabad flyover, which connects Islamabad and Rawalpindi, severe problems were being faced by the citizens traveling to Islamabad through the flyover. Blocked roads created long queues and vehicles were stuck in traffic jams. The closure of the main road of Rawalpindi led to severe traffic jams on Rawalpindi Double Road, IJP Road and Rawalpindi-Murree Road. Ambulances were also reported

stuck in the rush. According to the traffic police, a diversion has been set up at Faizabad for those traveling from Islamabad to Rawalpindi via Murree Road, while the old airport road and stadium road can be used to enter Islamabad from Rawalpindi. Police claimed that PTI workers blocked the road by placing containers to prepare for the rally, due to which the road from Faizabad to Islamabad was blocked. According to City Traffic Police (CTP) spokesman, the CTP is making all-out efforts to regulate traffic on city roads while traffic going from Rawalpindi to Faizabad is being diverted from Double Road to 9th Avenue. He advised the motorists to use Saidpur road to reach Islamabad while old airport road can

Distt Admin grants permission to PTI

RAWALPINDI: The District Administration has granted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) the permission to hold its public gathering/sit-in at Faizabad, Murree Road for the party's Long March, scheduled for Saturday (Nov 26). On the application of Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi, President PTI, Rawalpindi District, the Administration granted the permission. The District Administration issued a 56-point permit for the PTI to hold a public gathering/sit-in near Faizabad. The notification furthered said that a foreign cricket team would soon arrive in Rawalpindi, therefore the venue should be completely vacated after the rally and the public meeting. In the notification, orders were also issued to the Rawalpindi Police to take necessary security measures for the rally. It clarified that PTI Chairperson Imran Khan could only use the route decided by the PTI, Islamabad Administration and security agencies. Moreover, Imran Khan was barred from using a car with a sunroof before and after the rally. The permit directed that Allama Iqbal Park could not be used for workers' stay and should be completely vacated after the procession. Full implementation of the traffic plan by the traffic police was emphasized. Anti-state sloganeering and the use of drone cameras were prohibited during rallies and public meeting. The notification stated that the administration of the rally would be held responsible in case of any untoward incident or loss of life. It maintained that legal action would be taken for violating the terms and conditions. The Rawalpindi Police have also issued guidelines that citizens should take alternative routes and call 15 in the case of an emergency.—APP

be used to reach Rawalpindi. He said all the roads of Rawalpindi city were open for vehicular traffic. He further informed that CTP on the directives of City Traffic Officer Tamoor Khan had finalized special diversion plans to regulate traffic on city roads during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rallies and public meeting. Enhanced number of traffic wardens would be deployed on alternative routes to ease traffic flow and facilitate the road users, he said adding, CTP were also try to spread awareness about up-to-date traffic situation through FM 88.6 and social media. 750 traffic wardens and officers would also be deployed to ensure foolproof traffic arrangements in Rawalpindi. — APP

FGPC Hospital to serve as teaching hospital

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital (FGPC) Hospital would serve as the undergraduate teaching hospital for the newly established NUST School of Health Sciences (SHS) as per an understanding between the both institutions. The chief guest at the signing ceremony was Mr Abdul Qadir Patel, Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (NHSR&C). Prominent among others present at the occasion were Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST; Mr Ghulam Muhammad Memon, Secretary MoST; and senior consultants from FGPC hospital. The agreement was signed by Dr Osman Hasan, Pro-Rector Academics NUST and Dr Inayat Ullah Baig, ED

FGPC hospital. Speaking at the occasion, Minister for Health Mr Abdul Qadir Patel extended his felicitations to NUST and FGPC hospital on this joint initiative, which, he believed, would augur well for the health sector of Pakistan. He was particularly impressed with the meritorious achievements NUST has garnered in a short span since its inception, particularly mentioning the launch of NUST School of Health Sciences (SHS) that would address the dearth of highly skilled doctors in the country. He termed the newly forged partnership a step in the right direction, which would be remembered as a landmark initiative in history. In his welcome address, Rector NUST thanked the Minister

of Health for his continuous guidance and unstinting support during the entire process of enabling this much-needed partnership. He also conveyed his gratitude to Minister MoST and his ministry for extending all-out support to realize this joint venture that would have far-reaching dividends for all. He also expressed his deep appreciation for each member of the teams involved in the partnership agreement from both ministries, FGPC hospital and NUST. He reiterated his confidence that upholding its quality standards acknowledged worldwide, NUST would play an instrumental role in producing exceptionally skilled and competent medical graduates through the platform of SHS. — APP

Violence against women a violation of human rights

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said committing violence against women in any form was a sheer violation of human rights and dignity. In his tweet in connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the prime minister said, "A society cannot claim to be civilized leave alone being democratic if it condones violence under any pretext." The prime minister urged all to contribute towards ending violent practices against women. "On this Day today, let us all pledge to play our part to put an end to such practices," he stressed. — APP

Long-march becomes unnerving for people

ISLAMABAD: The long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has once again brought the life of the citizens of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to a grinding halt making it difficult for them to carry on their daily routine. The road closure at multiple locations including the entry and exit points of the twin cities due to the long march is not only creating nuisance for the commuters but patients, students and vendors also. As a result of these halts, the people of twin cities have been facing hardships and remained stuck in traffic jams for hours. Asifa Ikram, a mother of two children while talking to APP said, "We have suffered from a severe mental trauma due to the traffic blockage on Murree Road at night time while taking my son to the panel hospital in Rawalpindi in emergency". She said that my son was having breathing issues and we had to spend three to four hours in a traffic jam with my family. There were two ambulances with serious patients but the protestors were not ready to give passage to even those ambulances. Shahid Aslam, another parent said, "The long march has created a negative impact on the academic performance of the students as once again the educational institutions have announced holidays which would waste the time of the students and affect their grades." He said, "It is difficult to abruptly switch over to the online mode of education for various educational institutions as well as the students due to poor network connections and unavailability of electronic gadgets for all the students". — APP

One in five children in flood-affected areas lack study material

ISLAMABAD: Following the unprecedented rains and floods in the 2022 monsoon season, a vast majority of children have limited access to learning materials, and those having access are limited to textbooks only. According to a report issued by the non-profit organization Save the Children, one in five children does not have access to any learning materials. The report having up-to-date assessment and needs of families in flood-affected areas highlights that the school children are also facing multiple issues including long travelling to the temporary school shelters, psychological stress, non-availability of instructors, and absent teachers. The education of female students is being suffered more than boys as children have to travel one hour or more on foot to reach schools and parents are not able to afford transportation. In response to the issues, Save the Children has reached almost 108,000 people, including almost 57,000 children through the life-saving activities under flood response 2022 and along with setting up Temporary Learning Centres and Child-Friendly Spaces.—APP

CTP finalise traffic arrangements for Pak-England cricket matches

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on Friday finalized traffic arrangements for Pak-England cricket matches to be played here at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Double Road, from November 28 to December 5. Under the traffic plan devised on the orders of Chief Traffic Officer (Rawalpindi) Tamoor Khan, more than 432 traffic police personnel will perform duty during the cricket matches to maintain traffic flow. In the wake of rush of cricket fans on the Double Road, additional traffic police personnel will be deployed on other alternative routes. CTO Tamoor Khan has also directed all the circle in-charges to monitor the traffic arrangements in their circles and ordered the sector in-charges to be present in the field and keep the flow of traffic uninterrupted.—APP

World AIDS Day to be marked on Dec 1

ISLAMABAD: World AIDS Day will be marked on December 1 (Thursday) across the globe including Pakistan to honor AIDS victims and focus on issues surrounding the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). A simple red ribbon is one of the most widely recognized symbols of HIV and AIDS. World AIDS Day is the focal point of the World AIDS Campaign, which is active all year round. On December 1, there are many health education campaigns that promote the day. Anti-discrimination activities are also launched on or around this date.

Many people hold events on World AIDS Day to remember people died of AIDS-related conditions. One example is an AIDS Memorial Quilt project, which allows friends and family members of a deceased AIDS sufferer to construct quilt panels, which are then exhibited throughout the United States. AIDS stands for "acquired immune deficiency syndrome" or "acquired immunodeficiency syndrome" and denotes a condition, which results from the damage done by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) to the immune system. The condition was first identified in 1981 and the name "AIDS" was first introduced on July 27, 1982.—APP

PSW organizes orientation session for traders at RCCI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Single Window conducted an orientation for the members of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). A demo was given on to the participants on PSW's subscription, registration & SD Import & Export modules. Domain Officer PSW, Muhammad Ahmad, conducted the session and provided a brief overview of Pakistan Single Window. Senior Business Analyst, Sarfraz Amjad demonstrated the modules on systems. Arshad Hussain, Head of Support PSW, conducted a question-answer session to address the queries of the participants. Earlier, President RCCI Saqib Rafiq in his welcome address said appreciated the PSW's efforts for

cross-border trade facilitation. Vice President Faisal

Shahzad and other RCCI distinguished members and young entrepreneurs

from various sectors of society attended the session. For trade facilitation and system adaptation,

PSW is engaging stakeholders of the trade industry

of Pakistan to improve the ease of doing business and compliance.—APP



Briefs

Police arrested 15 criminals

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital Police Koral and Shahzad Town police teams apprehended 15 criminals during the last week and recovered hashish, heroin, and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad's capital police intensified the crackdown against criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city. Following these directives, the Koral and Shahzad Town police teams arrested 15 accused during the last week and recovered 6600-gram hashish, 100-gram of heroin, and nine pistols with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. IGP Islamabad said that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard.—APP

Railways outsourced commercial management of 14 trains

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has outsourced the commercial management of 14 trains to private parties under public-private partnership through a fair and transparent bidding process. The basic purpose to outsource the trains is to provide better facilities to the passengers and generate more revenue for the department, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Pakistan Railways has privatized the trains including Mehr Express, Fared Express, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Mehran Express, Sir Syed Express, Badar Express, Ghauri Express, Mianwali Express, Mohenjo Daro, Thal Express, Tezgam Express, Subak Kharam, Rawal Express and Ravi Express. The official said that the trains had been awarded through the transparent procedure of tendering under Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rules through advertisement in the leading newspapers. He said that only those trains were awarded whose bids had been received over and above the Pakistan Railways earnings. The official said the trains had been awarded with the objective to increase earnings and reduce losses for Pakistan Railways, improve cleanliness and provide better food facilities to passengers.—APP

