



# Islamabad POST

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**Briefs**

**Article 14 applicable to powerful**

**BUREAU REPORT**

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Monday questioned the applicability of Article 14 of the Constitution — which refers to the "Inviolability of dignity of man" — as he decried the alleged torture, "video leak" and rearrest of party senator Azam Swati. Addressing the Supreme Court in a tweet, the former premier asked if the provision was "only applicable to the powerful of the State". In his tweet, the PTI chief asked the top court whether Article 14 was only applicable to "powerful of the State and for everyone else, there was "no protection of their basic human dignity".

**Minister to visit Kabul today**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, will lead a delegation to Kabul for a one-day visit on Tuesday, the Foreign Office has said. In Kabul, the Minister of State will hold political dialogue with Afghan Interim Government. Bilateral relations, including cooperation in the areas of education, trade and investment, regional connectivity, people-to-people contacts and matters related to regional security will be discussed, a statement said. Minister will also reaffirm Pakistan's continued commitment and support for all efforts aimed at strengthening peace.

**SM Munir passes away**

**DNA**

KARACHI: Renowned business figure SM Munir has passed away. He was chairman of United Business Group and a leading businessman from Karachi. He was also former Chairman of TDAP. Meanwhile, President Dr. Arif Aliv has condoned his death. In his message the President said "My very dear friend, like an elder brother Mr. SM Muneer passed away. He was a great philanthropist. Our fathers were friends too, indulging in persistent charity."

## PTI approves dissolution of assemblies

Fawad says PTI to announce the date of assemblies' dissolution in next two to three days

**ALI HAMZA**

LAHORE: As the government and opposition in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa mull strategies to emerge victorious amid the ongoing political crisis, PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry said Monday that the party's leadership has approved the dissolution of assemblies in both provinces. "As you all know, we are quitting the assemblies. Therefore, the [party's senior leadership] has approved the decision to dissolve the assemblies," Chaudhry told journalists in Lahore. As he called off the long march to Islamabad last week, PTI Chairman Imran Khan announced that his party and allies would quit the assemblies as they wanted to opt out of the "corrupt system". Chief Minister Punjab Pervez Elahi — a strong ally of the PTI — also backed the decision and said that he would not wait for a minute to dissolve the assembly if Khan orders him to — putting further pressure on the coalition government in the Centre to move toward early general elections. While the coalition rulers have ruled out holding general polls in the country before August, PTI is insisting that the ongoing political turmoil can only be resolved through snap elections. In presser, Chaudhry said that Khan has spoken to Chief Minister KP Mahmood Khan and PTI chief would hold a meeting with CM Elahi later this week.

Continued on Page 06

## PTI MPAs in Sindh submit resignations

**NAZIR SIYAL**

KARACHI: All 26 PTI MPAs from Sindh have submitted their resignations to the party's parliamentary leader Khuram Sher Zaman on Monday at the directives of former prime minister and party chief Imran Khan. Khuram, while confirming the development, said that opposition leader Haleem Adil Shaikh is also aware of the situation and he will submit the resignations to the Sindh Assembly as soon as he instructs. In a statement, Khuram lashed out at the talks between former president Asif Ali Zardari and MQM-P leaders, saying that the MQM-P is now begging and reminding Zardari of the agreements he made with them. He said that the MQM-P will once again fail in its effort as to whom they are pleading will be removed from Sindh soon. "The facilitators of regime change have been deprived of sleep at night," he added.

## TTP ends ceasefire agreement with govt Orders militants to 'carry out attacks in entire country'

**BUREAU REPORT**

PESHAWAR: The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on Monday called off the ceasefire agreed with the government in June and ordered its militants to stage attacks across the country, according to a statement from the group. "As military operations are ongoing against mujahideen in different areas [...] so it is imperative for you to carry out attacks wherever you can in the entire country," the statement, which is available with Dawn.com, said while addressing its militants. The decision, it stated, was taken after "a series of non-stop attacks were launched by the military organisations in Bannu's Lakki Marwat district". The banned group said it had repeatedly warned the people of Pakistan and "continued to be patient so that the negotiation process is not sabotaged at least by us." "But the army and intelligence agencies did not stop and continued the attacks [...] now our retaliatory attacks will also start across the country," the statement claimed. The

government and intelligence agencies are yet to comment on the matter. Talks between Pakistani officials and the militant outfit first started in October last year but broke down in December. These later resumed in May this year. The process, however, broke down once again due to a deadlock on the revocation of the merger of erstwhile tribal areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Subsequently, attacks by the TTP have been on the rise since September after the group's ceasefire with the army ended. Most of the attacks have happened in and around Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, South Waziristan, and North Waziristan districts in KP. In October, the Ministry of Interior had warned that more than year-long peace negotiations between the TTP and the government of Pakistan "had come to a standstill". It had noted that the TTP accuses the Pakistani government of failing to fulfill its main demand — the reversal of the merger of former Fata with KP — as well as continuing to detain TTP members while a truce was still being negotiated.

## Ukraine warns of fresh Russian missile strikes

Russia had fired dozens of cruise missiles at targets across Ukraine last week

**NEWS DESK**

KYIV: Ukraine said on Monday that Russia was preparing for a fresh wave of missile attacks on its energy grid that have plunged swathes of the country into the cold and dark. The warning came as foreign ministers from several European countries, including NATO-hopefuls Finland and Sweden, arrived in Kyiv for unannounced visits in a show of support. A Ukraine military spokesman said a Russian warship capable of firing cruise missiles had recently deployed to the Black Sea with Kalibr-type missiles on board. "This indicates that preparations were underway," said spokeswoman Natalia Gumeniuk. "It's quite likely that the beginning of the week will be marked by such an attack," she added. With temperatures dipping below zero, repeated Russian



attacks have left Ukraine's energy grid teetering on the brink of collapse and have disrupted power and water supplies to millions over recent weeks. In its most recent barrage, Russia fired dozens of cruise missiles at targets across Ukraine last week, and an official in Kyiv said Monday that residents in and around the capital were still suffering disruptions as a result. "Emergency electricity shutdowns are

ongoing in the Kyiv region. About 40 percent is currently without power. These are the consequences of the massive rocket attack that happened last week," governor Oleksiy Kuleba told local media. President Volodymyr Zelensky cautioned in an address to Ukrainians late on Sunday that Russia was preparing new aerial attacks. Moscow's forces would continue the campaign of systematic attacks "for as long as they have missiles," he said. Zelensky added that the military was preparing itself, alongside Western allies, who have been delivering new air defence systems to Ukraine. Russia has said it only targets military-linked infrastructure facilities and blamed the blackouts and their civilian impact on Kyiv's refusal to negotiate with Moscow. The Ukraine presidency said Monday that Russian strikes had

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. — DNA

## Earthquake: PM talks to Joko Widodo



**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister offers condolence to the Indonesian President on the loss of precious lives and assets due to earthquake in West Java, Indonesia. In a telephone conversation held with the Indonesian President Joko Widodo today, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offered condolences on loss of precious lives and assets due to the earthquake that hit West Java region in Indonesia last week. The Prime Minister observed that the people of Pakistan could feel the anguish of their Indonesian brothers and sister, having recently suffered immensely due to natural calamities. Thanking the President of Indonesia for the assistance provided by the Government of Indonesia for the victims of floods in Pakistan, the Prime Minister offered to extend Pakistan's support for relief efforts underway in Indonesia. Meanwhile, the death toll from an earthquake that hit Indonesia's island of Java this week has risen to 321 as rescuers found more bodies, the national disaster mitigation agency said. Disaster mitigation agency chief Suharyanto, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, told a news briefing on Sunday that rescuers found three more bodies. Eight were found on Saturday. "With the discovery of these three (bodies), as of today, the death toll becomes 321 people," said Suharyanto. Eleven people remain missing.

## General Bajwa says Decision to become 'apolitical' to enhance army's 'prestige'

COAS will hand over command of the army to General Asim Munir today

**NEWS DESK / DNA**

RAWALPINDI: Outgoing army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa believes that the army's decision to become "apolitical" will help enhance its prestige in the long term. "[The] Pakistan Army has always remained a dominant player in national decision-making. Due to its historic role in country's politics, the military drew severe criticism from public and politicians alike," said Gen Bajwa in an exclusive interview with UAE-based publication Gulf News. The COAS will hand over command of the army to General Asim Munir today (Tuesday) who was appointed as his successor by the government last week. The general reiterated that the army has restricted its "role to its constitutional mandated task only by deciding to make it 'apolitical'." "This decision, though being viewed negatively by a segment of society and led to

PM lauds COAS for tackling 'crises'

**KHAYAM ABBASI**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday praised outgoing Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa for efficiently dealing with the 'crises' in the country during his six-year-long tenure. COAS Bajwa is set to retire on November 29 (today) and will hand over the "baton of command" to Gen Asim Munir, who was appointed to succeed him last week. As he gets ready to bid farewell to arms after serving as COAS from 2016-2022, General Bajwa met PM Shehbaz and President Arif Alvi. During the meeting, PM Shehbaz lauded the outgoing chief's services for the Pakistan Army,

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## Senate body on Interior passes four bills

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Interior passed four bills on Monday and deferred two legislative proposals. The meeting presided over by Senator Mohsin Aziz, commenced with deliberation on the Bill titled "Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, 2022" moved by Senator Walid Iqbal and Senator Sadia Abbasi. Senator Walid Iqbal apprised the committee that the bill aimed at banning inflicting of corporal punishment on children by declaring it as a crime. The committee unanimously passed the Bill after detailed deliberation. Furthermore, the Senate body also passed the Bill titled "the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2021" with a unanimous vote. Senator Syed Sabir Shah, the mover of the bill, stated that the objective of the bill was to keep the prestige of National Flag and Portrait of Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Moreover, the Bill titled "the Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2022" was also unanimously passed by the committee. The mover, Senator Seemee Ezdi, informed that only eight percent of the country's total municipal wastewater and the industrial wastewater are treated before it is discharged into rivers. - APP

## PBA delegation meets CM Punjab

LAHORE: A delegation of the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), comprising chairman Shakeel Masood Hussain, secretary general Mian Amir Mahmood, Naz Afrin Sehgal and chairman Nai Baat Media Network Chaudhry Abdul Rehman, called on Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at his office, here on Monday. The chief minister assured that the Punjab government would ensure immediate payment of the pending bills of the PBA. He also expressed good wishes for the newly elected PBA chairman and office-bearers. "It is hoped that the new body will use all its capabilities for developing the media industry", he said. Provincial Information Secretary Asif Bilal Lodhi, former principal secretary GM Sikandar, Press Secretary to the CM Iqbal Chaudhry and DGP Afraz Ahmed were also present. - APP

# Police, UNDP hold training on gender based crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police delivered one-of-its-kind, five-day training on gender-responsive policing for men and women officers from KP police. The training was conducted under the "Deliver Justice Project" funded by the European Union (EU), and jointly implemented by UNDP, UNODC and UN WOMEN. The objective of the training was to sensitize police officers, on gender-based crimes, and build their capacity to effectively curb and respond to violence against women and other gender minorities at the community level. The training was attended by police women and men in the ranks of Foot Constables to Sub-inspectors, from Peshawar, Kohat, Mardan, Bajaur, Kurram and Khyber in KP. The training curriculum was tailored to cover different aspects of gender-based violence (GBV), the treatment of GBV survivors, and how the core policing services (first response, basic investigation, evidence collection and more) could be improved to meet gender needs. The training was opened by



Dr Quraish Khan, Assistant Inspector General (AIG), Directorate of Training, KP Police. He is a nominee for this year's UN Women Champion Award. In his opening remarks, Dr Khan reiterated, "Gender-responsive policing is key to making our law enforcement systems inclusive, and we are thankful to UNDP and the EU for supporting us in achieving this essential goal." On the

last day of the training, certificates were awarded to the participants. The ceremony was virtually attended by Chamila Hemmathagama, Programme Manager, Rule of Law Programme, UNDP. In her closing remarks, she said, "UNDP is very pleased to partner with KP Police and the EU to advance efforts in gender-responsive security sector governance in the

region. This training, therefore, is a very important intervention in taking this work forward and UNDP will continue to play an active role in our joint efforts in fostering secure, and safer communities in KP." Under the "Deliver Justice Programme," UNDP is also working with KP Police to develop its first Gender Strategy to make KP Police a more inclusive workplace for all genders. The "Deliver

Justice programme" is funded by the EU and it aims to support reform processes to ensure the delivery of people-centred justice, enhance access to justice for all, particularly women and less privileged groups and improve service delivery of the security sector in line with constitutional safeguards and international standards in KP and the Merged Districts and in Balochistan.