GSMA's delegation calls on Syed Aminul Haque

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of GSMA Asia Pacific called on Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Aminul Haque here on Friday. The delegation comprising Head of Asia Pacific Julian Gorman, head of policy Jean White and Country head Saira Faisal discussed matters regarding IT sector, said a press release issued by Press Information Department (PID). A brief discussion in the meeting was held about connectivity, digitalization and telecommunication sectors. "GSMA delegation has lauded the gigantic efforts of Minister for IT and Telecommunication in the digitalization sector in Pakistan," Aminul Haque informed that the incumbent government had launched 70 projects with the cost of Rs 65 billion in connectivity sector for under-developed areas and these projects would be completed in the stipulated time. He appreciated the measures of IT-affiliated institutions such as the Universal Service Fund (USF) regarding connectivity. He said he was playing an important role to tackle the issues being confronted by Telecommunication Industry. Head of Asia Pacific Julian Gorman expressed his commitment to cooperation and collaboration in connectivity, digitalization, and telecommunication sectors with the ministry for further promotion.—APP

Students urged to focus on studies for a better Pakistan

Investiture ceremony of students council at girls college

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An active Student Council serves as a liaison between the students and the administration of an institution. Islamabad Model College for Girls (PG) F-7/2, Islamabad held the Investiture Ceremony of Student Council 2022-23. The honourable Chief Guest for the occasion was Ms. Noor Anna Malik, Former Director General Learning Innovation, HEC and an experienced educationist. Worthy parents of the Executive Council members also attended the auspicious ceremony. The programme started with the recitation of Holy Quran and translation followed by Naat-e-Rasul-Maqbool (p.b.u.h). The host of the ceremony, Maria Adil, welcomed the Chief guest on the stage.

The stage secretary threw light on the academic and co-curricular achievements of the college in the past academic session. She also highlighted the role of Student Council in organizing the Inter-House and Inter-Collegiate competitions. Ms. Noor Anna Malik took the oath of office from the newly elected President Ms. Rukhsar Nudrat, Vice President Ms. Maheen Khan, General Secretary Ms. Fiza Sohail Khan, Joint Secretary Ms. Huda Khalid, the secretaries of various societies and the class representatives. She also distributed badges among the



ISLAMABAD: Director General HEC Noor Anna Malik along with principal Prof Fauzia Sheikh presenting cash award to student in a ceremony held at model college F7/2.—DNA

office holders of the Students' Council 2022-23. The President of the outgoing Students' Council handed over her charge to the new President, Ms. Rukhsar Nudrat. The former president, Areeba Noreen, gave her farewell speech. The Principal of the college, Dr.

Fauzia Tanveer Sheikh and the Chief Guest, Ms. Noor Anna Malik, also awarded scholarship certificates to the students who had proved their mettle in academics. They also presented shields to the winners of Teacher Excellence Award namely Ms. Naira Qadeer,

Ms. Shaista Sheikh, Ms. Munazza Erum and Ms. Humaira Shabnam. The Chief Guest also presented a shield to the Principal, Dr. Fauzia Tanveer Sheikh, for winning Best College Award in F.G. setup. In her speech, Ms. Noor Anna Malik congratulated the newly elect-

ed Student Council. She expressed her delight at being invited to her Alma mater. She emphasized upon the importance of honouring the oath to the newly elected Student Council. She encouraged the students to face the societal stereotypes cou-

rageously and perform their roles sincerely. The Principal, Dr. Fauzia Tanveer Sheikh presented a token of gratitude to the Chief Guest, Ms. Noor Anna Malik. The ceremony concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

PIMS plans to establish kidney transplant centre

Two hospitals including Jinnah Hospital (G-11/3) and King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Hospital having separate Cardiac Department were being established in Islamabad Capital

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Friday said the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has planned to establish Kidney Transplant Centre in the hospital. In a written reply to the question of Kheikh Rohale Asghar, the minister told National Assembly, during question hour that two Renal and Liver Transplant Surgeons including Dr. Nasir Hussain and Dr. Obaidullah, currently working in

Sheikh Zayed Medical Complex, Lahore, would join PIMS as Associated Professor and Assistant Professor. Dr. Khalid Saeed, Assistant Professor of Urology, of PIMS was also allowed clinical attachment/training for renal transplant from Sheikh Zayed Medical Complex, Lahore, while the rest of the team was already available in PIMS. The facility for a kidney transplant was available at Federal Hospital Zheikh Zayed Postgraduate Medical Institute, Lahore.

In a written reply to another question, the minister said two hospitals including Jinnah Hospital (G-11/3) and King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud Hospital having separate Cardiac Department were being established in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Islamabad. The completion time of both the hospitals was June 30, 2024. Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Shazia Sobia Soomro said that public complaints regarding shortage of medi-

cines were being addressed. Medical camps have been established in the flood-affected areas to provide timely treatment to the flood victims. She said Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) was continuously monitoring the market situation and Joint activities of DRAP and Provincial Drug Inspectorates were regularly conducted through National Action Task Force to curb the menace of black marketing and hoarding.—APP

Youth is the future of Pak-China friendship

ISLAMABAD: Youth is the future torchbearers of the Pakistan-China strong friendship. They are the ones who will move this ever-growing relationship forwards with their energy and strong commitments. These were the remarks by Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industries, who was speaking as chief guest at the Final Inter-University Speech Competition and Prize Distribution Ceremony. Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan said that young students must effectively utilise their time, explore several avenues for growth, and learn from the visionary leaders and wisdom from China. Moving ahead, he touched upon the close and cordial ties between the brotherly Pakistan and China. In this vein, he enunciated that Pakistan stands to learn immensely from China in terms of economic rejuvenation and sci-tech evolution. Farhat Asif, President IPDS in her welcoming remarks appreciates the mission of organising the speech competition amongst the university students. This special inter-University Speech Competition was organised to promote an understanding of Contemporary China and encourage young students to build strong Pakistan-China bilateral strong ties further. Earlier the participating universities including Muslim Youth University, Quaid-I-Azam University, Rawalpindi Women's University, Riphah International University, and Preston University organised competitions at the university level and send the nominations for the final competition and prize distribution ceremony.—DNA

0.3 mn being provided TB treatment facilities

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of National Health Services is providing free of cost diagnostic and treatment facilities to over 0.3 million Tuberculosis (TB) patients annually as part of its measures to eradicate the disease from the country. The ministry is using state-of-the-art diagnostics and ensuring the provision of quality anti-TB drugs at more than 1,700 TB Basic Management Units across Pakistan in the public and private sectors. In a written reply during question hour in National Assembly here, it was in-

formed that the government has increased allocation to health and TB as recently PC-1 worth Rs. 2 billion is approved. The steps taken to control TB included strengthening primary health care through Lady Health Workers (LHWs) engagement, enhancing drug resistance TB services coverage through decentralization, larger scale preventive treatment of TB and multi-sectoral engagement through an accountability framework. The other measures are strengthening of electronic TB surveillance - DHIS2 implementation for case-based surveillance, training of a large number of clinicians, strengthening regular sample transportation from microscopy centres to Xpert sites, engagement of private primary care providers with National TB Control Program

(NTP) to 15 per cent and use of digital technologies for TB care using DHIS-2 and active case finding. It was further informed that the National TB Control Program (NTP) pledges a high level of commitment to implement context-specific interventions to achieve - END TB goals - by 2035 and in line to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 in Pakistan to end TB epidemic. The country is a signatory to international commitments to END TB through the Moscow declaration 2017 and United Nations High-Level Meeting (UN-HLM) in September 2018. Pakistan made progress towards reaching Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through increased integration and multi-sectoral approaches.—APP

ANF seizes over 31 kg drugs, 12,205 intoxicated tablets

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Friday seized over 31 kg of drugs, 12,205 intoxicated tablets and 850 liters of prohibited chemicals besides netting two accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF and ASF in an operation at Lahore International Airport recovered 12,205 intoxicated tablets from the possession of a passenger, a resident of Jhelum, going to Thailand. ANF and Punjab rangers in a joint operation recovered 1.5 kg of heroin from the possession of an accused, resident of Gujranwala.—APP

FGEHA to launch housing scheme in Rawalakot

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government's Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) and the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) will have to launch a housing scheme in Rawalakot, Azad Jammu and Kashmir to provide modern housing facilities to the people of the area. In this regard, an agreement between the FGEHA and the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has already been signed to meet the shortage of houses for the people of the valley, an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. He said that as per the agreement, the FGEHA would provide technical and managerial assistance and support in terms of planning, designing, engineering estimates, construction, and supervision. To a question, he said the pace of different development projects, being executed under the FGEHA has accelerated significantly to provide modern residential facilities to employees in the shortest possible time. The official said the FGEHA had completed the grey structure of 680 apartments in the Life Style Residency project was near completion whereas a block of 468 apartments was under construction. "As soon as civil work on the remaining apartments gets into small tangible shape, balloting for the entire lot of 1,148 apartments will be held collectively, to avoid any chances of discrimination amongst the members," he added.—APP

AIU announces schedule for assignments

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has announced the assignment schedule for Matric and F.A programs offered in autumn semester 2022. 5th December is the submission deadline for the first complete course assignment, December 31, for the second assignment, January 25, 2023, for third and, February 25, is the last submission date for the fourth assignment. The submission deadline for 1st and 2nd half course assignments of matric and F.A programs is December 31, 2022, and February 25, 2023, respectively.

Students can get names, addresses, and other information of their respective tutors on CMS portal at <http://enrollment.aiu.edu.pk> or from any nearest regional campus. Students will be responsible for late assignment submission, and assignments reaching after the due dates will not be accepted.

Interior Ministry reviews law and order ahead of PTI long march

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Interior on Friday reviewed law and order ahead of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's long march in Rawalpindi.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah chaired a meeting held to review law and order, which was attended among others by the Minister of State for Interior Affairs Abdul Rehman Kanjo, Interior Secretary Yusuf Naseem Khokhar, IG Islamabad police, Commissioner Islamabad and representatives of the security agencies.

The IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Moazzam Jah and Chief Secretary attended the meeting online while officials from Punjab Home Department and Acting IGP were also present.

The meeting reviewed the law and order situation ahead of PTI's long march in Rawalpindi, scheduled to take place on November 26 (Saturday).

Rana Sanaullah urged the federating units to join hands with the federal government to foil any unconditional attempt during the long march of a political party. He also directed the chief secretaries to ensure that government employees are not involved in ascension to the federation. The participants of the meeting assured to follow Constitution and law in case of any possible attack on the federation.—APP

Islamabad Police beats RBA in cricket match

ISLAMABAD: The Cricket team of Islamabad Capital Police has beaten the Rawalpindi Bar Association (RBA) team in the final match of cross departmental tape ball tournament played here at Marghzar Cricket Ground, Saidpur. Superintendent of Police (SP) Headquarters Saud Khan participated as chief guest among a large number of Islamabad capital police officials, members of RBA and civilians present on the occasion, said a news release. The tournament was organized to follow the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, in order to encourage the police officials towards healthy activities. Therefore, a friendly cricket match was also played between the Islamabad Capital Police and Frontier Constabulary teams at Police Lines Headquarters cricket ground. According to the details, the final match being played between Islamabad Capital Police and RBA opened after Islamabad Capital Police won the toss and chose to bat first and scored some 150 runs in eight overs. The Rawalpindi Bar Association team only managed to score 83 runs. However, Islamabad Capital Police won the match by 67 runs. Constable Amir was awarded the Man of the Match for his excellent performance. On the occasion, the IGP Islamabad said the purpose of the cricket match was to motivate the police officials and encourage them towards healthy activities.—APP

Naveed attends China-South Asia exposition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Additional Secretary Foreign Affairs (Asia Pacific) Mumtaz Zahra Baloch attended and addressed the 6th China-South Asia Exposition and the 26th China Kunming Import and Export Fair held in Kunming this week, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. At the opening ceremony, Minister Naveed Qamar urged companies participating in the expo to find new approaches to enhance investment ties between Pakistan and China. He said Pakistan has learned from China that the miracle of Chinese development owes its origin to the establishment of special economic zones. "We are aware of the significance of SEZs and doing our best to provide state-of-the-art one-window facility to business enterprises," he said. He said these establishments in China's manufacturing, engineering, automobile industry, and joint ventures between Pakistan and Chinese enterprises are offering attractive investment opportunities to the

business community. Pakistan is also committed to offering attractive investment

opportunities to local importers of various goods. "I must acknowledge that the geo-

graphical location and historically close ties between Pakistan and China have great potential and under the Belt and Road Initiative, both countries can get fruitful results," he said. Later, while addressing the 3rd China-South Asia Cooperation forum, Pakistani Additional Secretary of Foreign Affairs (Asia Pacific) Mumtaz Zahra Baloch welcomed the resumption of the China-South Asia Cooperation Forum after two years. "We have broken new ground under CPEC and Pakistan is ready to work with friends and partners all over the world especially in the region to win opportunities for development and prosperity," she said. She also added that Pakistan has suffered recently from the worst flooding in history because of climate change and it would like to work together with China to combat climate change for mutual benefits. "We would also like to deepen cooperation in the agriculture industry, Information Technology, Science and Technology and enhance bilateral trade. This way, we can unleash the dynamism of our region in this worthy pursuit," she added.



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Sanctions on DPRK

Those decrying the latest missile test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as an "intolerable" threat to those living in the "peace-loving nations", by which they mean the Western countries, fail to mention that the COVID-19 pandemic, other crises and the harsh sanctions imposed on the country have effectively made the DPRK a forgotten corner of the world and prevented it from receiving needed assistance from the international community.

It was against this background, as well as the continuous bolstering of the United States' military input and deployment in the region that last week's missile test was carried out.

The stern warning about a response to possible new sanctions on her country Kim Yo-jong, deputy head of the Propaganda and Information Department of the Workers' Party of Korea, sent the Republic of Korea and the United States on Thursday should not fall on deaf ears.

That the message from Pyongyang was met with the usual smug sense of superiority from those deploring the missile test is no surprise. But what they dismissed as "insult-laden threats" deserve careful consideration. Not least, why the ROK "had not been our target" under the previous Moon Jae-in government?

In case anyone should be in any doubt, Kim spelled it out: the Moon government always sought reconciliation with the North. That should serve to point to the right direction to prevent the situation from spiraling out of control, namely that the DPRK's core concerns on its security and its people's livelihoods need to be properly addressed.

The US is well aware the sanctions only serve to prolong the crisis and deepen the feud. But in the eyes of many shortsighted strategists in Washington, fostering suspicion and animosity on the peninsula is in line with US interests.

As the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations said in a Security Council meeting on the issue on Monday, it is the US that should take the initiative, demonstrate sincerity, propose realistic and feasible plans, respond to the DPRK's legitimate concerns in a positive way, and push for dialogue to be turned into reality at an early date.

Any new sanctions will only fuel the mutual suspicion that has reemerged and steer the peninsula situation in a dangerous direction. The US and its allies flexing their muscles will doubtlessly be perceived as a grave provocation and substantial threat to the DPRK, which has little means to counter any displays of hostility except by demonstrating it has the means to respond to any aggression.

That the peninsula situation improved after the two Koreas offered each other olive branches and the US engaged in direct dialogue with the DPRK, indicates that a long-belated end to the crisis can be peacefully achieved. But that requires trust which is once again in short supply.



Pandemic's educational impact

Children in England should have learned to read by age seven. Given an age-appropriate book, they are expected to be able to focus on understanding – who the story is about, what is happening – rather than expend effort on sounding out individual words. Literacy, numeracy and social and physical skills are the blocks on which all learning is built. So it is concerning that the latest research on the pandemic's effects shows that the number of very low attainers in reading, in the third year of schooling, has more than tripled. In a sample of 6,000 pupils from 81 schools, the proportion who fell below expected levels rose from 2.6% to 9.1% between 2017 and this year. There was also a marked decline in maths, with very low attainers increasing from 2.6% to 5.5% of the total. While there were some signs of a recovery in the 12 months to spring 2022 – a period when schools remained open, with catchup schemes in place – the head of the Education Endowment Foundation, Prof Becky Francis, says that inequality exacerbated by the pandemic is now the "biggest challenge" facing schools overall. Instead, schools were left high and dry, lacking the resources to make up for lost learning and to support the children most troubled by the disruption. Even the national tutoring programme was botched first time round, with the contract given to a private company that could not deliver. Other research, including from Ofsted, has shown that very young children were among the worst affected by the pandemic, with increased social and emotional difficulties and delays. Unsurprisingly, evidence points to the most serious consequences being suffered by those who already had least – and who spent lockdowns in overcrowded housing, with adults who were less able to support them. Against this backdrop, the increase in school funding promised this month by the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, offered some relief. An additional £2.3bn a year for two years is expected to bring funding back to roughly where it was in 2010 – and means teachers' pay rises will no longer have to be funded via cuts. But the decision to plug the gap in schools' budgets while ignoring nurseries and further education colleges is unforgivable. Years of rhetoric from successive ministers about skills, and new vocational routes as alternatives to university, have been exposed as hot air. Educational divides are stark. Even before the pandemic, efforts at closing the gap between children from wealthy and poor households had stalled. The early years sector will need investment if this is to change. So will provision for pupils with special needs. The pupil premium should also increase, to give schools with the most deprived intakes additional resources. More must be done to recruit, retain and motivate teachers. The damage wrought by Covid-19 is obvious. But the Conservatives do not have a good story to tell seven-year-olds, or anyone else, about what has happened to schools in England throughout their years in office.

Qatar WC: Soccer upsets, politics, sensitive situations

James M. Dorsey

Nevertheless, current and former players have been questioned by authorities, detained, or charged with "acting against national security." The refusal to sing the national anthem and the team's embarrassing 6:2 loss to England fed the Iranian government's worst fear that the World Cup would turn out to be a global platform for dissent rather than a moment of unifying national celebration. The national team was emboldened by their manager, Carlos Queiroz, who, breaking with FIFA's fictional separation of politics and sport, insisted that "players are free to protest as they would if they were from any other country as long as it conforms with the World Cup regulations and is in the spirit of the game."

Barely out of the starting blocks, the Qatar World Cup has already produced a fair share of upsets as well as politically and personally sensitive situations and incidents. Qatar's 2:0 loss to Ecuador in the tournament's opening match will have reinforced critics' conviction that the Gulf state should never have been awarded World Cup hosting rights, among other things, because of its alleged lack of a soccer legacy. Leaving aside the merits of the allegation and Qatari disappointment, the jury remains out on what Qatar's return on its massive investment in organising the World Cup will be regarding reputational capital.

For Qatar, the ultimate evaluation of the return will largely depend on how it manages the tournament and potential flare- and kick-ups as dissidents try to turn Iranian matches into venues of protest, activists seek to capitalise on the opportunity to campaign for

their cause, and fans refuse to play to Qatari soft power objectives, let alone possible incidents of intoxication, rowdiness, and LGBT-related issues.

So far, the picture constitutes a mixed bag.

Addressing Iranian concerns, Qatar refused to accredit for the World Cup, Iran International, a Saudi-backed, London-based satellite television broadcaster, that the Islamic republic accuses of fomenting months-long anti-government protests that security forces have been unable to squash.

Similarly, to prevent matches from turning into platforms for protest, Qatar stopped Iranian fans from bringing Iran's pre-revolutionary flag into the country's first World Cup match against England. The flag, dating from the time of the shah, toppled in the 1979 Islamic revolution, is viewed as a symbol of protest against Iran's theocratic government.

That didn't halt fans holding up signs in the stadium demanding freedom in Iran and pictures of demonstrators killed by security forces. However, there was little Qatar could do when the Iranian national team refused to sing the country's national anthem at the beginning of the game. "I would like to express my condolences to all bereaved families in Iran. They should know that we are with them. And we support them. And we sympathize with them regarding the conditions," the team's captain, Ehsan Hajsafi, told journalists hours before the match. While Qatar's state-run domestic broadcaster avoided showing female supporters with their hair uncovered in the stadium, Iranian state television interrupted its live broadcast as the Iranian and Ecuadorian anthems were played. For weeks, footballers have signalled support for the protesters by not celebrating Iranian League goals, wearing black wristbands, and expressing support for the Iranian people without mentioning the protests to evade government retaliation.