## Azam Swati's son says he will be killed in an encounter

DNA

LAHORE: Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry has asserted that Senator Azam Swati's son had said his father would be killed in a police encounter. Addressing a press conference at Lahore's Zaman Park, the former federal minister said party Chairman Imran Khan had received a phone call from Azam Swati's son during PTI leaders' meeting today. "The Senator's son urged to stop his father from appearing before court tomorrow, as he had received death threats," he said, criticising the arrest of Azam Swati over controversial tweets. The former federal minister also lambasted authorities for 'arresting of killing' people over raising their voice. "Whoever raises voice, he would either be arrested or murdered," he said, citing example of Arshad Sharif's murder in Kenya. Fawad Chaudhry announced to stage protests against the arrest of PTI Senator, vowing that this party would not bow down to 'cruelty'.

## Pak rendered invaluable sacrifices for global peace

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that Pakistan is a peaceful country and has rendered invaluable sacrifices for the global peace. Talking to the participants of the 52nd Pakistan Navy Staff Course at the Governor's House here on Monday, he said Pakistan has waged a long war against terrorism and the role of armed forces is unparalleled. The Pakistan Navy Staff course delegation was led by Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal. The participants from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Yemen, South Africa and Sri Lanka comprised the delegation. The Governor Punjab said the country is currently facing many challenges including political and economic instability, adding that continuity of policies in the country is very important for economic stability. He said continuity of policies for at least 15-16 years enabled the developed countries to reach current economic supremacy. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will open new avenues for economic development in the country. - APP

## Officers should think like economic managers: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Addressing around 60 officers of 117th NMC who visited Ministry of Planning and Development on Monday, Minister of Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal noted that officers should think like economic managers while disposing of the official matters adding that tax collection, investment, promotion of exports and foreign remittances are remedies to our economic issues. He stated that officers in Pakistan civil servants were appointed through the most transparent and merit based process. Civil service of Pakistan is reckoned as the most professional and competent worldwide. However, the matter of concern is that why the individual merit of the officers could not bring any impact in the collective performance of the system, he added. The minister underscored that the world was going through a turmoil and uncertainty while technology, globalization, global conflicts, population and climate change were posing major challenges to the whole world. He also remarked that we had to build capacity in the administrative structure to absorb the shocks of future challenges. The minister said that when our government came into power, we had a development budget of 550 billion rupees while stressing that development in the world was possible only by orienting the economy driven by exports. He further added that Pakistan's future depended on how long would it take to step up its exports from \$32 billion to \$100 billion while noting that our national priority had not been towards export driven economy. While noting the ample opportunities of amplifying the trade volume between Pakistan and China, he added that the current volume of trade with China which was 32 billion dollars could be elevated further by tapping its full potential. The minister urged that it was need of the time to provide conducive climate for private investment. He said that the exports could be boosted only by making Pakistan's industrial products competitive, value added and in line with global challenges. - APP



ISLAMABAD: The President of the Rural Development Forum posing for a picture with students during an annual function. - DNA

## Students face issues due to shortage of hostels

Hostels outside the university were set up in residential areas and they were expensive

ISLAMABAD: Students and employees in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) are facing immense issues in finding suitable accommodation due

to expensive and non-affording hostels with the least facilities of security, water and quality food. Talking to APP, Hassan Ali a student of a private university said that educational institutions were giving admissions in both morning and evening shifts but they do not facilitate and accommodate the students coming from far-flung areas. He said hostels outside the university were set up in residential areas and despite that, they were "expensive and unaffordable". He said an average shared room costs Rs 12,000 to 18,000 which lacks privacy and "only includes breakfast and dinner". Another student Hamza Zahoor said that students were unable to find hostels nearby the university campus and along with hostel charges, they had to bear the travelling expenses. He said students

coming from middle-class family afford university expenses with difficulty while hostel and travelling expenses were "difficult to manage". A student of BS first semester, Iram Amjad told APP that boys can manage their accommodation by renting a shared flat, however females face serious problems due to security concerns and good hostels were expensive or located at a long distance from the institution. When contacted by the hostel owner in the G-9 sector Azam Khan, he said that during the recent inflation wave, "the rent of the buildings had increased multiple times and utility bills are much higher than before". He said the electricity bill on average was Rs 50,000 and other day-to-day expenses and building rent were additional. - APP

# Elahi rules out governor's rule amid ongoing session

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Monday ruled out possibility of governor's rule amid ongoing Punjab Assembly session. Speaking to the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) members, Elahi while reiterating his call to dissolve the Punjab Assembly on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's call, said that we have the support of 191 lawmakers in the Lower House, adding that there is no possibility of the governor's rule during the ongoing Assembly session. The Punjab CM added that they will take all steps within the scope of the constitution and law, adding that the incumbent rulers have damaged the country's economy.

Earlier, in a statement, Elahi said that after the former premier's announcement at the Rawalpindi pub-



lic gathering, Khan's strategy has entered a decisive round, adding that the massive crowd proved Imran Khan's popularity. The Punjab CM said that he would dissolve the Punjab Assembly within

a minute on Imran Khan's call, adding that the fake alliance of the PDM would collapse after the PTI chief's recent announcement. Earlier, former federal minister Moonis Elahi clarified the situation regarding the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly, stating that the provincial assembly will be dissolved at the direction of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. To speak on the matter of dissolving the Punjab Assembly, Moonis Elahi shared a post on his official Twitter account and said, "We bagged success with the blessing of Allah Almighty on July 27, when Pervaiz Elahi was elected as the Punjab Chief Minister. Since then, we are running the provincial government - on bonus - in order to keep our promises." "We would break the Punjab Assembly when Imran Khan asks us to," Moonis said, referring to the PTI chief as "the PM." -DNA

## AJK PM terms conduct of LG polls a victory of democracy

MIRPUR (AJK): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, while appreciating the peaceful conduct of the first phase of LG polls in AJK, Muzaffarabad Division, and termed it as a victory of democracy. Talking to media in the State metropolis on Monday the PM said, "I appreciate office bearers and workers of all the political parties who have played an important role in advancing politics and democracy in the state". Lauding political leadership for demonstrating maturity, the PM said that despite less security the poll process remained peaceful. "It shows the high level of political consciousness amongst the people and political leadership on one hand while it highlights the quality administration, capacity and capability of the security apparatus of the state of Azad Jammu Kashmir on the other," he said. While congratulating the victorious candidates of his ruling party, the PM said, "I congratulate the lion-hearted workers of Tehreek-e-Insaf ran a successful campaign during the local body elections. Referring to his party's victory in the polls, he asserted, "It has been proved now that his party has become stronger due to its performance in Muzaffarabad". He expressed the hope that his ruling party would also show its performance in the second and third phase of elections being held in Poonch and Mirpur divisions as well. - APP



PASWAL/LALAMUSA: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing a public gathering. - DNA

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### November

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

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Monal.....0334-5421812

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Turkish Airlines.....8494949
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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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Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



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



## Departments

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

## Islamabad Metropolitan

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480
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# Philippines embassy holds Fiesta Filipinas show



**ISLAMABAD:** Participants of the Fiesta Filipinas posing for a picture with Ms. Maria Agnes Cervantes Charge d Affaires Embassy of Philippine. – DNA



## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Philippines organized a cultural event Fiesta Filipinas Season 2 at the Embassy premises. Embassy staff and staff from

the other ASEAN countries also took part in the festival and thus added color to the event. Ms. Maria Agnes Cervantes Charge d Affaires Embassy of Philippine while speaking on the occasion welcomed guests and

assured the embassy would continue to hold such events even in the coming days. She explained the significance of the event. Wearing tattoos on her arms, Ms. Cervantes said, we are wearing symbolic tat-

toos however people in the Philippines in specific areas wear original tattoos, some time all over their bodies. She said the more tattoos you have on your body, it signify courage and bravery of the particular person and

higher position. She said she also grew up in the area where this kind of festival is very famous so she was quite familiar with such kind of festival. She thanked the guests for taking keen interest in the event. It may be mentioned

here that the Philippines embassy has been organizing such cultural event for quite some time.

(Full coverage of the event shall be published in the December issue of Centreline magazine).

# Benefits of traditional and herbal medicine discussed

## Indonesian Embassy and COMSTECH hold seminar

## STAFF REPORT

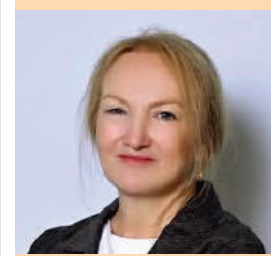
ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and the Embassy of Indonesia in Pakistan jointly organized an International seminar on the use of herbal and traditional medicine here on Monday. On the occasion, Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, said that various countries in the OIC member states have been historical custodians of such traditional knowledge for centuries. Particularly, he said, countries like Pakistan and Indonesia are rich sources of herbal medicines and have the potential to meet global demand, said a news release from the embassy. Interest in Herbal medicine and traditional knowledge is increasing day by day, however, to utilize this opportunity, there

is an urgent need for research-based scientific development, and standards-based quality control of herbal drugs, efficacy, safety as well as relevant regulatory enforcement. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam M. Tugio said that there has been a significant increase in the use and trust of traditional methods of treatment and alternative medicine after and during the coronavirus. He added that after the last epidemic virus, Major pharmaceutical companies have not only shown interest but also attracted investment in the traditional medicine and herbal medicine industry. The ambassador said that Pakistan and Indonesia are rich in the blessing of herbs, which can be utilized by building large platforms. He said, "Herbs are also perceived

as important sources of healing. He said, in India, Ayurvedic herbal medicines are very popular and the same is the case with other OIC countries where ancient knowledge and old age prescriptions have an important share in remedies and cure serving humanity. Economic opportunities and challenges. Professors and experts from Iran, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and Karachi University's International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences enlightened the audience on the sustainable use of herbal and traditional medicines. The seminar was attended by 400 students, researchers, and experts from the pharmaceutical industry from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Gabon, Sudan, Nigeria, Morocco, Iran, Uganda, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

es of healing. He said, in India, Ayurvedic herbal medicines are very popular and the same is the case with other OIC countries where ancient knowledge and old age prescriptions have an important share in remedies and cure serving humanity. Economic opportunities and challenges. Professors and experts from Iran, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and Karachi University's International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences enlightened the audience on the sustainable use of herbal and traditional medicines. The seminar was attended by 400 students, researchers, and experts from the pharmaceutical industry from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Gabon, Sudan, Nigeria, Morocco, Iran, Uganda, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

# British diplomat Sarah visits Gwadar



DNA

ISLAMABAD : In connection with the rising momentum of foreigners' high-profile visits in Gwadar perceiving its booming future, British Deputy High Commissioner and Director Trade for Pakistan Sarah Mooney met with Director Finance GDA Tariq Aziz Lassi who gave a detailed briefing about Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan and GDA projects.

investment plans in Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone, she dropped a strong hint about UK investors' participation in the International Investors Conference being planned next year in Gwadar During her visit at Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), British Deputy High Commissioner and Director Trade for Pakistan Sarah Mooney met with Director Finance GDA Tariq Aziz Lassi who gave a detailed briefing about Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan and GDA projects.

Tariq Aziz Lassi said that Gwadar Development Authority is providing opportunities for foreign investment and for this purpose Central Business District, Special Economic District and Free Economic Zone have been identified where an environment of safe and attractive incentives has been created for domestic and foreign investors. And, he said, a smart working model has been introduced under one window operation.