Nevertheless, current and former players have been questioned by authorities, detained, or charged with "acting against national security." The refusal to sing the national anthem and the team's embarrassing 6:2 loss to England fed the Iranian government's worst fear that the World Cup would turn out to be a global platform for dissent rather than a moment of unifying national celebration. The national team was emboldened by their manager, Carlos Queiroz, who, breaking with FIFA's fictional separation of politics and sport, insisted that "players are free to protest as they would if they were from any other country as long as it conforms with the World Cup regulations and is in the spirit of the game." Overall, Iran has lost in more ways than just on the pitch. At the start of the year Iran, which sits across the Gulf, had hoped to attract World Cup tourists like the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman, and proposed the crafting of a joint tourism plan with Qatar. Tehran even agreed to forgo the

visa requirement for World Cup visitors. That hope was dashed by the anti-government protests, the failure to revive the 2015 international agreement that curbed Iran's nuclear program, and Iran's inability to complete necessary infrastructure on its Kish Island. The match against England could prove to have been a cakewalk compared to potential friction when Iran meets the United States on the Qatari pitch on November 29 in what is likely to be one of, if not the most politically charged match of the World Cup. Similarly, Arab fans, reflecting sentiments among some Qataris, made clear that the World Cup would not be a bridge-building event, at least not when it came to relations with Israel and Israelis. Arabs largely refused to be interviewed by Israeli media. Footage circulating online showed two Saudi fans, a Qatari shopper, and three Lebanese fans walking away from Israeli reporters in a demonstration of the limitations of soccer as a vehicle to build bridges. In another incident, Palestinians chanted "go home" when approached by Israeli reporters. Qatari media published some videos of sharp encounters between Arab fans, Qatari nationals, and visiting Israelis with the caption: "No to normalization."

"Sure, most countries in the Arab world are heading towards normalisation – but that's because most of them don't have rulers who listen to their people," said Saudi football fan and oil worker Khaled al-Omri, who travelled to Qatar to support the kingdom's national team. The fans' refusal to engage with Israeli reporters dashed hopes that ten Israeli charter flights ferrying up to 20,000 fans from the Jewish state to the World Cup, the first ever between Tel Aviv and Doha, would herald a new milestone in the normalisation of Arab-Israeli relations following the 2020 establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. Qatar, like Saudi Arabia, has made the conversion of informal ties into formal relations conditional on a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Under FIFA rules, Qatar was obliged to grant entry to fans irrespective of whether the Gulf state recognizes the country issuing a supporter's passport.

In line with the rules, authorities allowed Israeli channels to broadcast from Doha, but unlike other major foreign networks did not provide them with a formal studio. Protest was not the preserve of Iranians and pro-Palestinian Arabs. Prominent Qataris made statement of their own by wearing a pro-Palestinian armband at the Germany-Japan match after being told that German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser would sport a One Love pro-LGBT band. Ironically, Ms. Faeser was sitting in the stadium's VIP section next to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who had just banned players from wearing the One Love band on the pitch in support of LGBT rights.

In response, Germany's players covered their mouths for the team photo before their opener against Japan. Mr. Infantino, unmoved by Ms. Faeser's gesture, apparently saw no contradiction between his ban and FIFA's opening days later of disciplinary proceedings against Ecuador over homophobic chanting by their fans in the match against Qatar. Meanwhile, the Qataris had likely forgotten their loss in the euphoria sparked by Saudi Arabia's 2:1 defeat of favourite Argentina 2:1 the first of two initial World Cup upsets. "Looking forward to the Japan-Saudi final," quipped Israeli journalist Anshel Pfeffer after Japan, in a second soccer upset, beat Germany 2:1.

The New York Times noted in a tweet that the Saudi upset put Argentinian player Lionel Messi, widely viewed as one of soccer history's best players, in "a strange position" given his agreement to promote Saudi tourism and potentially the kingdom's joint bid together with Egypt and Greece for the hosting of the 2030 World Cup. Mr. Messi would potentially be campaigning against his home country, with Argentina planning a rival joint bid with Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile. So far, Spain, Portugal, and Ukraine are the only ones to announce their joint interest officially. The tweet and a headline in The Athletic, a sports publication that was recently acquired by the Times that accused Mr. Messi of selling himself to the devil, sparked a furious tweet by Mohammed Alyahya, former editor-in-chief of Al Arabiya English. "Staggering racism. It implies Arabs are incompetent & can't win. It accuses a Latino world hero of corruption. Messi is the greatest footballer today, wealthy & only concerned about legacy. But according to the NYT, he's a venal traitor in a shady deal with rich Arabs. Shameful," Mr. Alyahya said. Contrasting the Saudi victory with the Iranian defeat, author Lee Smith opined:

"The people of the Middle East recognize a strong horse when they see one: That horse is clearly not Iran. By attempting to reenter the Iran deal, fill the regime's war chests with billions of dollars, and legitimize its nuclear weapons program, the Biden administration is doing something even worse than backing sectarian tyrants who spread death and destruction. It's backing losers." 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.

Will Republicans cut US aid for Ukraine?

Ahmadi Ali

The world needs to sit up and pay attention: A divided government will have significant implications not just for domestic governance but also for foreign policy, from Ukraine to China to sanctions and more. Ukraine shift? Since Russia's full-blown invasion of Ukraine in February, the US Congress has approved \$68bn in aid for Kyiv and the Biden administration requested an additional \$37bn last week. This financial support has for the most part received bipartisan backing.

The US midterm election results could shatter unity over Ukraine assistance while spurring hawkish China policies Ahmadi Ali The 2022 United States midterm elections were predicted to be a grisly affair for President Joe Biden's Democratic Party. As it turns out, voters had other ideas. Yes, inflation and high gas prices mattered to them but so did the fear of further losing women's rights over their own bodies, cherished by most Americans. The result: The Democrats now have the opportunity to create a single-vote lead in the Senate. However,

they have lost control of the House of Representatives, where a razor-thin Republican majority could constrain what Biden can do for the rest of his term in office. The world needs to sit up and pay attention: A divided government will have significant implications not just for domestic governance but also for foreign policy, from Ukraine to China to sanctions and more. Ukraine shift? Since Russia's full-blown invasion of Ukraine in February, the US Congress has approved \$68bn in aid for Kyiv and the Biden administration requested an additional \$37bn last week. This financial support has for the most part received bipartisan backing. The largest such appropriation was passed in May with broad bipartisan support and only 57 no votes in the House of Representatives – though all of those opposing were Republicans. But the midterm elections have exposed the deep divisions within the Republican Party over just how to support Ukraine financially and militarily. JD Vance, the Republican Senator-elect from Ohio and a loyal ally of former President Donald Trump, has insisted that Congress has "got to stop the money spigot to Ukraine eventually". The far-right conspiracy theorist Congresswoman from Georgia, Marjorie Taylor Greene, who won reelection, declared in a campaign rally before the midterms that "under Republicans, not another penny will go to Ukraine". Since the vote, she has introduced a resolution in Congress calling for an audit of US spending on Ukraine.

Kevin McCarthy, the House Minority Leader who could be the next Speaker, also said in October that under a Republican majority, Ukraine would not get a "blank cheque" any more. McCarthy's statement can be interpreted as a tacit acknowledgement that he is facing opposition towards Ukraine funding from the more pro-Trump elements in his party. While they may represent a minority among the Republican House caucus at this point, their proximity to the former president, who is running for re-election and is still widely admired in the Republican Party, could make them difficult to ignore. While it is unlikely the Republican Party will follow Greene's recommendation to stop funding for Ukraine, it is pos-

sible its leadership would seek to increase scrutiny of Ukraine-related appropriations – and maybe even impose some limits on funding. However, it's worth noting that McCarthy is reported to have already backtracked on his "blank cheque" comments in private conversations with national security leaders, assuring them he had no intention of dumping support for Ukraine. It's also important to remember that while Trump's rhetoric often came off as sympathetic towards the Kremlin, his administration still imposed a broad range of sanctions against Russia. Trump signed into law the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, which included secondary sanctions for those who do business with Russia. His administration imposed more than 40 rounds of sanctions designations against Russia. None of us should be surprised if Republicans seek to further expand the sanctions campaign against Moscow which, while aggressive at the moment, is still porous compared with the "maximum pressure" campaigns Washington is carrying out against rivals with smaller economies such as Iran, Syria or North Korea. Sanctions and China: Where opposites meet Indeed, sanctions are one area where there is broad bipartisan consensus – whichever party is in the White House or in control of Congress. Sanctions scholars have long argued that a key reason why policymakers gravitate towards the economic weapon is its ability to signal strength and resolve to a domestic audience. Whether this is the primary reason for sanctioning is debatable but it is certainly a nearly cost-free display of nationalism for members of Congress that seems to resonate with constituencies across the country of all political stripes. The Trump administration imposed a wide variety of measures against China, ranging from protectionist trade restrictions to technology restrictions, which targeted hundreds of Chinese firms including leading companies like Huawei. As expected, the Biden administration has continued that approach. The administration has already signed bills such as the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act – which bans most imports from China's Xinjiang province – into law and recently redoubled efforts to impose

wide-ranging technology restrictions. Expect the temperature against China to rise further in Washington, DC under a Republican-led House. There is currently a broad range of bipartisan legislation against China pending before Congress. Congress is considering an outbound screening mechanism to scrutinise US investment in China. Other bills with broad bipartisan support, such as the Transatlantic Telecommunications Act and the Promoting US International Leadership in 5G Act, seek to keep Chinese technology out of US supply chains and those of its allies. Many of these bills are likely to come up for serious consideration when the new Congress convenes in January. Opposition towards China is not only consistent with the Biden administration's agenda. It is also a rare theme that binds the orthodox Washington Republican establishment, which craves US global primacy, and the party's MAGA wing, which took a hard anti-China turn in the latter stages of the Trump presidency. Hawkish future

The Republican takeover of the House likely brings any Biden-administration domestic, legislative agenda to a virtual halt. On the other hand, US presidents have historically tended to look for foreign policy accomplishments when domestic policy victories seem unlikely. We might see more foreign policy activism from Biden as he looks to solidify his legacy – he is yet to announce whether he will run again in 2024. But whatever he decides, there's a bigger risk here. At a time when a significant war on the back of a pandemic is devastating economies and food supplies around the world, a divided Congress could spur a new era of competition between Republicans and Democrats over who can be more hawkish on foreign policy. That could affect policy on everything from China and trade protectionism to funding for Ukraine. The Biden administration came to office promising the electorate and international community a return to pre-Trump norms. "America is back," Biden repeatedly told US partners. But with the new Republican majority in the House and the spectre of disrupted unity on issues like Ukraine assistance, what's back again is uncertainty over what an already unsteady world can expect from the US.

—Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Establishment won't give you election date

FROM PAGE 01
Suggesting the PTI chief to come back and be a part of the parliament, Sanaulah said that if he [Imran] is looking for the elections date, so it is better for him to come and sit with the politicians as the decisions could change only when the politicians sit together. Earlier, the federal government has decided to thwart any unconstitutional act that the Imran Khan-led PTI might be planning as it all set to stage a rally in Rawalpindi on November 26. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah to review the security situation amid the long march. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Interior Abdul Rehman Kanju, Federal Secretary Interior Yousuf Naseem Khokhar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa IG Moazzam Jah, KP Chief Secretary Dr Shehzad Bangash, IG Islamabad Akbar Nasir Khan, and others.

The participants of the meeting assured the interior ministry that they would support the Centre completely if PTI launches an attack on the federation. The interior minister said that the provincial governments are constitutional bound to block the illegal act by a political party. He said that the federation and provincial governments should join hands to prevent any unconstitutional move.

PM Shehbaz Sharif Tayyip Erdogan...

FROM PAGE 01
"deeply engaged" in promoting their defence capabilities for peace to ward off aggression. He said the ship's launch was for defence purposes instead of any aggression. The prime minister called on Turkey to further collaborate on their defence production capacities to ensure that peace was restored in the world, adding that the globe was facing "great tensions". Shehbaz said the Russia-Ukraine conflict had created multifarious problems for global societies and appreciated Erdogan's efforts for peace and brokering the wheat shipment deal. He also appreciated Turkey's aid and help to Pakistan after the recent catastrophic floods in the country. Earlier, PM Shehbaz was received by the Istanbul deputy governor and other senior officials of the Turkish government upon arriving at Istanbul airport.

Imran says nation will come out for him today

FROM PAGE 01
there to expel those in my party who do wrong. "This will strengthen my party," Imran told host that he never thought of appointing his own army chief and that appointees should be on merit. "Merit is what strengthens institutions." "These two corrupt, mafia clans that have ruled the country for 30 years... just look at history, it has been their attempt to have their own judge, their own IG. "They destroyed the police." "These criminals need control so no one catches them. They have control of NAB, control everyone... but the military is the strongest, the one institution they could not harm. "They destroyed every other institution in 30 years. The one [institution] that's remaining is the army. They're trying their best to control it. That's why they want their own chief." He also said it was the government that "made the army chief controversial". "I believe they made the army chief controversial because they took the stance that 'we like this man.'" He maintained that "Nawaz Sharif has no right to choose the army chief, because he is an absconder and a convict — and neither does Shehbaz Sharif, because his sons were about to be sentenced in a Rs16bn FIA case." "Are such people qualified to make on merit such an important appointment? To choose the head of national security? I believe they shouldn't have."



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi, COAS, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in a group photo with Pakistan Cricket Team and PCB management, in Federal Capital. — APP

Iran rebound at WC as late blows sink Wales

The win moves Iran to three points in Group B, two more than Wales, who were held to a 1-1 draw by United States in their opener, with England and the US facing each other later

SPORTS DESK

AL RAYYAN: Iran scored twice after the eighth minute of stoppage time to snatch a stunning 2-0 win over Wales that breathed new life into their World Cup campaign and left the Welsh flat on their backs and facing a make-or-break decider against England. After Wales keeper Wayne Hennessey was sent off in the 87th minute, Iran produced a remarkable finale, with Roozbeh Cheshmi driving home to give them the lead before Ramin Rezaeian added another in the 11th minute of stoppage time. Iran, who had been facing elimination if they lost, were almost unrecognisable from the side that was thrashed 6-2 by England in their opener, and they were deserved winners even if they left it very late. Carlos Queiroz's side were twice denied by the woodwork in the second half by Ahmad bin Ali Stadium and made the most of the extra man after Hennessey was given his marching orders following a dreadful head-high challenge on Mehdi Taremi. The win moves Iran to three points in Group B, two more than Wales, who were held to a 1-1



draw by the United States in their opener, with England and the U.S. facing each other later on Friday. The group comes to a head next Tuesday, when Wales play their old rivals and Iran face the U.S. England will be through to the next round with a win later on Friday, while Iran's heroics have left them with all to play for. Once again, Iran's buildup to the match had been dominated by speculation

about how the players would respond to anti-government protests at home and whether they would give the national anthem the silent treatment as they did against England. This time they sang along, to a back drop of boos and jeers from the crowd with some fans pictured sobbing in the stands. Iran's performance also stood in stark contrast to their woeful display in their opening encounter, as they

showed far more ambition, attacking adventure and enterprising passing. "I didn't change absolutely nothing, it was the players that adjusted today," said Queiroz. "They only think about playing football with no fear, they expressed themselves. And that's why it worked well." There was little to shout about in the first half in which Wales's Kieffer Moore had a volley on the stretch pushed away by keeper Seyed Hossein

Hosseini and Iran's Ali Gholizadeh thought he had opened the scoring only to see his effort ruled out for offside. The second half, however, began with the most extraordinary treble miss as Sardar Azmoun raced through only to strike the post, Gholizadeh curled the follow-up against the other post, and Azmoun headed that rebound straight at Wales keeper Hennessey. Hennessey rode to Wales's rescue again in the 70th minute, tipping Saied Ezatollahi's low shot from distance around the post with his fingertips, but he was then given his marching orders to set up a frantic finale. Hennessey had raced out of his area but was beaten to the ball by Taremi, with the keeper following through and catching him square in the face with his knee. The referee initially produced a yellow card, but a trip to the VAR monitor swiftly followed and the resulting red card felt inevitable. As the clock ticked deep into stoppage time, Wales would have been forgiven for thinking they had survived, but Cheshmi had other ideas. When the ball found its way to him on the edge of the area, he took a touch, shaped himself and let fly with a thunderbolt into the bottom corner that FIFA clocked at 64kph.

Denmark coach unafraid of France

DOHA: Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand says he has no fears about facing World Cup holders France on Saturday having twice beaten them in the Nations League this year. The Danes drew 0-0 with Tunisia in their opening game but know a positive result against France at Stadium 974 will leave them well placed in Group D before playing Australia in their final match. "It's an important game for us after the start we had. They're opponents who belong at the very top of world football, they're the reigning champions," Hjulmand told a news conference Friday. "The quality and talent they have in France at the moment is spectacular. I have great respect for them but we also know how strong we are." Euro 2020 semi-finalists Denmark defeated France home and away in the Nations League and arrived in Qatar as one of the pre-tournament dark horses. Two teams also met in the group stage at the last World Cup, playing out the only goalless draw four years ago in Russia. "We know if we play our very best we know we have a chance of getting a good result against France. To be able to do that we have to take a big step forward from the first match," said Hjulmand. France lost Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema to injury on the eve of the World Cup, but Didier Deschamps' side thrashed Australia 4-1 to launch their title defence. Olivier Giroud struck twice to equal Thierry Henry's all-time goals record for France, while Kylian Mbappe scored and grabbed an assist in a commanding performance from Les Bleus. — APP

Argentina greets pay tribute to Maradona on anniversary of death

DOHA: Argentina football greets on Friday set off a day of World Cup tributes to the "immortal" Diego Maradona on the second anniversary of his death. Fans unfurled Maradona flags on Doha's seaford and gathered at the CONMEBOL fan zone. Dominguez and Infantino both called Maradona "immortal". The FIFA boss said he would like a ceremony for the player at every World Cup. "I am Italian and an Inter fanatic, so I am neither Argentinian nor from Napoli and Diego made Inter cry many times, Italy too, but we love him," said Infantino. "Hopefully God is playing with him," said Tarantini, a defender in the side that won the 1978 World Cup. "We all keep remembering him on the pitch, but off the pitch he was better," Tarantini, 66, told the ceremony. Kempes, an attacking midfielder in the 1978 side, described Maradona as an "excellent" character who "destabilised us in all senses." "If you knew him you thought he would do one thing, but he would do completely the

opposite — that is genius," the 68-year-old told reporters. Maradona fans planned an event at a fan zone devoted to the Argentine at Doha's international airport later Friday. — APP



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Bosnia and Herzegovina marks Statehood Day

King Charles III congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina on Statehood Day, and his message was conveyed by Great Britain's Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Julian Reilly

SARAJEVO: The Statehood Day of BiH is one of those holidays that at the same time shed light on the idea of the country projected in ZAVNOBIH and what we see today. The Statehood Day is a reminder of the eternal struggle between the ideal and reality, desire and possibility. When, after a two-day session on the 25th and 26th of November 1943 was adopted the Resolution of the National Anti-Fascist Council of National Liberation of BiH (ZAVNOBiH), 247 delegates from all over the then occupied country nurtured hope that BiH will survive until today. However, what they did not hope for is that their ideas about the country will be challenged half a century later, and that the spirits of discord will not calm even in the first years of the 21st century. However, the spirit of anti-fascism, as romantic as it sounds, created a document at a time when optimism was expensive product, and which was charged by domestic traitors and followers of Nazism. ZAVNO-BiH seems almost unreal from this perspective, and raises the question whether such optimism, made in famous three letters "i", can be produced again today?

Marking the anniversary of the rebirth of BiH, then within a joint state of South Slavs, is a symbolic reminder that the community of seemingly different people can survive, and even re-occur, during and after the bitterest pessimism. Pessimism is contained in the fact that half of our country will spend the 25th of November like any other working day. That the representative of the RS in the Presidency of BiH did not host the reception at the Presidency of BiH on this occasion. That the average salary has not exceed the amount of 850 BAM for years, that food

is getting more expensive, but that pensions are staying same (if not late). And repeating these words for 20 years creates a collective tiredness. For now, what we can honestly say to ourselves, is that citizens of BiH can really build their optimism at a time when it is not expected from them. A clear proof of the accuracy of this statement is the very existence of our country despite all the opportunities that were directed against it for decades and centuries. On the table of political poker, the people of BiH always win at the end.

The new order of things allows change through democratic will of the citizens, and the truth that it is not here yet testify collective dream. ZAVNOBiH was not written by sleeping people, but awake citizens with a vision of the future, ready to renovate this small European country. King Charles III congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina on Statehood Day, and his message was conveyed by Great Britain's Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Julian Reilly. Reilly tweeted: "Happy Statehood Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina! His Majesty King Charles III sent a congratulatory message to the citizens of BiH on the occasion of Statehood Day." The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani also sent a cable of congratulations to Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina HE Zeljka Cvijanovic, on the anniversary of her country's National Day. While US secretary of state Antony J. Blinken also sent his congratulations to the BiH. In his statement he said, "On behalf of the United States of America, I wish the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina a heartfelt congratulations as you celebrate Statehood Day." — DNA

UAE establishes cardiology...

FROM PAGE 01
met with a number of patients, doctors and nurses, and conveyed the greetings and people of UAE, stressing that the directives of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE stemmed from his keenness to provide support and humanitarian assistance to the people of Balochistan, noting that the development projects that are implemented are evidence of the generosity of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and his interest in helping the needy and poor and upgrading friendly societies, civilly and humanely. In a statement on this occasion Abdullah AlGhaffli Director of UAE-PAK Assistance Programme stressed the importance of the initiatives of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE and the generous support and follow-up of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court, which aim to contribute to the comprehensive development of the individual and society, support and strengthen the capabilities of the health sector in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and enable it to exercise its effective role in providing best healthcare services to its citizens, as through these initiatives, multiple health projects were implemented and completed, represented by the establishment, equipment and maintenance of a number of hospitals, clinics, health centers and nursing institutes in various Pakistani regions and provinces. The Director explained that the Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Institute of Cardiology has special and exceptional importance, as it is the first specialized institute for the treatment of heart diseases in Balochistan province, and the most latest in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, that will serve as a reference center for hospitals and clinics in the region with regard to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, heart and cancer diagnosis for all residents of the regions and cities of Balochistan and neighboring provinces, which qualifies it to provide distinguished specialized treatment services by medical and technical cadres with expertise and scientific competence.

PTI to continue protests...

FROM PAGE 01
He added that Imran Khan will lead people's tsunami to Rawalpindi tomorrow. Omer Sarfraz said, "Imported leaders should pave a way for fresh elections instead of lingering to the government. PTI will continue protests till fresh elections are announced".

Faisal calls on SC to take notice...

FROM PAGE 01
Meanwhile, PTI Secretary General Asad Umar has censured the Islamabad deputy commissioner (DC) for not giving permission for Imran Khan's helicopter to land at Parade Ground in the capital. Addressing the DC, Umar said, "DC sahib, I want to tell you also — orders are coming from somewhere else but the signatures are yours — the way you are putting Imran Khan's life in danger, you will also have to accept the responsibility for this. If this is not your decision, then show some moral courage and tell whose decision it is."

China's widening curbs...

FROM PAGE 01
The announcement of the 20 measures, just as rising cases prompted an increasingly heavy response under China's strict zero-COVID approach, has caused widespread confusion and uncertainty in big cities, including Beijing, where many residents are locked down at home.

Briefs

Türkiye has right to protect itself: Swedish PM

STOCKHOLM: Türkiye has the right to protect itself against terrorist attacks, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Thursday. In response to a question in the Riksdag, or parliament, by Green Party spokeswoman Marta Stenevi, Kristersson said it must be admitted that Türkiye is a country that has been subjected to terrorist attacks and it has the right to protect itself against terrorism. Kristersson said the rest of the world has reason to recognize that the terrorist attacks that hit Türkiye are just as bad for Türkiye as other terrorist attacks that hit other countries are for them. He stressed that Sweden should not be a place where people, who in various ways participate in and finance terrorism or terrorist-related activities, find a safe haven precisely because their activities are not aimed at Sweden but at Türkiye. On Sunday, Türkiye launched Operation Claw-Sword, a cross-border aerial campaign against the YPG/PKK terrorist group, which has illegal hideouts across the Iraqi and Syrian borders where they plan attacks on Turkish soil.—DNA

Nurses in Britain prepare for strike

LONDON: In their biggest-ever strike action, thousands of nurses in the United Kingdom are set to stage strikes on December 15 and 20, joining other workers in the country who are taking industrial action over pay. Nursing staff across the UK — including in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland but barring Scotland — will go on strike after the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) union announced that the government had refused to meet demands for salary hikes of 5 percent above inflation. It would be the latest industrial action in Britain, where record-high inflation and life crises have prompted people to demand pay rises to keep pace with skyrocketing prices. "Nursing staff have had enough of being taken for granted, enough of low pay and unsafe staffing levels, enough of not being able to give our patients the care they deserve," RCN General Secretary Pat Cullen said on Friday. It follows the first of a series of two-day strikes by rail workers across the country, while postal workers will organize new stoppages ahead of Christmas.—APP

Greek surveillance scandal bigger than Watergate

ATHENS: The Greek surveillance scandal is bigger than the US Watergate scandal, according to the rapporteur for the European Parliament's Inquiry Committee into Pegasus and other spyware, local media reported Thursday. Although the conservative Nea Demokratia (ND) government claims there is no tangible evidence proving that it was involved in the surveillance of dozens of politicians, businessmen and journalists, evidence is there, said Sophie in 't Veld, the Avgi daily reported, citing German public broadcaster DW.—APP

Azerbaijan cancels peace talk with Armenia over Macron row

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on Friday called off a meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian that was supposed to take place on Dec. 7 in Brussels after the Armenian leader demanded that French President Emmanuel Macron mediate the discussion. "Pashinian has agreed to the meeting only on condition that the President of France Macron takes part," Aliyev told an international conference in Azerbaijan's capital Baku, adding, "that means the meeting will not take place." Azerbaijan accuses France of backing Armenia in its decadeslong conflict over the region of Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. The Armenian military occupied Karabakh and seven adjacent regions in 1991. Türkiye has backed Azerbaijan in the conflict. Aliyev on Friday said Macron has adopted an "anti-Azerbaijan position" and was "insulting" Baku. "So, he should not act as a go-between," he added. Aliyev accused

his Armenian counterpart of trying to undercut the next stage of talks by insisting that France must be a broker. "It is clear that under these circumstances, with this attitude, France cannot be part of the peace process between Azerbaijan and Armenia," Aliyev added. Following Aliyev's statements, Armenia's Foreign Ministry said it wanted to maintain the "Prague format" of discussions, which involved Macron and European Council head Charles Michel. A spokesperson said Baku's assertion that Yerevan was trying to disrupt peace talks "has nothing to do with reality," the Interfax news agency reported later in the day. Macron has accused Moscow of stoking tensions between Baku and Yerevan and has also affirmed his support for Armenia's sovereignty in phone calls with Pashinian. Armenia also said on Friday that Azerbaijan had not yet responded to its latest proposals for a peace agreement, which it presented at a meeting between their foreign ministers in Washington at the start of November. Fighting between the two former Soviet na-



tions flared in September; at least 286 people were killed on both sides before a U.S.-brokered truce ended the worst clashes since 2020 when Armenian attacks escalated into an all-out war. Over 6,500 lives were lost in six weeks; then a Russian-brokered cease-fire saw Armenia cede swathes of territory it had illegally occupied for decades and Moscow deployed about 2,000 Russian peacekeepers to oversee the fragile truce. The two countries

have recently begun working on a peace treaty under the mediation of the European Union and the United States. In October, Aliyev denounced as "unacceptable and biased" Macron's televised comments that "Azerbaijan launched a terrible war, with many deaths, (and) atrocious scenes." Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said at the time that Baku was "forced to reconsider France's role in mediating" the peace talks.

Last week, the French Senate passed a resolution proposing sanctions on Azerbaijan over what it claimed as "aggression" against Armenia, a move that drew the condemnation of Baku. This year, Aliyev and Pashinian met several times in Brussels and Moscow. Last month, they met for talks mediated by Macron and Michel in Prague where they agreed to allow a civilian EU mission to be set up on their border. In early November, Baku and Yerevan traded accusations of provoking a shootout along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in what was dubbed the worst fighting between the two since the 2020 war. Hours later, the sides met for U.S.-mediated peace talks in Washington on Nov. 7 and agreed to expedite negotiations and continue to engage in direct dialogue and diplomacy. Most recently, Aliyev separately spoke with Russia's President Vladimir Putin and the envoy for the normalization of Azerbaijan-Armenia relations, Igor Khovayev, to discuss his country's efforts on the normalization process and the creation of a peace deal.

Trudeau to defend use of wartime measures

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is set to testify at a public inquiry on Friday in defense of his government's use of wartime measures in suppressing trucker protests that paralyzed the capital city earlier this year. The Public Order Emergency Commission will hear Trudeau's statement on the federal government's use of the Emergencies Act in February, invoked after weeks of trucker-led protests that brought Ottawa to a standstill and disrupted trade. The so-called "Freedom Convoy" protests started with cross-border truckers rejecting the COVID-19 vaccine-or-quarantine mandate and extended to include people opposing all coronavirus-related restrictions announced by the Trudeau government. The Canadian premier said at the time that police needed "more tools to restore order" after more than three weeks of "dangerous and unlawful activities," including harassment of Ottawa residents by the big rigs' incessant honking and diesel fumes.—DNA

China's 'iPhone city' under Covid lockdown

BEIJING: Six million people were on Friday under Covid lockdown in a Chinese city home to the world's largest iPhone factory, after clashes between police and workers furious over pay. Authorities have ordered residents of eight districts in Zhengzhou, in the central province of Henan, not to leave the area for the next five days, building barriers around "high-risk" apartment buildings and setting up checkpoints to restrict travel. There have been only a handful of coronavirus cases in the city. The orders follow protests by hundreds of employees over conditions and pay at Foxconn's vast iPhone factory on the outskirts of the city, with fresh images of rallies emerging Friday. Video footage published on social media and geolocated by AFP showed a large group of people walking down a street in the east of the city, some holding signs. "So many people," a man can be heard saying. AFP was unable to verify precisely when the protests took place.—APP