# Int'l community urged to continue helping Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Socialist International (SI) in its declaration after the 26th Congress on Climate Change and COP27 urged the international community to continue providing full support and assistance to Pakistan for the rehabilitation of flood-hit people. The Council of the Socialist International (SI) held discussions based on the theme "Halting and Reversing Climate Change" and vowed that the fight against global warming has been central to the work of our international community for many years, and as we witness more and more extreme weather events around the globe it has never been more imperative to reiterate the commitment of the SI to work together to halt and reverse climate change and to renew our call for climate justice. Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Atta Marri represented Pakistan in the 26th SI Congress on Climate Change held in Madrid, Spain from November 25-27. In response to the briefing by Pakistani delegate Shazia Marri the SI expressed its solidarity with the people of Pakistan who have been severely affected by the recent catastrophic floods as a result of climate change.—APP

# ICCI delegation visits Italy to explore business avenues

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President visited Italy and held meetings with Milan Chamber of Commerce, Promos Italia and Assolombarda to explore avenues of business collaboration between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Italy. Promos Italia is a National Agency of the Chamber of Commerce network of Italy and Assolombarda is the association of companies operating in the Metropolitan City of Milan and in the provinces of Lodi, Monza and Brianza, Pavia.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Janshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Humayun Kabir, Shahbaz Majeed Sheikh, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz and Akhtar Hussain were in the delegation. Ms. Aqsa Nawaz, Pakistan Consul General in Milan, Italy arranged the meetings of ICCI delegations with Italian trade bodies. Speaking on the occasion, Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan considers Italy an important country of European Union for trade and exports and ICCI delegation has come to Italy to explore new avenues of business collaboration between the two countries. He said that close cooperation between the SMEs of Pakistan and Italy would be helpful in sharing experiences and promoting bilateral business relations. He said that Pakistan possesses great reserves of marble & granite and import of latest marble machinery from Italy can help produce value-added marble products and increase their exports. He said that Pakistan can import industrial & agricultural machinery from Italy while Italy can import many products from Pakistan including raw materials, textiles, surgical instruments, marble products, pharmaceuticals, leather products, sports goods and others. He invited Italian entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan to explore JVs and investment in areas of interest. Welcoming the ICCI delegation, Federico Maria Bega, Chief Strategy Officer of Promos Italia said that their organization is working to support SMEs internationalisation, preparing them to export and helping them consolidate their positioning in international markets. He said that Promos Italia is active in more than 110 countries, due to its wide international network of relationships and partnerships with public and private sectors.

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# Gang of street criminals busted; three arrested

RAWALPINDI :In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police on Monday busted a gang and arrested its three members besides recovering cash Rs 142,000, weapons, and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Taxila police arrested three members of a street criminal gang identified as 'Charlu', wanted in various cases. He informed that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Taxila Police Station on the directives of the Superintendent of Police Potohar conducted a raid and managed to net the accused namely Arif alias 'Charlu' ringleader, Ehtesham and Asghar, and recovered snatched cash Rs 142,000, weapons and other items from their possession. As per the preliminary police investigation, the criminals had also been involved in motorcycle snatching and other crimes, he added.—APP

# 11 test positive for dengue

RAWALPINDI :As many as 14 patients were admitted to three hospitals of the city, out of which 11 tested positive for the dengue virus. District Coordinator of Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Monday said that five patients each were admitted to Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), and District Headquarters Hospital, while four to the Holy Family Hospital. He added that of the total admitted patients eight belonged to Rawalpindi, two from Attock and one of each from Islamabad, Haripur, Karachi east and Muzaffarabad. Dr Sajjad informed that one more case was reported in the district during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 4,743. During indoor surveillance, he added that 1,306 anti-dengue teams inspected 33,816 houses and found dengue larvae in 59 homes in the last 48 hours.

Similarly, he informed that 575 teams, during outdoor surveillance, inspected 16,692 spots and detected larvae at 12 places. The health official said that the district administration, in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 13 FIRs, sealed seven premises, issued tickets to 14, notices to 681 and imposed fines amounting to Rs 559,000 on violations of dengue SOPs during the last two days.

# About 965,360 metric tons rice worth \$545.708m exported

ISLAMABAD :Rice valuing \$545.708 million exported during the first four months of current financial year as against the exports of \$594.600 million of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-October, 2022 about 965,360 metric tons of rice exported as compared to the exports of 1.091 million tons of same period last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Rice exports from the country during the period under review recorded negative growth of 8.22 percent as compared to the exports of the same period last year, whereas overall food group exports recorded about 4.27 percent increase and food commodities worth \$1.493 billion exported in four months of the current financial year. The country earned \$181.852 million by exporting about 173,684 metric tons of Basmati Rice as compared to the exports of 229,791 metric tons worth \$198.526 million of the same period last year. Meanwhile, 791,676 metric tons of rice other than Basmati valuing \$363.856 million also exported in the last four months as against the exports of \$261.199 million of the same period last year.—APP

## Briefs

## CTP finalise traffic plans for Pak-England cricket matches

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on Monday finalized the traffic arrangements for Pak-England cricket matches and facilitate the motorists. According to a CTP spokesman, the practice session of the Pakistan and England cricket teams is to start today here at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Double Road. Under the traffic plan devised on the orders of Chief Traffic Officer (Rawalpindi) Tamoor Khan, more than 432 traffic police personnel would perform duties during the cricket matches to maintain traffic flow, he added.

In the wake of the rush of cricket fans on the Double Road, additional traffic police personnel would be deployed on other alternative routes.

CTO Tamoor Khan had 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, he said.—APP

## FGEHA planning to launch eight new housing projects

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is planning to launch new residential projects in eight major cities of the country, including the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

"The new housing projects will be started for federal government employees and the general public on the basis of the joint venture," sources in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. They said the new residential projects would be launched in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Multan, Faisalabad and Karachi which would be included plots, houses and apartments.

"The Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been sought from land owners, companies, and firms in this regard," the sources added. They said the applications were invited from land owners/developers/firms and eligible individuals for the supply of land for housing schemes (plots, houses and apartments) projects in major cities of the country.

The sources said the applications for acquiring the land for the projects and their selection would be done as per Joint Venture Regulations 2020.

The authority would receive applications for expressing interest in FGEHA residential projects by December 22, they added.—APP

## RPO visits Pindi stadium to review security arrangements

RAWALPINDI: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Nasir Mehmood Satti here on Monday visited Pindi Cricket Stadium and reviewed the security arrangements finalized for Pak-England practice session and cricket match. City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari and the SSP Operations gave a briefing on the security arrangements. The RPO, while reviewing the arrangements, also visited the control room, entry gates and other important places.

He directed the senior officers to personally check the duty points and brief the personnel on duty. Implementation of the proposed Standard Operating Procedures for the security should be ensured at all costs, he said and added smooth traffic flow should also be ensured for the convenience of the citizens. Foolproof security arrangements would be ensured during the practice session and the cricket match, the RPO said.—APP

## Australia supports workshops on gender-sensitive reporting

Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins highlights the importance of gender equality and how societies that value women and men as equal are safer, healthier

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission and the Centre for Excellence in Journalism organised a workshop for media professionals, linked to the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women. This is the third time the Australian High Commission has supported a workshop on this topic. The workshops aim to provide training to journalists on gender-sensitive, ethical, and respectful reporting on violence against women. Speaking about the workshop today, Australia's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins highlighted the importance of gender equality and

how societies that value women and men as equal are safer and healthier. Australia is strongly committed to being at the forefront of efforts to empower women and girls and promote gender equality around the world, including here in Pakistan.

"Gender-based violence is a shared challenge and it remains the most pervasive human rights violation around the world. Unfortunately, prevalence is increasing as result of intersecting crises of climate change, global conflict, and economic instability. Crises like the floods that inundated much of the country in August, increase the vulnerability of women and girls to many forms of violence," the High Commis-



sioner said. Mr Hawkins reflected on his visit to Quetta last week, where he met with a number of gender-based violence survivors receiving assistance through the support of Australia: "Providing support and care to survivors of

violence is critical. However, the focus needs to be on prevention. We must shift social norms that accept violence and tackle gender stereotypes head on. Prevention is the only way to stop violence before it even occurs. This requires greater investment in women's organisations and addressing the multiple forms of discrimination women face daily." "The role of media is critical in making this happen. The media has the power to create awareness of the rights, needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls, as well as challenging traditional social and cultural norms and attitudes that condone violence against women," Mr Hawkins added. Renowned Australian journalist and advocate for

gender equity, Virginia Haussegger is joining top Pakistani journalists Amber Shamsi, Zarar Kohro and legal expert Sara Malkhani in the workshops to share experiences about the transformative role media can play in preventing violence against women and girls. Ms Haussegger said, "Gender based violence is endemic across all nations and in all communities. As journalists it is our job to shine a light on systemic failures to keep women safe. It is also critical that we deepen our understanding of the role of perpetrators, and support women victim-survivors to raise their voice in the media." The trainer Amber Shamsi shared, "Unlike theft, fraud or other petty crimes, gender-based violence is intersectional.

## Training session for Chinese enterprises on RMB &amp; PKR rate

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Bank of China (BOC) Pakistan Operations in collaboration with the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) held an online training session for Chinese enterprises in Pakistan on the analysis and outlook of USD, RMB & PKR rates, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. On the occasion, Wang Jie, President of BOC Pakistan Operations delivered a welcoming speech. Dr. He Xiaobo, General Manager of Offshore RMB Trading Center, BOC Hong

Kong explained the trend of the exchange rate of RMB and US dollar. According to He, although the pandemic continues to sweep the world, the average daily trading volume of the global foreign exchange market in 2022 still increase by 14.98% from \$6.58 trillion in 2019 to \$7.5 trillion. "As global energy prices fall, U.S. inflation could hit a turning point, which would moderate the dollar index's gains. China's current account surplus will continue to be maintained, and the China-US interest rate differential is estimated to enter a convergence

cycle." Dr. He predicted, "as the epidemic prevention and control continues to improve, the internationalization of RMB will continue to deepen, and there are abundant policy reserves, which will provide a solid foundation for the RMB exchange rate to remain basically stable." Dr. Qazi Masood Ahmed, Professor and Director, Centre for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, presented on the exchange rate dynamics in Pakistan. He analyzed the exchange rate and interest rate of the Pakistani rupee

in conjunction with the Pakistani market. He responded to questions from Chinese companies regarding the forecast of export changes in FY2023, the advantages of providing Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) for the textile industry and the possibility of a SWAP between China and Pakistan. Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and about 150 participants from over 100 Chinese enterprises in the fields of petroleum, energy, construction, communications, wholesale and retail attended the webinar.

## PIA to operate Xian-Islamabad direct flights

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has been granted approval by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) to operate direct weekly passenger flights on the Islamabad-Xian-Islamabad route from next month. "PK-856 will depart from Islamabad International Airport every Tuesday for Xian and PK-857 will return to Islamabad on the same day," official sources told APP here.

The Islamabad-Xian-Islamabad will be the third direct flight of the national flag carrier between Pakistan and China. PIA was already operating weekly passenger flights on Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad and Islamabad-Chengdu-Islamabad routes on Sunday and Wednesday respectively. The local office of the airline has informed the head office about the approval and is making all necessary arrangements for the start of the smooth flight operation. It is worth mentioning that the CAAC accorded approval to PIA to restart its direct flight operation between Islamabad and Beijing from October 30, considering Pakistan as its all-weather strategic cooperative partner of China. PIA is among the few international airlines allowed to operate three direct flights a week.—APP

## Third Pak-Africa trade development conference

ISLAMABAD: The third Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition, organized by Ministry of Commerce, will begin in Johannesburg, South Africa on November 29. The conference, scheduled to be on November 29 followed by Single Country Exhibition from November 30 to December 1st, said a press statement issued by the commerce ministry. Officials and business persons from sixteen (16) member states of South African Development Community (SADC) as well as representatives of The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) SACU and SADC secretariat have been invited to attend the conference & Exhibition. Around 130 Pakistani companies will be exhibiting their products from different sectors, the statement added. The objectives of organizing the event include showcasing Pakistan's export sectors to SADC member states, to provide opportunity for business to business (B2B), government to government (G2G) and government to business (G2B) meetings. It would help start meaningful engagement with South Africa, SACU and SADC, to create awareness among Pakistan Businessmen about opportunities available in SADC member states. The initiative would help developing linkages with regulatory authorities besides establishing banking channels and find out opportunities of Joint Ventures and to enhance trade in goods and services. A delegation comprising of around 225 exhibitors and business persons from Pakistan representing twenty major sectors are visiting Johannesburg to participate in the moot. The delegations represent different sectors including rice, textile & apparel, seafood & meat, fruits & vegetables, spices, processed food, salt, cement, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, sports goods, paints & chemicals, articles of plastic, articles of leather, footwear, articles of iron & steel and cables, cutlery & kitchenware, home appliances, electro-mechanical machineries (pumps, generators, transformers, motors etc.), tractors, two & three wheelers and auto parts. It is pertinent to mention here that the Commerce Ministry had launched Look Africa Policy in 2017-18 to enhance economic focus on African countries and strengthen trade ties. Under the policy, first Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya on January 30th-31st 2020.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.—DNA