Seoul launches self-driving bus experiment

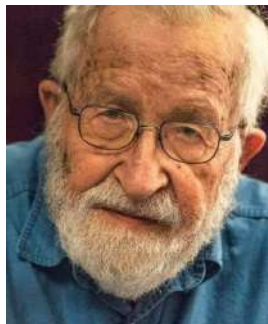
SEOUL: South Korea's capital launched its first self-driving bus route on Friday, part of an experiment which engineers said aims to make people feel more comfortable with driverless vehicles on the roads. The new vehicle does not look like a regular bus and has rounded edges along with large windows that make it appear more like a toy than a technological breakthrough. This design is intentional, said Jeong Seongyun, head of autonomous driving at 42dot, the start-up responsible for the self-driving technology that is now owned by auto giant Hyundai. "This is the future," he told AFP, adding that the bus required "a considerable new type of design". The bus looks a bit "like Lego" and is made of composite parts to help keep costs down and make it easy to replicate, he said.—APP

US sanctions on Iran deepen suffering

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The US sanctions have severely harmed the Iranian economy, incidentally causing enormous suffering, according to American writer, academic and political analyst Noam Chomsky. But harming the Iranian economy has been the US goal for over 40 years, the analyst said. Chomsky made the remarks on Iran in an exclusive interview with Truthout. The United States, under former president Donald Trump, reinstated crippling sanctions on Iran after unilaterally walking out of the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018, despite Iran's full compliance with the terms of the agreement. The sanctions have been choking up the financial channels that could be used towards providing Iran with essential medicine, material, or medical equipment. Although Washington and its Western allies claim that humanitarian goods are exempted from sanctions, tens of thousands of patients in Iran have over the years died or developed critical ailments due to the non-availability of essential drugs over the years. Over the past weeks, the US

administration and its European allies have introduced restrictive measures against a number of Iranian individuals and entities over what they claim 'a heavy-handed crackdown on violent protesters across the country'. Touching on the latest events in Iran, Chomsky said there is no revolution in the making. According to Chomsky, the protests seem to be leaderless, also without clearly articulated broader goals or platform apart from 'overthrowing' the Iranian government. He assured there is almost no doubt the US will provide support for efforts to undermine the Iranian government, which has been a prime enemy since 1979. "(in 1979) the US-backed tyrant who was re-installed by the US by a military coup in 1953 was overthrown in a popular uprising. The US at once gave strong support to its then-friend Saddam Hussein in his murderous assault against Iran, finally intervening directly to ensure Iran's virtual capitulation," Chomsky said. The war failed to achieve its goals. When it ended, the US imposed harsh sanctions on Iran," Chomsky pointed out. "President Bush I — the



statesman Bush — invited Iraqi nuclear engineers to the US for advanced training in nuclear weapons development and sent a high-level delegation to assure Saddam of Washington's strong support for him. All very serious threats to Iran," he explained. The renowned US academic also highlighted that punishment of Iran has continued since and remains bipartisan policy, with little public debate. "Britain, Iran's traditional torturer before the US displaced it in the 1953 coup that overthrew Iranian democracy, is likely, as usual, to trail obediently behind the US, perhaps other allies," he noted. Also, he said that Israel surely will do what it can to overthrow its archenemy since 1979 — previously a close ally under the Shah. In late October,

Iran's top intelligence bodies issued a joint statement, pointing to the major role of foreign intelligence agencies, especially the CIA, in orchestrating the violent riots in Iran in the past weeks. "Continuous and precise" intelligence monitoring in the past year as well as acquired documents during the recent unrest reveals "numerous examples and undeniable references of the all-out role of the American terrorist regime in designing, implementing, and maintaining" the unrest, the statement said. Millions of Iranians have taken to the streets across the country to condemn acts of vandalism by rioters, while US and foreign backed media try to depict the protests as being a revolution. Riots broke out in Iran on September 16 after a young Iranian woman, identified as Mahsa Amini died. The 22-year-old fainted at a police station in the capital, Tehran, and was later pronounced dead at a hospital. An official report by Iran's Legal Medicine Organization said that Amini's controversial death was caused by an illness rather than alleged blows to the head or other vital body organs.

PBF facilitates new COAS Gen Asim Munir

DNA

Quetta: The office bearers and executive committee of Pakistan Businessmen Forum (PBF) welcomed the appointment of General Syed Asim Munir as Chief of Army Staff (designate) and General Sahir Shamsad Mirza (designate) as Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. PBF hopes the coming COAS with his rich experience to confront the multi-dimensional challenges faces by country being a professional soldier. PBF Chairman (Balochistan Chapter), Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai acknowledged the services of the outgoing COAS said that in the face of uncertainties in the region the role played by COAS Gen Qamar Bajwa to tackle the rising challenges remained exemplary in managing the hardcore professional tasks as well as helping Pakistan navigate choppy waters during the last six years. Pakistan Army under the command of General Bajwa played a crucial role in strengthening Pakistan's ties with countries across the globe through military diplomacy and played a monumental role including in the case of FATF. He says under the leadership of COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan was saved from the heavy penalty in the Reko Diq case and reconstituted a project aimed at excavating huge gold and copper reserves from the site in Balochistan. The Reko Diq agreement was a result of COAS' personnel efforts as he convinced all parties for a National Consensus. The Reko Diq agreement has been reached after several rounds of negotiations over the past three years. Reko Diq will potentially be the largest gold & copper mine in the world. It will liberate Pakistan from crippling debt & usher in a new era of development & prosperity. PBF Balochistan chief Daroo Khan also said Reko Diq will prove to be a game changer for Federal, Provincial Governments and the people of Balochistan. It shall not only restore an investment-friendly image of Pakistan but will also accrue major economic benefits, development of indigenous mineral exploration capability, and result in a momentous socio-economic boost for the people of Balochistan.

Indonesian girl, 7, found dead after day-long quake rescue effort

CIANJUR, INDONESIA: A seven-year-old Indonesian girl who was the subject of a day-long rescue effort after an earthquake killed at least 310 people in West Java has been found dead, rescuers told AFP Friday. Emergency workers found the body of Ashika Nur Fauziah, also known as Cika, under rubble in the worst-hit district of Cugenang, the epicentre of the quake that triggered landslides, collapsed buildings and buried victims in mounds of earth on Monday. "The body was immediately handed over to the family," 28-year-old rescuer Jeksen Kolibu told AFP. "The family... was very sad." Dozens of rescuers had spent most of Thursday using digging tools, hammers and their bare hands to clear debris in the delicate mission, which was suspended overnight. Cika was found under three layers of concrete on Friday morning, said Kolibu. Workers found her face-down, encased by debris, with little space to breathe. Rescuers covered her face and put her into a bodybag as her father Ahmad watched on, holding his head in despair. He did not utter a word as she was handed over to him. Cika was buried at a nearby cemetery less than an hour after being found. At the funeral, a cleric tried to calm a visibly emotional Ahmad. Cika was then wrapped in a white sheet and lowered into the ground by three men as exhausted volunteers and firefighters watched. Indonesia's national disaster mitigation agency chief, Suharyanto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, raised the toll from the quake to 310 on Friday.—APP



QUETTA: EU Ambassador Riina Kionka and Head of UN Women in Pakistan meeting with Arsalan Saleem, the first woman notified by IG Police as AIG Gender in Balochistan.—DNA

Iran condemns UNHRC resolution

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Ministry has vehemently condemned the meeting and resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council, noting that "multifaceted political goals" are behind these anti-Iranian measures. In a statement late on Thursday, the ministry blasted the measure of a few Western countries in "imposing" an anti-Iranian resolution to the UN Human Rights Council earlier that day. "It is a source of regret that the UNHRC is being misused by few countries to pursue their short-term interests," read the statement. "Undoubtedly, the measure adopted by the German regime and other founders of the UNHRC special meeting was a historic mistake origi-

nated from multifaceted political goals," it highlighted. The meeting was convened at the request of Germany and Iceland to discuss alleged human rights violations in Iran during the handling of recent foreign-backed riots in the country. During the Thursday session, the council members adopted an anti-Iranian resolution, calling for the establishment of an international fact-finding mission to probe Iran's response to the protests. Riots broke out in Iran on September 16 after a young Iranian woman, identified as Mahsa Amini died. The 22-year-old fainted at a police station in the capital, Tehran, and was later pronounced dead at a hospital. An official report by Iran's Legal Medi-

cine Organization said that Amini's controversial death was caused by an illness rather than alleged blows to the head or other vital body organs. Voicing regret over the tragic death of Mahsa Amini, the ministry said the Iranian government has already established fact-finding committees and the results of investigations have been shared with the public as well as with human rights mechanisms in Geneva and New York. "Despite some protesters' resorting to violence and causing riots based on foreign-organized abuses, provocations, and interventions in the past two months and adoption of terrorist measures by few individuals and armed groups, defending

forces of the country's security have dealt with rioters with maximum restraint as tens of police and security forces have been martyred and thousands more have sustained injuries," reads the statement. The statement reminded that the activities of the Human Rights Council should be based on dialogue and aim to help governments to promote human rights, adding, "Despite many selective, unfair, and even biased behaviors of a group of countries in the council, Iran has always emphasized constructive participation and deeply believes that the international community members can only help promote human rights by dialogue, cooperation and exchange of experience."—Agencies

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Briefs

PM, Hamza get 'clean chit' in money laundering case

DNA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz on Friday got 'a clean chit' from a NAB witness in money laundering case. NAB witness Tajamul Islam, who is the Silk Bank Manager Operations, told the Special Court (Central) Lahore that no element depicting money laundering by Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza was detected. He presented bank accounts record of two companies before the court. The NAB witness informed the court that Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz had nothing to do with the back accounts of Good Nature company and Unitas Steel Mills. The bank accounts of these two companies and of these two persons were not used for money laundering, he added. He further said these bank accounts were also not used for FTT foreign telegraphic transfers. Shehbaz Sharif's lawyer Amjad also cross-examined the NAB witness. Hamza Shehbaz did not appear in the court and his application for exemption for appearance was accepted by the judge.

NAB seeks cancellation of Buzdar's bail in licences case

DNA

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Friday filed a petition with an accountability court in Punjab's capital city, seeking the cancellation of former Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar's interim bail in a liquor license case. The accountability court judge heard the petition when the anti-graft buster also submitted its report to the court in the case. It maintained that an inquiry against the former chief minister was launched on misuse of authority and charges of corruption in the award of liquor licences as per the law. It stated that Buzdar was summoned several times to join investigation in the case but he did not appear. NAB also alleged him of distorting the facts to secure bail in the case. Earlier this month, the accountability court had approved interim bail of the former chief minister till December 5. Earlier, the court stopped NAB from arresting Buzdar in the assets beyond means case.