## Two street criminals arrested

RAWALPINDI: In an operation against anti-social elements, Rawalpindi Police on Monday arrested two members of a street criminal gang named Kazam Ali and Rashid, wanted in various cases. He said that the police

items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Waris Khan police arrested two members of a street criminal gang named Kazam Ali and Rashid, wanted in various cases. He said that the police

team constituted under the supervision of SHO Waris Khan Police Station on the directives of the Superintendent of Police conducted a raid and managed to net the accused and recovered Rs 25,000 cash,

two snatched mobile phones, a motorcycle, weapons and other items from their possession. As per the preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added.—APP

## Lok Virsa Mela attracts huge audiences

ISLAMABAD: The ten-day ongoing 'Lok Mela' (Lok festival) is attracting a large number of people, especially the exhibition of artisans-at-work has proven to be a major attraction for visitors. Over 500 craftspeople are seen actively demonstrating their work in artistically designed cultural pavilions, putting their creativity into arts and crafts, to mesmerise spectators with their unique work at Lok Virsa. The crafts on display are embroidery (including Multani, Bahawalpuri, Hazara, Swati, Balochi and Sindh embroidery) block printing, lacquer work, Khussa making, pottery, tie and dye, doll making, khaddar weaving, truck art, wood carving, woodwork, papier mache, namda and gabba, metal work, shawl weaving, zari work, motikari, traditional carpets, blue pottery, Ajrak, wax printing, stonework, wooden spoon making, pattu weaving and many others. Being a prime institution dealing with Pakistani folk culture, Lok Virsa was cognizant of the need for gender equality which is seen in each event that it holds from time to time, because in this way both male and female practitioners afford equal opportunity of showcasing their talent and getting due recognition thereof, said the

organizers. In the present event too, one can see a number of female artisans demonstrating their skills. The most prominent among them are Kaneez Fatima and Shakar Bibi from Balochistan. They practice Balochi embroidery and have carried on this centuries-old tradition from their mothers and devoted 30 to 35 years of

their life to this profession. They stand out not only for their excellence but also for their tireless propagation of this art by imparting it to future generations. Another craftswoman Pari Bibi, a 70-years old artisan, hailing from Badin, Sindh weaves 'Farasi' [traditional rug] and has expertise in the art of weaving since her childhood.—APP



## Marriyum welcomes England cricket team

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that Pakistan welcomed the England Cricket Team for a test series for the first time since 2005. Using her Twitter handle, she said that this was a historic moment for both the teams and their fans. The minister commended the tireless efforts of all involved to make this happen, especially United Kingdom High Commissioner Christian Turner. She said she was looking forward to an exciting series between the two teams.—APP

## Pakistan earns \$263 million by exporting transport

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$263.840 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first three months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

This shows a growth of 75.95 per cent as compared to \$149.950 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding period of the fiscal year (2021-22), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the months under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 369.50 per cent, going up from \$19.900 million last year to \$93.430 million during the months under review. Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services increased by 412.49 per cent from \$7.330 million to \$29.010 million current year, the PBS data revealed. The exports of air transport rose by 29.85 per cent by going up from \$126.720 million last year to \$164.550 million during July-September (2022-23).

Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services increased by 37 per cent, from \$83.100 million to \$113.850 million, whereas the exports of freight services surged by 71.43 per cent, from \$6.510 million to \$11.160 million, in addition, the export of other air transport services also increased by 6.55 per cent from \$37.110 million to \$39.540 million. Meanwhile, the exports of road transport services during the months under review witnessed a growth of 139.87 per cent by going up from \$1.530 million to \$3.670 million during this year, it added.—APP

## PMD asks travellers to remain cautious

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has advised travellers to remain cautious during the foggy conditions this week to avoid any untoward situation. The PMD informed that due to persistent dry weather, foggy conditions had developed in the northeast and southern parts of Punjab, plains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and upper Sindh. These conditions are likely to continue during the week, particularly during night and morning hours. About the possible impacts, the PMD said that foggy conditions may affect transportation means, while air quality may be unhealthy for sensitive groups during the period. Very cold weather conditions were predicted in Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir, North Balochistan and parts of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it added.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my Name from **Mashaim Abbas to Muhammad**

**Mustafa Abbas** s/o Madah Hussain. Kindly correct record of FBISS at SSC level with new Registration 2022 Muhammad Mustafa Abbas s/o Madah Hussain resident of POF Wah

## Modi's India: danger of exporting chauvinism

WHEN the US state department recently told a court that the Saudi Arabian crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, should have immunity in a lawsuit over the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, it portrayed its argument as a legal and not moral position. By way of evidence, it pointed to a rogues' gallery of foreign leaders previously afforded similar protection. Nestling between Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, who, it was claimed, assassinated political rivals, and Congo's Joseph Kabila, whose security detail was accused of assaulting protesters in Washington, was India's Narendra Modi. Dropping Mr Modi into such a list was no accident. It is a reminder that while New Delhi basks in its diplomatic success at recent G20 and Cop27 summits, it might find the international environment less accommodating if Mr Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) continue to stir up hatred to win elections. Washington's gesture suggests that its strategic partnership with India cannot be completely insulated from domestic political issues. Mr Modi's failure, as chief minister of Gujarat, to prevent anti-Muslim riots in 2002 that left hundreds dead saw him denied a US visa, until he became Indian prime minister. The message from Foggy Bottom was that the ban had not been withdrawn, but suspended, because Mr Modi ran a country that Washington wanted to do business with. India is considered a geopolitical counterweight to China and, in many ways, an indispensable actor on the world stage. But Mr Biden's team appears to see the position as more contingent, and will be less tolerant than the Trump administration of Mr Modi's attempts to remould Indian democracy so that Hindus become constitutionally pre-eminent, with minorities reduced to second-class citizens. Last week, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom accused New Delhi of a "crackdown on civil society and dissent", and "religious freedom violations". The Indian foreign ministry hit back at "biased and inaccurate observations". Officials would do better to reflect on where their country is going. While a rising power, India's ascent depends on building bridges with others. The Middle East is a key energy supplier and regional trade partner that supports 9 million Indian workers. India's security depends on Arab states sustaining a hostile environment for terrorism. So when BJP functionaries made derogatory remarks about the prophet Muhammad this summer, Gulf states lodged formal protests with New Delhi. Chastened, the Modi government was spurred into action - suspending one party official and expelling another, as well as saying it accords "the highest respect to all religions". Worryingly, there are signs that the communal clashes seen in India are being copied elsewhere. In Leicester, many south Asian Muslims - like the city's Hindus - have Indian roots. Yet when violence erupted between these communities this September, escalating into attacks on mosques and temples, the Indian high commission in London condemned the "violence perpetrated against the Indian community in Leicester and vandalism of premises and symbols of [the] Hindu religion". Pointedly, there was no condemnation of Hindus' violence against Muslims.



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## Security threats to US come from within

THE United States Federal Communications Commission has adopted new rules that will block both the importing and selling of technology products from five Chinese companies, citing national security concerns. The FCC said on Friday it had banned approvals of new equipment from the telecommunications companies Huawei Technologies, ZTE and Hytera Communications, as well as surveillance equipment from Dahua Technology Co and Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology on the grounds they "are deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to national security". Although the companies were previously prohibited from supplying US government systems and the private sector was strongly discouraged from using their equipment, the ban is not retroactive, so theoretically the companies can go ahead with previously authorized sales in the US. However, the FCC has left the door open to the possibility it could revoke previous authorizations. Whatever decision the US communications watchdog finally makes about those deals, it will have little impact on these companies in the US market as they were being elbowed out. All five were already on a list of companies that were identified as constituting a potential threat to US national security, so there is little surprise that the FCC should make an additional effort to exclude them from the US market. What is worth real concern is the FCC claims that all five members voted "unanimously" to enact the unprecedented ban, which illustrates a worrying degree of success for the fear-mongers in Washington. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has expressed concern about the development, calling it another example of the US side baselessly abusing state power to suppress Chinese companies on the pretext of "national security". Pointing out that the US move is in violation of market rules, it said it undermines the rules-based international economic and trade order that the US administration claims it is seeking to uphold. The US side is clearly treating market economy practices from a non-market perspective. "National security" is their fail-safe fallback to counter any companies that might blunt its technological edge. Although the alleged national security risks are unsubstantiated, once the "national security threat" label has pinned on a company, it is easy to sail through the present-day US decision-making process to get the desired action to cut that company down to size. Letting such fear continue spreading and escalating will further poison the already strained bilateral relations, and sink them in a vicious circle of hysteria-driven mutual suspicion and antagonism, which is in neither party's interest in the end. Hikvision's comment on the ban points to the inherent irony of such an approach, saying that the decision "will do nothing to protect US national security, but will do a great deal to make it more harmful and more expensive for US small businesses, local authorities, school districts, and individual consumers to protect themselves, their homes, businesses and property". The risk to the US comes from within, not from China.

# Protest emerges as a mixed blessing for World Cup host Qatar

James M. Dorsey

The US Soccer Federation joined the fray with Iran ahead of the two nations' World Cup match when it briefly displayed Iran's national flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic, saying the move was in support of protesters in Iran. Iran accused the federation of removing the name of God from their national flag and said it would complain to FIFA. However, US Soccer later restored the Islamic republic's flag on social media. Meanwhile, Qatari nationals, intending to protest against Western double standards in criticism of the Gulf state, didn't encounter problems entering the stadium to watch Germany's group stage match against Spain. During the game, Qataris displayed pictures of former German national team player Mesut Özil, a German-born...

PROTEST on the soccer pitch has proven to be a mixed blessing for World Cup host Qatar, exposing double standards in the Gulf state's position as well as that of its critics. Qatar embraced protest when it supported Qatari policies, such as the Gulf state's increasingly assertive denunciation of double standards in Western criticism of discrimination against LGBT people or its refusal to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in the absence of a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, protesters and foreign media quickly encountered the limits of Qatari tolerance and notions of freedom of expression when they touched on politically sensitive issues, ranging from support for LGBT rights to solidarity with demonstrators in Iran, who have defied a brutal crackdown by security forces in more than two months of anti-government manifestations. As a result, the debate on double standards at times amounted to the kettle calling the pot black. That is not to question the legitimacy of criticism levelled by Qatar and its critics at each other. However, it is to note that both parties' credibility is in question because of their inconsistencies and failures to put their own houses in order. "On one level, the World Cup is unfolding smoothly. On another, we go from crisis to crisis," said a journalist covering the tournament for a major Western news organisation. Photographers were often on the frontline as Qatari authorities stopped them from snapping pictures of security forces preventing fans from wearing clothing to matches or taking into stadiums paraphernalia that signalled support for Iranian protesters or LGBT rights. "The real test case will be when the United States plays Iran. That could be the crescendo in the clash over what protesters and media can and cannot do," said another journalist. The November 29 match is likely the World Cup's most politically charged game, with talks to revive the 2015 international agreement that curbed the Islamic republic's nuclear programme all but dead and Iraq-mediated negotiations with archrival Saudi Arabia suspended. Iran accuses the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel of inciting the sustained anti-government protests. The US Soccer Federation joined the fray with Iran ahead of the two nations' World Cup match when it briefly displayed Iran's national flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic,