2 FBR officers suspended over Gen Bajwa's tax record leak

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has suspended from service two officers of the Inland Revenue Service in connection with the leak of tax record details of outgoing army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family. As per reports, Deputy Commissioners Atif Nawaz and Zahoor Ahmad have been suspended from service after preliminary investigations. According to the initial report, the data leaked from the log in and passwords of both officers who are currently under investigation for further revelations. The officers are being investigated regarding the matter of data leak under sections 198 and 216 of Income Tax Ordinance. The preliminary inquiry report of the case had been submitted to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. Earlier, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar ordered an inquiry into the unwarranted leakage of tax information of the family members of outgoing army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Taking serious notice, he said this is clear violation of complete confidentiality of tax information that the law provides.

PROCLAMATION DAY OF TRNC



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in Senate Shahzad Waseem, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Faisal Karim Kunid SAPM, Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci, Representative of TRNC Dilsad Senol and others cutting cake to celebrate 39 Anniversary of the Proclamation of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. – DNA

NATO vows to aid Ukraine 'for as long as it takes'

Since President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion 10 months ago, NATO has bolstered the defenses of allies neighboring Ukraine and Russia but has carefully sought to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a major nuclear power

BRUSSELS: NATO is determined to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia for "as long as it takes" and will help the war-racked country transform its armed forces into a modern army up to Western standards, the alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg vowed on Friday. Speaking to reporters ahead of a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Romania next week, Stoltenberg urged countries that want to, either individually or in groups, to keep providing air defense systems and other weapons to Ukraine. NATO as an organization does not supply weapons.

"NATO will continue to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes. We will not back down," the former Norwegian prime minister said. "Allies are providing unprecedented military support, and I expect foreign ministers will also agree to step up non-lethal support." Stoltenberg said that members of the 30-nation security organization have been delivering fuel, generators, medical supplies, winter equipment and drone jamming devices, but that more will be needed as winter closes in, particularly as Russia attacks Ukraine's energy infrastructure. "At our meeting in Bucharest,

I will call for more," he said. "Over the longer term we will help Ukraine transition from Soviet era equipment to modern NATO standards, doctrine and training." Stoltenberg said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba would join the ministers to discuss his country's most pressing needs but also what kind of long-term support that NATO can provide. NATO's top civilian official said the support will help Ukraine move toward joining the alliance one day. The Nov 29-30 meeting in Bucharest is being held almost 15 years after NATO promised

that Ukraine and Georgia would one day become members of the organization, a pledge that deeply angered Russia. Also attending the meeting will be the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Georgia and Moldova – three partners that NATO says are coming under increasing Russian pressure. Stoltenberg said the meeting would see NATO "take further steps to help them protect their independence, and strengthen their ability to defend themselves." Since President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion 10 months ago, NATO has bolstered the

defenses of allies neighboring Ukraine and Russia but has carefully sought to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a major nuclear power. But Stoltenberg put no pressure on Ukraine to enter peace talks with Russia, and indeed NATO and European diplomats have said that Putin does not appear willing to come to the table. "Most wars end with negotiations," he said. "But what happens at the negotiating table depends on what happens on the battlefield. Therefore, the best way to increase the chances for a peaceful solution is to support Ukraine." – Agencies

Outgoing CJCSC receives farewell



RAWALPINDI: A special ceremony was held at Joint Staff Headquarters to bid farewell to General Nadeem Raza, the outgoing Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, retiring on 26 November 2022 after 41 years of illustrious military service. The ceremony was attended by Ex-Chairman JCSC's and Senior Officers of Tri-Services. While addressing, General Nadeem Raza thanked Allah Almighty for enabling him to discharge his duties to the best of his abilities with honesty, justice and dignity. He applauded the sacrifices rendered by the Armed Forces in defending the motherland. He reiterated that defence of the country is impregnable and gallant soldiers will not hesitate in making it even more formidable. A smartly turned out tri-services contingent presented Guard of Honour to Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee on arrival at the venue. General Nadeem Raza reviewed the guard of honour and March past. – DNA

UK foreign minister brings new aid to Kyiv

"I made you that promise today. The UK intends to keep it," he said, after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak used a visit last weekend to the Ukrainian capital to set out a new package of military aid worth £50m (\$60m)

KYIV: UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly announced new aid for Ukraine on a visit to Kyiv on Friday, including ambulances and support for victims of sexual violence by Russian soldiers. After meeting President Volodymyr Zelensky, Cleverly tweeted: "President @ZelenskyyUa, the UK is supporting you with action – not just words. "I made you that promise today. The UK intends to keep it," he said, after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak used a visit last weekend to the Ukrainian capital to set out a new package of military aid worth £50 million (\$60 million). Zelensky hailed the visit by Britain's most senior diplomat just days after the latest Russian barrage of missiles against Ukraine's energy

grid leading to widespread blackouts. "Your visit is taking place against the background of a large-scale Russian missile attack, which left all of Ukraine without electricity and water. But that didn't stop you. Thank you," Zelensky's press service quoted him as saying. The package announced by Cleverly includes 24 ambulances and six armoured vehicles, according to the foreign office. He unveiled a further £3 million towards rebuilding infrastructure such as schools and shelters, and extra funding to support "survivors of the sexual violence carried out by the Russian military", the ministry added. "As winter sets in, Russia is continuing to try and break Ukrainian resolve through its brutal attacks on civilians, hospitals and energy infrastructure," Cleverly said. "Russia will fail," he said, vowing UK support "will continue for as long as it takes". The UK government said it was also committing £5 million to a Ukraine-led initiative, delivered through the UN World Food Programme, to ship grain to countries most at risk of famine, including Sudan and Yemen. "Global food security is in all our interests," Environment Secretary Therese Coffey said. "And helping Ukraine's farmers and agricultural sector to continue producing and exporting food in these most difficult of circumstances is vital for that security," she said. On his visit, Sunak promised 125 anti-aircraft guns and equipment to help Ukraine counter Iranian-supplied drones, along with cold-weather winter kit to its armed forces. – DNA

Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan, says Capt. Safdar

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Capt (ret'd) Safdar Friday reiterated that Nawaz Sharif would return to Pakistan. "I wish to wish Nawaz Sharif his birthday on December 25 in Jati Umrah," he said while talking to the media persons outside district courts in Lahore. "Things are getting better in the country. More good days will come," he added. "Every time the country starts to develop, Imran Khan starts conspiring," he deplored. "In 2013, the Chinese president was scheduled to come to Pakistan. But his visit was postponed under a conspiracy," he maintained. "Imran Khan is still following the same pattern," he alleged. "The affairs of the country are getting better. But when the economy starts to develop, Imran Khan becomes a hurdle," he abhorred. "Imran Khan can put as many obstacles as he wants, the country will make progress," Capt (ret'd) Safdar declared. Earlier, he appeared before a court in Lahore in a case of inflammatory speeches. The court had issued the arrest warrants for Capt (ret'd) on the previous hearing. Islampura police had submitted a challan against him. His appearance in the court was marked and the arrest warrants were returned.

Khaqan wants NAB to be abandoned

– Says all matters of appointments completed as per constitution, law

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Friday that its' time to abandon the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for the sake of running the country's affairs smoothly. Talking to reporters after appearing in a NAB court, he said there was a need to introduce a new system of accountability in the country. "Government officers aren't willing to implement orders issued by the cabinet." Abbasi lambasted former NAB chairman Justice (retired) Javed Iqbal for filing references against politicians, suggesting the incumbent chief to bring facts to public. He demanded Iqbal to appear before the accountability court and declare his assets too. Taking jibe at PTI Chairman Imran Khan, he said the former prime had yet to conclude his long march kicked off a month ago and that the march's objective that was aimed at "influencing" the appointment of the army chief has now settled amicably. The PML-N stalwart said the media circus – that was actually not needed – was staged on the appointment of the army chief, adding Imran Khan usually understood matters with delay and now he [Imran Khan] might have understood the appointment process after consulting the constitution.

Ji Emir warns govt to get ready for protests

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) emir Sirajul Haqhas warned the government to take practical steps to eradicate interest-based economy or get ready to face the countrywide protests. Talking to JI workers at Mansoorah on Friday, he said the government must issue directions to the banks to take back their appeals against Federal Shariat Court decision against riba. Despite government announcement, he said, 14 appeals were yet to be withdrawn, creating an impression that the rulers were insincere and reluctant to fulfill their commitment. Haq said the interest-based economy was the violation of the Constitution. He said Quid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (R.A) had issued the clear direction to introduce Islamic model of economy while inaugurating the State Bank of Pakistan. Seven decades had been passed to the instruction of the founder of Pakistan, yet the rulers had not taken a single step in this direction, he added. He demanded the government introduce riba amnesty scheme and build the tax system on Zakat and Ushar.

Pakistan to establish medical colleges in Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Afghanistan on Friday signed an agreement to establish medical colleges in the neighboring country to boost friendly relations. Pakistan will establish medical colleges in Afghanistan to support the neighboring country in the medical education sector. As per the agreement signed between both countries, these medical colleges are being built under Khyber Medical University located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province of Pakistan. The channel report said that postgraduate training of Afghan doctors will also be done under this agreement as Pakistan is taking steps to make Afghanistan self-sufficient in the health sector. It is worth mentioning here that India does not want to see the young generation of Afghanistan flourishing and an example of this is the suspension of scholarships for Afghan students in India.

Dar, Chinese envoy discuss Pak-China ties

Ishaq Dar shared the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and China and highlighted that both countries had historic and strong bilateral ties in various economic sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Minister and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Nong Rong on Friday discussed enhancing of bilateral relations in economic and financial sectors. According to press statement issued by Finance Ministry, the discussion was held during the call on meeting of Chinese Ambassador with the Minister. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Finance and other senior officers of Finance Division also attended the meeting. On the occasion, Ishaq Dar shared the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and China and highlighted



ed that both countries had historic and strong bilateral ties in various economic sectors. He also highlighted the repercussions of unprecedented floods faced by Pakistan which had largely impacted the infrastructure, agriculture, lives and properties of the people. The Minister appreciated the support given by the Government of China during these testing times and shared that present government was taking various measures to ease the life of masses by ensuring fiscal and monetary stability. The Ambassador assured Chinese government's sustained support to Pakistan in hour of need and shared that China stood with people of Pakistan in these hard times. He also thanked Government of Pakistan for ensuring facilitation for Chinese projects in Pakistan.