saying the move was in support of protesters in Iran. Iran accused the federation of removing the name of God from their national flag and said it would complain to FIFA. However, US Soccer later restored the Islamic republic's flag on social media. Meanwhile, Qatari nationals, intending to protest against Western double standards in criticism of the Gulf state, didn't encounter problems entering the stadium to watch Germany's group stage match against Spain. During the game, Qataris displayed pictures of former German national team player Mesut Özil, a German-born descendant of Turkish immigrants, while covering their mouths in protest against German double standards. Mr. Özil quit the German team after becoming a target of racist abuse and a scapegoat for Germany's early World Cup exit in 2018. The Qatari demonstration was in response to Germany's team covering their mouths at a group photo in advance of an earlier match against Japan in protest against FIFA president Gianni Infantino's banning players from wearing One Love bands during games. In the same vein, prominent Qataris wore pro-Palestinian armbands to the Germany Japan match to counter the pro-LGBT One Love band sported by German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser during the game. Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, signalled the Gulf state's greater assertiveness in countering criticism when he lamented some three weeks before the kickoff of the World Cup that Qatar had been "subjected to an unprecedented campaign," scrutiny, and scorn "that no host country has faced." In an indication that human rights, labour, and LGBT groups may be losing leverage, the emir said that "we initially dealt with the matter in good faith, and even considered some of criticism as positive and useful... (But) it soon became clear that the campaign tends to continue and expand to include fabrications and double standards that were so ferocious that it has unfortunately prompted many people to question real reasons and motives behind this campaign." The critics' problem is their past failure to tackle with equal ferocity issues of human rights, prejudice, and bigotry in the run-up to the 2018 Russian World Cup, as well as to separate the wheat from the chafe by distancing themselves from criticism of Qatar that was laced with bias and racism. In doing so, critics are as much their own

worst enemy as they have been drivers of social change in Qatar. By allowing Qatar to deflect criticism by calling into question critics' credibility, activists have enabled the Gulf state to take its counteroffensive to the next level. A week into the World Cup, Qatar was reviewing, according to the Financial Times, its substantial investments in London after the city's transport authority suspended advertising from the Gulf state because of the controversies over worker and LGBT rights. Qatari investments include London's landmark Harrods department store; The Shard, an iconic 72-storey skyscraper; and Canary Wharf, part of the city's central business district. Qatar also owns Chelsea Barracks, the Savoy and Grosvenor House hotels, 22 per cent of Sainsbury's supermarkets, six per cent of Barclays bank, and 20 per cent of Heathrow airport. "Countries like... Qatar... view their investments as strategic bribes to mute criticism and resist reforms," said Radha Stirling, a London-based lawyer who represents expatriates in the Gulf who run into legal difficulty. To be fair, Qatar was one of 11 countries in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia that were banned in 2019 from advertising by Transport for London on the grounds of human rights violations. Nevertheless, the agency allowed some Qatari advertising promoting the Gulf state as a tourist destination until last week's World Cup kickoff, when it decided to implement the ban fully. Even so, the list reinforced the notion of double standards by failing to include China at the height of its brutal crackdown on Turkic Muslims in the northwestern province of Xinjiang; Russia that was annexing Ukrainian territory, repressing LGBT people, and attempting to assassinate its critics at home and abroad; and Israel with its increasingly racial policies towards Palestinians. Qatar is likely to be the first of numerous rights-focused Middle Eastern battlegrounds, with countries like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt hosting or preparing bids to host multiple major sporting events, including Asian Cup competitions, the 2030 World Cup, and the 2036 Summer Olympics. The bids constitute a rich and legitimate hunting ground for human, worker, and LGBT rights activists. However, their effectiveness will, to a significant extent, depend on their ability to put their own house in order.

## Qatar and the World Cup attack

Muhammad Krishan

Qatar is not above any criticism, and none of its officials claimed that it is a paradise for freedoms and human rights. It always says that it is constantly working to reform its laws and reality, but the issue is definitely not here. As he said, with all courage, the French ambassador in Doha, Jean-Baptiste, "We do not give lessons." Because whoever gives lessons must, in my opinion, be perfect and complete, and no country is perfect and perfect." This is what FIFA President Giovanni Infantino went to when he strongly attacked...

QATAR... this little despicable. This is how the French "Liberation" chose a title for its entire front page, which it devoted to censoring Doha and saying that it is not at all worthy of organizing the World Cup, on the same day that this football event kicks off. The impressive opening ceremony last Sunday was completely ignored, for example by the British Channel One, BBC 1, preferring to talk about FIFA corruption, changing the date of the traditional World Cup, the small size of Qatar, the situation of workers, human rights, homosexuals and so on. The poor American "CNN" anchor did not find in her closet what she wore that day except for that dress that was completely embroidered in the famous gay colors, and the German media, in turn, did not deviate from this mood, so that a Tunisian friend residing in Germany sent me an indignant message saying: "I studied here I have been living here for 22 years and are fully integrated into society, even married to them, but I have never seen this hatred and hatred that I saw towards Qatar as it organizes the World Cup. France, Britain, Germany, just examples. This frenzy has existed for a while in many Western media, but it became fiercer the closer the start date of the tournament approached, then it exposed all its fangs on the opening day itself, so that some French newspapers did not pay any attention to the opening ceremony. But she celebrated, with gloating headlines, Qatar's defeat by Ecuador in the first match. Qatar is not above any criticism, and none of its officials claimed that it is a paradise for freedoms and human rights. It always says that it is constantly working to reform its laws and reality, but the issue is definitely not here. As he said, with all courage, the French ambassador in Doha, Jean-Baptiste, "We do not give lessons." Because whoever gives lessons must, in my opinion, be perfect and complete, and no country is perfect and perfect." This is what FIFA President

Giovanni Infantino went to when he strongly attacked what he considered Western hypocrisy in this field. This media did not find anything to praise in the messages of dialogue and tolerance expressed by the opening ceremony, in a world fraught with wars and disasters, preferring to delve into issues that may not be devoid of merit, but most of them are fabricated or terrifying. It is understood that every country that organizes the World Cup will make all the lights shine on it and its problems, as the talk of security was the tyrant when it was organized in South Africa (2010) and the talk of poverty in Brazil (2014). And the talk of freedoms in Russia (2018), but it never reached this degree of mobilization and exaggeration, as is happening with Qatar now, to the point of wanting to marginalize the demonstration itself. All of this is being done in a tone of clear transcendence that showed the worst of what souls and mentalities hide from colonial thought that sees itself as nothing but the center of the whole world in which all others must revolve entirely in its orbit and embrace the same values, starting from politics and economics to sexual relations, especially if this other is an Arab. And for sure, he must remain a prisoner of the stereotype that has been detailed for him for decades, and he will never leave it. When the World Cup was organized in France in 1998, for example, we did not see any talk about France's abhorrent colonial past, nor about what it is doing in Africa so far in terms of plundering goods, supporting dictatorships, supporting military coups, etc., nor how it deals with immigrants in its country, even those whose parents were born on its land. And how discrimination is practiced against them in employment, even by mere name, as proven by numerous studies. A question at the end: What if the World Cup was organized in "Israel"?! Would we have heard about its small area, which by

the way is almost the same as Qatar, and that it is the country that sponsors the oldest and longest occupation in the modern era by occupying the lands of the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, disregarding all international resolutions? Would we have heard about the fascist religious currents in it and that they consider their Arab citizens to be second-class citizens? And they are committing all transgressions against their brothers in the occupied lands, All the transgressions classified as war crimes, such as seizing and annexing lands by force and establishing settlements on them that bring their residents from all parts of the world, in exchange for demolishing the homes of the indigenous people for an obscene amount of money, otherwise you have to demolish your house yourself? Would we have heard about the arrest of children and the killing of journalists? Was Sherine Abu Aqleh, who was assassinated by the Zionists, going to become a subject for every program before and during the World Cup? Would we have heard about the thousands languishing in prisons and the hundreds of thousands trapped in Gaza, described as the longest open prison in the world? Perhaps... Perhaps we would have heard some sympathy and support for the Palestinians if they had decided to raise the gay flags, or the authority had changed its flag so that it became in their bright colors... Perhaps they would then become worthy of independence!! A truly hypocritical world, but now it is as shameful and exposed as ever!!! This is the truly clear picture of the double standard of the world, how world is dealing with the western world? And how they are pushing the Muslim world towards the edge? Especially Palestine is the main target of them. There are thousands of examples from simple to complicated situations, world always creates double standard to deal with both sides.

## Briefs

## PTI approves dissolution of assemblies

FROM PAGE 01  
“The meetings of the parliamentary parties of both the assemblies has been summoned for later this week, following which, the assemblies will be dissolved,” he said.  
Chaudhry said the PTI has kickstarted the process of allotting tickets to politicians, and as the party's lawmakers resign from their respective assemblies, 563 seats from across the country will be vacated and elections will be held on them.  
He said that the opposition will also be invited to hold consultations with the government in both provinces over the formation of the interim government.  
Chaudhry said even if elections are held after seven to eight months, it won't affect PTI due to its popularity, but the party wishes for political stability – which can only be achieved through early elections.  
“Therefore, [Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif] should announce the date for general elections and dissolve the National Assembly. But if you don't, then PTI will dissolve the assemblies wherever it rules,” Chaudhry added that the PTI would announce the date of the Punjab and KP assemblies' dissolution in the next two to three days.

## PM lauds COAS for tackling 'crises'

FROM PAGE 01  
national defence, and national interests, a statement from the PM's Office read. “The army, under the leadership of Gen Bajwa, has rendered exemplary services during various crises – including the removal of Pakistan from the FATF's (Financial Action Task Force) grey list, coronavirus pandemic, and floods,” the prime minister said.  
The armed forces crushed the menace of terrorism with valour and bravery under Gen Bajwa's leadership, the premier said as he noted that he took charge as the army chief during “one of history's toughest moments”.  
“Gen Bajwa also played a key role in making Pakistan's defence impregnable. [His] leadership in a complex regional situation set the direction for dealing with security challenges.”  
The prime minister also appreciated the army chief's services in terms of geo-economics as he noted that all political forces would have to sign on a “charter of the economy” to ensure that Pakistan becomes a strong economic force. “You got the honour of leading the world's best army,” the prime minister told COAS Bajwa. In response, the outgoing chief thanked the prime minister for his full cooperation in the execution of national affairs.  
Before meeting the prime minister, the army chief paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadar, a statement from the President's Secretariat said. In the meeting, the president commended Gen Bajwa's services in the field of defence and also appreciated his services to the country and the Pakistan Army. The president expressed best wishes for Gen Bajwa in his future endeavours.

## Ukraine warns of fresh Russian missile strikes

FORM PAGE 01  
left four people dead in frontline regions a day earlier. Prime Minister Denys Shmygal meanwhile announced that he had received the foreign ministers of the three ex-Soviet Baltic states – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia – as well as those from Finland, Norway, Sweden, Iceland. He said the country representatives had “discussed the tightening of sanctions, the reconstruction of energy infrastructure and financial support.”

## England to play aggressive cricket against Pakistan

England bowlers began preparing in the United Arab Emirates in early-mid November. Much of the squad joined up in Abu Dhabi on November 18 when captain Ben Stokes and others arrived from the T20 World Cup

DNA

RAWALPINDI: England head coach Brendon McCullum spoke to the media at the Pindi Cricket Stadium as they started training for the three-match Test series against Pakistan. The former New Zealand captain is hopeful his side will be fully ready to face Pakistan in the first Test in Rawalpindi on Thursday (December 1). England bowlers began preparing in the United Arab Emirates in early-mid November. Much of the squad joined up in Abu Dhabi on November 18 when captain Ben Stokes and others arrived from the T20 World Cup.  
After the third day of the warm-up match against England, Lions was scrapped to allow for workloads to be managed, Mark Wood and Harry Brook joined the squad after two weeks off when the entire group arrived in Pakistan on Saturday (November 26). “Not yet, but we've got a couple of days,” McCullum said when asked if England were ready for the series. “It is nice to be here. We had a great camp in Abu Dhabi and spent some time together as a team trying to build that camaraderie back as a team after a bit of a break. “We identified during the English summer that is a really important component to how this team is going to



operate - a bit of social interaction for the boys but also some hard work. “Guys are not screwed down yet but we'll get there in the next couple of days.” One of the most interesting subplots around England's first Test tour of Pakistan since 2005 will be whether their aggressive style of play, which bought such success during the summer, can be replicated in alien conditions. Though Mc-

Cullum admits England will have to pick their moments during the three Tests he insists the philosophy is central to getting the best out of his players. “We'll find out I suppose,” McCullum responded when asked if England's attacking approach can be successful. “We'll respect the conditions but if we are given an opportunity to try and play aggressive and attacking cricket then we'll try and take

## Cameroon roar back to draw thriller against Serbia

DNA

DOHA: Cameroon kept their hopes of reaching the World Cup last 16 alive as they battled back from two goals down to draw a six-goal thriller with Serbia in Group G. Cameroon took the lead through Jean-Charles Castelletto but Strahinja Pavlovic and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic replied to give Serbia a half-time advantage.  
Aleksandar Mitrovic added a third for Serbia and they looked to be cruising to a win that would have put them in a strong position to progress from the group.  
However the Indomitable Lions roared back thanks to Vincent Aboubakar's superb lob and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting's equaliser three minutes later.

Mitrovic had a chance to regain the lead for his side but the Fulham striker curled a shot wide in the closing moments after being teed up by Dusan Tadic. Both sides lost their opening match so this result leaves them two points adrift of Brazil and Switzerland, who meet later on Monday (16:00 GMT).  
In arguably the tournament's most entertaining game so far, Serbia started brightly and Mitrovic twice went close to giving his side the lead. He hit the post before flashing a shot wide after the ball fell kindly to him in the box as Serbia made all the early running.  
However Cameroon took the lead against the run of play when Nicolas N'Koulou flicked on a corner and Castelletto tapped his first international goal home from

close range. Serbia did not panic, though, and turned the game on its head in first-half stoppage time.  
Pavlovic headed Serbia's first World Cup goal in 335 minutes of play before Milinkovic-Savic beat Cameroon keeper Devis Epassy, who was playing after Andre Onana was dropped for disciplinary reasons, with a low drive. When Mitrovic finished off a brilliant Serbia passing move to give them a two-goal cushion, Dragan Stojkovic's side looked to be heading for a comfortable victory.  
However, substitute Aboubakar gave Cameroon hope when he raced clear and, perhaps thinking he was offside, cut inside past a defender and casually scooped the ball over Vanja Milink-

ovic-Savic for one of the tournament's best goals. Three minutes later the striker again beat the offside trap but this time squared the ball for ex-Stoke City striker Choupo-Moting to level from close range.  
While Cameroon looked dangerous when they pushed for a winner, it was Mitrovic who had the best chance to snatch the victory, but he curled wide as Serbia were left to rue their inability to close out the match. A defeat would have left Cameroon relying on Switzerland to beat Brazil in order to avoid elimination with a match to spare. Instead Rigobert Song's side retain hope of getting out of the group stage for the first time since 1990, albeit their final game will be a difficult match against Brazil.

## Stokes announces to donate match fees to flood victims

*"The floods that devastated Pakistan earlier this year was very sad to see and has had significant impact on the country and people"*

LAHORE: England captain Ben Stokes will donate his match fees from their three-Test series against hosts Pakistan to help the victims of devastating floods in the country, the 31-year-old said in a statement on Monday. Millions of people in Pakistan have had their lives affected by severe flooding in recent months, with of-

ficials in the Asian nation estimating damage from torrential monsoon rains that have killed over 1,000 people at more than \$40 billion. “To be back here after 17 years as a Test side is very exciting. There is a sense of responsibility amongst the playing and support group and to be here is special,” Stokes said.  
“The floods that devastated Pakistan earlier this year was very sad to see and has had significant impact on the country and the people. “The game has given me a lot in my life and I feel it's only right to give something back that goes far beyond cricket. I will be donating my match fees from this Test series to the Pakistan flood appeal.” The first Test is due to start on Thursday. – Agencies

## 31st CAS Challenge Cup Polo Tournament-2022

ISLAMABAD: PAF Sports Control Committee in collaboration with Islamabad Polo Club management has organized 31st Chief of the Air Staff Challenge Cup Polo Tournament-2022 at the lush green Islamabad Polo Club. The tournament will be played from 29 November to 05 December, 2022. This event would be significant in promoting the game of Polo in Pakistan. 06 teams (PAF Blue, PAF White, Asean, ASC Rizvi, ASC Ahmed Khan and ASC Vaulters) will participate in the tournament. High ranking civil & military officials and polo enthusiasts would attend the mega event. CAS Challenge Cup Polo Tournament was introduced in 1985 and ever since it has been a regular feature in the PAF Sports Calendar. The event is eagerly awaited each year by polo enthusiasts and receives appreciation both at domestic and international levels which is a true manifestation of the PAF's commitment in promoting sports. – DNA

## India batter hits seven sixes in one over

NEW DELHI: Rituraj Gaikwad has become the first cricketer to hit seven sixes in one over in a limited-overs match. The India batter, 25, broke the record in a Vijay Hazare Trophy quarter-final, playing for Maharashtra against Uttar Pradesh in Ahmedabad on Monday. Left-arm spinner Shiva Singh was the bowler hit for seven sixes - the fifth of which came off a no-ball, earning Gaikwad an extra delivery. The 43 runs conceded also equalled the record for most runs off an over. That record was set in Hamilton, New Zealand in 2018 by Northern Districts batters Joe Carter and Brett Hampton, who hit Central Districts' Willem Ludick for six sixes, a four and a single in an over containing two no-balls. – APP

## Erdogan urges Islamic nations to put stronger will for Syria

ISTANBUL: In order for Syria to get rid of conflict, humanitarian crisis, and terror spiral, Islamic countries should put stronger will and actively support a political solution, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday. Speaking at the 38th Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul, the president said that although the names, claims, and geographies of terrorist groups are different, they target Muslims. He also asked for strong support from COMCEC in Türkiye's struggle against “the enemies of Islam and humanity.” Türkiye is determined to root out the PKK terrorist organization, which also threatens the territorial integrity of Syria and Iraq, Erdogan reiterated. “We are determined to root out this

terrorist organization, which poses a threat to the territorial integrity of Syria and Iraq, as well as our country,” the president affirmed. “The previous week, eight of our citizens, three of whom were children, were killed by the PKK in Istiklal Street and then in our Karkamis district.” “Of course, in this bloodshed, ... those who provide these terrorists with weapons and support (them) under the pretext of fighting terrorism must end. Türkiye, which fought with Daesh on the field and defeated this organization, has no space for such arguments, the president stressed.  
Recalling that Türkiye is fulfilling its duty by hosting over 3.5 million Syrian refugees on its lands and supporting millions of them within the borders of Syria, the president said: “In order for Syria to get rid of the spiral of conflict, humanitarian crisis, and terrorism, Islamic countries must show a stronger will and actively support the efforts for a political solution.” Earlier on Friday, Erdogan said that Türkiye will complete a safe zone near its Syrian borders from east to west Addressing an event marking International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the president said: “We will complete the security belt we are creating beyond our borders from west to east.” – DNA

against Daesh have a share, as much as the separatist terrorist organization,” Erdogan censured. Erdogan added: “Despite all warnings of Türkiye, the blood of every innocent who died has been smeared on the hands and faces of those who try to legitimize terrorist organizations with letter games.”  
He said the game of supporting the PKK and its affiliates under the guise of fighting Daesh, “which is known to be a project product from the very first day,”

must end. Türkiye, which fought with Daesh on the field and defeated this organization, has no space for such arguments, the president stressed.  
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## Kazakh leader meets Putin in first post-election trip

The pair also addressed an inter-governmental forum focused on trade in the Russian city of Orenburg, near the border with Kazakhstan, via video link. Russia's offensive in Ukraine has made some of its former Soviet allies, including Kazakhstan, nervous

MOSCOW: Kazakhstan's leader met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday, a week after winning a new seven-year term by a landslide in a snap election. Kazakhstan is a significant Russian ally, sharing a 7,600-kilometer (4,750-mile) border. But President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has kept his distance from Moscow amid the conflict in Ukraine, notably declining this summer to recognize the Kremlin's declaration of separatist Ukraine regions as sovereign states. Kazakhstan's president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin on Monday, with the allies reaffirming historic ties following public disagreements over Ukraine. “This is my first foreign visit after this event and that in itself has political significance and, of course, a certain symbolism,” Tokayev said, sitting next to Putin ahead of talks. “For Kazakhstan, Russia is and has always been a strategic partner.” Putin told Tokayev that relations between Moscow and Astana have a “special character.” He called for the strengthening of economic ties, saying this was “especially timely



now, when international trade is in crisis. The pair also addressed an inter-governmental forum focused on trade in the Russian city of Orenburg, near the border with Kazakhstan, via video link. Russia's offensive in Ukraine has made some of its former Soviet allies, including Kazakhstan, nervous. Speaking at a summit of the Moscow-led CSTO security bloc in Armenia last week, Tokayev called for a “joint collective search for a formula for peace.” “We must not allow the fraternal Russian and Ukrainian peoples to part ways for tens or hundreds of years with mutual unhealed grievances.” Tokayev has also allowed tens of thousands of Russians fleeing military mobilization in Russia into Kazakhstan. He was re-elected for a second term earlier this month, winning a vast majority of votes after facing no real opposition candidates. Kazakhstan and Russia have built a mutually beneficial strategic partnership, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said addressing the Kazakhstan-Russia Interregional Cooperation Forum. – Agencies

## Decision to become 'apolitical' to enhance army's 'prestige'

FROM PAGE 01  
personal criticism, will facilitate in reinvigorating and strengthening democratic culture, assist in supporting state organs to effectively perform and deliver. Above all, this decision will help enhance army's prestige in the long term,” he said.  
The army chief said that the military has enjoyed unmatched respect and trust of the Pakistani nation throughout the country's history. “Army's positive and constructive role in Pakistan's national security and development has always received unwavering public support. I believe that public support and affinity towards the armed forces tends to erode when the military is seen to be involved in political affairs, and, therefore, I considered it prudent to shield Pakistan Army from the vagaries of politics in Pakistan,” said Gen Bajwa. The army chief assured that despite the “some criticism and undue vilification of the armed forces through mass propaganda and meticulously crafted false narratives”, the institution will remain committed to its apolitical role.  
“I am certain that this political quarantine of the armed forces will auger well for Pakistan in the long term by fostering political stability and strengthening the army-to-people bond,” said Gen Bajwa. Reflecting on his career in the military, Gen Bajwa said that it is a “profound privilege to have served and led one of the finest military forces of the world during a most challenging time in Pakistan's history”.  
“We have worked out plans to effectively align ourselves with the requirements of future battlefield, making the best use of our limited resources,” said Gen Bajwa. The army chief foresees that the army will emerge as a “cohesive, agile, adaptive and a modern force, which can complement other elements of national power by maintaining a credible deterrent capability to help foster a secure environment for national development and socio-economic well-being”.  
The chief of army staff (COAS) noted that “perpetual conflict and instability” in South Asia has made the region “least integrated” in the world despite the huge economic potential and large population.  
“The region has been referred as the strategic chessboard due to its role in great power rivalries in the past – the recent being the two-decades-long war against terror led by US and the West in Afghanistan. Pakistan's western border has therefore seen a great deal of instability due to the conflict in Afghanistan. Post-US withdrawal, a modicum of stability has been seen in the country with reduction in violence. However, the situation remains volatile,” noted the army chief.  
The army chief noted that Islamabad's strategic partnership with Beijing has “endured the upheavals of strategic environment through many decades”.

## Huraira's double gives Northern 309-run lead

LAHORE: Mohammad Huraira's double century and centuries by Umar Amin and Umar Waheed have given Northern a 309-run lead over Sindh at the close of day three of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final here at Gaddafi Stadium on Monday. Resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 296 for two in pursuit of Sindh's first-innings score of 284 all out, Huraira and skipper Umar Amin started their innings where they left off the previous day. During the course of the morning session, the right-handed batter Huraira brought up his double-century off 217 balls, which included 31 fours and two sixes. This was Huraira's first double ton in this edition of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. Huraira was eventually dismissed for 221 off 236 balls, ending the 308-run partnership for the third wicket with Umar Amin. Umar Amin was later joined by right-handed Umar Waheed and the pair stitched 48 runs for the fourth wicket. The Northern skipper was next to return back to the hut before scoring his fourth century of the tournament. – APP

## Briefs

## Australia falls short in Great Barrier Reef efforts

## NEWS DESK

PARIS: Despite warnings, Australia's efforts to save the Great Barrier Reef still fall short of protecting the world's largest coral reef system from pollution and climate change, experts said Monday.

Australia had taken unprecedented steps towards the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, which the United Nations has designated a world heritage site, but more was needed to avoid the site being declared "in danger" by UNESCO, the UN agency which compiles and manages a list of heritage sites. Such a designation puts a government on notice that a site could be removed from the World Heritage list altogether, a very rare event. "Despite the unparalleled science and management efforts" made by Australia over recent years, the Great Barrier Reef is "significantly impacted by climate change factors," Eleanor Carter at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNESCO representative Hans Thulstrup said in a report based on a mission to the Reef. "The resilience of the property to recover from climate change impacts is substantially compromised," they said.

## WHO renames monkeypox as mpox

LONDON: The World Health Organization has renamed monkeypox as mpox, citing concerns the original name of the decades-old animal disease could be construed as discriminatory and racist.

The U.N. health agency said in a statement Monday that mpox was its new preferred name for monkeypox, saying that both monkeypox and mpox would be used for the next year while the old name is phased out.

WHO said it was concerned by the "racist and stigmatizing language" that arose after monkeypox spread to more than 100 countries. It said numerous individuals and countries asked the organization "to propose a way forward to change the name." In August, WHO began consulting experts about renaming the disease, shortly after the U.N. agency declared monkeypox's spread to be a global emergency.—Agencies

## Germany suffers supply shortages for 299 drugs

BERLIN: Germany is facing supply shortages for 299 drugs, the country's drug regulatory body said. The reason for the supply bottlenecks is a lack of deliveries from countries such as China and India, according to the German Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM). Some 80% of drugs sold in Germany are generics produced in countries like China and India. In the case of antibiotics, for example, generics have a 100% market share in Germany. However, the pandemic continues to disrupt the supply chain.—APP

## Turkiye vows to enhance trade volume with Pakistan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye wants to increase its trade relation with Pakistan as both nations have significant potential to expand trade in many areas; Turk Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci stated it during his visit to FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo Former Presidents, Muhammad Suleman Chawla Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzeb Akram Former SVP, Amin Ullah Baig, Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Vice Presidents, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Sheikh Mohammad Ali and Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination, and other were also present on the occasion. During the Discussions to further, improve bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci said that the volume of trade between Pakistan and Turkiye was over 8 million dollars and there is much potential to improve it further. He said that both the brotherly countries should take advantage of each other's experience to boost the trade ties and commercial activities to improve life styles of their citizens. He advised that a trade delegation from Pakistan and Turkiye should visit and share their trade experience providing a chance for further polishing their trade skills and scope. Talking about trade through roads and railways, he said Pakistan should upgrade its railway system to make it compatible with the Turkish rail network to promote trade through railways Speaking



on the occasion, President FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stressed to further strengthening of bilateral trade and relations between Pakistan and Turkiye and said that it is time to increase the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries. He highlighted various investment opportunities in Pakistan in different sectors including oil and gas, mines and minerals, gemstones, tourism, information technology, food processing, agriculture, dairy products, furniture, hotel, and resorts. He further said that the experience of the Turkish tourism sector can be utilized for the development of the tourism sector in Pakistan. The

Turkish advanced technology in various fields may lead Pakistan's various sectors to develop and be beneficial, he added. Mian Anjum Nisar Former President of FPCCI & Chairman of BMP said that despite enjoying exemplary and brotherly relations, trade between Pakistan and Turkey stood at just US \$1.08 billion. He stressed to promote strong linkages between private sectors of both countries. He expressed his believe that a well thought out and well-negotiated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Turkey can potentially increase bilateral trade to US \$ 5 billion. He said that Istanbul can provide Pakistan easy access to Euro-

pean and Eastern European market for exports.

Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo, Former President of FPCCI on the occasion, highlighted that the land route services would be beneficial for expansion Pak Turkey bilateral trade as our shipments can reach from Islamabad to Istanbul in 10 days via Taftan, Zahidan and Tehran. He said that shipping time from Pakistan to Turkey is about 40 days which not only expensive in terms of freight but also in shipment time. He stressed on resolving the issues of transit trade and said expressed his believe that once the land route become smooth the bilateral trade between both the countries will be more than doubled in volume.

Muhammad Suleman Chawla Senior Vice President of FPCCI said that Pakistan & Turkey enjoy heart-to-heart relations and it but not reflected in trade according to the actual potential. The Turkiye has vast experience in development of border station; he urged that Turkey should invest in modernizing the border stations of Pakistan with Central Asian Countries for development and investment in trade and economic sectors. Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President FPCCI said there are vast opportunities for investment in minerals, tourism, hydel and cross-border trade sectors in Pakistan adding Turkiye by keeping in view the potential should invest in these sectors.

## Four dead in hotel siege in Somali capital

MOGADISHU: At least four people were killed in an on-going attack by Al-Shabaab militants who laid siege to a popular hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu overnight, a security agency official told AFP on Monday. Gunfire and explosions could still be heard more than 12 hours after the militants stormed the hotel near the presidential palace in a hail of bullets. Mohamed Dahir, an official from the national security agency, told AFP the gunmen were holed up in a room at the Villa Rose surrounded by government forces. "So far we have confirmed the death of four people", he said, adding that others had been rescued from the besieged venue. "Very soon the situation will return to normal." Government officials were among

others injured, he added. The Villa Rose is frequented by MPs and located in a secure central part of the capital just a few blocks from the office of Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Al-Shabaab, a militant group affiliated with Al-Qaeda that has been trying to overthrow Somalia's central government for 15 years, claimed responsibility for the attack. Police said the gunmen rushed into the hotel in Bondhere district at around 8:00 pm (1700 GMT) on Sunday and an operation was under way to "eliminate" them. More than 12 hours later, witnesses near the scene described still hearing loud explosions and gunfire. "I saw several military vehicles with special forces heading towards the hotel, and a few minutes later, there was heavy gun-

fire and explosions," said local witness Mahad Yare. In a statement late Sunday, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), a 20,000-strong military force drawn from across the continent, praised the "swift" security response to the attack. On its website the Villa Rose describes the hotel as the "most secure lodging arrangement in Mogadishu" with metal detectors and a high perimeter wall. Al-Shabaab has intensified attacks against civilian and military targets as Somalia's recently-elected government has pursued a policy of "all-out war" against the Islamists. The security forces, backed by local militias, ATMIS and US air strikes, have driven Al-Shabaab from central parts of the country in recent months,

but the offensive has drawn retribution. On October 29, two cars packed with explosives blew up minutes apart in Mogadishu followed by gunfire, killing at least 121 people and injuring 333 others. It was the deadliest attack in the fragile Horn of Africa nation in five years. At least 21 people were killed in a siege on a Mogadishu hotel in August that lasted 30 hours before security forces were able to overpower the militants inside. The UN said earlier this month that at least 613 civilians had been killed and 948 injured in violence this year in Somalia, mostly caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) attributed to Al-Shabaab. The figures were the highest since 2017 and a more than 30-percent rise from last year.—APP

## Russia blames US for dragging Europe into sanctions wars

TASHKENT: The United States dragged Europe into its sanctions wars against Russia, driving European countries into unemployment, business shutdowns and other dire dilemmas, Russian State Duma (the lower house of parliament) Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin said during a visit to Uzbekistan. Volodin pointed out that the US and Europe had established strategic relations long ago but "this is what it eventually brought to Europe: problems, unemployment and business shutdowns." "The Americans buy energy products at one price but they sell them to Europe at prices that are four times higher. Besides, they have dragged Europe into their sanctions wars against Russia and curtailed our projects that had made it possible to use cheap energy, which was the foundation of industrial development in Germany, France and other countries," Volodin stressed. According to him, "the heads of EU states have finally started to admit that it was Russian energy resources that served as the basis of European prosperity but the US made the first move to cut their flow to Europe and began to replace them with its own resources." "We can now see the outcome. This is also clear to those who live in Asian countries, particularly those who have always built relations with us based on the principles of mutual respect, friendship and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs," the State Duma speaker noted. He also said that a wide range of issues was being discussed during his visit to Uzbekistan, including matters such as shared history, traditional values and cultural issues.—Agencies

## China-Pakistan S&amp;T cooperation center inaugurated in Beijing

DNA

BEIJING: China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Centre was inaugurated here on Monday to facilitate the Chinese technology companies to conduct businesses in Pakistan, strengthening bilateral ties and acting as a bridge between the youth of two countries. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and President of Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA), Zhang Xiaodong inaugurated the center while Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) joined virtually from Pakistan. The center,



a joint project by ZBRA and STZA, will act as a platform between China and Pakistan for facilitating the Chinese technology companies to conduct businesses in special technology zones (STZs) in Pakistan; strengthening bilateral ties in cooperation in science and technology; assisting

Chinese technology companies in terms of regulatory landscape of Pakistan; and acting as a bridge between the youth of the two countries. Addressing the audience, Ambassador Moin ul Haque spoke at length about the increased importance of science and technology cooperation in the bilateral

economic and development agenda, including under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He briefed about the government's vision to create a digital ecosystem with infrastructure and institutional frameworks by ensuring the availability of accessible, affordable, reliable and high-quality ICT services. The overarching objective remains improving citizen's quality of life and their economic well-being. In this regard, he highlighted that the Pakistani youth, forming 60% of the total population, who are skilled, computer-literate and tech-savvy would play an important role in strengthening the bilateral science and technology cooperation.

## Türkiye may appoint ambassador to Egypt in near future

ANKARA: With Türkiye and Egypt seeking to normalize ties, the Turkish foreign minister on Monday said his country may appoint an ambassador to Egypt in the upcoming months. Speaking to a group of reporters in Ankara, Mevlut Cavusoglu said: "Political consultations between deputy ministers could be rescheduled soon. An ambassador might be appointed in the coming months." On NATO accession bids of Sweden and Finland, Cavusoglu said he will hold some bilateral meetings on the sidelines of Tuesday's NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting in the Romanian capital Bucharest. "We will meet with German Foreign Minister (Annalena) Baerbock and British Foreign Secretary (James) Cleverly. We will also meet with the Swedish and Finnish foreign ministers in Bucharest tomorrow in a tripartite format," Cavusoglu announced. Sweden and Finland are yet to take "concrete steps" in under the trilateral memorandum, the Turkish minister said, noting that Sweden is the country that needs to take more steps. The trio signed a memorandum June 28 at the NATO summit in Madrid to address Ankara's legitimate security concerns, paving the way for NATO membership of Finland and Sweden.—APP

## China's daily coronavirus cases hit 40,000

BEIJING: China registered more than 40,000 new COVID-19 cases over the past day, Xinhua reported on Monday, citing official statistics. According to the news agency, 40,052 new coronavirus cases - a new record for China since the onset of the pandemic - were recorded in the country on Sunday, of which the majority were asymptomatic. China is seeing a new wave of the pandemic this fall, with COVID-19 cases at record peaks. Authorities in China are still pursuing a zero-Covid policy and keep imposing strict restrictions. On Sunday, protests against anti-coronavirus measures were held in a number of Chinese regions.—Agencies

## Prince William focuses US trip on climate

LONDON: Prince William and the Princess of Wales will be looking to focus attention on their Earthshot Prize for environmental innovators when they make their first visit to the United States in eight years this week, a trip clouded by tensions with William's brother, Prince Harry, and his wife, Meghan, who have criticized Britain's royal family in the American media. William and his wife, Catherine, will travel to Boston on Wednesday for three days of public engagements before announcing the prize winners on Friday in a ceremony headlined by pop star Billie Eilish. Boston, birthplace of John F. Kennedy, was chosen to host the second annual prize ceremony because the late president's 1962 "moonshot" speech - setting the challenge for Americans to reach the moon by the end of the decade - inspired the prince and his partners to set a similar goal for finding solutions to climate change and other environmental problems by 2030. The first Earthshot Prizes were awarded last year in London just before the U.K. hosted the COP26 climate conference. But as much as the royals try to focus on the prize, William is likely to face questions about Harry and Meghan, who have criticized the royal family for racism and insensitive treatment in interviews with Oprah Winfrey and other U.S. media. The Netflix series "The Crown" has also resurrected some of the more troubled times of the House of Windsor just as the royal family tries to show that it remains relevant in modern, multicultural Britain following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.—APP

## Tunisia ex-speaker in court again

TUNIS: The speaker of Tunisia's dissolved parliament appeared on Monday before a judge investigating accusations his party helped Tunisian jihadists travel to Iraq and Syria. Rached Ghannouchi, an arch-rival of President Kais Saied and also head of the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party, arrived in the morning at the anti-terror court in a suburb of the capital Tunis, said one of his lawyers, Mokhtar Jemai. At the end of the hearing, the judge is expected to decide whether or not to charge the 81-year-old. Several other Ennahdha officials have been questioned on the "shipment of jihadists" case since Saied sacked the Ennahdha-supported government and seized full executive authority in July 2021. After Tunisia's 2011 revolt which toppled dictator Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and sparked the Arab Spring.—Agencies

## Strategy to boost growth needed

ISTANBUL: Muslim nations are in "dire need of strategy" to "increase economic growth, both sustained and inclusive," the head of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said on Monday in Istanbul. Hissain Brahim Taha, addressing the 38th Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) standing meeting in the Turkish metropolis, said the disruption to energy supplies due to the Russia-Ukraine war had exacerbated the economic stress left behind by the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the Muslim bloc's 57 member states have faced "sustained economic decline, along with tourism activities." "Before the OIC nations could find a clear way out of the pandemic, the Russian-Ukraine war exacerbated

ed the situation (due to) disruption in the energy supply chain," Taha told the meeting, which was also attended by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Vice President Fuat Oktay. "This very conflict shows that the OIC nations need to increase food production," he added. Urging more trade and investments among members of the bloc, Taha called on the Islamic Development



Bank (IsDB) to come up with "comprehensive, supportive efforts" to meet food security challenges among the bloc's members. Pointing to recent floods in Pakistan which caused the death of over 1,700 people and economic losses of around \$30 billion, Taha said climate change had also displaced millions and resulted in a situation that "aggravated OIC nations,"

including Pakistan and some African countries. For the OIC to "quickly overcome these challenges," Taha said the Muslim bloc needs to "focus on investments in the agriculture and industrial sectors." Calling for accelerating the bloc's action program for 2025, Taha urged the member states to integrate the program into their national policies. "Create synergies in financial and technologies system and promote innovative projects of young people in economic sectors," Taha told the 57-member Muslim bloc. "Intra-OIC cooperation is needed more than ever," he stressed. Acknowledging the support given to the bloc by the people and government of Türkiye, Taha said.—APP

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**Briefs**

**Change of Command ceremony today**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Change of command ceremony of Pakistan Army will be held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. According to the Media wing of Pakistan Army, the outgoing Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa will hand over the command stick to the newly appointed Army chief General Asim Munir. It is pertinent to mention that General Asim Munir will be the 17th army chief to assume the command of the Pakistan Army. The chiefs of all armed forces and senior civil and military officers will participate in the occasion to felicitate the new COAS. Additionally, federal ministers, diplomats, dignitaries and journalists have also been invited to the ceremony. General Munir will end the six-year-long tenure of General Bajwa as Pakistan's chief of army staff. On Sunday, General Sahir Shamsad Mirza assumed his appointment as the chairman joint chiefs of staff committee (CJSC). General Mirza replaced General Nadeem Raza, assuming what is technically the most senior position in the military but is considered ceremonial.

**Dar shows satisfaction at sugar availability**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, here on Monday expressed satisfaction over the availability and production of sugar in the country. Chairing a meeting to review the demand and supply situation of sugar in the country, the minister stressed on maintaining the strategic reserves of the commodity and maintaining its price for providing maximum relief to masses. Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research (NFS&R), Tariq Bashir Cheema; Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Secretary NFS&R, Special Secretary Finance and other senior officers from Finance and NFS&R. Earlier, the meeting reviewed the available stock position and future demand of sugar in the country and was apprised that sufficient stocks of sugar are available in the country, according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

**'Fearing custodial killing' Swati approaches IHC**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Senator Azam Khan Swati approached the Islamabad High Court on Monday concerning the cases filed against him for tweeting against senior military officers. Swati filed a petition which said that the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) filed a case against him under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). In his petition, the senator said that he was subjected to the worst torture while in custody. He said that he has information that he can be killed in custody. "Azam Swati can be subjected to any sort of inhuman treatment," read the petition, seeking the details of the cases registered against him. The PTI leader in his petition stated that basic human rights should be ensured in his matter. Swati should not be transferred to any other place, said the petition, adding that cases have been filed against the senator in Sindh. The federal government, FIA and inspector general of Sindh and Balochistan were made parties in the petition.

**NATIONAL DAY OF ROMANIA CELEBRATED**



ISLAMABAD: Tariq Fatemi, Prime Minister Adviser, Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia, Federal Minister Shazain Bugti, Romanian Consul Generals in Karachi Tariq Saud and Lahore Faiq Jawed and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Romania. – DNA

**PM chairs meeting on law and order situation**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday presided over a high-level meeting regarding the law and order situation. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Secretary Interior and heads of law enforcing institutions including the Islamabad Administration were in attendance. The Prime Minister thanked the law enforcing institutions for the best security arrangements during the long march. He was also appreciative of the traffic arrangements during the long march and the reduction of hardships for citizens due to these measures. The Prime Minister lauded the officers and sepoy of the law enforcing institutions for fulfilling their responsibilities amicably.

**ECP dismisses notion of polls if PTI dissolves assemblies**

DNA

LAHORE: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday said it will hold by-elections on the vacant seats if the PTI implements its strategy to resign from all assemblies. Last week, PTI Chairman Imran Khan, while addressing a huge gathering at the final showdown of his party's long march against the government, announced his next move of quitting the assemblies. The PTI is, currently, in power in two provinces – Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – and it also has presence in Balochistan and Sindh assemblies. In Centre, the PTI lawmakers have submitted their resignations from the National Assembly while its senators are part of the Senate. An ECP spokesperson said that elections will be held only in those provinces where assemblies are dissolved. He also dispelled perception of general election if the KP and Punjab assemblies are dissolved. "We will hold by-elections on the vacant seats if PTI MPs resign from the assemblies," spokesperson said. He said that holding election in an provincial constituency cost between Rs50 million to Rs70 million.

**China tightens security after rare protests against curbs**

The zero-COVID policy has kept China's official death toll in thousands, against more than a million in United States, but has come at the cost of confining many millions to long spells at home, bringing extensive disruption and damage to world's second-largest economy

**AGENCIES**

BEIJING: Police on Monday stopped and searched people at the sites of weekend protests in Shanghai and Beijing, after crowds there and in other Chinese cities demonstrated against stringent COVID-19 measures disrupting lives three years into the pandemic. From the streets of several Chinese cities to dozens of university campuses, protesters made a show of civil disobedience unprecedented since leader Xi Jinping assumed power a decade ago. During his tenure, Xi has overseen the quashing of dissent and expansion of a high-tech social surveillance system that has made protest more difficult, and riskier. "What we object to is these restrictions on people's rights in the name of virus prevention, and the restrictions on individual freedom and people's livelihoods," said Jason Sun, a college student in Shanghai. There was no sign of new protests on Monday in Beijing or Shanghai, but dozens of police were in the areas where the demonstrations took place. Police have been asking

people for their phones to check if they had virtual private networks (VPNs) and the Telegram app, which has been used by weekend protesters, residents and social media users said. VPNs are illegal for most people in China, while the Telegram app is blocked from China's internet. Asked about widespread anger over China's zero-COVID policy, foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters: "What you mentioned does not reflect what actually happened. "We believe that with the leadership of the Communist Party of China, and cooperation and support of the Chinese people, our fight against COVID-19 will be successful." The backlash against COVID curbs is a setback for China's efforts to eradicate the virus, which is infecting record numbers after swathes of the population have sacrificed income, mobility and mental health to prevent it from spreading. The zero-COVID policy has kept China's official death toll in the thousands, against more than a million in the United States, but has come at the cost of confining many millions to long spells at home, bringing extensive disruption and damage to the

world's second-largest economy. Abandoning it would mean rolling back a policy championed by Xi. It would also risk overwhelming hospitals and lead to widespread illness and deaths in a country with hundreds of millions of elderly and low levels of immunity to COVID, experts say. The protests roiled global markets on Monday, sending oil prices lower and hammering Chinese stocks (.CSI300) and the yuan. State media did not mention the protests, instead urging citizens in editorials to stick to COVID rules. Many analysts say China is unlikely to re-open before March or April, and needs an effective vaccination campaign before that. "The demonstrations do not imminently threaten the existing political order, but they do mean the current COVID policy mix is no longer politically sustainable," analysts at Gavekal Dragonomics wrote in a note. "The question now is what re-opening will look like. The answer is: slow, incremental and messy." Late on Sunday, protesters clashed with police in the commercial hub of Shanghai, where its 25 million people were stuck at home in April and May, with

security forces taking away a busload of people. On Monday, authorities blocked some central Shanghai streets with blue metal barriers to prevent gatherings. Shops and cafes in the area were asked to close, a staff member at one told Reuters. China's COVID policy is a major source of uncertainty for investors. The protests around it are being watched for any sign of political instability, something many of them had not considered in authoritarian China, where Xi recently secured a third leadership term. Martin Petch, vice president at Moody's Investors Service, said the ratings agency expected the protests "to dissipate relatively quickly and without resulting in serious political violence". "However, they have the potential to be credit negative if they are sustained and produce a more forceful response by the authorities." The catalyst for the protests was an apartment fire last week in the western city of Urumqi that killed 10 people. Many speculated that COVID curbs in the city, parts of which had been under lockdown for 100 days, had hindered rescue and escape, which city officials denied.

**Iran rejects UN probe into anti-govt protests**

**WEB DESK**

TEHRAN: Iran will reject a newly-appointed independent United Nation's investigation into the country's repression of anti-government protests, the foreign ministry said on Monday, as demonstrations showed no signs of abating. "Iran will have no cooperation with the political committee formed by the UN Rights Council," ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said. The UN Rights Council voted on Thursday to appoint a probe into Iran's deadly crackdown on protests. Volker Turk, the UN rights commissioner, had earlier demanded that Iran end its "disproportionate" use of force in quashing protests that erupted after the death-in-custody of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini on Sept 16. Activist news agency HRANA said 450 protesters had been killed in more than two months of nationwide unrest as of Nov 26, including 63 minors. It further said 60 members of the security forces had been killed and 18,173 protesters detained. Challenging the Islamic republic's legitimacy, protesters from all walks of life have burned pictures of Khamenei and called for the downfall of Iran's Shia Muslim theocracy. The protests have particularly focused on women's rights – Amini was detained by morality police for attire deemed inappropriate under Iran's Islamic dress code – but have also called for the fall of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

**KSA announces plans for six-runway hub airport in Riyadh**

**NEWS DESK**

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced on Monday plans to transform Riyadh airport into a massive aviation hub with six parallel runways and designed to accommodate up to 120 million travellers by 2030, state news agency SPA reported. Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), will build King Salman International Airport, which should stretch over 57 square kilometres (22.01 square miles) and include current King Khaled airport, SPA said. Aviation is part of a government strategy to become a global transportation and logistics hub by 2030, with Riyadh airport as the operation base of a brand new airline, RIA, that would compete with regional heavyweights Emirates and Qatar Airways. The kingdom has set itself high targets for diversifying its economy and reducing its dependence on oil, pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into a plan called Vision 2030 initiated by the kingdom's de facto ruler Prince Mohammed. "The airport project is in line with Saudi Arabia's vision to transform Riyadh to be among the top ten city economies in the world and to support the growth of Riyadh's population to 15-20 million people by 2030," SPA said. It added King Salman airport would create 103,000 direct and indirect jobs, handle 185 million travellers and process 3.5 million tons of cargo by 2050.

**China, Pakistan welcome third party participation in CPEC**

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an open and inclusive platform and both China and Pakistan would welcome all countries and international organizations to participate in construction of the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative to achieve common development, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Monday. "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an open and inclusive platform. China and Pakistan welcome any efforts that support Belt and Road Initiative and the building of CPEC," he said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a joint press conference along with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul during his recent visit to Turkey invited Turkey to participate in the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, and said he was willing to discuss the matter with Chinese leadership if Turkey moved

ahead with the idea of joining the flagship project. In his comments, Zhao Lijian termed the CPEC flagship project as an open and inclusive platform and a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative and both the Chinese and Pakistani sides would welcome countries and international organization which were ready to join it. "We hope countries and international organizations that are ready to conduct mutually beneficial cooperation and achieve common development," he added. He remarked that such countries and organizations could join CPEC in appropriate ways to share the dividends of Belt and Road cooperation. It is worth mentioning that the CPEC, a pilot project of the BRI was launched in 2013 focusing on cooperation in Gwadar Port, energy, infrastructure and industries. The two countries have recently expanded their cooperation to the fields of science and technology, agriculture, people's livelihood, information technology industries. – APP

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